



SAYING GOODBYE TO A WONDERFUL PEOPLE!

By Dr. Rodney Kennedy

Saying goodbye has never been my gift. I have never been that good at preaching a sermon that wrapped up the memories and said goodbye. My usual method is to preach the next sermon as if I'm going to be preaching here forever. Writing a goodbye on the front page of a newsletter holds little interest for me. Maybe it's the pain or maybe I'm just at a loss for words, although I'm sure you would dispute the latter suggestion.

I just don't like saying goodbye. Two years flashed by as if it were a couple of weeks. A hundred sermons, a plethora of classes, lots of meals, good times, and conversations, and plenty of laughter are all being packed with my books. I'm moving on, and a new pastor is moving in. That's the way life goes among Baptists. Preachers come and go; the people stay.

For fifty-six years I've been dancing this one dance of saying hello and then saying goodbye to a congregation. This assignment was temporary. I knew that when I signed up for this gig, but somewhere along the way my heart got involved and I began to love you and love FBC Peoria – the two are the same because you are the First Baptist Church of Peoria. Looking back, I loved saying every Sunday morning, "Welcome, welcome, welcome to the First Baptist Church of Peoria. My name is Rod Kennedy and I'm your interim pastor." Now, it's time to say goodbye.

On the way out the door let me say thanks for being such a supportive, attentive congregation. Not a single person has ever once complained to me that a twenty-two to twenty-six minute sermon is too long. In an age where people are addicted to eight-minute homilies that is a miracle. You have been so gracious. You allowed me to speak my mind even if you had to grit your teeth. You have listened to the tough claims of the gospel of Jesus Christ as you wondered how a person you were sure was a liberal could talk about Jesus so much. You puzzled over my use of language and struggled with my catholic sensibilities, but you gave me such freedom. A free pulpit in a free church makes for a lot of good times.

Most of all, I revel in your receiving my preaching. When we first started this habit of meeting each other at the throne of grace on Sunday morning, you seemed sad and maybe a bit tired. As the weeks rolled by, you started to smile and then to laugh out loud. We have been meeting and learning and laughing and thinking ever since as we engaged our hearts and minds in the good news of Jesus Christ.

Thank you! I love you! My prayers will be with you forever!

Contact Us:

Dr. Rodney Kennedy, Interim Pastor
Mark Grizzard, Music Dir./Youth. Leader
Dr. Joshua Russell, Organist
Leigh Grizzard, Bell Choir Director
Sandy Johansen, Church Secretary

(309) 682-5491
(309) 310-9927
(319) 400-8920
(309) 682-5491
(309) 682-5491

rwkennedy13@icloud.com
markg@fbcpeoria.com
joshua@joshuarussellpianist.com
leigh.grizzard@gmail.com
office@fbcpeoria.com

First Baptist Church of Peoria
411 West Lake Avenue
Peoria, IL 61614-6093
Phone: (309) 682-5491
Fax: (309) 682-5450
E-mail: office@fbcpeoria.com
Website: www.fbcpeoria.org



WORSHIP SERVICES

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

SEPT. 16, 2018, 17TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST "IN JESUS THERE ARE NO OUTSIDERS"

Mark 9:38-50

Still we struggle with Jesus and his barrier-busting, wall-crushing insistence that the old tribal loyalties of outsiders and insiders no longer apply. Yet it's the gospel, the good news of Jesus Christ: In Jesus Christ there are no outsiders! Will we ever learn and love accordingly?

Music: "Your Mercy Washes Over Me" - Chancel Choir

SEPT. 23, 2018, 18TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST "IT'S JESUS, CHRISTIAN!"

Hebrews 1:1-4, Mark 9:30-37

Today the churches are all over the map with issues, beliefs, politics, and cultural idolatries. Things have gone haywire. The "salt of the earth" has lost its "saltiness." When Paul wrote "Put away from you all bitterness and wrath and anger and wrangling and slander, together with all malice, and be kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ has forgiven you," he was writing to Christians. The church needs a reset button.

Music: "Tis So Sweet to Trust to Trust in Jesus"
Chancel Choir and Higher Ground

PRAYER CONCERNS

Char Austin	Helen Nicol	Bruce Ingersoll
Sharon Stanard	Rose Kimpling	Ruth Turner
Pam Orrill	June Fredell	Jim Ashton
Marvin Olson	Rosemary Walk	Alyssa Russell
Wally Webber	Mary Hinch	Jacquelyn Kellogg

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

THANK YOU

We so enjoyed this summer's Music Festival, and we thank you for coming out and enjoying the music, food, and fellowship! It was a wonderful evening celebrating many of our First Baptist and guests' talents.

Thank you to performers, volunteers and our faithful audience — we couldn't do it without you!!

Higher Ground

A FAREWELL CELEBRATION FOR DR. KENNEDY

Please plan to attend a Lite Luncheon Celebration on Dr. Kennedy's last Sunday, Sept 30th, to thank Dr. Kennedy for his remarkable and amazing service to FBC Peoria over the past two years. His leadership and innovation have gone far beyond what we could normally have expected from an Interim Senior Pastor.

