



the VISION

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF
FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF SHALLOTTE | FEBRUARY 2022

for God
so loved the world
that He gave His
only
begotten
SON so
That whoever
believes
in Him shall
have everlasting
life.

John 3:16

Church Events

- Feb 6th at 11am—Baptism
- Feb 8th at 6:30pm—Men's
Ministry Meeting
RSVP at
fbcshallotte.org/men
- Feb 8th—9th—Weekend of
Encouragement Marriage
Conference
weekendofencouragement.com
- Feb 20th—Communion
- Feb 27th at 12:30pm—
D4 Leaders Meeting

The Mystery of Friendship, and How to Make It Last



Friendship is a mystery. Why do we click with some people, and not with others? Why do we sustain some lifelong connections, and neglect others?

For example, January 16, Closer Weekly interviewed actor Burt Ward and his wife Tracy about their non-profit organization geared toward rescuing large breed dogs. The conversation pivoted to Ward's most famous TV role as Dick Grayson, aka Robin, in the campy Batman TV series that aired from 1966-68. Veteran actor Adam West played Batman.

The reporter asked, "What was your first experience with Adam West?" Burt Ward answered, "He and I got along incredibly well. Within five minutes of meeting, the two of us were laughing so hard they had to tell us to quiet down. We just clicked. He was the funniest person I have ever met in my entire life."

He added that he and West remained friends until Adam West died in 2017.

"We just clicked"

It's odd, isn't it? Like Ward said, with some people, you just "click." It's hard to know why. Maybe it's personality traits, shared interests, or mutual perspectives on life, religion, or politics. But it is there. And the Bible explains it.

In the Greek language of the New Testament world, three words dominate any conversation about love. The first is eros, which refers to romantic love or erotic love. This word doesn't show up in the Bible, but it was in active use in the ancient world. And this is the word that motivates Valentine's Day.

Another is agape, which expresses God's unconditional love. That word was rarely used by Greeks and Romans, who never celebrated unconditional love. But then Christians adopted it and gave it a home in the vocabulary of the Christian community.

Brotherly love

And then there is phileo, the Greek word that reflects affection, friendship, and family relationships. It's probably the most commonly used word in the Greek NT that we translate with the English word "love." We often think of it as "brotherly love."

Agape and eros are very specific. Phileo is not. It undergirds the other two and applies in lots of ways. For instance, most romantic relationships that endure include friendship, and most unconditional love requires phileo to flourish (John 15:13).

It is, however, very human. Phileo is always used for love between people, and occasionally for the way God loves people

(John 16:27, James 2:23), but in the Bible it is never used to characterize a person's love toward God. In fact, Jesus used it to show Peter that his love for God should be more agape and less phileo (John 21:15-17).

Why bring this up now?

So, it's obvious that God has woven this thing called "friendship," into human nature.

Why do I bring this up now? For me, this strikes home in a personal way. On December 23, 2021, a dear friend of mine from my teenage years passed away after a brief, brave battle with cancer. He was a believer, so I am glad to know he is with the Lord, because that means I will see him again.

But even so, I had neglected our friendship in his final few months, not contacting him as regularly as I could have. And I was shocked to learn of his abrupt passing. Sadly, I thought I had more time, and that he and I would even grow old together (Okay. Older together).

So, reflect on friendship this February. And if you are one of those people who feels that you lack true friends, or a "best friend," or that people who call you their "friend" rarely actually call you, then the Bible has a few things to say to you, too.

Remember three things from the Bible about friendship:

Friendship is rare. Cultivate it.

Friendship is precious. The truth is that most of have a lot of acquaintances, but very few friends. Don't take them for granted.

And if you think that you lack close friends, no worries. You are in good company. As a man, Jesus had lots of admirers, twelve followers, but only three true friends. Peter, James, and John

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Less of Gathering – More of GOing

Early this year many of us received with a convicted heart the words Pastor Bob preached to us – it is “Less About Gathering and More About GOing”. In that same sermon message he asked when was the last time any one of us had gone to the mission field at Cardinal Pointe?

What about the mission field at River Pointe and all the new developments we see being created in south Brunswick County – for they too are our mission fields.

Our calling is to share the good news of the gospel, and to be the hands and feet of Jesus in these neighborhoods. Pastor Johnny Hunt recently noted – “God has put a passion in your heart to lead your church to reach non-believing neighbors with the gospel”.

First Baptist Church of Shallotte are we ready to GO to our neighbors?

On Saturday, February 26th @ 10:00 a.m. we will come

together at the church to begin anew our prayer walking as we GO to where our neighbors live. We will continue every Saturday thereafter at the same time. Prior to departing the church coffee and baked goods will be given out. As well we will orient new prayer-walkers and pray for our mission – then we will GO.

We need young families, empty nesters, and our wise seniors to come join us – simply God is calling YOU to join in this mission.

