

FBC NEWSLETTER

Embracing Our History | Engaging Our Future | Inspiring Worship

Focus On: Guest Writer, Vincent Baker

Last month at FBC, our focus was largely on patriotism as we prepared for the “In God We Trust” celebration. It got me reflecting on my own experiences with patriotism, and I immediately thought of the most patriotic person I know—my dad! So, I asked him to be our guest writer for this month’s “Focus On” article. I think you’ll enjoy what he has to share. Thanks, Dad!



At the Peachtree 10K in Atlanta in 2017 with my Dad, brother, and daughter :)

Patriotism & Godliness

George Washington strongly believed that God was the authority for establishing a godly and free country, the United States of America. General George Washington commissioned the Pine Tree Flag in 1775 to fly over his first squadron of naval cruisers. It features a green pine tree and the motto “An Appeal to Heaven.” The British Crown had established a harsh law that prohibited colonists from harvesting the tall pine trees for New England. The tall pines

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A Word from Our Pastor

This month we celebrate our nation's 250th anniversary. As Christians, we are blessed to live in a free country where we can practice our faith in peace and security. While America is not a perfect nation, it has been a force for good and a home for many who love the Lord Jesus. However, these privileges and blessings have come at a great cost.

Heading west on Highway 90, there is a sign that honors a cousin of mine for his service and sacrifice to our country. U.S. Army Sergeant Daniel McCall was killed by an IED on October 30, 2007, in Iraq. When I think of Christians who have served this country, I also remember my dear friend Marine Captain Jeff Ross, who shared many meals at my home, and who was killed when his F-18 fighter jet went down while he was fighting for our nation. I wear a watch that belonged to another dear friend who flew attack helicopters for the Marine Corps in Vietnam and was a powerful witness for the Lord there. There have been so many sacrifices by so many to keep our nation free, and we should be deeply grateful as we celebrate this anniversary.

While we do not worship America, we are thankful that the Lord has allowed us to live here and to be a blessing to the world through the ministry of the Gospel. I pray that America will continue to be a force for good in the world, and that godly people will continue to serve our country — keeping us free and strong so that the Gospel may continue going forth from the Christians of this great nation. We give thanks for these two and a half centuries of freedom and for a homeland that is both blessed and a blessing.

May the Lord Bless You and Bless Our Nation,

Pastor Stan

were reserved for Royal Navy ship masts.

Patriotism and godliness intertwine as dual pillars of moral duty, to love one's country is viewed as an extension of devotion to God, citizenship is not merely a legal statement, but a moral obligation. Believers in God are to pray for their leaders, respect laws and actively contribute to the common good. Civic responsibility is a spiritual discipline, with the best way to honor God is to improve the earthly country in which one has been placed.

When patriotism is rooted in godliness, it goes beyond mere flag waving and moves to a deep commitment to freedom, service and justice. This connection encourages citizens to act selflessly for the benefit of their fellow citizens and the future of their country.



Devotion to God results in a desire to see one's country reflect virtues like equality, freedom and fairness. The pine trees belong to citizens, not the Crown. By anchoring patriotism in godly spiritual principles, citizens have the moral courage to challenge tyranny and correct systemic wrongs resulting in a country based on enduring godly principles.

by Vincent Baker

Laura Kitchen

Thoughts from Pastor Andrew



"Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord." (Psalm 33:12 ESV)

Ps. 33:12 describes the idea that a nation that seeks to follow God's principles laid out in Scripture will be blessed. While the faults and mistakes of our nation abound, our history clearly shows that its foundations were built on a scripturally-based understanding of people and law. Indeed, all our blessings come from the Lord so it is appropriate, even essential, that we give thanks for them!

I pray that last weekend's "In God We Trust" America 250 event was just that: a time for our community to be reminded of God's blessings on us as a country then to respond with thanksgiving, worship, and praise back to Him for those blessings. It is also important to see where we, as God's church, have fallen short and plead with Him for renewal and strengthening as we navigate this increasingly hostile world. Let's be faithful to declare "We Believe!" and stand strong on the foundation of God's Word.

Countless thanks are due to so many for their contributions to the event! I can't reprint the entire printed program here to mention every name, but we are so grateful for every individual, church, committee, and organization that gave time, effort, resources and prayer to support "In God We Trust." What a night!

Psalm 33 concludes with a prayer that we can all echo: "Let your steadfast love, O LORD, be upon us, even as we hope in you." (Psalm 33:22 ESV).



