

E-Messenger

First Church of Christ

Some wisdom from Bob Russell to guide us in these angry times.

The American people are angry! I can't remember ever seeing such widespread, fierce hostility.

1. Those who lose their tempers lose influence.

Solomon wrote, "A fool gives full vent to his anger, but a wise man keeps himself under control" (Proverbs 29:11).

Some wrongly conclude that those who get the maddest, shout the loudest, protest with the most violence; win. They imagine a loss of temper is a demonstration of strength when actually it's a sign of weakness and evidence of a lack of self-control. Leonardo Da Vinci once suggested, "He who truly knows, has no occasion to shout."

2. Those who seek re-

venge eventually hurt themselves.

"Do not take revenge, my friends, but leave room for God's wrath, for it is written: 'It is mine to avenge; I will repay,' says the Lord...Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good" (Romans 12:19-21).

Did you read about the farmer in Bristol, Virginia who was angry at the DMV because of their excessive taxes and red tape? He was furious they didn't return his phone calls and he couldn't get personal attention. So he got even. He paid the \$3000 tax assessment he owed in pennies. He accumulated and delivered 300,000 pennies that weighed 1600 pounds. However, by

the time he bought four wheelbarrows and hired people to help him, it cost him over \$1000. But in his mind he got even. The DMV employees had to stay extra hours counting and packaging all those pennies.

When you get angry you lose perspective, exaggerate the offense, lose credibility and minimize opportunities to make peace. When you seek revenge, you are the one who winds up paying the most.

3. Wisdom doesn't fight when a fight isn't necessary.

"A gentle answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up anger" (Proverbs 15:1).

Sometimes we need to fight to defend the gospel or to oppose those who

March Issue

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take advantage of the oppressed. Jesus got angry and cleansed the temple because the authorities were exploiting the poor and prohibiting genuine worship. However, there are a number of complex issues where people

To Sin or Not to Sin

We hear that there's no such thing as a free lunch. Meaning that either we receive something free that is not worth the time or effort to get it, or that the free item received is really not free and there are strings attached to it which will ultimately have a cost associated with it. We, as Americans, have been trained to believe that people get what they deserve and that there's no such thing as getting something for nothing. Especially when

the "something," God's gift of salvation through Jesus, is so huge and the "nothing" is absolute and without merit.

In Romans 6:1, Paul asked *Shall we go on sinning so that grace may increase?* If our salvation is not based on anything we do and is truly free, then why should we try to restrain ourselves? As we continue to sin all the more, won't God's grace continue to expand to

cover our sins and show His mercy and grace to be infinite? It's a question that if we ask, it shows our true motives. We sought salvation for a one-time experience and really do not want to have too much to do with God.

Paul answers his question, "Of course not!" He makes a very important point in that when we sought salvation in Christ, Jesus exchanged our sinful self with a newly res-

urrected life. A life that seeks to eliminate our sinful nature. While eliminating our sinful nature will never fully happen this side of heaven, our new life in Christ can never be comfortable with sin.

Salvation cannot be viewed simply as a guarantee for eternity; it is a life changed from being a slave to sin to being freely and forever forgiven. A new life that looks forward to being molded more and more into the

Serving in March

Greeters:

- 5—Bettie Finken (A)
- 12—Scott & Anne Bard (A)
- 19—Charlene Dean (A)
- 26—Scott & Pam Hartman (A)

Communion Ministry:

- 5—Dean & Sue Smethurst
- 12—Larry Snavely
- 19—Jim & Pat McPeak

26—Brock Rohrer

Prayer Warriors:

Teresa Gambler/Marcia Gambler

Welcome Center:

- 5—John & Nora Altman (9);
Ron & Shellee Brown (9:45)
- 12—Lesley Shirkey (9)



Birthdays & Anniversaries



- 2 Tabitha Strouse
- 3 Amy Dominique,
Erica McNamara,
Sherry Trubey
- 4 Hugh Perry
- 5 Gerry Wyrick
- 8 Adam Riehle
- 10 Colton Sheline, Chase
Wiese
- 11 Floyd Puffenberger
- 12 Ana Allison
- 13 Mikel Burlew, Janet McCar-
thy, Phyllis Waldron
- 14 Beth Clingaman, Zach
McCarthy
- 16 Wanda Hilton, Carol Ma-
son
- 17 Ramon Alpaugh, Parker



