



December 29, 2019

Ferguson Avenue Baptist Church

10050 Ferguson Avenue ❖ Savannah, Georgia 31406

Where Christ Is Exalted and the Fellowship Is Exciting

Announcements

2019 Contributions

All contributions for **2019** must be in the office by **December 31**. Thanks!

New Year's Eve Chili Cook-Off

Join us on Tuesday, **December 31**, at 7:00 p.m., for our annual year-end celebration and Cook-Off. This year, it is Chili. Bring a batch of your best offering for the competition, or bring a side dish or dessert to share. Invite your friends!

Wednesday Night

There are no Wednesday night activities scheduled for **January 1**. Normal activities resume on **January 8**. Sign up in the hall for suppers in January!

Senior Adult Bible Study

Thursday, **January 2**, 10:00 a.m., in the Fellowship Hall.

Homeless Ministry

Tom Keller preaches and serves lunch at the Old Savannah City Mission on the first Saturday of each month. **January 4** is the next date. Contact Tom if you would like to help!

"Ring"ing in the New Year

The Youth will have a *Lord of the Rings* Movie Marathon on Saturday, **January 4**, beginning at 9:00 a.m., in the Youth House.

Joy Class

Tuesday, **January 7**, 9:00 a.m., in the Fellowship Hall

Elders' Meeting

Tuesday, **January 7**, 7:00 p.m. If you receive an email from the elders, please let them know how they can pray for you!

Young Adult Bible Study

Thursday, **January 9**, 6:30 p.m., at the Sheffields'.

Cont. on p. 5

FABC Elders

Bob Dimmitt
Senior Pastor
912-398-4363
bob@fabchurch.com

Tim Wade
Assoc. Pastor/
Youth
912-231-7199
tim@fabchurch.com

Tom Keller
Assoc. Pastor/
Senior Adults
912-308-3767
tom@fabchurch.com

Steve Posner
Elder
912-704-5617
steve@fabchurch.com

10:30 a.m.

Welcome and Announcements

*** Opening Chorus & Greeting**

“Joy to the World”

Words are on the back of the bulletin

*** Call to Worship**

Mark 11:9-10

Pew Bible p. 847

*** Hymn #108**

“All Glory, Laud and Honor”

Prayer of General Confession

Steve Jackson

1 John 2:1-2

Pew Bible p. 1021

*** Hymn #89**

“Angels We Have Heard on High”

Scripture Reading

Exodus 34:29-35:9

Pew Bible p. 75

Napoleon Martin

Receiving of Tithes And Offerings

*** Hymn #101**

“Thou Didst Leave Thy Throne”

Message

Tom Keller

Kingdom Mercy

Matthew 5:7, Sermon on the Mount #6

Pew Bible p. 809

*** Hymn, to right**

“Doxology”

Old Hundred tune

6:00 p.m.

Welcome, Announcements

*** Hymn #84**

“Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus”

Prayer

Receiving of Tithes And Offerings

Hymn #93

“Hark! The Herald Angels Sing”

Hymn #100

“O Come, All Ye Faithful”

Hymn #91

“The First Noel”

St. 1, 2, & 6

Message

Tom Keller

Kingdom Holiness

Matthew 5:8, Sermon on the Mount #7

Pew Bible p. 810

*** Hymn, bulletin p. 6-7**

“Benediction”

* All those who are able, please stand.

Doxology

Praise God from whom all blessings flow.

Praise Him, all creatures here below.
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host,
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.
Amen

Kingdom Mercy Sermon on the Mount #6 Matthew 5:7

1. Worldly Mercy

A. Fleshy Mercy

B. Religious Mercy

2. Kingdom Mercy

A. The Meaning of Mercy

B. The Example of Mercy

C. The Application of Mercy

3. Conclusion

Kingdom Purity Sermon on the Mount #7 Matthew 5:8

1. Worldly Purity

2. Kingdom Purity

A. Purity Defined

B. Purity Required

C. Purity Acquired

3. Conclusion.

Continued from p. 1

Sacred Harp Shape Note Singing

The Savannah Sacred Harp Singers will have their monthly singing in the piano side overflow room on Saturday, **January 11**, from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. Come and give it a go! Loaner books are available. See Dawn in the office if you have questions.

