



May 18, 2025

Ferguson Avenue Baptist Church

10050 Ferguson Avenue ♦ Savannah, Georgia 31406

Where Christ Is Exalted and the Fellowship Is Exciting

FABC Elders

Bob Dimmitt

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Scan this QR
code and
download our
app to your
favorite device.



Announcements

Evening Worship and After Church Fellowship

Join us tonight for Evening Worship at 6:00 p.m. This is followed by an After Church Fellowship at 7:00. Bring a snack to share!

Senior Saints' Lunch

The Senior Saints will meet at the church at 10:00 a.m., Tuesday morning, **May 20**. They will have lunch with Shelma Lewis at the Family Tradition Steakhouse. Sign up in the hall!

Women's Bible Studies beginning soon!

Now is the perfect time to join one of the Women's Bible Studies! The next study is titled *Grace-Fueled Womanhood*. The book is \$17.

Tuesday 11:00 a.m. class, May 20. Talk to Tamera Smith.

Tuesday 6:30 p.m. class, May 27. Talk to Emily Herb.

Thursday 6:15 p.m. class, May 29. Talk to Jessica Dimmitt.

Wednesday Night

This Wednesday, dinner is Smörgåsbord! We eat at 5:30 p.m., Adventure Club End of the Year Bash begins at 6:20, Youth at 6:30, and Adult Bible Study at 6:45. This is our last Wednesday night meal for the season!

Fifth Saturday Men's Fellowship Breakfast

The next Men's Ministry Fifth Saturday Fellowship Breakfast is **May 31**, beginning at 7:15 a.m. and ending at 8:45. Reggie Brown is providing breakfast and teaching. Guys of all ages are welcome! Sign up in the hall!

Graduate Recognition

We want to recognize our high school and college graduates in the bulletin on **June 1**. Please contact Shawn Champion if you are graduating! Send a photo and your future plans to dawn@fabchurch.com.

Service Time Change

During the months of **June, July, and August**, the Evening Service time will be 7:00 p.m.

Home Fellowships

Home Fellowships are scheduled for Sunday, **June 29**. Please tell Dawn if you would like to host a group!

May 18, 2025

Welcome and Announcements

Call to Worship

Isaiah 53:3-5

Pew Bible p. 613-614

Greeting

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Hymn, bulletin pp. 6-7

"How Sweet and Awful Is the Place"

Prayer of General Confession

Bob Dimmitt

Micah 7:18-19

Pew Bible p. 780

Hymn #210, bulletin p. 8

"Saved by the Blood"

Scripture Reading

Jonah 3:1-10

Reggie Brown

Pew Bible p. 775

Hymn, bulletin p. 9

"All I Have Is Christ"

Message

Bob Dimmitt

Evil Escalates

Matthew #87

Matthew 12:43-45, Pew Bible p. 818

Hymn, bulletin p. 10

"Now unto Him"

Evil Escalates

Matthew #87

Matthew 12:43-45

The story

We have a demon who decides to leave the person he has indwelt, he is not cast out he just simply leaves.

When the demon returns, he finds the man swept, empty and put in order.... because he remained empty, the returning demon was able to reenter the man and he invited seven of his demon friends to join him

The application

Jesus gives us the application: *So also will it be with this evil generation.*

This generation is that particular generation. A generation that began with the preaching of John the Baptizer.

Having refused their request (to give another sign), and exposed their sin, Jesus closes the entire section by climactically indicating the doom that awaited that generation.

A miraculous sign alone will not create faith in those whose hearts are hard
Evil Escalates!

Important Upcoming Events



May:

| | | |
|--------|---|------------------|
| 18 | Evening Worship | 6:00 p.m. |
| 18 | After Church Fellowship | 7:00 p.m. |
| 20 | New Study Begins for Women's Morning Group | 11:00 a.m. |
| 20 | Senior Saints' Lunch in Jesup | 10:00 a.m. |
| 27, 29 | New Study Begins for Women's Evening Groups | 6:30 & 6:15 p.m. |
| 31 | Men's Fifth Saturday Fellowship Breakfast | 7:15 a.m. |

