

CORNER NEWS

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First Baptist Church

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I think we all pray for others. We pray for our leaders, we pray for our friends, our family members, and often we pray for virtual strangers. We pray for the sick, the travelers, the hungry, and the people who just come into our hearts. We remember to pray our prayers of praise that those perfect moments, blessings to our family, friends, and our country. I hope you all get the church prayer list periodically so that you can remember and know to pray for those people in need, church family members who have lost loved ones, as well as for those who are experiencing healing, finding new jobs, or celebrating new life in their families.

I had an “Ah Ha” moment last month. I have been having some chronic back problems for the past 2 or 3 months. One day I decided to pray for myself. I think I forgot to do that. I must admit that after that first prayer I did feel a certain weight lifted from my heart. I still have the back pain, but I am remembering to pray for myself.

Do you say a prayer for yourself regularly? I am not talking about one of those quick exclamations of “Lord, help me.” Sometimes in the spur of a moment of need we cry out for God, but I am not sure it is really a prayer with actual contact with God in that fleeting moment. We might be hesitant to pray for ourselves. It sounds kind of selfish, doesn't it?

But think about it. David filled Psalms with prayers of praise, pleas, and frustrations for himself. Moses had numerous conversations with God to deliver him from the leadership role, or asking God for patience with the Israelites. Even Jesus prayed to God to be delivered from what He knew was coming.

After I said that little prayer for myself, I knew I had done the right thing. I also knew it was long overdue. We all appreciate others praying for us. We know we need to pray for others. But it is also important to talk to God about your own needs. We need to remember to praise God for the many blessings He has given us and given our families. So when you pray, don't forget to include yourself in that prayer.

Your Servant,
Ruth Price

“Even before there is a word on my tongue, Behold, O Lord, You know it all. You have enclosed me behind and before, and laid Your hand upon me. Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; It is too high, I cannot attain to it.”

Psalm 139:4-6

Pastoral Reflections



Last June, reports surfaced that an Air India flight from Dubai overshot its Mumbai destination by about 300 miles or more. The reason: the pilots had nodded off! Air traffic controllers were able to wake them up, or the jet with more than 100 passengers might still be cruising at 37,000 feet. Once alerted, the pilots took the plane off its autopilot system and turned the plane around, descended and landed safely. Funny story, unless you are planning to fly home for the holidays!

How have your sleeping habits changed since going off to school? My guess is that they have changed rather dramatically. You probably spent the last few years at home battling with your parents over appropriate “bed-times”—among other things. I was always amazed at the large numbers of my classmates that could sleep to noon if they were allowed. And then there was always that crowd that could stay up until two or three in the morning playing cards, or just laughing and talking. All of this makes for a very “sleepy” generation.

First let me congratulate you on your generation’s grand turn-out for the election. Thanks to you more people voted this year than ever before. Politically, you are certainly not asleep at the wheel. But more importantly, let me join with the Apostle Paul to encourage you to “stay awake” spiritually. In 1 Thessalonians 5, Paul calls Christians, “children of the day.” He uses that phrase to remind us that we need to be awake and watchful as far as our spirituality is concerned. He does not want us to be “surprised” when the “day of the Lord” occurs. We can only be alert to Christ’s coming if we are awake spiritually. So, stay awake!

Grace,
Jeff

“Therefore, be on the alert—for you do not know when the master of the house is coming, whether in the evening, at midnight, or when the rooster crows or in the morning; in case he should come suddenly and find you asleep. What I say to you I say to all, ‘Be on the alert!’”

Mark 13:35-37

JT's Notes

Wow! Have the past days, weeks, and months of this general election year been “interesting”. We’ve just come through a time when those vying for various political offices have been campaigning against their “opponents”. You talk about “grasping for straws”! It seems that, when it comes to politics, anything—and everything--goes! Candidate after candidate seem to feel that their best “plan”—truly a “plan of attack”—is to tell about how inadequate the opposition is rather than by extolling their own virtues

and good leadership qualities. Talk about “mud slinging”. Rather disheartening, to say the least. Per the political ads, sort’ta makes you wonder if any of the candidates are worthy or qualified to serve their constituency. Yet, in the politics of today’s world, that’s the way it often goes.

Just think ‘bout it. Suppose the same approach were to be taken in our Christian ministries. Suppose we looked for reasons not to minister to our fellow men and women—reasons like, maybe others are too young, too old, wrong color, live in the wrong neighborhood, OR we don’t have the time, the money,..., and the list goes on. If we’re honest with ourselves and our God, this indeed may be our thinking from time to time. But if and when it is, in God’s eyes, are we right? ‘Don’t think so.

Let’s take this line of thinking to a level higher. Suppose our God looked for our imperfections as a gauge for whether or not He would accept us as “children” who remain in His good graces, as “children” who merit His blessings, His love. Through His Son, Jesus Christ, God accepts us as we are. He loves us unconditionally. He is always willing to grant us a “second chance, always willing to grant us a “new beginning” with Him and through Him. Isn’t it sad that we, as His “children” often struggle with one of the most important commandments we have been given, “Love your neighbor as yourself” Think about how our world would change if we could come to a point in time when we, and those around us, could live accordingly—a time when our actions and our words intentionally served to glorify our God!

“The Lord has established His throne in the heavens, And His sovereignty rules over all.”

Psalm 103:19

p.s. Oh, by the way. Relative to the political situation we find ourselves in, we as Christians can take consolation in the fact that **GOD IS IN CONTROL!**

Love ya’
JT

Bits ‘N Pieces

Hopefully, everyone has received the Advent Booklet as we all await the day that we celebrate the birth of our Savior.

Trent West had a big Halloween planned for his first year at Wake Forest.

Unfortunately, he sliced his finger during his preparation for the evening. He ended up in the infirmary getting stitches which took him most of the night! (By the way, Trent, Dr. Cecil Price at the infirmary is my husband’s cousin. Tell him “Hi” if you have to go back anytime soon. I hope you don’t, though.)

Sarah Powers had a wonderful summer spending several weeks in London and in Paris. It all sounds wonderful!

Ben Parrish has moved to the Charlotte area to go to Central Piedmont Community College. He is completing his work on college transfer with plans to go to UNC-Charlotte in the near future.

Kacie Kennedy is working on her Master's Degree at UNC-Greensboro and rooming with **Courtney Smith** who also transferred to UNC-Greensboro this fall working on her undergraduate degree.

Sad news. We lost **Carol Rothstein** (Latin teacher at Lee Senior) early on Thanksgiving Day. She fought a brave fight against her cancer for eight years. Remember Ms. Rothstein's family in your prayers.



Merry Christmas from the "Corner News" Crowd - Ruth, Jeff, Jim, Betty, and Cindy.

My email is rprice51@charter.net Please send your news to share with each other and with members of our church family to me or Betty Merritt in the church office BettyMerritt@windstream.net.

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