“Then I heard the voice of the Lord asking: Who should I send? Who will GO for us? I said: Here I am Send ME.”...
Isaiah 6:8

THE CHURCH HAS LEFT THE BUILDING

New To Our Family



Houston & Judy Howie
joined Nov 28



Rick & Mia Cooper
joined Nov 28



Ellis Watkins
joined Dec 12



Frank & Dori Pihoker
joined Jan 9



Noah Carpenter
joined Jan 9



Charles & Catherine White
joined Dec 5

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The Mystery of Friendship, and How to Make It Last

were His inner circle, His confidantes, and were always at His side in the most significant times (John 13:22-25).

True friendships are rare. Take time to cultivate those you have rather than regret those you don't have. Consider them a gift from God and treat them as such (Eccl. 4:9-10).

Friendship requires sacrifice. Expect it.

Remember David and his friendship with Jonathan? It is one of the best-known friendships in the Bible (1 Sam. 18-20).

And David's friendship with Jonathan exemplifies one of the reasons friendships can last a lifetime—self-sacrifice (John 15:13). Jonathan put his life and reputation on the line to proactively encourage David when David needed it the most, to fortify their friendship, and to encourage David that he was not alone even when he was alienated from everyone else (1 Sam. 20).

But what if your friend lets you down in your time of need? Jesus knows how you feel. When He needed them the most, Jesus' closest friends let Him down (Luke 22:39-40, 45-46).

So don't forget. Even the people we consider our closest friends can let us down, or even wound us deeply (Ps. 55:12-14). Don't let that be an indication of your value or worth, nor even the value of your friendship. If a friend lets you down, do your best to make room for

forgiveness and reconciliation.

If the friendship recovers, it will be stronger for it. And if not, focus on the friendships that outlast disappointment and heartache. The ones who stay put when you need them are the true friends (Prov. 17:17, 18:24).

Friendship takes work. Foster it.

Because friendships start when we "click" with someone, we can easily assume friendships continue without much effort. They don't. All relationships require some effort if we want them to continue and even thrive. Friendship included.

Strong relationships that continue are cultivated with time, encouragement, honesty, and proactive participation (1 Peter 4:8, 1 Thess. 5:11, Eph. 4:15). Life-long friendships do not happen by accident. They take work.

Is there someone you haven't reached out to in a while? Do it today. Drop a note, send a text, make a call. Maybe you haven't told them lately that you appreciate their friendship. Why not do that now? Never take it for granted.

After all, if you want to have friends, the best way to do that is to be a friend.

Start today. Because you are never guaranteed tomorrow.

With Love in Christ,

Pastor Bob



Missions Conferences

On Mission Together

Disciple-Making Conference

Tuesday, February 22 9 AM - 4 PM

4800 West Friendly Avenue, Greensboro, NC

Cost: \$12

Register: ncbaptist.org

Breakout Sessions: 10:30-11:30, 12:30-1:30, 1:45-2:45

2022 Baptist Missions Conference

relief FOR TODAY

hope FOR TOMORROW

Friday & Saturday, March 25-26, 2022

Calvary Baptist Church
134 S Peace Haven Rd.
Winston-Salem NC

Cost: \$20

Optional Friday supper: \$8

Preregistration is required.

Registration Deadline: March 18, 2022

baptistsonmission.org/events/missionsconference

or call 919-459-5596



D6 is a family discipleship ministry! We are jumping into a theological study learning the attributes of God together. As we learn about who God is, we pray families would grow in their knowledge of God and their relationship with Him together. We hope parents will grow in their confidence to disciple their children at home and live out the command given to us in Deuteronomy 6!

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
Closed Friday

Sunday School—9:45am
Worship—11:00am



Non-Profit Organization
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Shallotte, NC

52 Week Bible Reading Plan

	Gospels	Epistles	The Law	History	Psalms	Poetry	Prophecy
Week	Saturday	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
6	<input type="checkbox"/> Matt 14-16	<input type="checkbox"/> Rom 11-12	<input type="checkbox"/> Gen 20-23	<input type="checkbox"/> Judg 1-6	<input type="checkbox"/> Ps 15-17	<input type="checkbox"/> Job 11-12	<input type="checkbox"/> Isa 29-33
7	<input type="checkbox"/> Matt 17-19	<input type="checkbox"/> Rom 13-14	<input type="checkbox"/> Gen 24-27	<input type="checkbox"/> Judg 7-11	<input type="checkbox"/> Ps 18-20	<input type="checkbox"/> Job 13-14	<input type="checkbox"/> Isa 34-39
8	<input type="checkbox"/> Matt 20-22	<input type="checkbox"/> Rom 15-16	<input type="checkbox"/> Gen 28-31	<input type="checkbox"/> Judg 12-16	<input type="checkbox"/> Ps 21-23	<input type="checkbox"/> Job 15-16	<input type="checkbox"/> Isa 40-44
9	<input type="checkbox"/> Matt 23-25	<input type="checkbox"/> 1Cor 1-2	<input type="checkbox"/> Gen 32-35	<input type="checkbox"/> Judg 17-21	<input type="checkbox"/> Ps 24-26	<input type="checkbox"/> Job 17-18	<input type="checkbox"/> Isa 45-50