June:

| | | |
|-------|--|------------------------|
| 1 | Graduate Recognition. | |
| 3 | Elders' Meeting | 7:00 p.m. |
| 4 | Life Line Health Screenings in Fellowship Hall | Call for appt. |
| 7 | Old Savannah City Mission with Tom: <i>Beth Lewis, Jeanie Groover, Kay Stanford, Dean McCraw</i> | 11:00 a.m. |
| 10 | Deacons' Meeting | 7:00 p.m. |
| 11 | VBS Work Night | |
| 14-20 | D-3 Teen Camp | |
| 17 | Election | |
| 17 | Senior Saints' Lunch Trip | |
| 18 | VBS Work Night | |
| 21 | Old Savannah City Mission with Reggie | 11:00 a.m. |
| 25 | No Wednesday Activities | |
| 23-27 | VBS: Wonder Junction | 9:00 a.m. - 12:15 p.m. |
| 29 | Home Fellowships | |

July:

| | | |
|-------|---|------------|
| 3 | WOL Patriotic Picnic | |
| 5 | Old Savannah City Mission with Tom | 11:00 a.m. |
| 19 | Old Savannah City Mission with Reggie | 11:00 a.m. |
| 28-31 | Older Children's Camp: Epworth By the Sea | |

If there is no God and we live in a strictly material, evolving universe, violence and suffering are just a part of the natural world with no inherent morality attached to them. In this case violence would not be evil; it would simply be a part of the evolutionary process. Without God compassion for others is nothing but chemical changes in the brain. Suffering is meaningless, violence is meaningless. There is no such thing as good or evil.

Life Line Health Screening

Life Line Screening will be here at the church on Wednesday, **June 4**. Call the number below and use the code to make an appointment!

Special screening package for \$159 for our members includes:

- ♥ Carotid Artery Disease Screening
- ♥ Atrial Fibrillation Screening
- ♥ Peripheral Artery Disease Screening
- ♥ Abdominal Aortic Aneurysm Screening
- ♥ **FREE** Hypertension Screening

Call to schedule an appointment near you!

888-814-0466 and use code: **HSCA001**



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

This year's VBS, Wonder Junction, is open for registration! Go to **fabc.myanswers.com/wonder-junction**

or use the QR code to enroll your children who have completed preschool through sixth grade.

VBS runs from June 23 through 27.



Marvel at Jesus, Live for His Glory



REMINDER: BEFORE YOU STORE ANYTHING IN THE KITCHEN REFRIGERATOR OR THE WALK-IN COOLER, PLEASE BE SURE TO PUT YOUR NAME ON IT. OTHERWISE, IT MAY GET TOSSED WITHOUT NOTICE. THANK YOU!

How Sweet and Awful Is the Place

Worshipful ♩ = 92

ISAAC WATTS

1. How sweet and aw - ful* is the
 2. While all our hearts and all our
 3. "Why was the I made to hear Thy
 4. 'Twas the same love that spread the
 5. Pi - ty same na - tions, O church - our
 6. We long to see Thy es

place With Christ with - in the doors,
 songs Join to ad - mire the feast,
 voice And en - ter while the room
 feast That sweet - ly there's us in;
 God; Con - strain the earth to come,
 full, That all the cho - sen race

*awful = inspiring reverential wonder or fear: modern versions substitute the word "awesome"

17 D A Bm D/A G Gsus2 D/F# Em Dadd2/F# D/F# A7 Bm

While ev - er - last - ing love dis - plays The
 Each of us cries, with thank - ful tongues, "Lord,
When thou - sands make a wretch - ed choice, And
Else we had still re - fused to taste, And
 Send Thy vic - to - rious Word a - broad, And
 May, with one voice, and heart and soul, Sing

22 D/F# G D/A A D/F#

choic - est of her stores.
 why - was I a guest?"
rather - er starve than come?"
per - ished in our sin.
 bring the stran - gers home.
 Thy re - deem - ing grace.

