

the Vision

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER | FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
OF SHALLOTTE | NOVEMBER 2020

Election 2020: Even if We Disagree, There's One Thing That Matters Most

Pastor Bob

It was the spring of 1985, and conservative Southern Baptists had turned the tables against liberalism and were steering back toward their historic belief in the inerrancy of the Bible and the priority of the Gospel. But it was not an easy course for Baptists to navigate. Friends took sides. Churches split. And Christians argued.

A friend of mine, Mark, and I were both students at Southwestern Seminary. One afternoon, as we discussed the issues and the people whose names were associated with different perspectives, we realized we were confronted with a different dilemma. A dilemma that everyone learns to confront and learns to handle, but which, for us, was new. And at the moment, it baffled us and left us somewhat dejected.

See, we had always looked to leaders to point us in the right direction, to answer our

questions and help solve our predicaments. But now we had a different problem. Mark said it before I did. "What do you do when people you respect, leaders you have trusted and followed, disagree on critical issues?" We just looked at each other and sighed.

And then that summer Dr. Charles Stanley was elected president of the Southern Baptist Convention. And our dilemma took center stage. Literally.

Stanley, renowned pastor and author, was among the strong leaders forging the conservative resurgence. But on the other side was Southwestern Seminary's president, Dr. Russell Dilday, himself an inerrantist and biblical expositor, who agreed completely with Stanley's theology but disagreed with the way the resurgence wanted to reshape the Southern Baptist Convention.

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Church Events

- **Nov 1st – Daylight Savings Time Ends (Set Your Clocks Back One Hour)**
- **Nov 8th – Youth Sunday**
- **Nov 15th – Operation Christmas Child Box Dedication**
- **Nov 21st – BBA Toy Store Golf Tournament**
- **Nov 25th – Office Closed; No Evening Worship Services or Activities**
- **Nov 22nd (9:30am) – First Kids Up Worship Experience**
- **Nov 29th (6pm) – Hanging of the Greens**
in-person and online

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Election 2020: Even if We Disagree, There's One Thing That Matters Most

Back then the new president of the SBC was invited to speak in the seminary chapel. Stanley's anticipated day in chapel would mean that he and Dilday would share the platform and the two of the most high-profile leaders in the SBC, who disagreed on key issues in a contentious debate that would forever shape Southern Baptist identity, would be seated together that day. And it would be Dilday's job to introduce Stanley. What would he say?

Usually chapel services were courteously attended with students evenly distributed across the auditorium. But on this day the chapel was packed—standing room only—not only because we wanted to hear Charles Stanley speak, but in anticipation of the conflict that might erupt with these two SBC leaders on the same platform. And with Dilday having the microphone first, we wondered what he would say. The news media were permitted to come in, and they quietly lined the side walls.

And the time came. Dilday came to the microphone to introduce the day's speaker. And that day I saw a Christian leader I respected demonstrate why he was a Christian leader I respected.

First, Dilday joked that this was a “regular day in chapel,” eliciting applause and laughter from the place stuffed with people. Then he introduced Stanley, openly acknowledging that they differed on issues related to the politics of the SBC, but that they wholeheartedly agreed on what mattered most—the gospel of Jesus Christ and the truthfulness of the Bible.

Fast forward to today, to the election, and to the different positions Christians take.

Just this week I have read blogs and articles by various Christian leaders who take very different sides for very different reasons. Theologian Wayne Grudem makes his case for Trump. Journalist David French decries Trump and claims Christians must vote for Biden. Author John Piper says Christians should not vote at all. Apologist Michael Brown disagrees with Piper and says all Christians should vote, and vote for Trump. Blogger Michael Gott just says, either way, Christians must vote.

So, in all of this political fog, it's hard to find a consensus. That's because in matters of conscience and personal responsibility, we are called to make personal decisions, based on the Bible. We will be held accountable for our decisions—and that includes how we vote.



ELECTION 2020

Your allegiance to Christ is your first concern, and that allegiance should be reflected in your politics. You and I will not be held accountable for how Grudem or French or Piper live their faith or how they vote. We will be held accountable for how we represent Christ.

By the time you read this, the next President of the United States will most likely have been decided, though maybe not publicly confirmed. Regardless of who ends up in the oval office, let's be sure we can say that we have been faithful to the gospel, to the Bible, and to Jesus Christ.

Then, it's what we do next that matters. Jesus said, “I give you a new command: Love one another. Just as I have loved you, you are also to love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another” (John 13:34-35). He didn't say, “if your candidate wins” or “if you agree on all the issues” or “if you are in the same political party” then you should “love one another.”

I have strong feelings about this election—as I do any election. And I have very strong feelings about the moral issues involved and, as an armchair history buff, about our nation's potential dissolution of the Founders' purposes and vision.

But I have an even bigger concern—and you should, too. We should be deeply concerned that we faithfully represent Christ no matter what happens in our nation.

I have said recently that I never had considered Jesus' words in John 13 to be prophetic. I do now. When He said, “By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another,” could He have had 2020 in mind? I think He did.

With Love in Christ,
Pastor Bob

Visit Pastor Bob's Blog:
BOBWEATHERS.NET



Boston Mission Initiative Update

Milestone just celebrated four years in September. In the past two months, they have seen God change eternity for so many people, restoring marriages and families and so much more.

