

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
502 S. FIFTH ST.
RICHMOND, TEXAS 77469
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CLARION



MAY, 2009

Freedom

The freer you are,
the more you are wrapped up in God's will.
Augustine

There are several reasons for this quote from our old brother, Augustine. Many of you know of him. He was one of the early church fathers. He was one of the bishops that helped form the thinking and theology for many of our foundational theologians; he still forms the church to this day. Our friend, Curtis Freeman, did his doctoral work on Augustine. We will get to hear from Curtis in July. But, back to freedom and Augustine, though in talking about Curtis, one is thinking about freedom.

Let's reflect on two holy-days that help us with freedom. Easter tells us that earthly circumstances never have the last word, even if that circumstance is death. Talk about freedom! Christ was free enough to come here. Christ was free enough to die here! Christ was free and powerful enough to face death and realize life out of it. We become freer when we know that God can and will walk into our world, every part of it, and bring life to us. That is a great truth. That truth will make you free.

Also, Pentecost is coming. We will celebrate this on May 31. Pentecost is fifty days after Easter. Jesus told his disciples to go to Jerusalem and wait. We do not respect "waiting" these days. A train along Highway 90, costing us two or three minutes, makes us angry. We get upset in just a few minutes if the wait staff of a restaurant is not paying the desired attention to us. A computer guy told me that if we have to wait two seconds on a computer to follow through on a function, we become impatient. Let's see, that is, "One Mississippi, two Mississippi," and then we are mad. I believe him. We do not like to wait. They waited fifty days. God showed up! The world truly has never been the same. Not just Jesus experienced freedom, but the normal folks of the church became free.

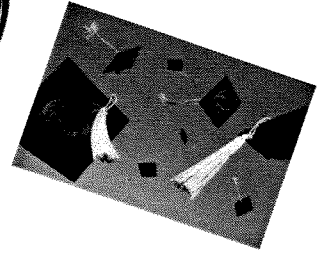
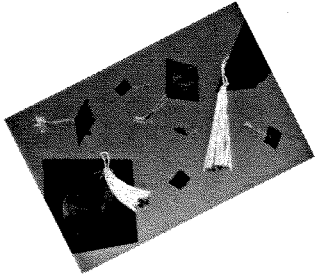
Now the point, or the knot, tying this together. Jesus said that we can "know the truth, and the truth will make us free." Easter and Pentecost should allow us to consider that doing God's will is the most freeing activity in the world. After all, if you are not seeking God's will, you are following the will of someone, maybe yourself, and then it is all up to you; talk about pressure. Easter and Pentecost proclaim and celebrate that it is not all up to us, but God gives us power to be free, even up to and then beyond the grave.

Let's count on God. Let's believe that he will come through. Let's do his will and live in the freedom of knowing God will empower us for faithful following.



Coming up in May

Senior Banquet Class of 2009



Sunday, May 17, at noon, immediately following the Worship Service. Catered by Chili's. Beef & Chicken Fajitas, Rice, Beans, Chips and Salsa

Cost: \$10

~~RESERVATIONS REQUIRED~~

~~Pay at the door~~

Our graduating seniors are:

Cody Crawford, Jacob Dane, Heidi Henderson, Shane Howard, Jessica Smith and Jake Weber

Missions Committee Luncheon

On Sunday, May 24, our Missions Committee will be hosting a churchwide luncheon immediately following the Worship Service in the gym! We will learn about the upcoming mission trip to China, June 13-27. This is a time for you to claim the trip as "our church trip". You will be able to find ways to support the trip and the missionaries that are going and the ones there.

Put it on your calendar! Put China in your heart!

The **WINGS** Card Ministry will meet again on Thursday, May 7, at 6:00 pm, in Room 202. If you are interested in participating in this ministry, please contact Donna Howard, 832-595-6422. **CRAFT JAMS** are coming up on Saturdays, May 2 and 16 at 9:30 am, in Room 208. All of our ladies are welcome to join us for any or all of these activities!



YOUTH CORNER

Sunday mornings	Youth University	9:00 am
Sunday Nights in May:		
3rd	A Study of Islam	6:00 pm
10th	No Evening Activities	
17th	Photo Scavenger Hunt	5:00 pm
24th	Parent Meeting	6:00 pm
31st	Richmond Coffee Stn.	6:00 pm
Wednesday nights - Supernova		6:00 pm
Senior Recognition Day and Banquet, Sunday, May 17!		
Summer events:		
Mission Jerusalem	June 7-13	Cost \$30
Mission Trip to Austin	June 20-26	Cost \$279
Youth Camp	July 13-17	Cost \$190

Questions? Contact Matt@fbcrichmond.net.