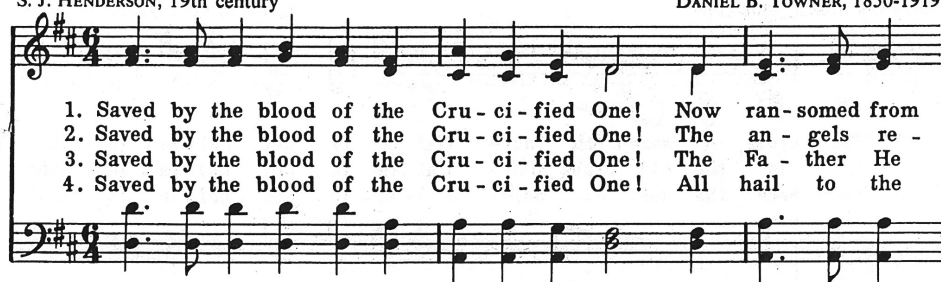
25 G6 Dmaj7/A G6 D2

Saved by the Blood

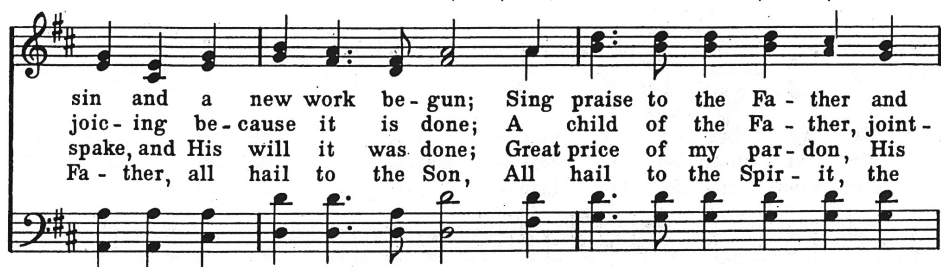
210

S. J. HENDERSON, 19th century

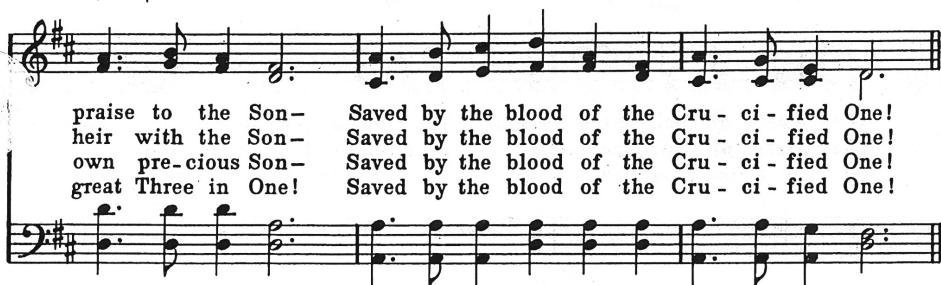
DANIEL B. TOWNER, 1850-1919



1. Saved by the blood of the Cru-ci-fied One! Now ran-somed from
 2. Saved by the blood of the Cru-ci-fied One! The an-gels re-
 3. Saved by the blood of the Cru-ci-fied One! The Fa-ther He
 4. Saved by the blood of the Cru-ci-fied One! All hail to the

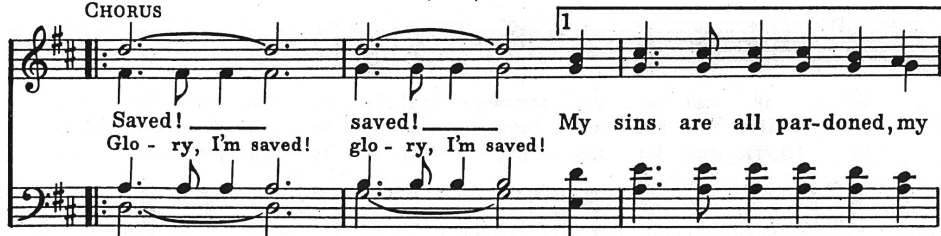


sin and a new work be-gun; Sing praise to the Fa-ther and
 joic-ing be-cause it is done; A child of the Fa-ther, joint-
 spake, and His will it was done; Great price of my par-don, His
 Fa-ther, all hail to the Son, All hail to the Spir-it, the

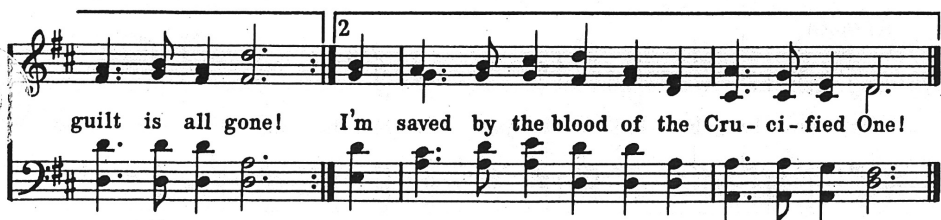


praise to the Son- Saved by the blood of the Cru-ci-fied One!
 heir with the Son- Saved by the blood of the Cru-ci-fied One!
 own pre-cious Son- Saved by the blood of the Cru-ci-fied One!
 great Three in One! Saved by the blood of the Cru-ci-fied One!