Either mark an attendance slip found in the Sunday bulletin or call the office during normal business hours to record your plans to attend.

A basket will be provided in Fellowship Hall for your cards and thank you notes.

Wayne Nowlan, Moderator

WEAR HIS COLORS

The theme for Dr. Kennedy's farewell luncheon will *Show HIS Colors*. As a surprise for Dr. Kennedy, please dress in the LSU colors of purple and gold or somehow include those colors in your apparel for his last Sunday with FBC, September 30th. And remember...it's a surprise.



FIT TIPS: Hold the Salt

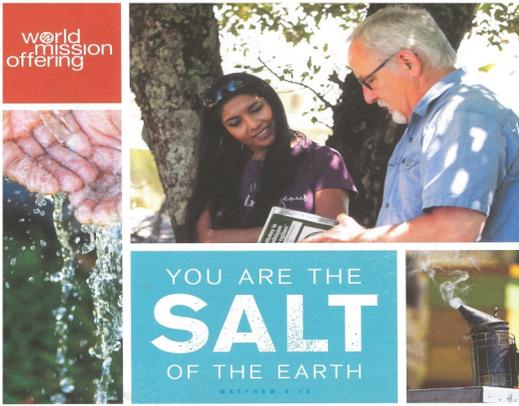
An average cup of Campbell's regular condensed soup has a whopping 800 mg of sodium. But many people eat the whole can of soup, which contains 2,000 mg! That is nearly a day's worth of salt. Look instead for Campbell's Healthy Request soups, with 410 mg of sodium per cup - not great, but still better. An even healthier option is low sodium soups by Amy's (my favorite), Dr. McDougall's, Imagine, Pacific and Trader Joe's.

Sally Johnson Tiessen, B.A., M.A.,

WILL IT PLAY IN PEORIA?

Dr. Kennedy has compiled his sermons here at First Baptist Church into book format. The finished product will be two soft-cover volumes. A limited number of the books will be available for purchase here at the church on September 23rd at a cost of \$30 for the set.

To reserve your books, please contact the church office by e-mail to office@fbcpeoria.com or by phone to (309) 682-5491.



A TIME FOR CONGREGATIONS TO **COME TOGETHER TO CELEBRATE AND SUPPORT THE MINISTRIES THAT GOD IS USING TO TRANSFORM THE WORLD.**



health & wellness | abolishing global slavery | economic & community development

Greetings in the name of our Risen Lord and Savior Jesus Christ!

Every September and October congregations come together for a time of awareness, advocacy and action for global mission. Churches across the country celebrate and support the ministries that God is using to transform the world. This is the World Mission Offering.

Our theme this year is based on Jesus' statement to his followers in Matthew 5:13, "You are the salt of the earth." Salt, as ordinary and plentiful as it is, possesses a very special and unique power when added to foods. Unlike any other seasoning, salt unlocks the subtle flavors, enhancing and bringing new sensations to our taste buds. When our Lord says to his followers, "You are the salt of the earth," he is urging them to go into the whole world and enhance the good that he is doing so others can be touched by the power of the saving grace of God. As followers of Christ, we are the salt of the earth, seasoned with the love of the gospel and called to carry that love to all the earth.

This World Mission Offering season we are focusing on three Ministry Priorities: Health and Wellness, Abolishing Global Slavery, and Economic and Community Development. While this does not include all the ministries of International Ministries, these serve to illustrate some of what God is doing worldwide through our 120 global servants, 900+ volunteers, 43 home staff and 240+ global Christian partners. Our congregation's gifts to the World Mission Offering powerfully connect First Baptist Church of Peoria to all of the global servants and ministries of the Lord through International Ministries.

Throughout the month of September you will see and hear more about how our participation in God's work in global mission is transforming lives and bringing people closer to Christ. Our goal is \$2,000; the offering will be taken on September 30. Please join me in praying for our global servants and in giving sacrificially and generously to the World Mission Offering as the Lord Jesus leads us to give.

Gratefully,

Bev Searcy
Board of Missions

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 heartbeat. 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 and let me know you wish to attend.

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

ABW SEPTEMBER CIRCLES

Circle of Friends will meet on Tuesday, September 18th, at 12:30 p.m. in Fellowship Hall for a salad potluck luncheon.

Evening Literature Circle will meet on Tuesday, September 18th, at 7:00 p.m. in the home of Lynelle Ryan, 825 Anne Street, Washington, IL. We will discuss possible books to be read during the upcoming year.

SAVE THE DATE

On Sunday, November 4, 2018, at 2:30 p.m., at the ICC Performing Arts Center in East Peoria, The Heart of Illinois Chorus will present "*Need a Little Christmas...Spirit,*" with featured guests The Sound Celebration Chorus.

Tickets cost \$12 each for the general public and \$10 each for seniors (65+) and students. You can order tickets on line at ArtsAtICC.com or by calling (309) 694-5136. A portion of the proceeds will benefit House of Hope.