Pastor Andrew

Missions & Media

Happy 4th of July & 250th Anniversary!

Ain't nothing free. Our country's freedom came at a cost. Our nation's continual safety comes at a cost. Missions comes at a cost. Your salvation came at a Cost on a Cross!

We are conditioned knowing everything costs, of which the costs continue to climb. We can be thankful that our salvation cost was a once-and-done; no annual subscriptions or 3 year discounted plans. He paid the price once!

Missions can be a costly ministry. Each ministry is dependent on support from those who subscribe to it's efforts. First Baptist is a giving fellowship with missions at heart. Supporting both local and foreign missional efforts, First Baptist is an example to all others.

Though giving to missions does not secure, satisfy or stipulate your salvation, it does exemplify God's love in your heart for others. Those living in Honduras, Nepal, Romania and alike, are blessed to have little, as compared to US [us], and



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Family Focus

The time is almost here! VBS will start in a little over a week, and I am so excited! Preparations have been made (and are still being made!) and soon our church will fill with children from across our community. This year, we have a message of peace for them. That no matter what they have going on in their lives, they have a Good Shepherd who loves them and cares for them.

I have been thinking a lot about Psalm 23:5 lately, and what it really means. It says, "He prepares a table before me in the presence of my enemies.



You anoint my head with oil, my cup overflows." And, the picture I get in my head is sitting at a beautiful, abundant banquet table eating with the bad guys watching. But, I know that's not it. I did a brief study on this and learned that shepherds actually go out and scour the fields where their sheep will be grazing, looking for anything that could potentially harm them, and preparing the fields for their sheep. And, that is what our Lord does for us. He goes before us, preparing the way for us. He has warned us to do certain things or to avoid certain things. He knows the dangers, or enemies, that we will face, and He is there to face those enemies with us. What a comfort to know that I don't have to face the trials and troubles of this world by myself, because I know that I have a Good Shepherd watching out for me.

Is the Lord your Shepherd? That is the question that we all have to ask ourselves. Are we going to place our trust in Him to save us? That is the message of VBS this year, and while it is geared towards all of the children coming to our church, it applies to all of us. I pray that you may know the peace that comes from knowing the Good Shepherd.

Beth Hendricks

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cherish His imperishable, undefiled, never fading (inheritance) reserved in Heaven, above all else (1 Peter 1:4).

As we move forward this July, keep in mind when you pay your bills, check out at the grocery store, or for some of you that still purchase gasoline, be reminded of the cost of your salvation, be thankful and keep giving to support missional efforts here and abroad.

Pastor Chuck

First Baptist
Crestview

Pastoral Staff



Dr. Stan Lewis
Lead Pastor



Andrew Heathershaw
Worship Pastor



Chuck Walthall
Missions & Media Pastor



Bret Castille
Student Pastor

Children's Ministries



Beth Hendricks
Children's Ministries Director

Our Service Times

- Sunday Morning Worship 10:30am
- Live Online @ fbcew.org
- Sunday School 9:00am
- Wednesday Scripture Studies 6:00pm
- Plus Worship Choir, Student & Children's Ministries and more!

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- www.fbcew.org
- First Baptist Church of Crestview
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Student Ministry Updates

Hello Church Family! It is absolutely crazy to me that I have already been with this amazing FBC family for almost two months! I wanted to spend my section of this month's newsletter discussing one of the most impactful events that our Student Ministry does: FUGE Camps!

We recently took a group of 19 students, ranging from Middle to High School, over to Hattiesburg, Mississippi. It is here where we were taught, reminded of, and encouraged in the truth of our Lord being, not only our Shepherd, but our Good Shepherd!

Our main focus during our time at FUGE was Psalm 23, a Psalm of David that suggests the themes of Peace, Restoration, Presence, and Life that a shepherd has toward his sheep.

I wanted to thank each and every person who helped to make this student summer trip possible; whether you helped fund a student's registration, fervently prayed for our youth, or even if you just dropped off a student, I am personally grateful for you. As we continue on our walks after this camp, please continue to pray for our students as we learn to truly and effectively study Scripture through the book of 2 Corinthians.

I appreciate and love you all, and I can have no better final charge than our Lord Jesus: "The sheep hear his voice, and he calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. When he has brought out all his own, he goes before them, and the sheep follow him, for they know his voice." (John 10:3-4)."

Pastor Bret