CHORUS



Saved! _____ saved! _____ My sins are all par-doned, my
 Glo-ry, I'm saved! glo-ry, I'm saved!



guilt is all gone! I'm saved by the blood of the Cru-ci-fied One!

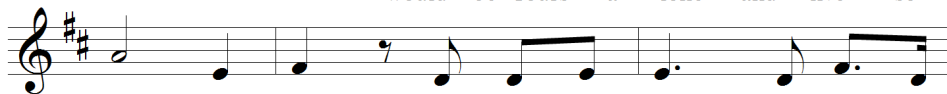
♩ = 79

All I Have Is Christ

Jordan Kauflin



1. I once was lost in dark - est night yet thought I
ran my hell - bound race, in - dif - f'rent
would be Yours a - lone and live so



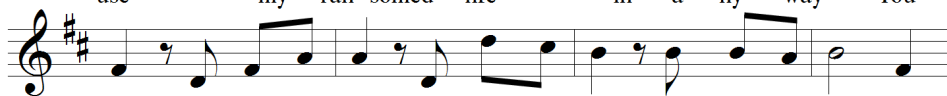
knew the way; the sin that prom - ised joy and
the the cost; You looked up - on my help - less
all might see the strength to fol - low Your com -



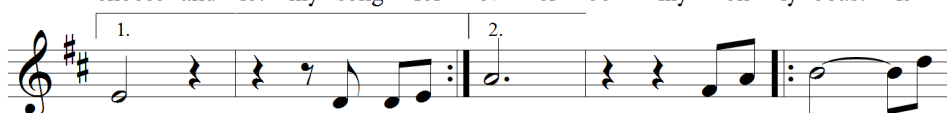
life state had led me to the grave. I had no
to and led me to the cross; and I be -
mands could nev - er come from me. O Fa - ther



hope that You would own a reb - el to Your
held God's love dis - played, You suf - fered in my
use my ran - somed life in a - ny way You



will and if you had not loved me first I would re - fuse You
place, You bore the wrath re - served for me, now all I know is
choose and let my song for - ev - er be my on - ly boast is



1. still. 2. But as I grace! Hal - le - lu -
You.



jah! All I have is Christ! Hal - le - lu - jah! Je - sus



1. is my life! Hal - le - life! 2. Fine D.S. al Fine
3. Now Lord I

CCLI Song # 5174122

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Now Unto Him

♩ = 96

C G7sus G7 C/E C C/E F F7 F G7 C/E C/E

Now un-to Him who is a - ble to keep you from fall - ing And to

5 F G7 Gsus/E Am Bb Bb Eb Gsus G F G7

make you stand in His pres - ence blame-less and with great joy, To the

10 Am Cmaj7/G C/GF7 G/E F/D E7 E7/G#Am F

on - ly God our Sav - ior, through Je-sus Christ, our Lord, Be the glo - ry and the

15 C/E F C/E F/D Em Em7 F7 G7/F F/GG C

maj-es-ty, do - min - ion and au - thor-i - ty, Both now and for - ev - er. A - men!

Articles

Should Non-attenders Be Removed from Church Membership?

By Brandon Langley

Should non-attenders be removed from church membership? That's one way to ask the question, but let's ask the question more specifically.

Is ongoing non-attendance a kind of unrepentant sin that calls the local church to carry out church discipline?

First, some groundwork:

What is a Local Church?

A local church is not a building or an event. A church is a group of baptized believers in Jesus who have formally “devoted” themselves to the same “fellowship” (Acts 2:42). They self-consciously commit to function together as one body, one family, and one building of interconnected living stones (1 Tim. 5:1-2; 1 Pt. 2:4-5; Eph. 2:19-22; 1 Cor. 12:14-26; Rom. 12:4-8). This mutual devotion is acted upon through assembling together regularly, partaking in the Lord's Supper, submitting to the same church leaders, and fulfilling the many one-another commands of Scripture, especially the command to hold one another accountable through church discipline.

