

THE NEWS
of
East Washington Heights Baptist Church

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Reverend Kip B. Banks Sr. Pastor

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In God We Trust



This country will not be a good place for any of us to live in unless we make it a good place for all of us to live in. __Theodore Roosevelt

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The Pastor's Message

The Sermon on the Mount: *Living a Kingdom Life in a Fallen World*

This summer we have embarked upon a preaching series entitled “The Sermon on the Mount: Living a Kingdom Life in a Fallen World.” This series is important because today we are living in a “fallen world.” A fallen world is a world of imperfection that is tainted by the sickness of sin. Unfortunately, with events like the mass shooting in Orlando, FL we are reminded on a regular basis of the fallen nature of our society.

However, as Christians, we must come to recognize that this world is not our home. We are citizens of God’s kingdom — pilgrims passing through on our journey to Mt. Zion. The good news is that in the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus gives us practical strategies on how to live as citizens of His kingdom. Although much has changed since the time that Jesus shared this sermon, some 2000 years ago, we still struggle with the same issues today. These issues include anger management, marriage, money and worry. It is my prayer that you’ll join with us as we explore the Sermon on the Mount this summer. Here is the preaching schedule:

2016 Summer Preaching Series

- June 5 “Too Blessed to Be Stressed” (Mat. 5:1-12)
- June 12 Children’s Sunday
- June 19th “The Problem with Pornography” (Mat. 5:27-30)
- June 26 “I Ain’t Mad at Cha: Lessons in Anger Management” (Mat. 5:21-26)
- July 3 Independence Day Sunday
- July 10 “Marriage Matters” (Mat. 5:31-37)
- July 17 Pastor on Vacation
- July 24 “Handling Your Haters” (Mat. 5:38-48)
- July 31 “Effective Prayer and Forgiveness” (Mat. 6:5-18)
- August 7 “Money Matters” (Mat. 6:19-25)
- August 14 “Don’t You Worry About a Thing” (Mat. 6:25-34)
- August 21 Back to School Sunday
- August 28 “Hypocrites, Dogs, Pigs, Fathers and Sons” (Mat. 7:1-12)
- Sept. 4 “Wise & Foolish Builders” (Mat. 7:24-29)

Pastor Kip Banks, Sr.

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Graduates' Dinner 2016

"Fly Like Eagles"

The graduates' dinner, held on June 15, 2016 at 6:30 p.m. was an evening of great fellowship, good food and celebration. We were few in number but great in Christian love. Three graduates and their families were present, and they did a wonderful job. Kelli Dixon served as mistress of ceremonies for her twin sister, Kelci and did the invocation. Braxton Green read the scripture and Donnell Ferguson was in attendance. Lydia Williams sang a solo, "The Climb" and delivered a superb rendition. She was not a graduate but participated as a special favor to the CM&SC Board. The graduates received gifts and discussed their future plans.

A special "Thank You", is extended to the families, members and friends for supporting this event. The Board of CM&SC members collected donations, decorated, bought gifts, cards, cleaned and assisted in any way possible to ensure the success of the program. Thanks for remarks from Rev. Kip B. Banks, Sr. and Moderator Robert Pierce, to Joyce Milton, secretary for the beautiful program. We also thank our caterer, Mr. Raymond Jones (Julia).

The Graduates of 2016

PreK Donnell Ferguson
 Stacy Jones

Elem Oluwasey M. Adetayo
 Alicia Jones

Middle Clara Hoover

Sr. High Kelci Dixon
 Kelli Dixon
 Braxton Green

Board of Christian Missions and Social Concerns
Mrs. Vasser J. Baldwin, Chairperson

Volunteers needed

We are in need of volunteers to:

- (1) work on our church newsletter and social media ministry.
- (2) serve on our discipleship task force to develop and implement a plan for discipleship, including Discipleship Institutes. And
- (3) evaluate our previous spiritual growth campaigns.

Please contact Pastor Banks at 202-582-4811 if you are interested in serving.

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Events for July

Canada Day, Saturday, *July 1*

U.S. Independence Day, Monday, *July 4*

Annual Church-wide Picnic, Sunday, *July 10*, 12:30PM

Vacation Bible School, Monday, *July 18 - Friday, 22*. 6:30PM

Graveside Service for a Homeless Man



99.5 WMAG Radio in Greensboro, NC's photo.

As a guitarist, I play many gigs. Recently I was asked by a funeral director to play at a graveside service for a homeless man. He had no family or friends, so the service was to be at a pauper's cemetery in the back country. As I was not familiar with the backwoods, I got lost.

