



THE PASTORS' PANE

At a dinner for Nobel Prize winners President John F. Kennedy gave a most clever and astute introduction. He remarked to that distinguished crowd: "I think this is the most extraordinary collection of talent, of human knowledge, that has ever been gathered at the White House -- with the possible exception of when Thomas Jefferson dined alone."

Jefferson was brilliant in so many disciplines, including religion. While he is often associated with being a deist (one who believes in God as the proverbial watchmaker who created the universe and then stepped away, never intervening in daily life), Jefferson was a devoted follower of the teachings of Jesus. In fact, six years before he died he created his own version of the teachings of Jesus, which he titled *The Life and Morals of Jesus of Nazareth*. It's known these days as *Jefferson's Bible*. The reason for that is that Jefferson took six copies of the New Testament, in Greek, Latin, French and King James English (He had, after all, a classic education which made him fluent in these languages), and then with a very sharp knife, he cut out the texts he liked and glued them on blank paper.

Jefferson's work resulted in his own version of Scripture, a version that left out most of the miracles and anything else he felt went against reason and common sense. At the end of his study and editing, he had the 84 pages bound in red Moroccan leather, the finest money could buy, which fortunately preserved the volume quite well. *Jefferson's Bible* was bought by the Smithsonian Institute at the turn of the twentieth century, has been recently restored, and in 2012 was displayed at the Institute. It is one of our national treasures.

Jefferson's Bible is fascinating to me on so many levels - the artistic craftsmanship, the theological peculiarities and the spiritual insights. It gives us a glimpse into the soul of our third president. But one of the things that has always interested me was Jefferson's audacity at cutting things out of the Bible. That takes a lot of confidence, don't you think?

However, before pointing a finger at Jefferson's bravado, it might serve us well to consider our own, less public, editing. For instance, we as Baptists make a great deal about baptism and the Lord's Supper, labeling them our ordinances. Why did we leave out foot-washing, one of the iconic gestures of Jesus on that first Maundy Thursday? And what about other texts that we tend to conveniently disregard, texts such as, "Love your enemy;" "There is still one thing left for you: sell all that you have and distribute it to the poor, and you will have a treasure in heaven;" "Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal, but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also."

And then there are the texts that deal with evangelism. . . As I mentioned Sunday, it seems that few people in the church actually abide by the "Great Commission," going into the world with the expressed intent of making disciples. Have we cut that out of our Bibles without even recognizing it? Taking Jesus seriously is not easy. It means reading the lines and sometimes even in between the lines. I am grateful to people like Jefferson and others who make me

reconsider how seriously (or lightly) I take Jesus. Perhaps it would be better if the editing process weren't so much my editing of the Bible as the Bible's editing of me!

Still learning,

Mike (and Griff)

MEMBERS, please fill out the registration pads as they pass down the pew on Sunday morning. We are not taking roll and attendance on your worship, this is simply a tool we use to help get information on our guests. We have found that guests do not like to be singled out and the only ones filling out a form. You will greatly help us by signing your name only. (If you have changes in your contact information please include this also.) This way the guests don't feel singled out and they will provide us information to contact them in the upcoming week. Thanks.

SPIRITUAL FORMATIONS FOR THE WEEK OF MARCH 31 - APRIL 6

Worship Preparation: Throughout the week, please set aside time to study the following Scriptures for this coming Sunday.

Ezekiel 37:1-14 • Psalm 130 • Romans 8:6-11 • John 11:1-45

The Call To Prayer: Glory to the Father, to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. As it was in the beginning, it is now and evermore shall be.

The Daily Examination: In the last 24 hours, recall when you most vividly encountered God. Reflect on this experience. Offer gratitude for this.

The Daily Readings:

MONDAY, MARCH 31 — Psalm 146/Isaiah 59:9-19/Acts 9:1-20

TUESDAY, APRIL 1 — Psalm 146/Isaiah 42:14-21/Colossians 1:9-14

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 2 — Psalm 146/Isaiah 60:17-22/Matthew 9:27-34

THURSDAY, APRIL 3 — Psalm 130/Ezekiel 1:1-3/2:8-3:3/Revelation 10:1-11

FRIDAY, APRIL 4 — Psalm 130/Ezekiel 33:10-16/Revelation 11:15-19

SATURDAY, APRIL 5 — Psalm 130/Ezekiel 36:8-15/Luke 24:44-53

A huge **THANK YOU** to everyone who volunteered for the Church Work Day on March 22! We appreciate YOU and hope to see you all at the next work day on **Saturday, April 12 at 8 AM**. Thank you again for your hard work!
— The Properties Committee

THE CALENDAR

FRIDAY, MARCH 28

5:00 PM Children's Ministry · Dinner & Movie · Ed Bldg.
7:30 PM NO Church of the Nations English Conversation