What is Church Discipline?

Church discipline is the accountability process of the local church. Church members lovingly confront one another's sin and call one another to repentance. This process is most clearly outlined in Matthew 18:15-20 and 1 Corinthians 5:1-13. If someone stops repenting, and rather embraces sin as a lifestyle, the congregation responds. The final step of church discipline is a congregational decision to revoke someone's membership. The individual is no longer welcome to partake in the Lord's Supper, as the congregation can no longer see any fruit of their salvation.

What Kind of Sin Calls for Church Discipline?

Everyone is constantly fighting sin, so what kind of sin triggers the church's responsibility to do church discipline? The three-step process in Matthew 18 shows that it is unrepentant sin that calls the church to action. Unrepentant sin is the kind of sin that an individual gives themselves over to with no intention of turning. Even after being confronted by individuals, small groups, and by the whole church, they choose sin as a lifestyle. They befriend their sin rather than war against it and thus cease to show the fruits of saving faith that submits to Jesus as Lord. In 1 Corinthians 5, it is sexual sin that calls for discipline. In Titus 3, it is divisiveness that calls for discipline. The question of whether someone should be removed from the church's membership is not a question of subjective severity, but whether there is repentance.

Is Non-Attendance Unrepentant Sin?

The word church comes from the Greek language which means to “assemble.” Without the assembly, there is no visible church. Prolonged forgoing of the assembly is a form of deliberate and perpetual disobedience (Hebrews 10:24-27). But, the sin goes deeper than just the non-attendance. The one-another commands in Scripture were written for church communities. Consider only a few explicit teachings of Scripture that non-attenders must perpetually ignore if they do not gather with the church:

- Sing hymns together (Col 3:16; Eph. 5:19)
- Give sacrificially (Acts 2:45; 4:34; Mt. 6:19-21; Lk. 12:16-21; 2 Cor. 9:6-7; 1 Tim. 5:17-18)
- Remember Christ through the Lord’s Supper (Lk. 22:17-20; 1 Cor. 11:23-26)
- Teach and admonish one another (Col 3:16)
- Serve one another with your unique giftings (Rom. 12:9-13)
- Bear each other’s burdens (Rom 12:15; 1 Cor. 12:26; 2 Cor. 2:3; Gal. 6:2)
- Build each other up (Eph. 4:12-16)
- Seek unity that glorifies Christ (Rom. 12:16; 15:5, 1 Pt. 3:8)
- Participate in the accountability and discipline of others (Mt. 18:15-27; 1 Cor. 5:1-13)
- Submit to one another (Eph. 5:21)
- Follow the leadership and teaching of pastors (Heb. 13:17; 1 Tim. 5:17-20)
- Make disciples (Mt. 28:16-20; Titus 2:1-10).

The above commands are intrinsically tied to living life within the church community. They are just a sampling. Without attending the gatherings of a church, you by necessity are perpetually disobedient to everything that our church affirms together. By abandoning the church fellowship you harm yourself by starving yourself of the things God deems necessary for your spiritual health. By abandoning the church fellowship you harm others within the church by withholding your spiritual gifts God gave you to build up your brothers and sisters in Christ. By abandoning the church you harm the church’s gospel witness by modeling to the watching world that the Lord Jesus is not worth your obedience and devotion. So let’s ask again. Is ongoing non-attendance a kind of unrepentant sin that calls the local church to carry out church discipline? The answer is yes.

