

# First Baptist Church of Peoria

# FIRST BAPTIST NEWS

SEPTEMBER 19, 2017



## WHY ARE WE MISTRUSTFUL OF SCIENCE

By: The Reverend Dr. Rodney Kennedy

I admit to being puzzled by the insistent and often vicious attack on science that rumbles and grumbles from so many Baptist pulpits. Why the vicious attack on science now? Why would preachers, schooled in the biblical theology of "stewardship of the earth," be so hell-bound to oppose environmental protections? Why are so many preachers more in tune with Rush Limbaugh's and Ann Coulter's outrageous attacks on climate change than they are with the overwhelming scientific evidence? Why buy the latest emotional arguments? It fails to make sense to me that so many Americans are so mistrustful of science.

There is a proverbial "fox" in the henhouse of this issue. In two words, the attack on science originates in "Christian creationism". Armed with a literal Bible, bold rhetorical claims, and a sense of anointment from God, creationist preachers have waged war against science since the 19th century. Ken Ham, Creation Museum owner, blames evolution for every ill in our nation. You name it and evolution is responsible for all the assembled evil of the last century. This relentless pounding, constantly repeated claim that evolution is of the devil, has made millions of sincere believers no longer trust science.

Those who defend science are regarded as godless atheists who wish the worst for our young people and seek to undermine both faith and traditional American values. When defenders of science strike back, they're often tempted to describe their tormentors as Luddites, fools, or worse, all because of their opposition to evolution. It's not a prospect that makes for reasoned discussion or pleasant discourse.

We have allowed emotion, one of the three great principles of rhetoric (PATHOS) to hijack her two partners in persuasion: logic and credibility (LOGOS and ETHOS). Our culture has developed a distaste for facts that we prefer not to admit, for research that reaches uncomfortable conclusions, and for reasoned discourse. This is not a healthy environment for the pursuit of science. Surely, we all know that America has been the greatest scientific nation in the world and that we are now in the process of losing that distinction. Our scientific soul, our love for truth, is being undermined by the very people who should honor, revere, and respect truth regardless of where it originates or what it teaches us. It seems a tragedy for Christian preachers to be frightened by truth.

Perhaps we should support a return to reasonable discussion about science and faith. David Ray Griffin has proposed that we admit that there has been about the same amount of error on both sides. If we would make the intellectual effort, we might be able to sort out the truth from the error on both sides and develop a worldview that could be held in common. According to Griffin, scientific naturalism is a great truth that got distorted. Much of the opposition to science comes from preachers who are actually attacking the atheistic, materialistic, sensationist philosophy of scientists rather than the science itself. One way forward is to separate the science from the theology/philosophy of the scientist. Griffin also insists that the Christian faith contains great truth that got distorted and suggests ways that we can learn to separate primary doctrines from secondary doctrines. He suggests that we could work out a synthesis of science and faith that would give us assurance moving forward. Instead of arrogance toward science or theology, we could move forward with mutual respect for the unending search for truth.

I happen to believe that the church has nothing to gain from an all-out attack on the science that has bequeathed so many benefits to us as a nation and a people. As a result I believe that Christians can participate fully in both communities—doing physics in a lab at the university and saying prayers in the First Baptist sanctuary. You don't have to choose between science and theology. Science is not the great dragon out of Revelation.

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## WORSHIP SERVICES

10:00 A.M. WORSHIP & CHILDREN'S SS ■ 11:00 A.M. FELLOWSHIP TIME

SEPTEMBER 24, 2017, 16<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST  
"THE GOSPEL IS NOT FAIR, BUT GOOD"

Matthew 20:1-16

Welcome to a crazy world where people make the same wages if they work all day or only work an hour. Welcome, my fun-loving, deeply committed fellow capitalists to economics by Jesus. "Unfair!" we cry impulsively. The grumbling envy of the all-day workers in the parable speaks directly to us. We are the ones who think we deserve what we have and that others don't deserve what they are getting. This is our parable, and it stings and hurts and leaves us gasping for breath. But, remember, this is the gospel and we, for better or worse, are a gospel people. If you have the courage to hear the gospel with a view toward repentance, find your way to FBC Peoria this Sunday.

**Music:** : "Made to Worship" — Chancel Choir

**Welcome Center:** April Jacobs

OCTOBER 1, 2017, 17<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST  
"COURT IS IN SESSION"

Exodus 16:2-15, Matthew 21:23-32

In 2007, Nebraska State Senator Ernie Chambers filed a lawsuit against God, accusing the Almighty (in a fit of alliteration) of "fearsome floods, egregious earthquakes, horrendous hurricanes, terrifying tornadoes, pestilential plagues." Lawsuit was dismissed. God doesn't have a legal address, the presiding judge argued, so he can't be summoned to appear in court.

Frivolous lawsuits! There are two frivolous lawsuits in our Scripture lessons today. In Exodus, Israel sues God for not providing them water to drink. In Matthew, the Pharisees sue Jesus for not having clergy credentials. God subpoenaed by his own people, God in the dock, as C. S. Lewis said it.

