



BASEBALL AS A ROAD TO A BETTER CHURCH

By Dr. Rodney Kennedy

Only two subjects matter: God and baseball. For those of us who belong to this faith, it is imperative to state our case at the beginning of football season. There's a correlation between faith and baseball that develops naturally.

Baseball evokes, in the life of its faithful, features that could help the church. John Sexton, in Baseball As A Road to God, suggests that there are roads to God other than the approved religious ones. I especially am interested in helping others find God, and therefore the road that makes that happen can be just about anything. If it is possible to get church people to have the same passion and intensity about worship that baseball fans have about the game, I want to be in on that score.

Timelessness is the essence of baseball. There is no clock keeping the time at a baseball game. A baseball game may go on for hours, but an hour and fifteen minutes in church seems like torture to folks. Baseball fans at a game are more patient than Christians in worship. Having the patience of baseball fans in church would go a long way toward enhancing the vitality of worship.

Baseball has a liturgical calendar: Spring Training, Opening Day, the Regular Series, the Playoffs, and the World Series, and then Ordinary Time – the off-season. Rogers Hornsby, a Hall of Fame infielder, said, "People ask me what I do in winter when there's no baseball. I'll tell you what I do. I stare out the window and wait for spring." The High Holy Days of baseball begin with the playoffs; and once-in-a-while we are treated to the holiest of holy days, a seventh game of the World Series. Baseball engenders hope at the end of every season: "Wait'll next year!" we cry.

Another virtue of baseball fans that I would like to transfer to all church members is loyalty, team loyalty. I cannot explain loyalty to a particular baseball team. Since 1956, I have been a Braves fan. They were in Milwaukee at the time and only later moved to Atlanta. The Braves were my team. The Cardinals were my dad's team. Later, when WTBS broadcast almost every Atlanta Braves game, my dad switched to the Braves. It was such a blessing that he could watch the Braves. For the last nine years of his life, I got him the Major League Baseball package so he could watch as many games as he wanted. I would check the Direct TV MLB schedule and send him all the Braves games so he would know what channel to watch and what time they would be playing. We talked every day, and we talked baseball and God.

Then there's the faith of baseball fans. They have an unbreakable faith. A baseball fan shows up whether the team wins or loses. First place or last place makes no difference. Churches could use "fans" like that. Baseball fans have tremendous faith in the seemingly impossible. As long as the game has been played, fans have always had the faith that they could win as long as there was one strike left before the final out.

Now some fans do waver. The home team is trailing 9-0 in the bottom of the 7th. The fans start to exit the stadium like the disciples of Jesus when the soldiers came to arrest him: "And they all forsook him and fled." It is a sad sight to see home-town fans forsake the team and leave before the game is over. Our team, come hell or high water, and we are staying. There is a certain determination involved when it comes to faith.

The largest connection between baseball and religion has to be prayer. I have sent many a prayer winging toward heaven for the Braves to win. When your team wins 13 consecutive division championships and only one World Series, your prayer life intensifies to the point of desperation. Watching the Braves I was transported to a place where faith, hope, and love were on display.

Patience, hope, loyalty, faith, prayer: These are some of the qualities of a baseball fan that would help the church. You show up. You stay. You stick. You cheer your head off for the home team. You can't wait to get to the ball park.

Maybe we could take our approach to baseball and apply it to worship. Since we have a new pastor arriving on the first Sunday in October, it would be a great time to just show up at church. If you are a member of First Baptist Church, you should come to "Opening Day," just like Cubs and Cardinals fans flocking to the park. Give the new pastor an opportunity. He's coming up from Alabama to the big leagues. Show up and give him your full support.

The new season opens at First Baptist Peoria on October 7th. Show up!

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WORSHIP SERVICES

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

SEPT. 2, 2018, 15TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST "SHOW YOUR COLORS"

Mark 8:27-38

"Show your colors" seems like a playful subject. This sermon will turn playful and light and then serious and dark and then return to playful. There is more to color than meets the eye. Colors have a power in our lives that philosophers and scientists have long documented. We are influenced by colors. For example, the color red raises the blood pressure, quickens the pulse, and increases the rate of breathing. Blue slows down body activity and stimulates the mind. Orange is a strong appetite stimulant and can make us impatient and nervous, encouraging us to "eat and run" at a fast food restaurant. Green has a calming, balancing effect. Yellow is the color of communication.

