



the VISION

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER | FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF SHALLOTTE | DECEMBER 2019

He Doesn't Always Show Up the Way You Expect

Pastor Bob

In October 1988, John Barrier parked his scruffy work truck, visited a local business, and then walked into a branch of the bank in Spokane, Washington, that held his accounts. He had housed his money there since he had started his construction business over thirty years ago. He went to a teller and cashed a check for \$100.

But then he also asked the teller if he could have his parking validated. Otherwise he would have to pay for parking. Cost of parking? About \$.60. The teller eyed his shabby work clothes, sneered a little, and informed Barrier that they only validated tickets

for depositors who conducted transactions and cashing a check was not a “transaction.” So, Barrier asked to see the bank manager.

The manager appeared, also scanned Barrier’s wardrobe, and, as Barrier later said, actually turned up his nose at him. He said he thought the bank manager looked at him like he’d “crawled out from under a rock.” So, though it was out of character for him to do so, Barrier mentioned that he was a “substantial depositor.” Apparently, the manager did not believe him and again refused to validate his parking.

Barrier contacted bank

“Relatives, Religion, and Politics: How To Enjoy The Holidays When You Disagree”

Holiday family gatherings can be stressful and uncomfortable when you disagree with relatives over issues you are passionate about. Learn how to navigate the holidays graciously during our two week Bible study led by Pastor Bob on Wednesday, December 4 & 11th at 6:30:pm.

Church Events

- Dec 1st—Parent/Child Dedication
- Dec 8th—First Kids Choir Christmas Program & BBA Toy Store Love Offering
- Dec 9th—Ladies Ministry Meeting
- Dec 15th—Celebration Choir Christmas Cantata
- Dec 18th—Christmas Caroling & Random Acts of Kindness
- Dec 20th— Angel Tree Prison Fellowship Dinner & Youth Lock-In
- Dec 24th— Christmas Eve Service & Office Closed
- Dec 25th—Office Closed

He Doesn't Always Show Up the Way You Expect Continued

headquarters to complain. But no one returned his call. Maybe he wasn't worthy of that either.

So Barrier cleaned out and closed his accounts, and he moved his deposits to a neighboring bank, Seafirst.

I'm guessing that his old bank, US Bank in Spokane, regretted that day. And they probably wished they had overlooked his outward appearance.

But Seafirst? They're pretty happy.

"The first check he brought me was for \$1 million," said Dennis Veter, vice president of Seafirst's main Spokane branch. "You'd never know by looking at him, but you or I should be so lucky." And that was the first of the \$2 million Barrier would move to his money's new home.

Barrier's story is now famous, mainly because it is true. It has even been verified by the consistently suspicious website Snoops. But it is also a story that sounds strangely familiar. It is a reminder of the most basic truth of Christmas and the story of Jesus.

In fact, that's the point of the Christmas message: God does not always look the way you think that He will. And when we look at the outward appearance, we often miss who God really is.

The apostle Paul describes God's incarnation in Christ this way:

*"He emptied himself
by assuming the form of a servant,
taking on the likeness of humanity.
And when he had come as a man,
he humbled himself by becoming
obedient to the point of death—
even to death on a cross"*
(Phil 2:7-8)

In a sense, God came camouflaged, draped in the fabric of humanity but bearing the character and the power of deity. As a baby, He looked like anything but the very God of all creation, the King of the universe. Bethlehem is God's definitively surprising appearance. Not in a palace with scented candles or perfumed robes of majesty, as He deserved. That would have made Him easily identifiable. No faith required.

But He arrived in a scruffy package, placed in hay, in a cave augmented by the scent of manure mixed with the murmuring of livestock. By all appearances, anything but a King, let alone the King of Kings and Lord of Lords.



But the incarnation is not a mask, not an effort to conceal who God is or who Jesus really was. Instead, it exposes the true nature and true character of God. It is the miraculous fusion of God with human nature to achieve what only God can do—provide redemption to humanity. He is not an out-there-somewhere God. He is our God. Our Creator. He is "God with us" (Matt. 1:23, Is. 9:6).

Christmas, then, is our reminder to see God for who He is, not who we want Him to be. It reminds us that He comes to us, reveals Himself to us, sometimes in the ways we least expect, but always in the ways we need the most.

