Please join us as we honor
Larry Curtis
In his transition from
Full-time ministry to Part-time ministry
To First Baptist Church,
On Wednesday Evening, March 25 at
6:00* in the Fellowship Hall

This will be a time to honor Larry’s service to the church as
Associate Pastor of Education & Administration
and rejoice with him in his new role of Pastoral Care.

*Regular Wednesday meal will be served at 5:00 pm (sign-up by noon Tuesday, March 24)
“When you stop to think about it, life can be very confusing. Imagine yourself a victim of amnesia suddenly awakening from a deep sleep in the midst of vast forest. Looking around, it seems you are equipped for a journey of some kind, but you realize to your utter astonishment you have no idea where you came from, how you got here, where in the world you are, or where you are going. You have no map or compass. And your surroundings seem, in various ways, very strange, even dangerous. If someone else were to appear on the scene who seemed to understand your situation and to have answers for all your questions, you’d listen… I’d listen all the more intently to what he had to say about my origins, mission, and destination. I hope you would too…” -reasons, Thomas Morris.

Our world is shrouded in the darkness. Nations are guessing at how to build a stable world. We need a guide. We need a map! Jesus is our guide; Scripture is our map. Apart from the truths revealed in Scripture, we are all guessing. Of course, we don’t end our thinking with Scripture, but we should begin there. “The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge…” (Proverbs 1:7).

The fundamental building blocks of any worldview answers these most elementary questions:

1) Where did we come from?
2) What is wrong with the world?
3) Is there any solution to our problem?
4) Where are we going?

This is true for individuals. It is equally true for families, universities, municipalities, and nations.

Before we press forward to look at a broader understanding and application of worldview analysis to the larger society, let’s begin by addressing a very personal issue -the issue of personal significance.

In our first two installments, we set out to address three questions. The third question that I mentioned in the January and February articles was, “Are there consequences to failing to see the world rightly?” The answer is - there are many; not the least of which is the issue of personal significance. How many people struggle to believe that their lives are significant, or that they can “make a difference?” Too many!

What I am suggesting is this, If we fail to realize that our individual lives matter and that we can make a huge difference in the larger world, then we will allow ourselves to be diverted into personal pursuits only. Listen up! Hobbies are great, but hobbies shouldn’t be the center of our world. Ernest Becker writes, “Modern man is drinking and drugging himself out of awareness or he spends his time shopping, which is the same thing.” In other words, there is a tendency to divert ourselves from the things that matter. Sometimes, this is because we fail to see the power of one life lived before God and our responsibility to His larger purposes.

With that, I will make a bold claim. On the one hand, we all desire significance! We are hardwired by our Creator to want our lives to count. When all is said and done, we would, each and every one of us, desire it said of us what was said of David in Acts 13:36, “…For David, after he had served the purpose of God in his own generation, fell asleep….” On the other hand, we struggle to believe we can contribute meaningfully to our generation. A large part of this is our failure to “see the bigger picture” of God’s purposes.
Did you notice that? What made David’s life matter was he served the purposes of God in his generation. We are all looking for significance, but precious few people realize what is required to achieve it!

The first step is to recognize our insatiable quest for meaning. One cannot live a life of significance if one has not discovered personal meaning. In addition, for anyone to discover personal meaning, one must discover the “meaning of life.” In other words, “personal significance” presupposes “personal meaning” and “personal meaning,” presupposes that there is some larger purpose to life that is true, and real, personal, eternal, and calling you into the story. See the sequence? Personal significance, requires finding personal meaning, and personal meaning requires something and someone outside of ourselves that is, calling us into His purposes for the world. That someone, of course, is Christ.

“This will to find meaning is fundamental,” says Os Guinness. According to Victor Frankl, survivor of Hitler’s death camps, “[finding meaning] is the primary motivational force in man.” It is not enough to say, “I am; I want to know who I am and in relation to whom do I live,” argues Abraham Heschel. It is not enough for me to ask “who am I?” I need to know what I am here for. That requires the “larger story.”