Deacons' Meeting

Tuesday, **January 14**, 7:00 p.m., in the Fellowship Hall.

Quarterly Congregational Meeting

Our regular quarterly meeting is scheduled for Sunday afternoon, **January 19**. The exact time will be announced.

Youth Service Day

Tim Wade has scheduled a Youth Service Day for Monday, **January 20**. Details to come!

Though the fig tree should not blossom, nor fruit be on the vines, the produce of the olive fail and the fields yield no food, the flock be cut off from the fold and there be no herd in the stalls, yet I will rejoice in the Lord; I will take joy in the God of my salvation.

Habakkuk 3:17-18

Even if outward circumstances appear fruitless, it does not therefore nullify the faithfulness of God. Even though there is pain in the suffering, there can still be joy in the waiting. Adverse circumstances should never define your understanding of God, but they will reveal whether or not you trust in Him.

God is always at work for the salvation of His people, even when you cannot fully comprehend all His ways (See Habakkuk 1:5; 3:13). Therefore, take joy in His promise to preserve you for eternal life, even when it appears that evil and suffering have the upper hand. God is in total control over all nations, rulers, military, families, neighbors, churches, pastors, bosses, economic gain and loss, sickness and health, and even the smallest events in your life. No circumstance or person will ever have the upper hand on God, and that includes His grip on His children. He's already proven that He is always FOR you through the death of His Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Therefore, He is ultimately FOR your JOY, not against it.

Be encouraged!

Copied, source unknown

Declaration of truth: If I had the wisdom of Solomon, the patience of Job, the meekness of Moses, the strength of Samson, the obedience of Abraham, the compassion of Joseph, the tears of Jeremiah, the prophetic voice of Elijah, the courage of Daniel, the greatness of John the Baptist, the endurance and love of Paul, I would still need redemption through Christ's blood, the forgiveness of sin.

E. Draper

Benediction

1. May the peace of God our Heav-'nly Fa - ther, and the grace of
2. May this peace which pass-es un - der - stand - ing, and this grace which

Christ the ris - en Son, And the fel - low-ship of God the Spir - it keep our
makes us what we are, And this fel - low-ship of His com - mun - ion make us

hearts and minds with - in His love. And to Him be praise for His
one in spir - it and in heart.

glo - rious reign, from the depths of earth to the heights of heav'n; We de -

Words and Music: Keith Getty and Stuart Townend; arr. Ruth Coleman

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clare the name of the Lamb once slain, Christ e - ter - nal, the King of kings!

Q & A

with Ravi Zacharias: How do we speak into volatile cultural issues in a way that does not further alienate the church from culture, even as we seek to speak a corrective word? Many are concerned about the church's role in a polarized culture.

You've raised a very critical issue for our times. And you know the old adage, "Any stigma can lick a good dogma" holds true. If the church is stigmatized as a body of prejudice, if the Christian faith is seen as that which pejoratively speaks of people in what they want to hold onto or value, they're really not going to listen. It's quite remarkable that Christ never specifically addressed some of the burning issues of the day socially. He always went to the heart of what separated a person from God and what transformed a person so that they would think their thoughts after him.

We have instead gone to the symptomatic issues and have lost track of the fundamental issues. And the more we go to the symptomatic issues, the more we produce prejudices and discomfort and wrong solutions to the maladies. We have sort of walked out of arenas that needed our voice, so we left the academic arena, we left the defense of the scriptures—all of this—and started attacking cultural moods and trends, and we end up thinking we're winning a battle. We lost the war. We have to be laser sharp on what it is that really needs to be addressed in our times. That's the first thing.