God bringing transformation to MetroWest Boston:

- Nine people have professed Christ
- Six have followed through with baptism (3 more are scheduled)

- Eighteen first-time guests to their in-person gatherings
- Fifteen people that found them online have joined a community group
- Three couples living together have taken huge steps to do things God's way and participate in premarital counseling and get married

**The Boston Mission Initiative is a commitment from FBCS to support Milestone Church, a church plant in the greater Boston area, by praying, giving and going.*

Let's join them in prayer for the following:

- Church Planting – Kody Allen has asked Milestone to be his sending church to Gloucester, MA.
- Christmas – organizing plans for Christmas tree give away. Last year some received a free tree, who had never had one before.
- Communities – Natick, Wellesley, Framingham and online community.

Connection Groups

We are seeking to ensure that you are hearing from your CG leaders. We have asked them to make another contact to update contact information (if they haven't already). Be sure to check your spam folders for diverted emails. If you aren't sure who your CG leader is, or have questions/concerns, please contact our Coordinators Tim (804-852-2736) and Kathy Collins (804-873-3358).

Website Update

Check out our newly designed website at fbcsallotte.org. We have a fresh new look with simpler navigation and some updated pages!

Be sure to scroll to the bottom navigation and check out the Logo Store and do some Christmas shopping while you are there!

New To Our Family



Larry & Jill Thompson
joined Sep 27



Preston Caulder
joined Aug 30



Reagan Causey
joined Aug 30



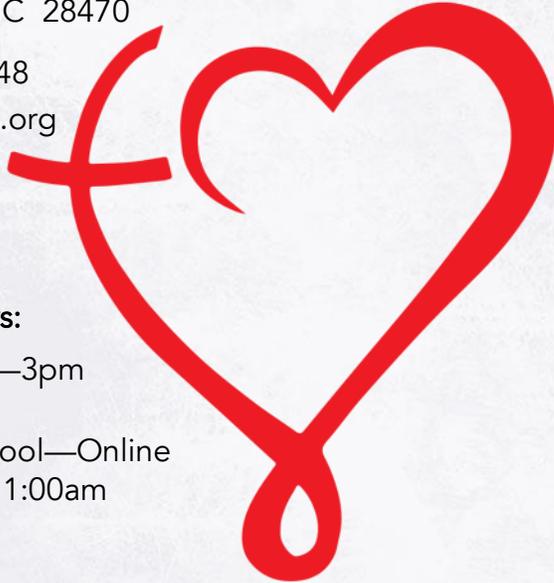
Annamarie Whichard
joined Aug 30

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF SHALLOTTE

LOVE GOD. LOVE ONE ANOTHER. LOVE THE WORLD.

4486 Main Street
Shallotte, NC 28470

910.754.4048
fbcshallotte.org



Office Hours:

M-Th 9am—3pm

Sunday School—Online
Worship—11:00am

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Shallotte, NC

Read the Bible Beginning to End Reading Plan

1-Year Plan. It is important to understand the fullness of God's message to the churches, and a great way of doing this is reading the Old and New Testaments simultaneously. This plan, which can be completed in one calendar year, does just that. Readings from both Testaments are included from the beginning and although each reading does not contain both Testaments, the two are read effectively.

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| <input type="checkbox"/> 11/1 Jeremiah 24-26; Titus 2 | <input type="checkbox"/> 11/13 Lamentations 1-2; Hebrews 10 | <input type="checkbox"/> 11/24 Ezekiel 22-23; 1 Peter 1 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 11/2 Jeremiah 27-29; Titus 3 | <input type="checkbox"/> 11/14 Lamentations 3-5 | <input type="checkbox"/> 11/25 Ezekiel 24-26; 1 Peter 2 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 11/3 Jeremiah 30-31; Philemon 1 | <input type="checkbox"/> 11/15 Ezekiel 1-2 | <input type="checkbox"/> 11/26 Ezekiel 27-29; 1 Peter 3 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 11/4 Jeremiah 32-33; Hebrews 1 | <input type="checkbox"/> 11/16 Ezekiel 3-4; Hebrews 11 | <input type="checkbox"/> 11/27 Ezekiel 30-32; 1 Peter 4 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 11/5 Jeremiah 34-36; Hebrews 2 | <input type="checkbox"/> 11/17 Ezekiel 5-7; Hebrews 12 | <input type="checkbox"/> 11/28 Ezekiel 33-34; 1 Peter 5 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 11/6 Jeremiah 37-39; Hebrews 3 | <input type="checkbox"/> 11/18 Ezekiel 8-10; Hebrews 13 | <input type="checkbox"/> 11/29 Ezekiel 35-36; 2 Peter 1 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 11/7 Jeremiah 40-42; Hebrews 4 | <input type="checkbox"/> 11/19 Ezekiel 11-13; James 1 | <input type="checkbox"/> 11/30 Ezekiel 37-39; 2 Peter 2 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 11/8 Jeremiah 43-45; Hebrews 5 | <input type="checkbox"/> 11/20 Ezekiel 14-15; James 2 | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 11/9 Jeremiah 46-47; Hebrews 6 | <input type="checkbox"/> 11/21 Ezekiel 16-17; James 3 | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 11/10 Jeremiah 48-49; Hebrews 7 | <input type="checkbox"/> 11/22 Ezekiel 18-19; James 4 | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 11/11 Jeremiah 50; Hebrews 8 | <input type="checkbox"/> 11/23 Ezekiel 20-21; James 5 | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 11/12 Jeremiah 51-52; Hebrews 9 | | |