SUNDAY, MARCH 30

9:15 AM Sunday Morning Bible Study
10:30 AM *Worship Service · Sanctuary
10:30 AM *Church of the Nations · Chapel
12:00 PM Church of the Nations Luncheon · Fellowship Hall
3:00 PM Joyful Noise Bell Choir Rehearsal · Music Suite
4:15 PM Children's Bell Choir Rehearsal · Music Suite
4:15 PM Everlasting Praise Rehearsal · Chapel
5:00 PM Called Business Meeting · Sanctuary
5:30 PM Youth · Transformed · Youth Room

MONDAY, MARCH 31

8:00 PM College Bible Study · College SS Classroom

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 2

10:30 AM Bible Study · Chapel
1:30 PM Bells Jubilate Rehearsal · Music Suite
4:00 PM Keepers Choir Rehearsal · Music Suite
6:15 PM Grace Rising Ensemble Rehearsal · Music Suite
7:15 PM *Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal · Sanctuary

FRIDAY, APRIL 4

7:30 PM Church of the Nations English Conversation

SUNDAY, APRIL 6 · COMMUNION & BENEVOLENCE OFFERING

9:15 AM Sunday Morning Bible Study
10:30 AM *Worship Service · Sanctuary
10:30 AM *Church of the Nations · w/UBC · Sanctuary
12:00 PM Church of the Nations · Field Trip · USS Kidd
4:15 PM Children's Bell Choir Rehearsal · Music Suite
4:15 PM Everlasting Praise Rehearsal · Chapel
5:15 PM Joyful Noise Bell Choir Rehearsal · Music Suite
5:30 PM Youth · Transformed · Youth Room

* Childcare

BUDGET 2014-2015

There will be a special business meeting on Sunday, March 30, at 5 PM in the Sanctuary to discuss and approve the budget for 2014-2015. Copies of the budget are available in the narthex and the church office.

MINISTERS ON CALL

Week of March 30 · Rick Wright — 767-1351
Week of April 6 · Griff Martin — 281-750-9677

GIFTS & OFFERINGS

| Financial Report | Current | YTD |
|------------------------------|-------------|--------------|
| Thru 3/24/14 Week 51 | Week | Amount |
| Weekly Budget Requirements | 20,372.50 | 1,038,997.50 |
| Offering Received | \$11,081.56 | 895,741.95 |
| Misc Revenues (Includes MDO) | | 124,398.51 |
| Total Income | | 1,020,140.46 |
| YTD Actual Expenses | | 1,041,016.86 |
| Net Income (Loss) | | (20,876.40) |

Non-Budget Gifts Received: \$ 520,911.89

This includes all YTD gifts to the Cap. Campaign, Local Missions, Benevolence, Wager-Margason Scholarship, Misc. Designated & Other Restricted Funds

Online Receipts \$3,457 \$241,905

Revenue received through online donations this week was \$3,457.

YTD, we have received a total of \$241,905 through online gifts to Offering, Misc Rev and Non-Budgeted Gifts (included in Financial Report above).

Financial Summary: YTD March 24, 2014

We have received \$1,020,140 this year in offerings & other revenue.

Our expenses for the year total \$1,041,017. Our net loss for the year is (\$20,876).

CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

| Through 3/24/2014 | Total |
|------------------------|--------------------|
| Number of Pledges | 61 |
| Pledges Due | \$395,792 |
| Cash Received to Date | \$462,210 |
| CAMPAIGN TOTAL | \$858,002 |
| FUNDS DISBURSED | (\$406,385) |

Capital Campaign Summary: YTD March 24, 2014

We have received \$462,210 for the Cap. Campaign this year.

We have spent \$406,385 on repairs and projects.

ATTENDANCE

Sunday, March 23, 2014

| | |
|-------------------------|-------|
| Morning Worship - | 199 |
| Guests - | 2 |
| Sunday School Total - | 173 |
| Preschool - | 13 |
| Children - | 12 |
| Youth - | 12 |
| College - | 8 |
| Young Adults - | 5 |
| Median Adults - | 13 |
| Inter-Generational - | 13 |
| Senior Adults - | 98 |
| Sanctuary Class - | NR |
| Church of the Nations - | 32 |
| Guests Friday/Sunday - | NR/NR |

VAN DRIVERS

1st Sunday — Stuart Stigall (757-9877)
2nd Sunday — Chuck Rea (343-8466 or 907-8449)
3rd Sunday — Glenn Linzer (504-810-7859)
4th & 5th Sunday — Chuck Rea (343-8466 or 907-8449)

FRIEND OF THE WEEK

Mrs. Dora Goblowsky
8225 YMCA Plaza Dr, #205 • Baton Rouge, LA, 70810
Birthdate: October 7