Christmas reminds us that our God is here. We never have to wonder if God loves us or if He would leave us. Despite our sin, our failure to acknowledge Him, our disobedience, and our arrogance, our Creator never left us.

"The Word became flesh and dwelt among us. We observed his glory, the glory as the one and only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth" (John 1:14).

So there is only one question you need to answer: Do you accept Him for who He is, or do you refuse to know Him, and send Him on His way?

Merry Christmas!
With love in Christ,
From the Weathers Family

Visit Pastor Bob's Blog:
BOBWEATHERS.NET



Monthly Ministry Info

children

FUN DAY WEDNESDAY
WEDNESDAYS | 5:30PM

QUEST FIRST KIDS MINISTRY
WEDNESDAYS | 6:15PM

FIRST KIDS CHOIR
SUNDAYS | 6:00PM
PRACTICING FOR CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

fusion

FUN DAY WEDNESDAY
WEDNESDAYS | 5:30PM

BIBLE STUDY
WEDNESDAYS | 6:30PM

SMALL GROUPS
SUNDAYS | 5:30PM
FBCS

youth

FUN DAY WEDNESDAY
WEDNESDAYS | 5:30PM

BIBLE STUDY
WEDNESDAYS | 6:30PM

SMALL GROUPS
SUNDAYS | 5:30PM
RODNEY & JENNIFER BROWN'S HOME
885 VILLAGE POINT ROAD, SHALLOTTE

YOUTH LOCK-IN
DEC 21 | 9:00PM-7:00AM

STRENGTH TO STAND YOUTH CONFERENCE
JAN 17-20, 2020
PIGEON FORGE, TN
TOTAL DUE DEC 22

prayer

PRAYER TIME
SUNDAYS | 9:30AM

missions

BBA TOY STORE LOVE OFFERING
DEC 8 | 11AM

LOTTIE MOON CHRISTMAS OFFERING
GOAL: \$6,500
WEEK OF PRAYER -DEC 1-8

ladies

MINISTRY MEETING
DEC 9 | 6:30PM

DANCE FOR JOY
TUESDAYS | 6:30PM

men

MEN'S BIBLE STUDY
WEDNESDAYS | 6:30AM

Christmas

FIRST KIDS CHOIR CHRISTMAS PROGRAM
DEC 8 | 11:00AM

CELEBRATION CHOIR PRESENTS
CHRISTMAS-IN HIS PRESENCE
DEC 15 | 11:00AM

CHURCH WIDE CHRISTMAS CAROLING &
RANDOM ACTS OF KINDNESS
DEC 18 | 5:30PM

ANGEL TREE PRISON FELLOWSHIP DINNER
DEC 20 | 6:30PM

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE
DEC 24 | 5:30PM

OFFICE CLOSED
DEC 24 & 25

HELP CHANGE A CHILD'S LIFE FOREVER!

CHILDREN WITH A PARENT IN PRISON GROW UP WONDERING IF THEIR MOM OR DAD STILL LOVES THEM. THROUGH ANGEL TREE, YOU CAN BE THE ONE TO SHOW THEM THEY DO.

HOW TO SPONSOR A CHILD

1. CHOOSE AN ANGEL FROM TREE IN BACK OF FAMILY LIFE CENTER
2. PULL OFF THE PAPER TAG, FILL IT OUT AND DROP IN THE BASKET TO LET US KNOW WHICH CHILD YOU ARE SPONSORING
3. PURCHASE A \$25 GIFT FOR THE CHILD BASED ON THE INFORMATION PROVIDED ON THE ANGEL.
4. WRAP THE PRESENT AND STICK THE ANGEL TAG ON THE OUTSIDE.
5. PLACE THE PRESENT UNDER THE ANGEL CHRISTMAS TREE BY WED, DECEMBER 18.

FIFTEEN YEARS AGO THIS MONTH

A GLIMPSE BACK AT WHAT WAS HAPPENING THIS MONTH FIFTEEN YEARS AGO. HONORING OUR FIFTEEN YEAR ANNIVERSARY IN THIS BUILDING.