I finally arrived an hour late and saw the funeral guy had evidently gone and the hearse was nowhere in sight. There were only the diggers and crew left and they were eating lunch.

I felt badly and apologized to the men for being late. I went to the side of the grave and looked down and the vault lid was already in place. I didn't know what else to do, so I started to play.

The workers put down their lunches and began to gather around. I played out my heart and soul for this man with no family and friends. I played like I've never played before for this homeless man.

And as I played 'Amazing Grace,' the workers began to weep. They wept, I wept, we all wept together. When I finished I packed up my guitar and started for my car. Though my head hung low, my heart was full.

As I opened the door to my car, I heard one of the workers say, "I never seen nothin' like that before and I've been putting in septic tanks for twenty years."

Apparently, I'm still lost...

Happy Birthday to all who were born in July or August!

Happy Anniversary to all who were married in July or August!

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Love's freedom

Love is the power to grant freedom without desiring to limit or inhibit its exercise. It is the power to give freedom without any will to take it back. And it is only Omnipotence that can refrain absolutely from trespassing upon freedom. Only God can give and not take back ... [God] suffers within himself the entire consequence of allowing man absolute freedom. That is his love

Thus, the existence of evil and suffering in the world is a proof, not that God is either good but powerless, or all powerful but not good. On the contrary, it is a proof that God is both loving and omnipotent. Only absolute love could grant unhindered freedom, and only omnipotence can endure the operation of that freedom. *_D.R. Davies*

The gift of grace

Grace is something you can never get but only be given. The grace of God means something like: Here is your life. You might never have been, but you are because the party wouldn't have been complete without you. Here is the world. Beautiful and terrible things will happen. Don't be afraid. I am with you. Nothing can ever separate us. It's for you I created the universe. I love you.

There's only one catch. Like any other gift, the gift of grace can be yours only if you reach out and take it. Maybe being able to reach and take it is a gift too. *_Frederick Buechner, *Wishful Thinking**

Be a lifesaver

About 200 people, including 100 lifeguards, attended a pool party in New Orleans in 1985 to celebrate the first summer in memory that no one had drowned at a city pool. At the end of the festivities, the four on-duty lifeguards began clearing the area and found a fully dressed man in the deep end. Despite efforts to revive him, he died.

Just as swimming with a bunch of lifeguards doesn't guarantee safety, "swimming" with a sea of churchgoers doesn't guarantee peace. People in the pews next to you might be struggling to stay above water physically, emotionally, financially or spiritually. Be alert to ways you can serve as a lifeguard. Extend a helping hand, a listening ear and an encouraging reminder of Jesus' ultimate rescue (see Romans 7:24-25).



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At the center of it all

Psalm 118:8, the verse that falls in the middle of the Protestant Bible, reads, “It is better to take refuge in the LORD than to trust in humans” (NIV).

The center of God’s Word reminds us to make God the center of our lives! No other person or possession can fulfill or save us. Only God is a safe, certain refuge, and we grow closer to him by grounding ourselves in his Word and his will.

The Master Puzzler

In *Laughing in the Dark* (Howard Books), Christian comedian Chonda Pierce calls God the Master Puzzler, because “in him all things hold together” (Colossians 1:17). In his infinite wisdom, God “can organize the colors better than anyone (Have you seen a sunset lately?) He knows where to fit every shape and size (Have you seen a mountain range?).”

Until God places the last piece, the final picture is a mystery to us. But in the meantime, God offers order and purpose, providing his law as the puzzle’s edges.

Pierce encourages people to let the “Master Puzzler” take over when life gets messy. Like the prophet Jeremiah, we can cry, “GOD, pick up the pieces. Put me back together again. You are my praise!” (Colossians 17:14) *The Message*

Grace in, grace out

The computer acronym GIGO — “garbage in, garbage out” — describes how putting wrong code into a machine will lead to faulty output. Jesus offers a similar lesson in Matthew 15: “What comes out of the mouth proceeds from the heart, and this defiles a person” (v. 18, ESV).

GIGO works the other way, too. If we put good things (including the good news of salvation) “in” our hearts, Jesus’ goodness will shine “out” through our lives. And when God’s grace enters and changes us, we’ll also reach out and share that good news with others.

A small laugh

“God warned a man named Lot to take his wife and flee out of the city,” said the Sunday school teacher, “but Lot’s wife looked back and was turned to salt.” A curious boy then asked, “What happened to the flea?”

All aboard!