- VonDeylen
- 18 Teresa Gam-
bler
- 19 Brittany Cal-
vin, Dane &
Devin Poncsak,
Jeannie VonDeylen
- 21 Zach Strouse
- 22 Preston Hull
- 23 Gary Brown
- 26 Dillon Smethurst, Ruth
Thomas
- 27 Austin Bard, Kaitlyn Brein-
inger
- 28 Dylan Dominique, Wanda
Hug

- 29 Sue Smethurst
- 30 Beulah Hopkins (102!!)
- 10 John & Mary Garver (54)
- 11 Dick & Joan Bauer (11)
- 29 Chuck & Tonya Barnes
(32); Toby & Jane Runyan (9)

Family News

The church family extends her sympathy to the following families:

- ♥ Curt Bennet and family on the loss of his mother, Creta Bennet.
- ♥ Justin & Erica McNamara **on the death of Erica's grandfather.**



The 9th annual Pancake & Sausage Supper, hosted by the Mission Team and the Pancake & Sausage Committee will be held Thursday, March 23, 5:00

-7:00 PM. The free will offering will go toward the 2017 Mission Trip at Woodburn Christian Children's Home. Frozen one **pound yummy Jacoby's** sausage patties and casing links will be available for purchase for \$4 each.



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 	2 9:30 Senior Seekers	3	4 5:00 The Current
			5:30 Supper 6:15 Fusion 6:30 Fusion 6:30 Adult Bible Studies			
5 8:00 Worship 9:15 Sunday School 10:15 Worship	6	7 9:30 Ladies Bible Study @ Seasons 10:00 Craft Group	8 5:30 Supper 6:15 Fusion 6:30 Fusion 6:30 Adult Bible Studies	9 9:30 Senior Seekers	10	11 8:00 Men's Breakfast 5:00 The Current
12 8:00 Worship 9:15 Sunday School 10:15 Worship 11:45 Let's Do Lunch 	13	14 9:30 Ladies Bible Study @ Seasons	15 5:30 Supper 6:15 Fusion 6:30 Fusion 6:30 Adult Bible Studies	16 9:30 Senior Seekers	17 	18 5:00 The Current
19 8:00 Worship 9:15 Sunday School 10:15 Worship	20	21 9:30 Ladies Bible Study @ Seasons 12:45 Visitation Ministry	22 5:30 Supper 6:15 Fusion 6:30 Fusion 6:30 Adult Bible Studies	23 9:30 Senior Seekers 5:00 Pancake & Sausage Supper 	24	25 5:00 The Current
26 8:00 Worship 9:15 Sunday School 10:15 Worship 11:45 Senior Saints Pizza Potluck	27	28 9:30 Ladies Bible Study @ Seasons 11:45 Lunch Bunch @ Shaffer's	29 5:30 Supper 6:15 Fusion 6:30 Fusion 6:30 Adult Bible Studies	30 9:30 Senior Seekers	31 	



FIRST CHURCH OF CHRIST

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Love All, Worship One,
Make Disciples

Bryanfcc.org



Connect with us!



Facts & Figures

February 4 & 5

Attendance SS 26	Worship 51/38/103
Offering	\$5,776.00

February 11 & 12

Attendance SS 36	Worship 38/32/103
Offering	\$6,529.00

February 18 & 19

Attendance SS 23	Worship 53/34/92
Offering	\$3,367.00

February 25 & 26

Attendance SS 30	Worship /37/112
Offering	\$3,938.00

Needed for Budget \$5,828.86

Love All

Our Service Personnel: Lindsey Kaiser, Stewart Martin (NC), Josh Severs (Afghanistan), Josh Tonneas (MA)