- IRAQI INSURGENTS ATTACK A U.S. MILITARY BASE IN THE CITY OF MOSUL, KILLING 22 PEOPLE.
- US-UK-IRAQI FORCES DEFEAT THE REMAINING IRAQI INSURGENTS IN FALLUJAH.
- 9.3 MAGNITUDE EARTHQUAKE CREATES A TSUNAMI CAUSING DEVASTATION IN SRI LANKA, INDIA, INDONESIA, THAILAND, MALAYSIA, THE MALDIVES AND EDGES OF THE INDIAN OCEAN, KILLING 230,000 PEOPLE
- PRESIDENT GEORGE W. BUSH IS TIME MAGAZINE'S PERSON OF THE YEAR

Coming Next Month: Family Movie Night showing Overcomer sponsored by Sunday School. Volunteers needed for welcoming, concessions and clean up. Contact Tanya at 910.617.9409



Love God.
Love One Another.
Love the World.

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FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF SHALLOTTE

4486 Main Street
Shallotte, NC 28470

910.754.4048 fbcshallotte.org

Office Hours:

M-Th 9am—3pm; F 9am—1pm

Sunday School	9:45am
Morning Worship	11:00am
Evening Worship	6:00pm
Wednesday	6:00pm

365 Days of Scriptures Revealing God's Promises

- Dec-01 PROMISE #335 I am God and Father of all creation. Ephesians 4:6
- Dec-02 PROMISE #336 My family in heaven and on earth is named after Me. Ephesians 3:14-15
- Dec-03 PROMISE #337 I created you with My own hands. Psalm 119:73
- Dec-04 PROMISE #338 You are fearfully and wonderfully made. Psalm 139:14
- Dec-05 PROMISE #339 I am your God and you are the sheep of My pasture. Psalm 100:3
- Dec-06 PROMISE #340 As a shepherd carries a lamb, I have carried you close to My heart. Isaiah 40:11
- Dec-07 PROMISE #341 If your parents reject you, I will take you in. Psalm 27:10
- Dec-08 PROMISE #342 I am the perfect Father. Matthew 5:48
- Dec-09 PROMISE #343 I will not let you fall for I am watching over you day and night. Psalm 121:3
- Dec-10 PROMISE #344 My tender mercies never fail, for they are new every morning. Lamentations 3:22-23
- Dec-11 PROMISE #345 I lavish My great love on My children. 1 John 3:1
- Dec-12 PROMISE #346 I have made an everlasting covenant to only do good things for you. Jeremiah 32:40
- Dec-13 PROMISE #347 I will go before you and fight your battles. Deuteronomy 1:30
- Dec-14 PROMISE #348 I will keep you safe from trouble for I am your hiding place. Psalm 32:7
- Dec-15 PROMISE #349 I am your rock and your salvation, a fortress that cannot be shaken. Psalm 62:2
- Dec-16 PROMISE #350 You will have perfect peace if you keep focused on Me. Isaiah 26:3
- Dec-17 PROMISE #351 I am very close to those who have a broken heart. Psalm 34:18
- Dec-18 PROMISE #352 If you pray to Me in secret, I will reward you openly. Matthew 6:6
- Dec-19 PROMISE #353 I will provide what you need every day. Matthew 6:11
- Dec-20 PROMISE #354 I will seek after those who worship Me in spirit and truth. John 4:23
- Dec-21 PROMISE #355 I will strengthen your inner being by the power of My Spirit. Ephesians 3:16
- Dec-22 PROMISE #356 Cast your burdens on Me and I will look after you. Psalm 55:22
- Dec-23 PROMISE #357 Jesus died that you and I could be reconciled. 2 Corinthians 5:18-19
- Dec-24 PROMISE #358 Now is the day of salvation and the time to receive My favor. 2 Corinthians 6:2
- Dec-25 PROMISE #359 When I offered up My one and only Son, I gave you the best gift I could give. Romans 8:32
- Dec-26 PROMISE #360 Nothing in all creation will ever separate you from My love. Romans 8:35-39
- Dec-27 PROMISE #361 You are no longer a slave, for I have made you My child and My heir. Galatians 4:7
- Dec-28 PROMISE #362 My Son has made you to be a kingdom of priests to be with Me forever. Revelation 1:5-6
- Dec-29 PROMISE #363 When death is swallowed up, I will wipe away every tear from your face. Isaiah 25:8
- Dec-30 PROMISE #364 I will guide you to the very end, for I will be your God forever. Psalm 48:14
- Dec-31 PROMISE #365 Hold fast to the hope you confess, for I am faithful to keep My promises. Hebrews 10:23