This is where a Christian Worldview is essential. If we are to find “personal meaning,” then we must first find the overarching meaning to life. That, my friend, is found only in the ultimate script of life - Scripture!
Passion Week Schedule

Palm Sunday
Worship Services
at 8:15 & 11:00 am

Maundy Thursday
Service at 6:30 pm
(no Regular Wednesday Activities)

Good Friday
Service at 12:00 pm

Easter Sunday
Worship Services
at 8:15 & 11:00 am
Breakfast 9:30 am
(please sign-up at fbcrm.org)

Our desire is to spend more than just one or two services focusing on the last days of Jesus’ earthly life—accordingly, we have several events planned for Passion Week. Plan to attend and invite family, friends and co-workers to join you.
One of the privileges and joys of planting a church is building from the ground up. That includes the opportunity to name our church plant, which we plan to call “Redemption City”. In the January newsletter, I shared these core values for the church plant: Gospel Centrality, Gospel Community, and Life on Mission. This month I want to focus on a fourth value, **Multiplication**. This principle is observed throughout the book of Acts (Acts 9:31; 12:24). What is it that Redemption City will strive to see multiplied?

1. **Discipleship.** In 2 Timothy 2:2 Paul charges Timothy, “You then, my child, be strengthened by the grace that is in Christ Jesus, and what you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses entrust to faithful men who will be able to teach others also.” Paul has discipled Timothy and is charging him to disciple faithful men who will then teach others. We believe that if we are faithful to make disciples in Philadelphia who in turn make disciples, we will see the birth of a church and have a foundation for growth.

2. **Missional Communities** (Small Groups). What is a missional community? Missional means seeing ourselves as missionary people sent by our Savior to our neighborhoods, workplaces, and schools as well as to the people we encounter in the daily rhythms of life. Community implies that together we are a family sent on mission by Christ to our city, loving one another in the process. Many times small groups become “inward focused,” staying together for years. At Redemption City, we believe that one of the greatest impacts we can hope to have on the lost will come as they experience our love for them and our love for one another in a small group community. Our Savior says in John 13:35 “By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.” This reflects the practice of the early church in Acts 2:42-47 – loving one another while sharing meals, learning together, praying together, and living on mission together. As these small groups maintain a healthy missionary focus, multiplication will be necessary due to the growth that God brings.

3. **Plant Churches.** Christ has commissioned us to make disciples of every nation and God’s ordained means of doing so is through the church. Therefore, if we are going to see the nations discipled, we must prioritize the necessity of becoming a church that plants churches. Christ has promised to build His church and that the gates of hell will not prevail against it. By His grace, let us become part of a network of churches that plants thousands of churches until the knowledge of the glory of the Lord fills the earth!

Who is sufficient for these things? Who can bring about multiplication? Only God can bring about multiplication. “So the church throughout all Judea and Galilee and Samaria had peace and was being built up. And walking in the fear of the Lord and in the comfort of the Holy Spirit, it multiplied.” Acts 9:31.

**REDEMPTION CITY: GOSPEL • COMMUNITY • MISSION • MULTIPLICATION**
# REGULAR WEEKLY SCHEDULE

**Sundays**
- 8:00 am: Televised Morning Worship (WHIG Channel 17)
- 8:15 am: Contemporary Worship Service
- 9:00 am: Church Library open until 10:00 am
- 9:30 am: Bible Study
- 11:00 am: Worship Service
- 6:00 pm: Biblical Church Structures, TeamKID & KOGS (FMC)

**Mondays**
- 10:45 am: Inspiration Singers (Choir suite)
- 7:00 pm: Praise Team Rehearsal

**Tuesdays**
- 6:30 am: Women's Prayer Groups
- 9:00 am: Staff meeting
- 10:00 am: Women's Bible Study
- 1:00 pm: Stephen Ministry (1st & 3rd Wks M103)
- 6:00 pm: Handbell Rehearsal
- 6:30 pm: Trail Life USA & Am. Heritage Girls (FMC)

**Wednesdays**
- 10:00 am: EQUIP for Interns (E200)
- 3:00 pm: Church Library open until 6:00 pm
- 5:00 pm: Fellowship Meal
- 6:00 pm: Nursery for Birth—1 yr. (M105 & M101)

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**Regular Weekly Schedule**

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<td>No Regular Wed. Activities</td>
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<td>Church Office Closed</td>
<td>Good Friday Service (12 pm Sanct.)</td>
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**March 2015**

**Week of Prayer for NAMB 1-8**

**TLUSA Camping Trip March 20-22**

[www.fbcrm.org](http://www.fbcrm.org)