Cancer: Gwen Acker-Dickinson, Nathan Bailey, Patrick Bailey, Dick Baugh, Chuck Barnes, Arlene Boyer, Randy Boltinghouse, Brent, Tim Bright, Sherry Buchsteiner, Jennie Case, Chuck, Gwen Acker-Dickinson, Weston DuBois, Carrie H., Molly Johnston, Kent, Chuck Lees, Ron Lewis, Norma Kuster, Tim Mavis, Aaron Nartker, Connie Pence, Mary Pinckley, Jim Pringle, Elaine Purdue, Kathy Rittenhouse, Bob & Sue Secoy, Terry Shinaberry, Lyle Snavelly, Ron

Stark, Dinah Stiltner, Amy Tobin, Jaime Trevino, Tammy, Joe Vaccaro, Linda Walker, Kathy Walton, Drew Wayman, Al West, Gloria Wright. *Other Concerns:* Jennifer Mavis, Brianna Lloyd, Amy Boyd, Trevor Bailey, Dale & Leona Puff, Neighborhood, Geri Cox, Dale Boyer, Danielle Strouse, Paul Newcomb, Asher Cravens, Brenda Ridgway, Cindy Wolf, Zach Swisher, Madelon Salsbury, Esther Krill, Maryann Mitchell, Janet McCarthy, Lola Pardee, Mary Jane Sweebe, Cheryl Towers; *Shut Ins:* Hillside: Floyd Puffenbarger, Home: Linda Lewis Fairlawn Haven: Gerald

Wetmore, Genesis: Geri Cox, Vivian Holdsworth, *The Lakes of Monclova:* Roger Ellis, The Commons of Providence Road: Barbara Hake.



The Current

The Current is a movement that has begun in Bryan and will take place each Saturday evening 5-6 PM in our worship center. This service will feature meaningful worship and practical biblical conversations with a laid-back vibe. All are welcome.

Inclement Weather Policy

Level 1: All services will proceed as scheduled. Level 2 at 6:00 Sunday morning: All services will be cancelled. Level 3: All services will be cancelled. Please check the following sources for church news: WBNO, WBCL, and our church website (www.bryanfcc.org).

get all lathered up on both sides when it may be best to remain neutral. The Bible says, “Love is not easily angered” (1 Cor. 13:5).

Immigration policies are not clearly defined to me. On the one hand, Christians have an obligation to help the poor and to be kind to the alien. On the other hand the government authorities have an obligation to protect the nation against those who would do us harm.

Perhaps government officials have access to information we don’t have. We are told in Scripture to be obedient to the laws of the land and respect those in authority. If the issues aren’t crystal clear, we are wiser to be patient and avoid conflict. “If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone” (Romans 12:18).

4. Pray hard and trust God to work things out in the end.

“And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose” (Romans 8:28).

Of all the candidates who ran for President, Donald Trump was my next-to-last choice. I am not a fan. I’m tempted to ridicule him and denigrate his leadership. But I’m commanded in Scripture to pray for those in authority and honor the king.

Psalms 2:1 reads in the King James Version, “Why do the heathen rage and the people imagine a vain thing?” The passage goes on to explain that the people’s anger was really rooted in their opposition to the Lord and His Anointed One. People in rebellion against God are vexed by His restraints. Psalm 2:4-6 continues, “The One enthroned in heaven laughs, the Lord scoffs at them. Then he rebukes them in his anger and terrifies them with his wrath, saying, “I have installed my king on Zion, my holy hill.”

No matter how much the heathen rage, no matter how much Christians disagree with one another, no matter how chaotic the world situation seems to be, the Bible assures us that God is still in control and ultimately His will is going to be accomplished. That’s true regardless of who is President of the U.S. or what Ayatollah rules in Iran.

These are troubling times, but remember God is still on His throne and in the end, He will establish His eternal

Kingdom of tranquility and peace. So, “Be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry, because human anger does not produce the righteousness that God desires” (James 1:19-20).

Destined to win,
Larry Snavelly

image of Christ is traded for the old sinful self. Sin becomes abhorrent, a severely distasteful indulgence we strive to avoid. There will still be struggles, but there is the Savior who gave us the gift. Is there any reason to go on sinning?

Continually overcoming,
Tim Calvin