**Music:** "Oh My Soul" — Higher Ground

**Welcome Center:** Cora Lynn Green



WORLD  
MISSION  
OFFERING  
2017

*We respond to God's call as Jesus taught us  
and as the Holy Spirit leads us.*

This year's World Mission Offering theme is "Discipleship: Come Follow Me." It is taken from Mark 1:17, which says, "And Jesus said to them, 'Follow me and I will make you become fishers of men.'" Rev. Dr. Stan Slade, Global Consultant for Theological Education, has written a Biblical reflection on this year's World Mission Offering theme. Dr. Slade writes:

"Receiving the grace of God in Christ, then, means responding to the call of God to live in the power of the Spirit, according to the example we have in Christ. This is the call to mission. It is the call to welcome God's work, not only in us and for us, but also through us. If we have tasted God's love in Jesus, if we long to see God's will done 'on earth as it is in heaven,' we should seek God's power to walk with the love...So responding to the call of God in Christ always beckons us further. It invites us to serve, whether near or far. International Ministries is responding to the call of God to cross cultural and geographic lines in the power of the Spirit, with the love of God in Christ. Your gift to the World Mission Offering helps people around the world to meet Christ, to grow as disciples and to serve as channels of God's love to still more people. Walk in the way of love. Join hands with people around the world who are spreading the love of God in Jesus Christ. And thank you for your gifts to the World Mission Offering that make the work of the Lord possible through International Ministries."

We will receive the World Mission Offering on Sunday, September 24th.

Bev Searcy,  
Mission Board

## FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH ANNOUNCES ARTIST OF THE SEASON, KEN TIESSEN



As part of our ongoing support for Music, Art, Theatre, and Science, FBC is selecting one artist each season: Fall, Winter, Spring, and Summer. An exhibit by the artist will be placed in Fellowship Hall on designated Sunday mornings during each season. Persons wishing to purchase artwork will be able to do so. Checks should be made out to the artist. Our Fall 2017 Artist is First Baptist Church member Ken Tiessen (pictured left). The first exhibition of Ken's work will be Sunday, October 15.

Ken is a Realist/Impressionist artist who enjoys capturing beauty and character in both landscape and portraiture. He paints in the Plein Air tradition outdoors in the Midwest and also travels each summer to Colorado, Wyoming, and California. Ken has been a professional full-time artist since graduation from the Art Center College of Design in Pasadena with Honors and is now creating Fine Art after a successful career in illustration. He's taken workshops and studied with Dan McCaw and Richard Schmid and is inspired by the work of John Singer Sargent, Joaquin Sorolla, and N.C. Wyeth—the famous illustrator and father of Andrew Wyeth. Portraits and landscape are a passion. To quote Ken, "A great Portrait can capture a glimpse of the spirit with an immediacy not found in other mediums. Landscapes are done "Plein Air," which is painting on scene and brings truth and emotion to the work. Beauty is everywhere, and the goal of the work is to capture a measure of the wonder and awe I have for all Creation."

## ADULT LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES

### New Adult Sunday School Class

Rev. Jim Middleton is leading a new adult Sunday School class titled "*The Jesus I Met Recently*," Sept. 17th through the rest of the year.

The class is about how a 91-year-old was introduced to Jesus in a new and exciting way. It will use the Gospels and books by Philip Yancey, Rob Bell, and Donald Miller along with Rev. Middleton's thoughts.

We hope you will plan to join us in the chapel at 11:15 a.m. on Sundays for what should be a very thought provoking class.

### Contemporary Christian Issues Classes

"*The Illinois Budget as an Exercise in Values and Ethics*" will be the subject for our first fall session on contemporary Christian issues on October 8th. Our speaker will be Jim Nowlan, a former Illinois legislator, senior fellow at the University of Illinois' Institute of Government and Public Affairs, author and newspaper publisher. He recently completed a four-year term as member and chair of the Illinois Executive Ethics Commission. He has two special connections to First Baptist: cousins Wayne Nowlan and Jan Nowlan Olson. The class will begin at 11:15 in the sanctuary.

**Note: Rev. Middleton's Sunday School class will break on October 8th, so everyone can attend the Contemporary Issues class and will resume on October 15th.**

## THANK YOU, FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

Because YOU blessed us with funding to hire Evelia Vargas, a S.T.E.A.M.S. Instructor, as part of the Rev. Garland Criswell Intern Scholarship, the PFHCS S.T.E.A.M.S. Summer Camp was a HUGE success!

Forty-four youths learned the value of teamwork, perseverance, taking initiative, and, best of all, the value of community and giving back; all as they engaged week-by-week in activities under our curriculum of Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, Math and Service (S.T.E.A.M.S.).

With your support, PFHCS had an amazing team dedicated and on a mission to teach kids to embrace educational opportunities all summer. It was truly a great summer of building brighter futures for our youth! Thank you!