The second thing is, some things are discussable in a public arena without risk. Others, no matter what is said in that public arena, it ends up losing the bigger cause..

So I often say of great social issues—not that they are unimportant—this is not the setting in which I want to talk about it. If you want to discuss it, let's sit around a table so that at the end of it, even if we disagree with one another, we can shake hands or give each other a hug and say truth will triumph in the end. But if I gave you an answer in this public setting, you're not going to be able to counter it, you're not going to be able to tell me what's on your heart, and we'll walk away creating a bigger wall between ourselves.

My mother used to say, "Once you cut off a person's nose, there's no point giving them a rose to smell." We've done a lot of nose cutting the past few years. Not that the issues weren't important, but I think they would never solve the heart of the problem. We've made everything a moral issue and forgotten that the salvation message is what morality alone cannot solve.

Articles

Holiness Is Not our Goal

By Ed Welch

There is a legal structure in so much Christian thought—justification, covenants, guilt, law, obedience—and it can dominate the deeper structure of Scripture. Perhaps it is the familiarity of legal imagery. The U.S. is a country of law, and an American citizen cannot go more than a few minutes without thinking about violating a speed limit, whether or not to walk all the way to the crosswalk or just cross the street where it is convenient, or strategizing what can be deducted from taxes. Laws are nuisances if we don't want to follow them, but at least expectations are clear. We know what we are supposed to do. When we transfer this style of thought to Scripture we understand why we are especially interested in the practical, to-do sections of Scripture. Just tell me what to do. That doesn't mean I will do it, but cut to the chase. If heavenly crowns are what I am after, obedience will get me there.

Obedience, however—our growth in holiness—is not our goal. It is only a means to an end. Obedience to the law of Christ is an outgrowth of our faith in Jesus Christ, and serves the purpose of our communion with him. This goal of communion is clear from God's presence in the Garden (Gen. 3:8), Jesus' prayer "*I in them and you in me*" (John 17:23), and our marital consummation when Jesus returns (Rev. 21). **Fellowship, bound up with worship, praise and downright enjoyment is what we are after.**

Try this. Instead of considering your growth in Christ as progressive sanctification, which is a fine expression identifying that growth in holiness does not come all at once, think of it as "progressive nearness." (A phrase I am borrowing from Michael Morales' fine book, *Who Shall Ascend the Mountain of the Lord?*). God's laws, at their best, are instructions about how to be in relationship with him. What they don't do is give us good reasons to want to be in relationship with him. That comes through the Spirit's opening our eyes to see Jesus, showing us, in Jesus, the depths of humility and the pinnacle of love, opening our ears to the Father's invitation, and establishing an unshakable bond that links us to the risen Jesus right now.

This fellowship is basic to our proclaiming "*the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light*" (1 Pet. 2:9). The image here is not so much that we have been in a dark prison and we can finally come out into the sun and fresh air. It is that we have made choices that have led us into solitary confinement and we live with an abiding sense of personal alienation from everything good. Into this disaster comes the Holy God who is the light. He invites us to come to him, and warms and comforts us in his presence. Somehow, through his Spirit, we actually become "*partakers of the divine nature*" (2 Pet. 2:4), which means that we get to be a bit shiny to the world around us as we love in his name. Progressive nearness makes this process increasingly beautiful, satisfying and attractive. ❖

Stop Offering Truth Too Quickly (A Lesson from the Parables of Jesus)

By Sean McDowell

Have you ever really wondered why Jesus taught with parables? Sure, parables were common means of communication in his day, and they are easy to remember and share with others. But there may be a deeper reason at play that offers a powerful lesson for teaching the next generation. Let me explain.

In Mark 4:1-9, Jesus offers his famous teaching known as “The Parable of the Sower.” After sharing the parable, Jesus says, “*He who has ears to hear, let him hear.*” The very next verse describes a small group of people around Jesus, including the twelve, asking him about the parable.

