



New Castle First Baptist Church

JUNE 2019

1 Corinthians 9:19: "For though I am free from all, I have made myself a servant to all, that I might win more of them" (ESV).

Jenny and I were still new believers when we moved from London, KY to LaGrange. Not long after we got settled in, we started to look for a new church. We checked out a few, and eventually we felt led to one where Rev. Art Turner was the Pastor. He had a great heart and was a good biblical preacher. The people in the church were very welcoming and embraced our family right away. Jenny and I got plugged in rather quickly and we were truly blessed by everything that we experienced at that church . . . except for the music. We really struggled with, the music.

See, we were accustomed to traditional services. Piano or organ, standing and singing from the hymnal. Songs that had been vetted, approved, blessed by the denomination, in which we belonged. But they did not always use the hymnals in that church. And they did not always use the approved instruments either. See, they used guitars, drums, and tambourines (seriously, I am not making this stuff up), and they led us through singing not with the approved songs from the hymnal, but rather they would project the words on the wall for everyone to sing along with. Well, Jenny and I had been in a couple of churches in our lives and we knew that this was not the way it "should" be done. This off the wall singing (as we called it) was not for us. So we would wait in the narthex with some of the older members while they played this stuff only to enter in time for the opening prayer and Scripture reading.

Sometimes the human in us gets in the way of what God is trying to do through us. This is true for churches as much as it is for people. Jenny and I knew what kind of music should be sung at church and we knew what should not be. We knew what instruments were approved and what instruments were not. And we were not about to bless, with our presence, this irreverence. But here is the thing. It was not about Jenny and me.

We worship God through music. But music is also missional. If we were missionaries in France, Italy, China or Mexico and we insisted that the only proper way to worship God is through our blessed Baptist Hymnal (blue or red depending on your preference) then those we are trying to reach will not understand what we are singing, won't sing along as well, and likely will not even be joining us because what we are doing will be utterly foreign to them. This is why a competent missionary is not going to try to lead worship in a non-English speaking land using an English hymnal. Instead, they will adapt their approach to include culturally relevant worship songs to better engage their intended audience.

Let's finish Paul's thought which we started above. He writes:

For though I am free from all, I have made myself a servant to all, that I might win more of them. To the Jews I became as a Jew, in order to win Jews. To those under the law I became as one under the law (though not being myself under the law) that I might win those under the law. To those outside the law I became as one outside the law (not being outside the law of God but under the law of Christ) that I might win those outside the law. To the weak I became weak, that I might win the weak. I have become all things to all people, that by all means I might save some. I do it all for the sake of the gospel, that I may share with them in its blessings. (1 Corinthians 9:19–23, ESV)

Paul did not allow his personal freedoms, or beliefs of how things "should" be done, to interfere with his ministry. He never changed the message of the Gospel, but he adapted his approach and behaviors to better engage the people he was trying to reach in the moment. Like Jesus, he met people where they were at. Paul modified his approach so that he could be more relatable to his audience, then, if they were willing, he led them to where they should be. We are called to do the same thing. Our job is not to try to make the lost of the world fit into our nice, neat little box of what we believe a Christian should act and look like. Our job is to bring the Gospel to the masses, lead them to Christ, but sometimes our rigidity (and at times pharisaic attitudes) get in the way of that.

Jenny and I picked the wrong fight when we were boycotting the worship music of our old church. It was a lack of spiritual maturity (on both our parts) that led us to think we had all the answers of how things should be. How about you Christian? Are you willing to be a servant of all so that you may win some for Christ? Or do you prefer to grumble in the proverbial narthex because the church is not doing things exactly the way you believe they should be done? The harvest is plentiful. Let's set aside our wants and tend to their needs. Let's set aside our immature desire to always get our way and get on board with God's way. Because whether we are in Mexico, France, or Henry County, we are foreigners here. Citizens of heaven sojourning here, sent by God to engage our mission field. It's not about us. It is not about you. It is not about me. It is about Christ. Amen?

Give em' Jesus!

Pastor Kevin

JUNE MEMORY VERSE

1 Corinthians 9:19: "For though I am free from all, I have made myself a servant to all, that I might win more of them (ESV).

Circle of Friends

Meeting the 2nd Tuesday of every Month
Mike Linnig's
9308 Cave Run Road, Louisville
June 11th-11:30 am

Confirm with Linda Stewart or Peggy McCarty

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

JUNE COLLECTION

SMALL TOYS

(cars, dolls, & balls)

JUNE 9th – FUNDRAISER MEAL (proceeds to benefit children/youth Crossings camps this summer)

JUNE Nursery Schedule

Special Thanks to everyone who serves!!!

- 2 Sue Banta & Lynn Adams
- 9 Aimee Cline & Ginger Nix
- 16 Emily Payton & Ella White
- 23 Amanda Ott, Akacia Kurtz, Sara & Becca Wilkerson
- 30 Lori & Marley Cobb

VOLUNTEER

Vacation Bible School

June 10th – 14th

See Jessica Wilkerson or Jenny Kimes to

help! 😊

June Birthdays!

1st-Alvin Tingle 1st-Tabitha Foree 3rd-Anita Frazier

3rd –Tish Stewart 8th –Wynonna Cline 11th- Jack Scriber 11th-Brandy Neuman 14th-Angela Buckler 17th-Sue Banta

22nd –Julianna Doane 25th- Evelyn Garrett 26th-Jessica Archer 27th- Kelsey Thomas 30th-Tim Benham 30th-Chance Ott

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

Clyde and Mary Brown

Rebecca Wilkerson

FROM THE HENRY COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY

Celebrate learning with the Henry County Public Library and Bookmobile this summer by reading, writing, completing fun activities, attending awesome events, and more. There's something for everyone!