Sandy Arreguin, Interim CEO/President  
Peoria Friendship House of Christian Service

## DINING OUT GROUP

The Dining Out Group will be going to Gil's, 12703 W. Farmington Rd. in Hanna City, on September 22<sup>nd</sup> at 6:30. If attending, please contact Jen or John Dusek (e-mail: the\_j\_family@yahoo.com or phone: 309-231-6389).

## HURRICANE HARVEY DISASTER RELIEF CALL

Following is an email received Monday, September 04, 2017, from Van Peters, Great Rivers Region ABMen Disaster Relief Coordinator:

*"Team Leaders,*

*Just got off the phone with Jack Cobb, ABMen USA Disaster Relief National Coordinator, and we have the call to go to Lake Charles, Louisiana. He would like for us to have a team down there on September the 24th. Let's get the word out and see how many we have interested. Once we see how many we have, we will get the organization in place by the 21<sup>st</sup>. It will be mostly mud out and some tree work. Jack said there was probably 6 months of work down there!*

*Van"*

If anyone, man or woman, would like to respond to this call and go help clean up after Hurricane Harvey in Southeast Texas, please contact either Brian Romanowski, Area III Team Captain, (217-586-3304 or bs.romanowski@gmail.com) or Dick Gillaspie, Area III Asst. TM Captain (gillasr@netscape.net) with the dates you are available.

If you would like to make a monetary donation to further support our mission, you can send your monetary donations to one of the following:

Earl Troyer-Treasurer  
PO Box 211  
Goodfield, Illinois 61742

ABMen USA  
c/o Dave Cross – Treasurer  
223 Maple Street  
Athens, Pa 18810

Please make check payable to ABM-GRR with the note "Disaster Relief." You can also donate on-line through the website at [www.abmen.org](http://www.abmen.org).

The national ABMen USA banking partner, Christian Community Credit Union, has pledged to match every dollar raised for our relief efforts toward Hurricane Harvey, up to \$5000.00.

Please continue to pray for all of the first responders, volunteers and the hundreds of thousands of people displaced and affected by Hurricane Harvey.

Thank you,  
Dick Gillaspie

## 2017 YTD RECEIPTS & VARIANCE

RECEIPTS	YTD ACTUAL	YTD BUDGET	VARIANCE
Pledges	186,605.42	200,000.00	-13,394.58
Plate Off'ring	31,308.08	43,333.32	-12,025.24
Rental	4,902.00	5,333.32	-431.32
Other Suppl.	11,657.32	11,657.32	0
Total Rcpts.	234,472.82	260,232.96	-25,851.14



Gathered in God's Word, Scattered to God's World

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**THE MISSION OF FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH IS TO MINISTER TO OUR CONGREGATION, THE COMMUNITY AND THE WORLD, SO THAT ALL MAY EXPERIENCE THE LOVE AND GRACE OF GOD.**

### PRAYER CONCERNS

Sharon Polakow	Patricia Lang	Rose Kimpling
Ruth Turner	Pam Orrill	Jay McGee
Carol Conover	Marvin Olson	Rosemary Walk
Alyssa Russell	Wally Webber	John Hart
Paul Phillips	Mary Hinch	Jacquelyn Kellogg
Dorothy Cumming		

Dick Sternberg (Jo Sternberg's husband)  
 Hope Teel (Mark Teel's mother)  
 Ted Osborn (Dr. Rodney Osborn's brother)  
 Stephanie George (Brenda Shay's daughter)

### A MISSION MOMENT

It is time for "Dish Pack," an FBC mission started by Gloria Graham to provide a starter-set of kitchen basics to be given to Friendship House and South Side Mission for distribution.

We are collecting dishes, glasses, silverware and utensils to be packed on the mornings of October 5th and 6th, starting at 9:00 a.m. in Fellowship Hall. Contributions may be left at the church. We would also appreciate your help packing if you can spare time on those mornings. Money contributions are also appreciated to help purchase new items to include in the packs.



**FBC's Health & Wellness Committee is offering a flu shot clinic:**

**WHERE: FELLOWSHIP HALL OF FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH**

**WHEN: SUNDAY, OCTOBER 15TH, AFTER THE WORSHIP SERVICE**

**COST: \$25, CASH OR CHECKS PAYABLE TO UNITY POINT**

**We are unable to bill insurance, but you may request a receipt to turn in to your insurance.**

**Shots will be given by Vicki Weatherington, RN; Lurene Ladd, RN; and Debbie McGlothlen, RN.**

**If interested, please sign up or e-mail Lurene Ladd at [Lurene.ladd@gmail.com](mailto:Lurene.ladd@gmail.com).**

**It's important to sign up so we know how many flu shots to get. Sign-up sheets will be available in Fellowship Hall on September 24th, October 1st and October 8th.**

### JOIN OUR TUESDAY MUGS

Our Most Unusual Group Study (MUGS) meets on Tuesdays at 10:00 a.m. in the church parlor. We are reading the book What Is The Bible? by Rob Bell. Please join us as we read and discuss this and other books.