



October 25, 2020

Weekly Newsletter

A Minister's Musings – *Shane Hall*

So, I heard somewhere that there is an election coming up. Kidding obviously. I don't live under a rock and I do have a pulse, so I have definitely heard quite enough about the upcoming election. One cannot turn on the TV or open his phone without getting bombarded by sound bites and memes. I was thankful for the Facebook hack that clued me in to turning off voting notifications. I am voting, Facebook! Go bother someone else!

Tensions at the moment are higher in the USA than I can remember in my lifetime. People are divided and angry. Hearts are hardened and stubborn. And I'm sure we'd agree that all this isn't just going to go away after the election. In fact, I'm sure you see it like I do—it's gonna get worse.

Now I would never pretend to tell you how to vote and I am definitely not telling you to stay out of it. I believe we have a civic duty and privilege when it comes to elections. Our governing bodies and politicians need to see conservative biblical interpretation showing up at the polls. As Christians, we must be vigilant to preach the truth (2 Tim. 4:2) and I believe that we can still do that in this country by casting our vote. With that in mind, here are a few "pocket guidelines" that you can take with you to the polls this election cycle.

1. **Truth Matters.** This should always be the Christian's battle cry. Strength, sanctification, security and yes, freedom are all nonexistent without truth. (Proverbs 12:22; John 8:32; John 17:17; Ephesians 6:14). Satan seeks to tell us lies so that we will believe him and lose our security. Speak truth, demand truth, love truth.
2. **Grace Guides.** Not only does grace teach us to forgive and be patient it also trains us to seek God's will over our own. When we acknowledge God's

grace toward us, we then are more apt to live godly lives and extend that same grace to others. When I vote, it should not be to gratify the flesh but rather to instill policies and leaders who will do what's best for my neighbors. (Read Titus 2:11-14).

3. **Love Wins.** Of course, the greatest of these is Love (1 Cor. 13)! True love breeds kindness and respect. Selfless love leads us to be defenders of the weak and innocent. A godly, biblical love casts out all prejudice and hate while an anger that seeks revenge can cloud our judgment and cause irrational thoughts. Try not to be sucked in and ruled by emotions, rather allow a biblically defined love to move you in the voting booth.

Oh, and one more thing, don't forget to pray. Pray often and fervently (1 Thessalonians 5:17). Hopefully, these thoughts will help you navigate through the next few weeks. But don't leave them behind after November 3! We are gonna need them now and always. May God bless you and your families; may God bless His church at Blue River and may God bless the United States of America.



Prayer Requests

Jeannie Ewens's uncle (Burney) – passed away this week. Burney was a quadriplegic and a member of the church. He was being hospitalized due to COVID complications, **Mary Ellen Myers's** friend (David Ellifrits) – had a cardiac catheterization and it was successful. No stents were needed, **Larry Sullivan** – is scheduled for a shoulder replacement surgery this Monday, **Joe Harber's** wife (Charlotte) – is suffering from some ongoing health issues, **Bill Haley's** childhood friend (Mark Lough) – is being sent to a nursing home in what seems to be the final days of his life, **Hannah Guntert's** grandmother (Wanda Thomason) – has been diagnosed with breast cancer, **Ben Church's** brother (David Church) – passed away, **Samantha Pollard's** aunt Janet (the mother of her cousin, Alison, who just passed away) – passed away last week, **Mitch and Peggy Rush's** granddaughter (a family from East Independence church) – is suffering from a severe head injury. She is 6 years old. She was in a car accident. She seems to be making small improvements. She is awake but cannot talk, sit up or control her body, **Stormy Cook's** brother (Ralph) – has been put on a liver transplant list, **Hannah Guntert's** cousin (Grant Funderburk) – is in the process of receiving a nerve stimulator implanted in his colon. This is a 2-part procedure. Step one is done, and they are not seeing any improvement. If this doesn't work, he will need a colostomy bag. Grant is 7 years old and will be traveling from Arkansas to Ohio for this colon operation, **Mary Ellen Myers's** friend (Matt Bomstein) – has COVID and is in the hospital with complications. He had surgery for a tracheotomy and is still on a ventilator, **Jurhee Bench** – has been in and out of being quarantined to her room because of cases popping up at her facility. Please continue to pray for her during this difficult time, **Buddy and Sharon Self's** daughter (Lisa Self) – has a blood clot and fluid in her lungs. She is slowly regaining her strength, **Shirley Simmons** – had open heart surgery. **UPDATE:** Surgery went well. She continues to make improvements everyday but is still recovering, **Kelly Seuferling** – had surgery. **UPDATE:** Surgery went well. She is still recovering. Lymph nodes are clear but she will have one more small surgery and we are still waiting to hear about chemo options, **Dave Nash** – seems to be getting a bit stronger, **Lillie Ramage** – has stage 4 pancreatic cancer, **Flora Swartz's** friend (Joanie Green) – is still taking chemo pills **UPDATE:** Joanie saw her oncologist Wednesday and got results of scan and tests. THANKSGIVING TO OUR FATHER!! The spots on the liver have decreased in size and the cancer marker decreased from 34 to 2.3. Joanie thanks everyone for prayers and help, **Andy Hester, Joel Morehead, Bruce Keeton, Will Kreisel, Lena Bramlett**

Daylight Savings:

Daylight savings ends soon. Don't forget to set your clocks back on Saturday, October 31.

Upcoming Events:

We will be hosting Trunk or Treat once again this year on October 31st. Please contact the church office if you would like to decorate a trunk, donate candy, or help in some other way.

Announcements:

Michael Kennedy is getting married!!! Him and his beautiful bride, Helen Isaac, will be wed on June 10, 2021.

Service Opportunities:

Harvesters

Harvesters serves 26 counties in the KC area. This holiday season they are asking for food donations to pack holiday food boxes. Here are the items needed:

pkg. stuffing mix; 15 oz. cans of sweet potatoes, cranberry sauce, green beans, and corn; packages of gravy mix, corn bread mix, instant potatoes, and 10 oz. cans of mushroom soup. A collection tub will be in the lobby of the church.

2020 Youth Christmas Project

This year we will be adopting 10 underprivileged kids and buying them Christmas Presents.

If you are interested in donating money to buy presents for these kids add "Youth Christmas Project" to the note section of your offering.

A Note to the Church:

Thank you so much for the cards and prayers in the passing of Frank's daughter in law, Sherry.

With Much Love,

Frank and Barbara Stewart

New Wednesday Night Classes:

Starting November 4 at 7:00PM, we will begin new Bible Classes on Wednesday nights.

0-4 years - A staffed nursery will be available.

K-6th grade - Trek 812 will be held downstairs

Jr and Sr High – led by Shane

Adults - Brian Wahlen will lead a class about eschatology (the science of last things) in the auditorium.

Volunteers Needed:

We will need volunteers for the Nursery and Trek 812. If you would be willing to help, please let me know.

Birthdays: October 25th – 31st

Brian Wahlen – 25th

Kaylee Denney – 26th

Gary Jones – 26th

Gideon Guntert – 27th

Jessie McCrea – 27th

Hailey Thomas – 27th

Nancy Sullivan – 30th



Kaylee Denney is turning 11!!!

Hailey Thomas is turning 8!!!

Gideon Guntert is turning 6!!!

A holy wooden Christian cross with an American flag - enterline © 123rf.com
children read a bible on the bed – Volodimir Kalina © 123rf.com
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