

# First Baptist Church of Peoria

# FIRST BAPTIST NEWS

JUNE 6, 2017



## TAKING THE BIBLE SERIOUSLY

By: The Reverend Dr. Rodney Kennedy

Dr. Marvin McMickle has a sermon called "How Much of Leviticus Do You Really Want?" He says, "If I hear one more preacher tell me about Lev. 18:22, by itself, I will just scream." Well, I agree with him. I'm tired of one-verse theology. Tired of it. It's dishonest. It's disconnected from the rest of the Bible. Verses of Scripture do not exist as separate entities as if they were on a shopping rack where you get to pick and choose the verses that you like and leave the verses you don't like on the rack.

One-verse theology? That's right, and you know what I'm talking about. "It is an abomination to lie with a man as with a woman" (Lev. 18:22). I know the verse but what about the rest of Leviticus? There's stuff in Leviticus that would seriously hurt the diet of most Baptists because it says not to eat pork chops and shrimp. Nobody in the Baptist tribe is going to pay one second's attention to that part of Leviticus. If you are going to read all of Leviticus you have to give up medium or rare ribeye steak.

Or how about I Timothy 3:1? How many Baptist preachers are always hooting and snorting about women not being ordained because they have a verse from here and there that they wave around like it was engraved on a stone they just carried down from Mount Sinai? You know the verse. We all know it. "Now a bishop must be above reproach, married only once" (I Tim. 3:1). I know all about I Timothy 3:1. Well, the verse says "bishop" and Baptists don't have bishops. Even the one-verse users are guilty of making more of the verse than it actually says.

I'm also tired of one-book preachers like the one from Answers in Genesis who keep droning on and on about Genesis having all the answers to all the questions. Genesis? All the answers? Come on. You know that can't possibly be true! There's nothing about Jesus in Genesis. There's no Calvary in Genesis. There's no resurrection in Genesis. There's no church in Genesis. There's a lot of strange stories about the sons of God mating with the daughters of men and a man named Noah who built an ark to save his family from a flood and the people of earth trying to build a tower that reached to heaven. But there's no gospel in Genesis. Why do we shrug when preachers engage in these obvious falsehoods? All the answers are not in Genesis. In fact, all the answers are not in the Bible. No one except God has all the answers. Jesus himself famously said, "I don't know."

Whether it's one verse or one book I will have nothing to do with these truncated canons, these little midget idols lifted up on high as if they contain the entire truth of God's revelation. We have to use the whole canon, all of it, even the parts we don't like, the parts that disagree with our most cherished theological notions. The book judges us, all of us.

We can't pick and choose. We can't string verses of Scripture together from all over the book and put them together as if we have solved a jigsaw puzzle and we now have the answers to the total revelation of God. It's not true. The book is too big, too inspired, too truthful to let preachers use it like that.

Maybe we need to learn to read the Bible all over again. Too many preachers have taken too many liberties with the Word, and there's something not quite right about a preacher taking part of one verse of Scripture and offering his opinions for the next forty-five minutes.

### Contact us:

Dr. Rodney Kennedy, Interim Pastor  
Mark Grizzard, Music Dir./Youth. Ldr.  
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## WORSHIP SERVICES

10:00 A.M. WORSHIP ■ 11:00 A.M. FELLOWSHIP TIME

JUNE 11, 2017, FIRST SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Rev. Dr. Phil Ladd

### “CALL TO COMMUNICATE”

Matthew 28:16 -20

The sermon will be on the Great Commission to Jesus' disciples. Here he calls them to be witnesses of what he had taught them about his teachings. In doing this, he encourages them to make disciples. The sermon will concern how this may apply to us today as we attempt to make disciples by sharing his love with others.

**Music:** "Pilgrim's Hymn" - Vocal Quartet

**Welcome Center:** Delores Swigart

**Also:** Please join us immediately after worship services on Sunday, June 11<sup>th</sup> at the new Gazebo on the west side of our church school facilities. R. Jay Pilgrim, our newest Eagle Scout will be interviewed about how he and his team planned and constructed this beautiful addition to our FBC campus. Following the dedication, lemonade, iced tea, and donuts will be served.

June 18, 2017, SECOND SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

### “EXCEL IN GENEROSITY AND EMPATHY”

II Corinthians 8:7-15

I haven't come for your money. Nor will I promise you that God will make you wealthy if you write a check. I watched a television evangelist giving advice to people with too much credit card debt. He suggested that people pick up the phone and use the one credit card they have that hasn't maxed out, and send him a \$1,000 donation. This "seed" money, as he calls it, will allow God to spring into action and eliminate, like magic, all your credit card debt. Now, I can understand that this can be appealing because plenty of folks would rather have their debts forgiven than their sins, but this preacher is lying through his teeth and he knows it. See you in church as we explore the way to excel in generosity and empathy.

**Music:** "How Deep the Father's Love For Us"—Summer Choir

**Welcome Center:** Jonathan Ellison

**Sanctuary flowers** on June 18<sup>th</sup> will be provided by Jim and Arlene Wise in celebration of the 70<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary of Earl & Lois Markle on June 14<sup>th</sup> and Jim and Arlene wise on June 22<sup>nd</sup>.

## DINING OUT

On Friday, June 23, we will be going to Bernardi's, 12200 N Brentfield Dr in Dunlap. Please let John or Jen know if you will be attending. Thank You! Have a Blessed Month!

John & Jennifer Dusek

## SEMINARY FOR SENIORS: EXPLORING THE BIBLE

**Lesson 2: Why I Read & Teach the Bible Nonliterally**  
— *Scripture as Story, Narrative, Metaphor, and Analogy*

Thursday, June 15 & 22 @ 6:00 p.m.