Before explaining its meaning, Jesus says, “*To you has been given the secret of the kingdom of God, but for those outside everything is in parables*” (v. 11). In other words, *Jesus reserves truth for those who are willing to sacrifice for it.*

The "Right" Reasons

Many people came to Jesus for material reasons, such as for food and healing, but not necessary because of spiritual motivation. Not everyone who came to him was truly interested in becoming a disciple. Thus, he strategically used parables as a way of weeding people out who didn't come to him with a heart to know truth. Jesus was willing to explain the spiritual meaning of a parable, but only to those who sought it out.

In his commentary on Mark, James R Edwards explains, “Parables were the public persona of Jesus the teacher. By means of graphic images from everyday life, Jesus teased, tantalized, & tested his audiences, inviting them to an insider experience of the kingdom & of fellowship with himself” (p. 146).

This is one reason Jesus was such a good teacher—He tested people to see if they really had the heart and motivation for knowledge. If so, he shared it with them. If not, he let them walk away (consider the rich young ruler, Mark 10).

A Practical Idea

Here is a practical point for those of us who want to teach spiritual truth to the next generation: *Resist offering truth too quickly.* Rather, invite students to a deeper understanding and be willing to help those who show genuine interest.

Consider an example. A college student recently asked me how to discern God's will for a big decision in his life. Rather than giving him a simple response, I told him I would be happy to talk if he would *first* do a Google search of biblical passages that discuss “God's will,” read them in context, and *then* tell me what he found. To my surprise, he did. Thus, we had a wonderful discussion about the will of God, and he learned far more than if I had simply given him an answer.

The Bottom line

Here is the bottom line: Invite people to spiritual understanding but resist the temptation to offer truth too quickly.

Teaching through parables was not the only way Jesus communicated (He also asked hundreds of questions and he was a brilliant philosopher and apologist). Yet his approach of inviting people to deeper understanding, and rewarding those who seek it, is a strategy we can all learn from. ❖

Missionary of the Week

Jim & Karan Romaine Mission to the World - New York

The primary focus of Jim and Karan's ministry is to Muslims in the city of New York, specifically Brooklyn. Their ministry is expanding to a new area, and they still aren't far from their previous living place in Queens. New York has nearly a million Muslims from over 80 different countries!

Please pray for their contacts and neighbors they minister to in many practical ways.



We received a prayer update from them at the end of November:

I just returned from Bhubaneswar, India. Where I took part in a weeklong seminar with about 40 Indian pastors and evangelists. This was my fourth trip to India and this year Rev. Ted Lester also accompanied me, which made the long trip much more enjoyable. Our host was Rev. Kartik Pal who did a very good job of organizing the conference and finding us a good meeting place and comfortable facilities.

Rev. Lester taught on the 5 Solas of the Protestant Reformation and I taught on the 7 Signs in John's Gospel. The lessons were well received and encouraged the men. Rev. Lester taught in the mornings and I taught in the afternoons. Each day, Monday through Thursday, we had two 1 ½ hour teaching sessions each morning and two 1 ½ hour teaching sessions each afternoon. With breaks for tea and lunch. The men also had times of worship and prayer together before breakfast and after dinner each day. After each time of sharing, both morning and evening, the men broke up into pairs and prayed for each other. I believe these times of worship, sharing, and prayer helped build a strong bond between the men and encouraged them greatly.

One of their greatest discouragements is the feeling of loneliness in the face of constant persecution. Bhubaneswar is in the state of Odisha which is the most fanatically Hindu area in India. Several of the men spoke of being attacked by roving gangs of fanatic Hindus who seek to drive them out of their homes.

One of the highlights of the conference was the worship and communion service we celebrated on our last day together. Rev. Lester preached on, "The Whole Armor of God" from Ephesians 6:10-20 and I assisted Rev. Pal with serving Communion.