Music: Piano Duet by Josh Russell & Mark Grizzard

SEPT. 9, 2018, 16TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST "WOULD WE CRUCIFY JESUS?"

Mark 9:30-37

One way to avoid the claims of the gospel is to listen to the sermon as an exercise in whether or not you agree with the preacher. Today I would like for you to overhear as I engage in a sermon that I am preaching to myself. I would like for you to watch and listen as I struggle with a difficult claim of the gospel.

Music: "Eagle's Wings"—Chancel Choir

PRAYER CONCERNS

Bruce Ingersoll	Betty Frank	Sharon Stanard
Dottie White	Rose Kimpling	Ruth Turner
Pam Orrill	Jim Ashton	Marvin Olson
Rosemary Walk	Alyssa Russell	Wally Webber
Mary Hinch	Jacquelyn Kellogg	June Fredell

Don Middleton (Jim Middleton's son)
Dick Sternberg (Jo Sternberg's husband)
Peter (Grandson of Brenda Shay)
Stephanie George (Brenda Shay's daughter)

SAVE THE DATE

On Wednesday, September 12th, FBC will host a dinner for ABC Missionary, Kristy Engel at 6:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall.

CONDOLENCES

Gary Nielsen, a long-time member of FBC Peoria, passed away on August 15, 2018 after a 16-month battle with leukemia.

A memorial service will be held at a later date. Condolences may be sent to his wife, Traci, at 2279 Sun Rim Way, New Braunfels, TX 78131.

FBC TO WELCOME NEW SENIOR PASTOR

FBC Peoria is pleased to announce the appointment of the Rev. Doctor Rob Collins as our new Senior Pastor. The results of the voting were unanimous! Dr. Collins and his family are relocating from New Market, AL., where he served as Associate Pastor of the Locust Grove Baptist Church. Dr. Collins' family consists of his spouse, Casey, and their two children, 3-year-old daughter, Raegan Eve, and two-month-old son Miles. We look forward to the Collins family joining us with Rob's first sermon scheduled for October 7th. They are truly an amazing family.

Wayne Nowlan, Moderator

FBC PEORIA CHIEFS NIGHT

Join us for a fun night of baseball at Dozer Park on Thursday, August 30th. Game time is 7 PM, but please be in your seat before that time. Our own Dr. Kennedy will throw out the first pitch! Dr. Rod played college and professional baseball when he was a young lad.

Tickets are \$10 and will be purchased from Paul Grove. However, since only 30 tickets are available, you need to call the church office and make reservations. Seats are directly behind the Chiefs dugout. Pick up your tickets at the "Will Call" ticket box before the game and mention you are with FBC Peoria. [Paul will come after you if you fail to pick up your tickets.]

Fireworks immediately follow the game. [They are fabulous!]

Wayne Nowlan, Moderator

Paul Grove, Interim Treasurer

MUGS 2

Mugs 2 will Kick off the fall season on Monday, Sept. 10th at 10:00 a.m. at Panera's on North Knoxville.

Join us as we read and discuss the book, "The Slightly Bad Girls of the Bible, Flawed Women Loved by a Flawless God" by Liz Curtiss Higgs. If you have questions call Marti Atwater at 309-231-4948 or the church office.

DISH PAK MINISTRY

We will once again be preparing boxes of dishes and kitchen utensils for those starting a new home or rebuilding after the loss of their home. Your assistance is needed in the form of donated kitchen items, newspapers for packing and, as always, your time to help pack the boxes.

We will meet in Fellowship Hall on **Thursday, September 13th, and Friday, September 14th**, to pack the boxes. Please support this ministry with your donations and time.