CD's of devotional music are available in the foyer. Songs for children, spiritual songs in contemporary mode, and traditional hymns are included. Prices are set at a cost recovery basis for this ministry. Please ask someone at the Visitor's Center if you need assistance. If you have suggestions of CD's that have blessed you, please write those down and give them to Mark Borum.

"Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly... as you sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs with gratitude in your hearts to God."

Children's Ministry News

PRE-TEEN CAMP - Kamp K.H.A.O.S

Kids Hyped About Our Savior

Texas Baptist Camp, Palacios, Texas

June 15-18, Cost \$145

Kids who have Completed 3rd - 6th Grade

We have seven girls registered so far for camp! If your pre-teen child would like to go, please sign up! Registration forms and additional information is in the foyer. Sponsors are Sandy Bills and Matt Higginbotham.

Vacation Bible School

Mark your calendar children and workers! VBS this year is *Boomerang Express.....It All Comes Back to Jesus!* Our dates are July 20-24, 9 am-noon! Please let us know in the church office if you are willing to help! Registration forms are available in the office.

May 2009

			Friday		Saturday	
			May 1		May 2	
			Jason Russell	T.C. Lewis		
			Lida McNeill	9:30am WINGS-Women in Godly Service Craft Jam (Room 208)		
			Wanda Davidson	10:00am Mars Hill Audio Feedback (Room 202)		
			7:30pm YABS Fellowship (Grimaldi's Pizza)			
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
May 3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Baptist World Alliance Day 7:45am Deacons Breakfast and Meeting 4:30pm Missions Committee Mtg. 6:00pm A Study of Islam* (Room 202) 6:00pm Youth-Islam Study		9:00am MDO 10:00am Staff Meeting	Andrew Falcon Anthony Haring Michael Landrum 9:00am MDO 5:00pm Supper 6:00pm Children's Choirs 6:00pm Parenting Roundtable* 6:00pm Prayer Meeting* 6:00pm Youth - Supernova 7:00pm Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal	9:00am MDO 6:00pm WINGS Card Ministry (Room 202)		Andy Pate Rachel Love 10:00am Mars Hill Audio Feedback (Room 202)
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
Mother's Day 5:00pm Adult Bible Study Teachers Meeting 5:00pm Stewardship Committee Meeting 6:00pm ADT* (Room 202) 6:00pm Youth	Bill Fulton Nancy Blackburn 5:30pm Personnel Committee Meeting	Cameron Allison 9:00am MDO 10:00am Staff Meeting	Eddie Bartsch 9:00am MDO 5:00pm Supper 6:00pm Business Meeting* 6:00pm Children's Choirs 6:00pm Parenting Roundtable* 6:00pm Youth - Supernova 7:00pm Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal	Gina Landrum 9:00am MDO	Claire Clark Donna Pirie Sarah Balena	Leslie Tyer 9:30am WINGS-Craft Jam (Room 208) 12:30pm Set up for Senior Banquet (Gym)
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
Senior Recognition Day Debbie Wleczyk Sandy Coughran 10:10am Fire Drill (Education Bldg.) 12:00pm Senior Banquet 6:00pm ADT* (Room 202) 6:00pm Youth 7:30pm Young Adult Bible Study (Balenas' Home)	Mallory Barron Reba Nicosia	JoAnn Wright 9:00am MDO 1:00pm Staff Meeting	Zachary Longshore 9:00am MDO 5:00pm Supper 6:00pm Children's Choirs 6:00pm Parenting Roundtable* 6:00pm Prayer Meeting* 6:00pm Youth - Supernova 7:00pm Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal	Dorothy Moore John Balena Linda Weber 9:00am MDO	Lori Massoth	Cameron Lewis John Manning
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
10:10am Fire Drill (Education Bldg.) 12:00pm Churchwide Luncheon-Missions Committee-China Trip (Gym) 6:00pm ADT* (Room 202) 6:00pm Youth 7:30pm Young Adult Bible Study (Higginbothams' Home)	*Memorial Day*	Joy Bartsch 10:00am Staff Meeting	Bradley Robertson 6:00pm Prayer Meeting* 6:00pm Youth - Supernova 7:00pm Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal	Parker Raley	Jacob Montgomery	
31						
Pentecost Ryan Salch 8:00am Family Ministry Committee Meeting 11:45am Fire Drill (Sanctuary) 4:00pm Shut-in Lord's Supper 6:00pm ADT* (Room 202) 6:00pm Youth 7:30pm Young Adult Bible Study						

Sunday mornings:
9:00 am Bible Study
10:30 am Worship*
*Childcare Provided