



New Castle First Baptist Church

JULY 2019

Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth (Colossians 3:2 ESV)

Last month while going through the book of Philippians, we looked at Philippians 4:8. One of the things that we talked about was how this would be an excellent passage for us to all memorize. Our thoughts, positive or negative, whether they are based on reality or fiction, have an amazing way of playing themselves out in our lives. So much of what we think about is just wrong. It is not based on reality. Or it is based on our own skewed views of reality that taint everything that we see and do. Did the dog chew your slipper because he was bored, had been left alone too long, and did what dogs do when they are bored? Or does the dog hate you and want to destroy your life? Did your car battery die because it is losing its ability to hold a charge and it's time to get a new one, or is it because your life is horrible and anything that can go wrong will? One response will help us see the issue, deal with the issue, and put the issue behind us with new slippers or a new battery. The negative response, which is not based on reality, has a tendency to breed more negative responses to the many other challenges that we are going to face throughout our day and life. Negativity breeds negativity. It is infectious. Positive thinking people face all the same challenges as negative thinking people. The difference is in the response. We cannot control when tires are going to deflate, batteries are going to die, or people are going to be nasty. What we can control is what we think about and how we respond when these things happen.

One day while in seminary I found that my battery had unexpectedly died. I got pretty frustrated because this was either going to make me miss a meeting or be really late to one. I had no way to jump my car and none of my neighbors were home to help me out. Frustration was building. I called AAA. 15 agonizing minutes later a small pickup pulled into my driveway and out of it popped a gentleman who attended the church where I was serving as an interim at the time. Turns out that he had really been wrestling with some faith issues, but did not want to talk to me at the church because his family was always around. Also, he was not comfortable picking up the phone and calling me (although I wish he would have). Because we "just happened" to be in the same place at the same time, he figured he might as well tell me what was on his mind. He was blessed by the Bible verses that God laid on my heart to share with him. I was blessed because this inconvenience, which was so frustrating to me before he got there, reminded me that God is in control. I do not know if God actually caused my battery to fail in that moment, or if he simply lined things up so that when it did fail he would make sure that the person that I was supposed to minister to showed up to help me. But what I do know is that there was a point to it. God had ordained that moment. Before the beginning of time the Lord planned his response to my dead battery. He knew that good would come from that. It was not my plan. It was his. Thankfully, my plans were ruined. God's plans never are. "Many are the plans in the mind of a man, but it is the purpose of the LORD that will stand" (Proverbs 19:21, ESV).

God may have a plan for our next inconvenience. In fact, he might even cause it. If we take our eyes off ourselves and put them on him instead, we might be able to see how he is moving in our lives and the lives of those around us. Today I cannot remember what meeting I was late for or who it was even with when the battery died. Evidently it was not as important as I thought it was. But I do remember that God met with me and a fellow brother in Christ in my driveway and subtly changed both of our lives as a result. If I had set my mind on things above, as opposed to the base things right in front of me, and if I remembered all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose" (Romans 8:28 ESV), I would have saved myself a lot of needless frustration and angst. Amen?

Really enjoying this journey with you church!

Pastor Kevin

JULY MEMORY VERSE

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Circle of Friends

Meeting the 2nd Tuesday of every Month
July 9th-11:30 am

CATTLEMEN'S IN LAGRANGE

Confirm with Linda Stewart or Peggy McCarty

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

JULY COLLECTION

PENCILS-PENS-CRAYONS

JULY Nursery Schedule

Special Thanks to everyone who serves!!!

- 7 Sue Banta & Lynn Adams
- 14 Aimee Cline & Ginger Nix
- 21 Emily Payton & Ella White
- 28 Amanda Ott, Akacia Kurtz, Sara & Becca Wilkerson

HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH AND
YOUTH MINISTER TODD WILL
BE ATTENDING CROSSINGS
CAMP, AT CEDARMORE,

JULY 11TH- 15TH

CROSSINGS CAMP FOR THE CHILDREN IS

JULY 17TH -20TH!

JULY BIRTHDAYS

Peggy McCarty-4th

Sabrina Kimes-8th

Kennedy McBurney-9th

Jane Mann-10th

Emily Vegh Payton-13th

Chris Mann-15th

John Frazier-20th

Nathaniel Nix-21st

Amanda Ott-21st

Eric Cole-22nd

Ginger Nix-25th

James Cole-27th

Sandra McGhee-29th

HCBA BACK TO SCHOOL BASH

HENRY COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL

Tuesday, July 23rd, 4-8PM

We are collecting 1,050 packages of wide ruled, loose leaf notebook paper for all students, grades 3-12.