

Corner News

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
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Wow!! I just learned that it is already time for fall break in our local colleges and universities. It seems like only a few weeks ago that our college freshmen graduated from high school. There are times like these in my life when I stop and think, "Hey, when was the last time I talked with God?" I mean seriously had a talk. I admit that I throw out a short prayer on a daily basis. Things like "Thanks for safe travel" or "Look after my children, please God." But our lives can be so busy and full, that we fail to take time for that quality time with God. Our worship services and Sunday school sessions are meant for that time with God.

There are numerous references of times that Moses, Elisha, Isaiah, and, of course, Jesus leaves the crowd to take time to meditate with God. It is very easy for us to get into the habit of forgetting to take that quiet time with God. And being out late on Saturday nights makes it very easy to skip the worship opportunities.

*"Let the word of my mouth
and the meditation of my heart
be acceptable in Your sight, O
Lord, my rock and my
Redeemer."*

Psalm 19:14

The Corner News is First Baptist's efforts to let you know that our members pray for you. Our prayers are that you will be safe, know God's presence in each of your lives, and that you will continue to mature to be strong Christians. First Baptist and God love each of you.

Your Servant,
Ruth Price

Pastoral Reflections

"For a long time it had seemed to me that life was about to begin — real life. But there was always some obstacle in the way, something to be got through first, some unfinished business, time still to be served, a debt to be paid. Then life would begin. At last it dawned on me that these obstacles were my life."—Alfred D'Souza.

All right...apologies, apologies, apologies...the first article of a new school year ought to be light hearted—even somewhat humorous. But I just cannot help myself. I mean my daughter—my firstborn—is getting married in eight days! Here is the long and short of it. I have a horrible memory! I have even thought about buying a chain to attach to my glasses and hang around my neck. You know what I am talking about—the same one that your tenth-grade English teacher, who was 101, wore around her neck! I am really that bad! But even with a horrible memory, I remember holding Audrey for the first time. I remember singing to her. I remember rocking her to sleep. I remember taking her to

school for the first time. I remember when she graduated from high school. I remember when she was a freshman at UNC. Now she is getting married. How did that happen?

Life is a series of significant events—held together too often by dreams of what we think we would rather have, where we would rather be, and what we would rather do. Guys and gals, where you are is your life! If you risk, and lose—it is gone! If you dream of something else, you will never appreciate what you have! If you don't enjoy what you are doing—unhappiness will define you! If you live always for tomorrow—where will today go!

Life has begun! Enjoy it

Grace,

Jeff

“...I have come that you might have life, and have it to the fullest!”

John 10:10

JT's NOTES

As a married man, there are many “things” I do that—shall I say—“bother” my wife. One of them is that I have *several* “piles of stuff” located in various places throughout our home. Some of these “piles of stuff” are on the desktop in the den, some are in the garage, some are on the floor in our bedroom. I am the responsible party. I make the piles. I decide which “stuff” is to be kept. (Just for the record, I do, from time to time, throw away some of my “stuff”). In response to Nancy's question “Why are you saving all that stuff?” my reply is “Cause I never know when I'm gon'na need something from one of my piles.” The only way I can be sure I will have “it” when I need “it” is to save “it”. Seems like a “plan” to me. Having it available when I need it, that's the reason I save anything—be it money, recipes, family photos, or just “stuff”.

While we are on the subject, I want to look at “being saved” from the spiritual viewpoint. There are surely differences between saving “stuff” and saving our soul. Absolutely! It is our God who offers each of us the opportunity to be “saved”. We make the decision whether or not to accept that offer. Why does God intentionally make salvation available to each of us? ‘Cause He loves each of us! He cares about each of us! God doesn't need us in order to accomplish His purposes in our world; He wants us. From the day we are born, God has a purpose, a unique plan, for each of us! In order for us to be used by Him in ways He chooses, we must be saved! We must admit we are sinners, accept Jesus Christ as our Lord and Savior, and strive to live our life as He wills it. Another thing, we--as His saved children and, if we so choose--can rest assured that He will not “throw us away”. As His saved ones, He will not let even one of our lives be lived without purpose. We are not His “stuff”. We are His children. We are the reason He sacrificed His only Son, Jesus, on the cross. Thank you, Jesus! Thank you, God!

“For God did not send the Son into the world to judge the world, but that the world might be saved through Him.”

John 3:17

Love ya' ***JT***

BITS 'N PIECES

Courtney King is off to ECU to begin her college experience. Go Pirates!!

Morgan Layton is attending North Carolina State University.

Kaitlyn Thomas is a UNC Tarheel! She did come home for the Lee Regional Fair this fall. There's no place like home!

Paul Clay Utley is living in Raleigh and attending Wake Tech.

Miller Cheatham was awarded the NC Teaching Fellows scholarship this spring. She is attending Meredith College with plans to major in mathematics education.

Chris Wilson is a new freshman at Fayetteville State University.

Damien Cassidy is spending the next few weeks in Maine with his dad before he ships off to the Navy.

Jessica Whitaker is attending CCCC with plans to get into the nursing school.

New teachers this year in the College & Career Sunday School Class are **Jason & Amy (Huber) Ziebart** and **Jonathan & Cindy Davis**. Whenever you are in town, they will be in the Game Room downstairs looking forward to seeing you.

Speaking of SS teachers, our own **Suzanne Colandro** will be ordained on October 25 at 3:00 pm at First Baptist Church in Sanford.

If anyone knows the email addresses or locations of Damien Cassidy, Katie Tyler, Jared Boyette, or Allie Humphries, I would certainly appreciate you sending it to me at the email below.

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.