

Youth

Time to get back in the swing of things!!! 2021 will be a great year of spiritual growth in the youth department. On Sunday mornings, we will continue to study Counter-Cultures. On Wednesday nights, Fuel (9-12) will be studying "The Screwtape Letters", and Ignite (6-8) will be going through The Gospel Project.

We hope to find out about summer camp in the next month, so be watching for any announcements. We would also like to get our youth more involved in local missions. We hope to plan a future mission trip somewhere in Kansas or Missouri. Encourage your youth to be involved on Sunday mornings and Wednesday nights to learn about more opportunities for growth, fun, fellowship, and missions!

Advancing the Mission With Ronnie Floyd Reprinted from the Baptist Press Out of many, one

When the thirteen colonies joined together, we became known as the United States of America. A new nation was born.

Victory over the British occurred because these thirteen colonies did not fight as many, but as one. The United States Capitol is a phenomenal structure and one of my favorite buildings on this earth. The Rotunda is in the middle of the Capitol. In the dome of the Rotunda is the inscription, "E PLURIBUS UNUM," a Latin phrase that means, "from the many, one," or "out of many, one," or "one from many." It was this inscription that was also placed on the original Great Seal of the United States.

The horrendous actions upon our great Republic on Jan 6 conducted inside and outside the Capitol building are beyond anything any of us would have ever imagined. The tragic loss of life is beyond understanding and to each family who has lost loved ones, we are praying for you.

The further we get from Wednesday, January 6, the more we learn about it. What we are learning is not good and it grieves our hearts deeply for our nation. Whatever charges are extended to those who acted unlawfully, they deserve to be prosecuted. Each one needs to be held accountable for their unlawful actions.

The heart of those who founded this nation and led us to our independence as the United States of America believed with great conviction, "out of many, one." They knew their strength was working together and acting as one people.

We have forgotten "out of many, one" in America and how this relates to our republic. As a democratic republic, we do not operate away from each other or against one another. We are to depend on one another, involving each other in the process, learning from each other along the way, and always working together for the long-term good of the nation.

As followers of Jesus Christ, the Bible teaches us that the moment Christ transforms our lives, we become part of God's family, the Church. We are reminded that even though we are uniquely created in God's image, we do not function as individuals, but we function as one. **1 Corinthians 12:27** states, "Now you are the body of Christ, and individual members of it." The Church is the body of Christ.

Each of us has unique spiritual gifts and serves the Lord, not independently from one another, but depending on each other. **1 Corinthians 12:26** reminds us, "So if one member suffers, all the members suffer with it; if one member is honored, all the members rejoice with it." When we believe God and His Word, we live this way. However, when we choose our independence and autonomy away from our identity in Christ, we strut in pride, which always leads to destruction. This is when division and dishonoring one another happens even among the people of God.

I appeal to all of us who are followers of Jesus Christ: A divided Church cannot call a divided nation to unity. Let's determine to come together as one, cease the rhetoric, stop the finger-pointing, refuse the grand-standing, and come together in Christian unity. In brokenness over our nation, the Church needs to lead the way repenting and returning to God.

Most especially, I want to speak to my dear Southern Baptist family: In Jesus' name, we need to come together now. The churches across America need to see a Southern Baptist Convention that is cooperating and unifying together for the cause of taking the gospel to every person in the world. This is America's hope and the hope for the world.

While politicians work through the enormous challenges our country faces, we must understand our role and do our part to be ever diligent to provide spiritual leadership that:

- Prays for our nation and our leaders.
- Loves one another.
- Honors one another.
- Walks in peace with one another.
- Comes together in unity.

Pastors, we are praying for you to have God's wisdom as you lead with humility before God, grace with all people, the courage to preach the Word of God, and the conviction to call your people to pray for America more than ever before.

Only in Jesus Christ and Him alone can we do these things as the Spirit ignites us.

Holy God, fill each of us with Your Holy Spirit.

Now is the time to lead,

Pastor's Pen

Missing an Old Friend?

I have some interesting old friends. One of them told me the other day he got a call from an old flame. Theirs was a love-hate relationship; the toxic, high-low, codependent, on-and-off-again variety which leaves a wake of pain and chaos and yet hopes for a better future. Her name was 2020 and she simply asked, "Do you miss me yet?"

This year has not started well for many of my friends. Two friends have lost teenage children to tragic deaths. They would give anything to go back to the chaos of last year and have their children back. I already have more funerals on my calendar than I had all of last year.

Sometimes we even try to keep old and painful "friends" (a.k.a. memories, behaviors, addictions, etc.) simply because we are more comfortable with the Pain we know than with the pain or even healing we don't yet know. After all, they are all we have known and we need them to fuel our friends Revenge, Victimhood, Anger, Bias, or Personal Power. We can't bear to say goodbye to them. We would miss them too much. They would leave too big a hole in our lives.

What we really need to do is reconnect to an Old Friend whom we have been willing to walk away from. We used to hang out with Him when Life was Simple. This Friend has always been good to us even when we didn't deserve it. But we still pushed Him aside because He didn't demand that we keep paying attention to Him. We let our new, previously-mentioned "friends" occupy our attention and the lordship and worship that comes with such a high place in our hearts. He has offered to forgive our failings and set us free from our hurts, habits, and hang-ups but we have been friends with Bondage so much that we fear what Freedom will do to our fragile force field Control.

Oh, but Time is on our side! He is our best enabling buddy. He gives us plenty of Excuses and Justifications to make Guilt and Shame slip away until we call them back. We can use him to keep us from running to that Old Friend we walked away from years ago. After all, we have plenty of Time to turn to God later.