When a train goes through a tunnel and it gets dark, you don’t throw away the ticket and jump off. You sit still and trust the engineer. —Corrie ten Boom

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Time to pause

The Hebrew word *selah* (pronounced “say-lah”) occurs 74 times in the Bible, all but three of them in Psalms. Biblical scholars aren’t sure what it means, but a few ideas have predominated: a musical interlude, a break to ponder or “weigh” the passage just shared, an affirmation akin to “Amen.” Some scholars, noting connections in Hebrew to the word for “lift up,” suggest *selah* may indicate a place to stop and exalt the Lord.

The website GotQuestions.org advises that we combine these possible meanings: “When we see the word in a psalm or in Habakkuk 3, we should pause to carefully weigh the meaning of what we have just read or heard, lifting up our hearts in praise to God for his great truths.”

In the words of Psalm 24:10 (ESV), “*Who is this King of glory? The LORD of hosts, he is the King of glory! Selah.*”

The greatest example

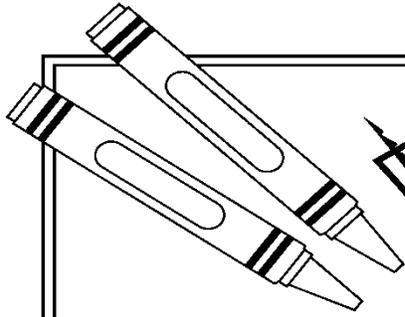
How often we quote Leviticus 19:18: “Love your neighbor as yourself.” It’s not a bad standard to reach for; even Jesus repeated it (see Matthew 22:39 and elsewhere). But in John 13:34, as Bible scholar Dr. Harry Wendt points out, Jesus changes the wording slightly but crucially: “A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another” (ESV).

Perhaps during his time on earth, Jesus realized humans don’t actually love ourselves very much or very well. So using self-love as the bar by which to measure neighbor-love might be ineffective. Although we may act self-enamored and self-impressed, it’s often just a cover for inner feelings of self-loathing and self-doubt.

After washing his disciples’ feet and before sacrificing his very life for them (and us), Jesus changes the wording — and the example that will lead us: “Love one another not as you love you, but as I love you.” Unconditionally. Unreservedly. Wholeheartedly. Unto death. And into life everlasting.

My purpose

God has created me to do him some definite service ...
I have my mission ... he has not created me for naught.
I shall do good; I shall do his work ...
I will trust him, whatever I am,
I can never be thrown away.
If I am in sickness, my sickness may serve him,
In perplexity, my perplexity may serve him.
If I am in sorrow, my sorrow may serve him.
He does nothing in vain ...
He knows what he is about. __John Henry Newman

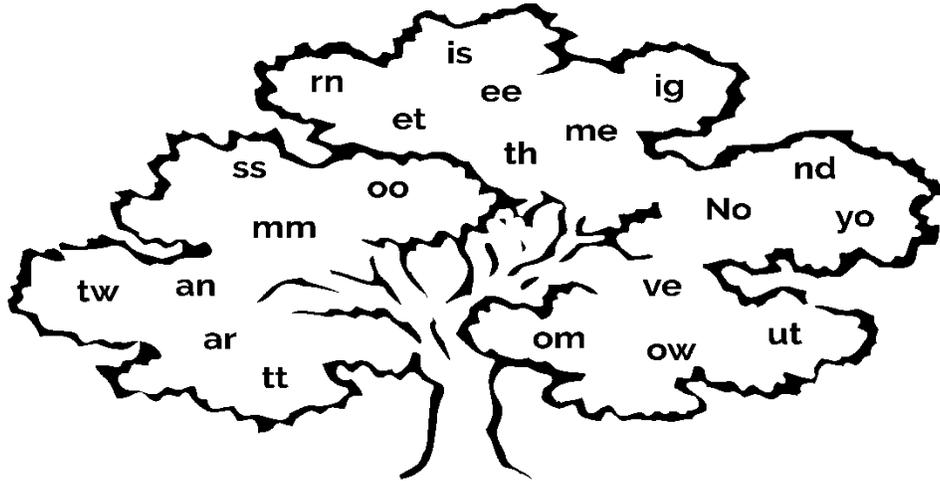


PUZZLE

Signs of Summer

Jesus told his disciples that fig trees indicate when summer is approaching.

Directions: Complete the Bible verse below by placing the letter pairs from the tree into the correct blanks.



“ ___ w lea ___ th ___ le ___ on
fr ___ the f ___ tr ___ : As s ___ n
as its ___ igs g ___ te ___ er ___ d
its lea ___ s co ___ o ___ , ___ u
kn ___ ___ at su ___ er is ne ___ .”

Ma ___ hew 24:32, NIV

Answer: “Now learn this lesson from the fig tree: As soon as its twigs get tender and its leaves come out, you know that summer is near.”
Matthew 24:32, NIV