Rev. Pal and the men thanked us many times for coming to encouraging them and for praying for them. Now the group is preparing for their month-long village evangelism campaign in January. They asked us to pray for their safety and much fruit during this time of ministry.

This trip was sponsored by Church Planting International. If you would like more information about this ongoing ministry, please contact me personally.

Sincerely, with thanks,

Jim Romaine

drjimromaine@gmail.com

Sunday School Classes & Descriptions

Adult

“Job” - Fellowship Hall:

Bob Dimmitt/Chris Leverett

“Lessons from the Upper Room (John 13-17)” by Sinclair Ferguson - Youth House: Steve Posner.

Students & Children

Babies - Room 3: Kay Stanford & Sandra Bridges

1s & 2s - Room 24: Michael & Ruth Kleinpeter/Kamee Roberson

3s & 4s - Room 25: Emily Wise, Susan Su, Savannah Martin, Haley Bull

Kindergarten, 1st & 2nd Grade - Room 200: John & Pam Humphrey

3rd-6th Grade Boys - Room 202: Richie Mills

3rd-6th Grade Girls - Room 204: Mary Ann Fowler, Amy Horton

Youth Guys - Room 206: Tim Wade, Bobby Deloach, Shawn Champion

Youth Girls - Room 208: Sona Bailey, Jessica Dimmitt, Lauren Wade



This Week at FABC

Today

Coffee Fellowship	9:00 a.m.
Sunday School	9:30 a.m.
Morning Worship	10:30 a.m.
Choir Practice	4:30 p.m.
Evening Worship	6:00 p.m.

Tuesday

Chili Cook-off	7:00 p.m.
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Wednesday

Happy New Year!

No Wednesday Activities Scheduled

Thursday

Senior Adult Bible Study	10:00 a.m.
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Bible Reading Schedule

January 2020

1 John

1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30
31				

Memorize:

If we confess our sins,
he is faithful and
just to forgive us
our sins
and to cleanse
us from all
unrighteousness.

1 John 1:9, ESV



Joy to the World

Joy to the world! The Lord is
come!

Let earth receive her King;
Let ev'ry heart prepare Him
room,
And heav'n and nature sing,
And heav'n and nature sing,
And heav'n, and heav'n and na-
ture sing.

Joy to the earth! The Savior
reigns!
Let men their songs employ;
While fields and floods, rocks,
hills and plains,
Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

No more let sins and sorrows
grow,
Nor thorns infest the ground;
He comes to make His blessings
flow
Far as the curse is found,
Far as the curse is found,
Far as, far as the curse is found.

He rules the world with truth and
grace,
And makes the nations prove
The glories of His righteousness,
And wonders of His love,
And wonders of His love,
And wonders, wonders of His
love.

Nursery December 29

10:30 A.M.

Babies:

Susan Su, Kay Stanford

Toddlers - 4 year olds:

Barbara Mason, Allie Mills/

Jennifer & Ruby Doyle

6:00 P.M.

Sharon Boaen, Cindy Dimmitt,
Dawn Stanford

Nursery January 5

10:30 A.M.

Babies:

Caroline Blanton, Lauren Wade

Toddlers - 4 year olds:

Ashley Keller, Jordan Keller/

Emily Wise, Lilly Horton

6:00 P.M.

Gena Russell, Haley Bull/
Napoleon & Savannah Stanford

Ushers December 29

10:30 A.M.

John Sumner, Michael Walker,

Billy Waters, Johnny Bridges

6:00 P.M.

Jimmy Donaldson, Ron Fowler

Ushers January 5

10:30 A.M.

Dennis Brittingham, Reggie Brown,

Ron Fowler, Jimmy Kicklighter

6:00 P.M.

Dean McCraw, Cole Morris

Sunday Greeters - December 29

Lisa Rowe, Jeanie Groover

December Lock-Up Deacons

John Sumner, Michael Walker

January Lock-Up Deacons

Lance Ficek, Kelly Stanford

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