Special Circumstances

The answer is yes, but with some important qualifications. There are some obvious situations where gathering with the church is impossible. Illness, old age, and

perhaps seasons of a particular kind of job may prohibit attendance. In these cases, discipline should not be pursued, but relationships with the church family should be maintained as much as possible. It is also not a sin to change one's membership from one church to another. This is certainly a serious decision that you shouldn't make in isolation, but there are all kinds of good reasons for devoting yourself to a different church fellowship. Church discipline for non-attendees should never be pursued hastily. The path should be marked by patience, gentleness, and truth spoken in love. We seek the non-attender, not because we want to cast judgment, but because it's what Christ does for us. We leave the 99 to seek out the 1 and we plead with them to come back to the green pastures and still waters of the church community. If they refuse our plea, then there comes a point where we can no longer recognize them as one of the sheep, but until then we pursue them as Jesus pursues us. ❖

Yet more reasons why the Gospel is so needed and is the only true answer for man: We live today in a vast, homogeneous world market, in which human beings are programmed to maximize their self-interest...the world seems more literate, interconnected and prosperous than at any other time in history...but the reality is that the promised universal civilization—one harmonized by a combination of universal suffrage, broad educational opportunities, steady economic growth, and personal advancement has not materialized. Add to that the fact that older forms of authority have been weakened we have an explosion of unpredictable actors from Somali pirates, human traffickers, anonymous cyber-hackers to Boko Haram. There has been a massive shift in which people understand themselves in public life primarily as individuals with rights, desires and interests...as a result we have a tremendous increase in mutual hatred and universal irritability of everybody against everybody else.

from *Age of Anger*, by P. Mishra

Something to consider: We are, no doubt, all familiar with the statement , “Your actions speak so loud that I can’t hear a word you are saying.” There is a LOT of truth in this statement. Yet, how often do we consider that the opposite is often more applicable: “The way in which you speak makes it impossible to hear your words or appreciate your actions.”

Our “speaking” is very often more damaging to us than we fathom. Yet, we excuse ourselves with statements such as, “I tell it like it is,” or, “I believe that I should say what I think.” In all truth, people aren’t able to hear what we are saying because they pick up on our “spirit” when we open our mouths. What’s more, they avoid conversing with us because they don’t want to be around divisive conversation any more than they want to be around divisive actions.

Pastor Moses Toole

The tongue is literally the only part of the human body that never gets tired.

Missionary of the Week

John & Gail Conner
Avant Ministries - Tulsa, Oklahoma

**Blessed is a man who perseveres under trial;
for once he has been approved,
he will receive the crown of life
which *the Lord* has promised
to those who love Him.**

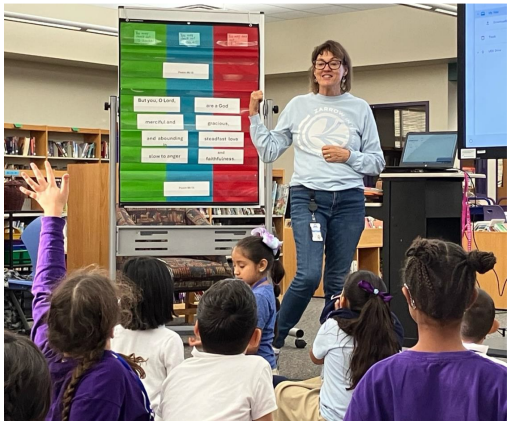
James 1:12

I once had a fellow preacher share a quote which he cited as being from Charles Spurgeon. Spurgeon reportedly stated with respect to the flood of Noah's day: **"That by perseverance even the snail reached the safety of the ark."**

Being a bit of a "plodder" myself, I've always chuckled and taken encouragement from this. It comes to mind now as a couple of milestones in our long journey are reached this month. Please praise the Lord with us for these two events:

First, our baby, Lydia, graduates from Northeastern State University on May 12 with an early elementary education degree! And she already has a job for next fall at East Elementary in Jenks, OK (Tulsa suburb)!! We are so proud of her for her tenacity and hard work ethic.

Meanwhile, Gail will have her own milestone of retirement from teaching at the end of May. Lydia comes by her gifts from her mom, who has lived by tenacity and a hard work ethic which is now modeled by all her kids. Included is a photo of Gail at the CEF Goodnews club there at her school. Gail truly does very much look forward to stepping out from under the very stressful and chaotic environment of the public school system, and thus to have more time being Gigi to the 14 grandkids.



John's mentoring has shifted a bit. Three of his four recent mentees graduate from Rio Grande Valley Bible Seminary this month and then they will enter the process of raising partners for prayer and support to enter the mission field (probably together as a team in India). If you are looking for good candidates for some spiritual investment let me know and I'll gladly share their contact information. The mentee from Argentina postponed beginning until he finished the school year. We just heard that he is now ready to begin, so please pray for Ezekiel and John as they start this process. Locally John continues to meet regularly with a local Hispanic pastor for encouragement and prayer.