Thank you,
Debbie McGlothlen

September 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat		
SAVE THE DATE FOR CHURCH WOMEN UNITED Church Women United will meet at 9:00 a.m. on Friday, September 7th, at the University United Methodist Church, 2818 N. University, Peoria. Please bring school supplies for the Church World Service bags.						1		
2 COMMUNION SUN. 9AM Music Reh. 10AM Worship 11AM Fellowship Time Please bring non-perishable food donations.. 	3 LABOR DAY FBC OFFICE CLOSED.	4 FBC OFFICE CLOSED. 8:30AM FBC Exerc. (Chapel) 10AM MUGS (Parlor)	5 FBC OFFICE CLOSED. 5:15PM Guitar Rehearsal	6 8:30AM FBC Exerc. (Chapel)	7	8 10AM ABW Brunch (Fell. Hall)		
9 VISITOR CELEBRATION SUNDAY 9AM Music Reh. 10AM Worship 10AM Chldrn. SS 11AM Fellowship Time	10 10AM MUGS2 @ Panera's 11AM Heart-warming Hats 1PM Prayer Chain	11 8:30AM FBC Exerc. (Chapel) 10AM MUGS (Parlor) 6:30PM Brd. Mtgs.	12 5:15PM Guitar Rehearsal 6PM Dinner w/Kristy Engel (Fell. Hall)	DISH PAK MINISTRY, FELL. HALL		13 8:30AM FBC Exerc. (Chapel) 4:30PM FRUT Mtg. (Parlor) 6:30PM Diac. Brd. Mtg. (Parlor)	14 6:30PM Gourmet Grp. (var. loc.)	15
16 9AM Music Reh. 10AM Worship 10AM Chldrn. SS 11AM Fellowship Time 11:15AM Exec. Mtg.	17 10AM MUGS2 @ Panera's	18 8:30AM FBC Exerc. (Chapel) 10AM MUGS (Parlor) 12PM Circle of Friends (Fell. Hall)	19 5:15PM Guitar Rehearsal	20 8:30AM FBC Exerc. (Chapel)	21	22 10AM CPR/AED Class (Chapel)		
23 9AM Music Reh. 10AM Worship 10AM Chldrn. SS 11AM Fellowship Time	24 10AM MUGS2 @ Panera's	25 8:30AM FBC Exerc. (Chapel) 10AM MUGS (Parlor)	26 5:15PM Guitar Rehearsal	27 8:30AM FBC Exerc. (Chapel)	28 6:30PM Dining Out Grp.	29 12PM Memorial Srvc for Dorothy Cumming 1PM Mem. Srvc. Luncheon		
30 9AM Music Reh. 10AM Worship 10AM Chldrn. SS 11AM Fellowship Time	DINING OUT The Dining Out Group will meet on Friday, August 31st (date change), at 6:30 p.m. at Pizza Ranch, 4114 N. Brandywine Dr., Peoria. Please let John and Jen Dusek know if you will attend: Cell Ph: (309) 231-6389 or E-Mail: the_j_family@yahoo.com							


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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.



HEALTH TIPS: CPR/AED Class

While on a walk through a park you come across an unconscious person lying on a park bench. On a different day, a coworker complaining of chest pains suddenly falls to the ground. What would you do in these situations?

While no one knows exactly how they will act in an emergency situation, we can all agree that it's best to be prepared. One way to feel prepared for an emergency is to learn CPR (cardiopulmonary resuscitation), which is an emergency procedure that is performed to maintain life in a person whose breathing and heart beat have stopped. Through CPR, you are trying to revive someone by supporting their breathing and heart beat. Use of an AED (automated external defibrillator) will also be covered.

The Health & Wellness Committee will be hosting a CPR/AED class at our church on **Saturday, September 22nd, at 10:00 a.m.** in the chapel. There will be no cost for the class, and there is still time to sign up by listing your name on the poster on the door of the Health and Wellness room. Or you can call let me know you wish to attend.

Lurene Ladd, Parish Nurse (309-691-2054)

FANTASY FOOTBALL SEASON BEGINS

The Annual Fantasy Football League begins in September! This online group consists of creating a fantasy team of NFL players, and then tracking their success in the real world as you compete against other fantasy teams. Sports expertise is a negligible factor. If you are interested in participating, please contact Mark Grizzard at markg@mtco.com.

ABW SEPTEMBER BRUNCH

Hi Ladies,

I want to invite you to the September ABW Brunch on the 8th at 10am to 11:30am. Our Speaker will be Gayle Carr on

Moms Who Care. This organization collects & purchases school & hygiene items for kids in schools. They don't need school items, but can use full-size hygiene items: lip balm, deodorant, shampoo, conditioner, lotions, shower gel, etc. If you could bring any of these items, it would be much appreciated.

The cost for the meal is \$4.00 at the door by the soda machine.

We will have 2 offerings—our Love Gift & for Moms Who Care.

Jo Sternberg will do our devotion.

See you Saturday,
Carolyn Ihnken