October 2017



### All in Order

I was recently driving around downtown Austin, and even though I was surrounded by great historic buildings and the awesome UT campus, something else impressed me even more: the traffic!

Signs above major intersection read, "Don't Block the Box!" In other words, don't enter an intersection unless there's room on the other side for you to clear it. It may not seem like much, but it is the key to smooth travel. If one person "blocks the box," then traffic on either side comes to a halt...which, in turn, freezes the adjacent intersections, and so on. If that happens enough times, downtown becomes one giant traffic snarl. Countless schedules are

wrecked, frustrations escalate, the potential for accidents increases – all because one driver failed to do his part to maintain order. For me, this observation called to mind a specific verse.

In 1 Corinthians 14:33, Paul says: "For God is not the author of confusion but of peace, as in all the churches of the saints." Our God is a God of order. He knows, as do city planners, that "blocking the boxes" in our lives doesn't affect only us. It creates a ripple felt by everyone around us – in our families, in our jobs, and in our church. To that end, I would urge you to safeguard the order in three intersections of your life.

#1 = Order in Your Prayer Life. Jesus realized the value of prayer, taking many opportunities to spend time speaking and listening to the Father. Are you? Psalm 55:17 says, "Evening and morning and at noon I will pray, and cry aloud, And He shall hear my voice." Neglecting an ordered life of prayer will result in a spiritual traffic snarl.

#2 = Order in Your Worship. The order of worship isn't just what songs we sing, or when the preaching occurs. The order of worship starts in the heart. Jesus taught in Matthew 5:23-24, "Therefore if you bring your gift to the altar, and there remember that your brother has something against you, leave your gift there before the altar, and go your way. First be reconciled to your brother, and then come and offer your gift."

#3 = Order in Your Spirit. Paul writes in Colossians 3:2-3, "Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth. For you died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God." Becoming mired in the things of this life is not what God wants for us. Make sure your spirit reflects the plans of your Creator.

Traffic and the Christian walk have one thing in common. They're both filled with people just trying to get home. When it comes to your spiritual life, can you truly say that everything is...all in order?

-Bro. David

Did you know that sermons are available online? Check out the church's website, click on the sermons tab, and pick out the sermon you missed, enjoyed, or want to share!

# **Youth Happenings**

Happy October, Church! The youth has been studying lately about how we as believers should interact with the church, in love, humility, honesty, and commitment. This has been leading us into discussion about how to be better at outreach, how to build better relationships in the church, and has led to me starting a new bible study with our high school boys on Thursdays at 6am(they picked the time, can you believe it??) We are already looking forward to our Lock-In this year, and all the way to camp next year, and are exploring fund raiser ideas we can start on real soon! I want to thank you all for supporting our kids in prayer and in love, and encourage you to continue to do so with prayerful hearts. We thrive on your support!



Follow us on Facebook for events, updates, and socializing!

#### Lee's Music Notes

#### **BAPTIST DOG**

A Baptist preacher and his wife decided to get a new dog. Ever mindful of the congregation, they knew the dog must also be a Baptist. They visited kennel after kennel and explained their needs. Finally, they found a kennel whose owner assured them he had just the dog they wanted. The owner brought the dog to meet the pastor and his wife. "Fetch the Bible," the owner commanded. The dog bounded to the bookshelf, scrutinized the books, located the Bible, and brought it to the owner. "Now find Psalm 23," he ordered. The dog dropped the Bible to the floor, and showing marvelous dexterity with his paws, leafed through and, finding the correct passage, pointed to it with his paw. The pastor and his wife were very impressed and purchased the dog. That evening, a group of church members came to visit. The pastor and his wife began to show off the dog, having him locate several Bible verses. The visitors were quite impressed. One man asked, "Can he do regular dog tricks, too?" "I haven't tried yet," the pastor replied. He pointed his finger at the dog and said, "Heel!" The dog jumped onto a chair, placed one paw on the pastor's forehead and began to howl. The pastor looked at his wife in shock and said, "Good Lord! He's not a Baptist, he's a Pentecostal!"

Deacon's Meeting—Oct 8th @ 4:30 pm

Business Meeting—Oct 11th @ 4:30 pm

Decision Texas—Oct 19th @ 7:30 pm Maude Cobb Longview

Reformation Day—Oct 31st

Please pray for the families and friends of the lives lost in the Las Vegas shooting. May the Lord grant them peace and understanding in this difficult time.

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### **Deacons:**

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 903.539.8526

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 John Reed
 903.283.2172

## <u>Sunday:</u>

Prayer Meeting—9:30 a.m.
Sunday School—9:40 a.m.
Morning Worship—10:40 a.m.
Evening Worship—6:00 p.m.

<u>Wednesday:</u>

Prayer Meeting—6:30 p.m. RA's, GA's, & Youth—6:30 p.m. Millennials—8:00 p.m.

Congratulations to Edna and Charlie
Stovall on the birth of their great
grandson, Landon Cooper Carroll. Landon
arrived September 5th at 9 lbs and 2 oz,
21 inches long. His father and mother are
Matt and Reagan Carroll. Landon also has
a big brother, Brody, who is very excited
to have a new best friend!



We are now collecting items for the Operation Christmas Child shoeboxes. Please drop your donations off at the Welcome Center, or you may make a monetary donation, designating "OCC" on your envelope. For more information, please contact Margie Oney.

