



March 2018

# First Baptist Church of Clewiston

I saw some puzzled faces recently when in a sermon I made the statement, "*I intend to put you in harms way.*" Countless honest military leaders have said this statement. Those laying down their lives deserve nothing less than to be told in honest terms what is expected of them and what to expect. I went on to say that as your Pastor I intend to complicate your spiritual life! I intend to lead you to a point that you lay it all on the line occasionally in order to see your own security in Christ Jesus, if He is indeed your Lord. I have failed as Pastor if I do not lead you into complicating your life with details, and entangling your life with relationships. Proof of your salvation is found in whether or not you are implicated in the character and work of Jesus.

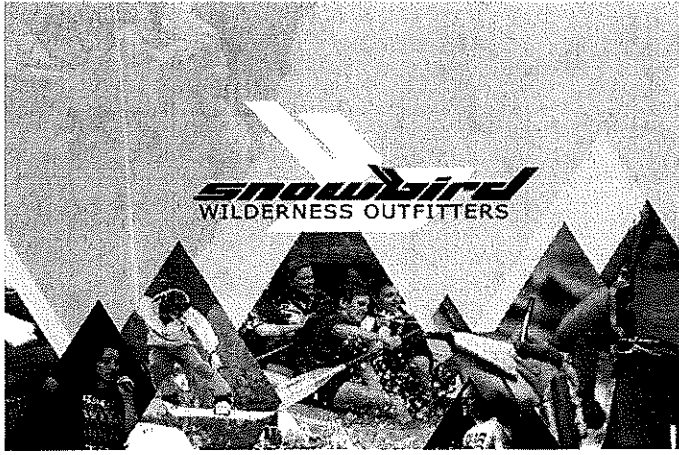
Have you ever wondered what was the significance of the persecution that came on the early church? The persecution of the early church seems to have been vital to the message being spread throughout the uttermost parts of the earth. Persecution never stopped the Gospel; it made it spurt to new places. The main thing that was evident to me while studying church history was that persecution is like sunshine and water to the branches of the "Vine". Obviously, God knows human nature better than we do ourselves. Author and theologian, John B. Polhill wrote that "*The martyrdom of James is told with the utmost brevity*", yet, it stands in stark contrast to Peter's deliverance.

James, this first of the Twelve Apostles to be martyred, was a dissimilar instrument in the hands of God. God saved Peter; He could have saved James. However, since we as Christians serve at the discretion of the King of kings, we are then subject to do what He asks of us, even unto death. So, the significance is found in all of us doing what we are led to do.

So then, is God involved in the suffering of a Christian, both regular suffering and persecution? I don't believe that God is the inflictor of pain and I hope you don't believe that either. However, I do believe that He may not prevent it from time to time as He works His perfect plan. He is most certainly involved in our persecution. He blesses those who are persecuted for the sake of righteousness, (Matt. 5:10). He promises them the heavenly Kingdom, (Matt. 5:10-12). He is involved in great reward for the honor of being martyred for His sake, (Mark 10:29-30). Even the persecution of insults has its rewards, (Matt. 5:11). Nothing shows more vividly, the contrast between Christians and the lost than does martyrdom and persecution. The world, like Herod, seeks political favor. Think of this; Herod sought popularity and did this awful thing. James sought humility and accepted this awful thing. This kind of humility can only be found in a complicated life when one is involved with God and God is involved with them.

So I think I'll let the question stand; Is my heart's great ambition to be like him and with him forever?

Pastor Mike



**About:** Snowbird Wilderness Outfitters is a gospel centered discipleship camp. The theme for 2018 is "Jesus, Hope of the World."

**Activities:** Worship services 2 times per day, small group time, white water rafting, horseback riding, zip-line, waterslide, 3 meals per day, and more!

**Cost per student:** \$429 includes everything above, except for snacks at snack shack.

**Where:** Andrews, North Carolina

**When:** Monday, August 6 - Saturday, August 11

**What:** Youth camp for 7th - 12th grade, non - high school students would be counselors.

**Who:** Mature students who obediently follow instructions, effectively lead others, and serve. See Bruce Gilde for information on availability of remaining spots.