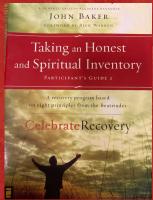


Well, Time betrayed my friends and ran out for their children. Time is so deceptive and such a liar that he is running out on you too.

Here's how to find an Old Friend: "You will seek me and find me when you search for me with all your heart." - Jeremiah 29:13

By the way, saying goodbye to our current bad friends (hurts, habits, and hang-ups) is what Celebrate Recovery (CR) is all about. CR is a Christ-Centered 12-step recovery program that EVERY Christian (yes YOU!) should try to get over any little thing that is impairing your relationship with God or experiencing the abundant life Christ came to bring. CR helps you rely on your Old Friend in practical ways to help you experience true life change. If you would like to give CR a try, we are starting a weekly Step Study on Tuesday, February 16 at 6:30 at our church. Come experience true freedom from life's hurts, habits, and hangups!

Celebrate Recovery



Beginning February 16th, we will be offering a Celebrate Recovery, Christ Centered Step Program 6:30 pm Tuesdays. Celebrate Recovery is designed to help you find freedom from any hurt, hang up or habit. We are hoping to have a group for Men and a group for women. Let the office know if you are interested!

FEBRUARY 2021								
31 John Meister 5:30 Women's Bible Study	1	2 Connie Allmond, Matthew Wint	3 Cory Gill	4	5 Vicki Peacock	6		
7 5:30 Women's Bible Study	8 Tyler Luehrs Noon Women on Mission	9 Tyson Nielsen	10	11	12 James & Dwayna Todroff	13		
14 Valentine's Day, 5:30 Women's Bible Study	15President's Day, Mike Rumsey, Dan Sherman, Trenton Davis, Joe & Marietta Brown	16 6:30 — Celebrate Recovery Step Study	17 Marty Kincaide	18	19	20 2 pm Food Packing and Delivery		
21 Potluck 1:30 "A Team" Calendar Dates and Newsletter Articles due 5:30 Women's Bible Study Joanie Taylor	22 Jim Thomas	23 6:30 Celebrate Recovery Step Study	24	25 Aidan Davis 5:30 Facilities Team Meeting	26	27		
28 5:30 Women's Bible Study	1	2 6:30 — Celebrate Recovery Step Study	3	4	5	6 River Horner, Mary & Gene Herrmann		

February Birthdays and Anniversaries	February Events
2nd—Connie Allmond, Matthew Wint 3rd—Cory Gill 5th—Vicki Peacock 8th—Tyler Luehrs 9th—Tyson Nielsen 12th—James & Dwayna Todroff 15th—Mike Rumsey, Dan Sherman, Trenton Davis, Joe & Marietta Brown 17th—Marty Kincaide 21st—Joanie Taylor 22nd—Jim Thomas 25th—Aidan Davis	Tuesday nights Beginning the 16th at 6:30 —Celebrate Recovery Step Study 5:30 Sunday Nights Women's Bible Study 8th—Noon Women on Mission 14th—Valentine's Day 15th—President's Day 20th—2 pm Food Packing and Delivery 21st—Noon Potluck 21st—1:30 "A Team" Meeting 21st—Calendar Dates and Newsletter Articles due 25th—5:30 Facilities Team Meeting

March 2021								
28 5:30 Women's Bible Study	1	2 6:30 — Celebrate Recovery Step Study	3	4	5	6 River Horner, Mary & Gene Herrmann		
7	8 Eliza Thiessen Noon WOM Luncheon	9 6:30 — Celebrate Recovery Step Study	10	11	12	13 Joey Simpson, Shannon Wothington		
14 DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME STARTS Potluck, A-Team	15 Jenny Frye	16 6:30 — Celebrate Recovery Step Study	17 Spring break, no children or Youth Programs	Burgundy Bennett, John Brickley, Stanley Nixon, Don & Julie Hager	19	20 Lexi Simpson		
21 Newsletter articles and dates due	22	23 6:30 — Celebrate Recovery Step Study	24	25 5:30 pm Facilities Team Meeting	26	27		
28 Children's Easter Program	29	30 Deacon Davis, Jessica Zumalt (Ann) 6:30 — Celebrate Recovery Step Study	31 Jeremy & Molly Thiessen	1	2 Chris Padgett	3		

March Birthdays and Anniversaries

6th—River Horner, Mary & Gene Herrmann

8th—Eliza Thiessen

13th—Joey Simpson, Shannon Wothington

15th—Jenny Frye

18th—Burgundy Bennett, John Brickley,

Stanley Nixon, Don & Julie Hager

20th—Lexi Simpson

30th—Deacon Davis, Jessica Zumalt (Ann)

31st—Jeremy & Molly Thiessen

March Events

Tuesday nights at 6:30 —Celebrate Recovery Step Study

8th—Noon WOM Luncheon

14th—DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME

STARTS

14th—Potluck, A-Team

15th-19th Spring break, no children or

Youth Programs

21st—Newsletter articles and dates

due

25th—5:30 pm Facilities Team

Meeting

28th—Children's Easter Program

Facilities

Our Facilities Team is always at work. This is an older building, and we call them regularly with things that need to be taken care of. Broken things need to be fixed, dim or burned out light bulbs need to be replaced. They keep the parking lot clear of weeds in the spring and summer and snow and ice in the winter. They never complain, and are generally quite quick in their response time. There is little recognition for this job, but that doesn't deter them from their diligent service.

Many of the things that this team does go unrecognized, because most people don't notice the ABSENCE of problems. Their most recent project is both highly anticipated and a bit more noticeable. Thank you, team, for our new bathroom in the basement!

They are taking applicants to join this important team, who wants to join?