John is currently working on editing his study of Luke's gospel in a "Less Is More" series. He has completed one reading guide on Proverbs that slowly takes one through the book in a year. By reading and studying only about 20 verses per week (thus a little LESS) one gets much MORE from the study. He is now editing one on Luke with the same format. If you would like a copy of his guide over Proverbs let John know and he will try to send you one. John also serves as treasurer for a non-profit that receives donations for ministries in Guatemala, chief of whom is the church they served while living there. So, his early years of accounting studies and banking experience are yet at work serving the Lord's people.

We trust that our Lord's love and promises are giving you the needed perseverance for your days. Remember we are awaiting our Lord's crown of life – so keep plodding (or if a snail - slithering) forward. We are so very blessed to have journeyed alongside of you all and thank our Lord for such a great privilege.

Yours – for Jesus' sake,

John and Gail Conner

Please Keep In Touch:
jconner@avmi.org
5305 E 29th St
Tulsa, OK 74114-6305
Phone: 918-398-8013

Nursery May 18

Babies:

Eleanor Bowden, Mary Fowler,
Kay Stanford

Toddlers:

Deborah Focht, Tricia Morris

Preschoolers:

Brittany Hall, Linnea Posner

Nursery May 25

Babies:

Jay & Lisa Rowe

Toddlers:

Sona Bailey, Charlotte Denney

Preschoolers:

Jimmy & Tammy Kicklighter

Right Now Media

If you would like a free subscription to Right Now Media use this link:

<https://app.rightnowmedia.org/join/fabchurchga>

or scan this QR code:



If you have any questions concerning the message from today, or are interested in obtaining information about church membership, please see any of the pastors after the service, drop a note in the offering plate indicating your desire to talk with a pastor, or call the church office.



Video and audio recordings of the messages are available for listening or downloading from

www.fabchurch.com/sermons

This Week at FABC!

Today

| | |
|---|------------|
| Coffee Fellowship | 9:00 a.m. |
| Sunday School | 9:30 a.m. |
| Morning Worship | 10:30 a.m. |
| Evening Worship and After Church Fellowship | 6:00 p.m. |

Tuesday

| | |
|---|------------|
| Senior Saints' Lunch: Jesup | 10:00 a.m. |
| Women's Bible Study: <i>Grace-Fueled Womanhood</i> | 11:00 a.m. |
| Men's Bible Study: <i>POE: Journey to Mt. Sinai</i> | 6:30 p.m. |

Wednesday

| | |
|---------------------------------|-----------|
| Dinner: Smörgåsbord | 5:30 p.m. |
| Adventure Club End of Year Bash | 6:15 p.m. |
| Youth | 6:30 p.m. |
| Adult Bible Study | 6:45 p.m. |

Thursday

| | |
|---|------------|
| Senior Adult Bible Study: <i>Isaiah</i> | 10:00 a.m. |
| Young Adult Bible Study: <i>1 John</i> | 6:30 p.m. |

Hearing assistance devices for services in the sanctuary are available on request at the sound booth.

Lockup Deacons for May:

Joe Morris, Jay Rowe

Sunday School Classes and Descriptions

Adult

The Law of Moses:

| | | |
|--------------------|------------------|--------------|
| Survey of 613 Laws | Fellowship Hall: | Bob Dimmitt |
| 1 Kings | Youth House: | Steve Posner |
| Family Worship | Gym Overhang: | Tom Keller |

Children and Students

| | | |
|----------------------|-----------|---|
| Babies | Room 3: | Kay Stanford, Saundra Bridges |
| Toddlers | Room 24: | Donna Martin, Deborah Focht |
| Pre-K | Room 25: | Dustin & Emily Herb |
| K, 1st and 2nd Grade | Room 28: | John & Pam Humphrey |
| 3rd-6th Grade Boys | Room 202: | Ric Zittrouer, Richie Mills |
| 3rd-6th Grade Girls | Room 204: | Mary Ann Fowler, Amy Horton |
| Youth Guys & Girls | Room 206: | Bobby DeLoach, Shawn Champion Avalon DeLoach |