We extend our gratitude for your generosity of financial support and prayer for the youth group. We will need to add that all sponsorship donation need to be made prior to April 1, 2018. If you have any questions please contact Bruce or Naomi at 616-843-6420.

## March Nursery Schedule

### Sunday Morning 3 Yr. Old/ Pre- K

03/04 - FeBeth Yongco & Audrey Colson

03/11 - Erica Kindred & Meredith Kane

03/18 - Yamile & Eileen Perez

03/25 - Monica & Dakota Brennan

## March Birthdays

03/01 - Rose Bethea

Robert Blackwell

03/02 - Tilly Fleming

03/11 - Tilena Gutshall

03/12 - Jananey Roman

03/14 - Janae Porter

03/24 - Kevin Escoto

03/26 - Julie Collins

*"He replied, 'I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me.' ~ Matthew 25:40*

Dear Church Family,

The Stacy family would like to say a heartfelt "Thank You" to the sweetest church ever! The prayers, visits, cards, food and love we have received from you have touched our hearts and gotten us through this time. We appreciate each and every one of you.

To the lunch committee, a HUGE thank you. The food and fellowship made a tough day much more pleasant. The food was delicious and plentiful. Thanks so much to you!

To all who provided Bibles for the Gideons to distribute, we thank you. Bob loved sharing the Word and his faith and the Bibles given in his memory would have pleased him so much. So thank you!

We are so blessed to be a part (or to have been a part) of such a precious church family. You are a beautiful, giving, loving group of individuals that make up a wonderful church family. Through blessing us, you have blessed our Heavenly Father.

With Love,

The Stacy, the Priest, Mungillo  
and Knutson Families

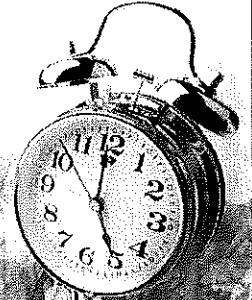
# March 2018

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1	2	3
4 8:30 AM Sonrise Cafe 9:30 AM Sunday School 10:55 AM Worship	5	6	7 6:30 PM Bible Study 6:30 PM Children & Youth Ministry	8	9	10
11 9:30 AM Sunday School 10:55 AM Worship 12:15 PM Finance Com- mittee Mtg 6 PM Deacons' Meeting Daylight Savings Time Begins	12	13 6:00 PM Gideons' Meeting	14 6:30 PM Bible Study/Church Conference 6:30 PM Children & Youth Ministry	15 12 PM XYZ Luncheon	16	17  <b>St. Patrick's Day</b>
			<b>Pastor Mike's Vacation</b>			
18 9:30 AM Sunday School 10:55 AM Worship	19	20	21 6:30 PM Bible Study 6:30 PM Children & Youth Ministry	22	23	24
25 8:00 AM Brotherhood Breakfast 9:30 AM Sunday School 10:55 AM Worship	26	27	28 6:30 PM Bible Study 6:30 PM Children & Youth Ministry	29	30	31

Son Rise Cafe

**Sunday, March 4**  
**8:45 AM**

Set your clocks forward  
1 hour (Spring forward)  
before you go to be on  
Saturday, March 10



*XYZ Program & Luncheon*  
XTRA YEARS OF ZEST  
*Senior Adult Fellowship*  
*Thursday, March 15*  
*12:00 PM*

**Brotherhood**  
**BREAKFAST**  
**FAITH, FOOD &**  
**FELLOWSHIP**

Sunday, March 25 at 8:00 AM



**PINE RIDGE INDIAN RESERVATION**  
**MISSION TRIP**  
**APRIL 20 - APRIL 26**

We are going to do a mission trip to the poorest place in America, Pine Ridge Indian Reservation in South Dakota. Contact Pastor Mike for more details.