



Pastor's Corner

It goes without saying that we live in a rapidly changing world. Many of the changes are, of course, quite visible and tangible, like new technology, new advancements in medicine, science, education, economics, etc. But the more far-reaching and influential changes, it seems to me, are not the visible and tangible but rather the invisible—the moral and spiritual changes. In our American culture, for example, we have seen and continue to see drastic changes in moral and ethical standards, including the diminishing regard for traditional, Judeo-Christian values upon which our nation was founded.

So, what informs you as you determine where to stand on these sweeping moral and spiritual changes? To what or to whom do you look for guidance and insight on how to react to these changes? Do you form your opinions and positions based on the news media, on Hollywood, or on the views of popular political candidates or analysts? Do you take your lead from your peers? Do you tend to rely on your human reason and logic? On your emotions? As Christians, I believe that we must take our directions and form our positions based on the Word of God, the Bible. Doing so, of course, does not answer all the questions or eliminate all the controversies, but it does provide a foundation of God's truth for considering the matters at hand.

Many say, however, that the Bible is utterly unreliable as a basis for deciding modern-day issues. They maintain that times have changed so much and the Bible was written so long ago that it cannot possibly be relevant today. Admittedly, times have changed—even drastically—from ancient Bible times until today. However, what has NOT changed is the condition of the human heart. God, through the prophet Jeremiah in 17:9, gave the true diagnosis of the heart which still applies today: "The heart is deceitful above all things and beyond cure. Who can understand it?" Because the human heart is still as wicked and perverse today as it was in the days of the Bible, and since the Bible was written primarily to address the issues of the corrupt human heart, it is still as pertinent today as it was when it was written.

To me, the first questions we Christians should ask when confronted by a moral or spiritual cultural issue are "What does God have to say about this matter?" and "Is there a Biblical mandate or principle that applies?" As the Apostle Paul wrote, "The foolishness of God is wiser than man's wisdom..."

(I Corinthians 1:25).



Signs of the times are appearing at FCC! Hopefully in the next few weeks worship services will be signed, that is, interpreted in American Sign Language. This serves multiple purposes. First, as far as we can determine, there are few other churches in the area that offer this service for the deaf community in Pikeville. And, yes, there are deaf residents here. How shall they 'hear' without a presentation in their beautiful visual language? A second purpose for interpreted services is the opportunity for our newly-formed sign language class to gain exposure and experience in signing and signed services. And lastly, interpreting our services can benefit our hearing members – by enabling a better understanding of deaf culture, by promoting greater unity in Christ with the deaf, and demonstrating our desire to reach all who need Christ. Many hearing worshippers have indicated that seeing a visual expression of the auditory message actually augments understanding and enhances the worship experience. Any and all are welcome to sign songs with us – just imitating what the interpreter is signing during songs. No knowledge of sign is needed. This also will express a welcoming environment to any deaf visitor. The interpreter wishes neither to obstruct nor to interfere with worship, but welcomes anyone – hearing or deaf – to watch and participate. Please pray that God will bring to us those within the deaf community at Pikeville who need Christ! This is our greatest desire. Please also pray for us as we serve our God through ASL.

Dates to Remember

- | | |
|----------------|-------------------------------|
| February 16 | Senior Group luncheon at 12pm |
| February 22-26 | Meals on Wheels |
| February 23 | Community Dinner at 7pm |





IT'S A BOY!
KYSON MAVERICK
RAY

Baby Shower Honoring Baylie VanHoose and Gaige Ray

- ◆ Saturday, February 20, at 11am at the Green Meadows Country Club
- ◆ Parents are registered at BABYLI.ST, <https://babli.st/van-hoose> Kids Stuff, and Lad N Lassie
- ◆ Please No Diapers, parents have chosen to use cloth diapers.

Happy Birthday !!!

- Feb. 1 Bill Van Hoose
- Feb. 5 Jane Robinson
- Feb. 6 Fay Van Hoose
- Feb. 9 Blake Robinson

Happy Anniversary!!!

Gene and Phyllis Sturgill
2/18/1953



Leadership & Volunteer Corner

Elder Captains
June Brose, Captain
Terry Trimble

Serving Elders & Deacons
See posted list next to kitchen. Post card reminders will be sent to your house.

Elder of the Week
2/7 Terry Trimble
2/14 Bob Van Hoose
2/21 June Brose
2/28 Tom Thompson

Volunteer.





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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH
P O Box 2746
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Come Worship With Us!

Sunday School at 10am

**Sunday Worship Service at
11am**

**Wednesday Night Vespers at
6pm**

*We are called to love God,
To love Others,
and to lead Others to Jesus
Christ.*

If you received this newsletter and would like to be removed from our mailing list, please contact Samanetha at 606-437-4527. If you would like to receive your newsletter via email, please contact Samanetha. Please keep us posted on your address and email, if they change. If others would like to receive this newsletter, please forward us their name and address.