Friday, June 16 & 23 @ 10:00 a.m.

**Lesson 3, The Truth of Scripture Found in the Living of It**

Thursday, June 29, July 6 @ 6:00 p.m.

Friday, June 30, July 7 @ 10:00 a.m.

**Lesson 4: How Christians Thrive in an Age that Discounts all Big Stories — Reading the Scriptures in a Postmodern Age**

Thursday, July 13 & 20 @ 6:00 p.m.

Friday, July 14 & 21 @ 10:00 a.m.

**Lesson 5, Put Down Your Literal Bible and Walk Away: Critical Traditioning — The Bible Interpreting the Bible**

Thursday, July 27, August 3 @ 6:00 p.m.

Friday, July 28, August 4 @ 10:00 a.m.

## MISSION NOTE

On behalf of the church, the Mission Board would like to extend huge thanks to John and Jen Dusek for their coordination of the church's participation in the Rebuilding Together program. John and Jen have given countless hours during the last 7 years when they have been the leaders of our Rebuilding Together projects.

They had big shoes to fill when they took over after Bob Trotter and Cliff Hopwood stepped down from the Rebuilding Together leadership position which they had so ably filled for many years. We are grateful that Bob has continued to work hard on our Rebuilding Together team after John and Jen became our leaders.

Rebuilding Together is a national non-profit organization working to preserve affordable homeownership and revitalize neighborhoods by providing free home repairs and modifications to low-income homeowners. The Duseks have been incredibly dedicated as they coordinated our participation, and they have provided hours and hours of work helping area homeowners with needed home repairs through Rebuilding Together.

Thank you John and Jen!

## A NOTE OF THANKS

A huge thank you for all of the cards, visits, and prayers during my hospitalization. They certainly lifted my spirits and helped in the healing process.

—Paul Phillips



# One Great Hour

## O F S H A R I N G

*“For I was hungry and you gave me food,  
I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink,  
I was a stranger and you welcomed me.”—Matthew 25:35*

It is a common, perhaps daily, experience for many of us, as we live in our technology-driven age: a pin drops on a GPS map, marking a current location or indicating a destination, orienting us in space. These map pins represent where we are and where we hope to go.

The scriptures for the special offering this year provide a similar point of reference, an orientation for our lives — God is near; love one another in truth and action; feed those who are hungry, clothe those who are naked, welcome those who are strangers. These texts help us position ourselves in relation to God and to one another by reminding us of our call to be here for one another, loving one another as God has loved us. Our destination, where our map pin sits, is near to the heart of God, is alongside our neighbors who are suffering.

This year our offering theme is “You are here.”

By this simple statement, we glorify God’s faithful presence, affirm that Christ is uniquely present in those whom we serve, and celebrate how you are here for your neighbors in their times of need. One Great Hour of Sharing is present for people near and far in moments of crisis and calm because of your partnership and generosity. We have been present, so you also have been present.

You are here — in Nicaragua, where women are given the training and tools to cultivate home gardens to provide nutritious food for their families.

You are here — in West Virginia, where communities rebuild after flooding claims lives and livelihoods.

You are here — in Lebanon, Hungary, Mexico, the United States, and elsewhere around the world, where refugees are receiving food, water, and medicine with dignity, as our partners offer aid and accompaniment.

In times of loss or struggle, after a fire or flood, and when communities struggle to overcome the chronic absence of water, food, or economic opportunity, First Baptist Church of Peoria is present through the work of One Great Hour of Sharing. Through your gifts, you are here.

Our goal this year is \$2,000. THANK YOU for your prayerful consideration for this year’s offering, which will be taken on June 25. More information can be found at [ABC-OGHS.ORG](http://ABC-OGHS.ORG).

Chris Hall  
FBC Mission Board

*Thank you.*

**You are here**





**First Baptist Church**  
OF PEORIA  
*Gathered in God's Word, Scattered to God's World*  
411 W Lake Avenue  
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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.**



**HEALTH TIPS:  
WEIGHT-LOSS PRODUCTS**

—May Clinic Health Letter, Nov. 2015

Herbal weight-loss products come into and go out of favor. Those containing ephedrine or high doses of caffeine are of concern for their long-term safety, particularly in relation to their cardiovascular effects.

Others may be of value, but only the test of time and more extensive testing will determine their full risks and benefits.

If you want to try more alternative weight-loss options, do so in consultation with your doctor. There's no magic to achieving and maintaining a healthy weight, but the closest thing to it might be establishing long-term healthy habits around diet and exercise.

Lurene Ladd,  
Parish Nurse  
(309) 691-2054

**PRAYER CONCERNS**

- |                   |   |                |
|-------------------|---|----------------|
| Ruth Turner       | Happy Dean                                | Pam Orrill     |
| Barb Twist        | Rose Kimpling                             | Carol Conover  |
| Marvin Olson      | Jay McGee                                 | Alyssa Russell |
| Wally Webber      | Bob Brown                                 | Rosemary Walk  |
| Dorothy Cumming   | Paul Phillips                             | Mary Hinch     |
| Jacquelyn Kellogg | Betty Frank                               | John Hart      |
|                   | 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) |                |



**Peoria Friendship House "Over the Edge."  
Chase Bank Building in downtown Peoria on June 10<sup>th</sup>.**

Participating in the event from FBC are Mark Grizzard and Paul Grove. Support Mark and Paul by going to the website [Firstgiving.com](http://Firstgiving.com) and typing "Over The Edge Peoria" in the search box. All donations go to Peoria Friendship House.