



# *the* **Vision**

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER | FIRST BAPTIST  
CHURCH OF SHALLOTTE | APRIL 2023

## **SUNDAY'S COMING**

### **PALM SUNDAY APRIL 2**

**11AM "Our Living Hope"**

Presented by Celebration Choir

**Pot Luck Lunch** Following Worship

Bring Your Favorite Sides  
and Desserts

### **EASTER APRIL 9**

**7AM SONrise Service**  
With Breakfast

**11AM Celebration Service**  
With First Kids Easter Program

### **Other Church Events**

- **Apr 10<sup>th</sup>—Office Closed**
- **Apr 11<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm—Men's Ministry Meeting**
- **Apr 16<sup>th</sup> at 4pm—VBS Volunteers Meeting**
- **Apr 16<sup>th</sup> at 6pm—Quarterly Ministry Meeting**
- **Apr 17<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm—Ladies' Ministry Meeting**
- **Apr 23<sup>rd</sup>—Baptism Sunday**
- **Apr 30<sup>th</sup>—Compassion Sunday**



# Who's Your One? How to Pray for a Gospel Conversation

I am excited to see names filling up our Who's Your One wall! I hope you've added a name or two. What better way to prepare for Easter than to remember those people in our lives who need Christ!

When you pass the wall, remember to pray for each One and to pray for one another as we seek to participate in gospel conversations.

Prayer is the foundation for all gospel conversations. This month and next month I want to take this space to give you some pointers for gospel conversations. So, we start this month with the most important part of a gospel conversation: Prayer!

## How to Pray for Your One

In Colossians 4, Paul solicits prayer from his friends in Colossae as he moves on to another field of ministry. His request gives us some insight into how we can pray for our friends and neighbors as we seek to have gospel conversations. Here's what Paul says:

"Devote yourselves to prayer; stay alert in it with thanksgiving. At the same time, pray also for us that God may open a door for us for the word, to speak the mystery of Christ, for which I am in chains, so that I may make it known as I should. Act wisely toward outsiders, making the most of the time. Let your speech always be gracious, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how you should answer each person" (Col. 4:2-6).

"Devote yourselves to prayer" is the only actual command in these verses, and "devote" refers to persistence. So, for Paul, persistent, unyielding prayer is the priority for sharing the gospel. We pray together for each One as long as it takes until each name on the wall trusts Christ.

## Four directives for prayer

Effective gospel conversations always start with prayer. Paul gives four directives to help us pray and prepare for a fruitful conversation with our Ones.

### 1. Pray for one another.

After Paul commands that the Christians devote themselves to prayer, he requests that they "pray also for" him and his colleagues who are sharing the gospel.

Lifting one another up in prayer is crucial. We are partners in God's mission and His kingdom. When we pray for one another, embrace that partnership, and we share in the joy and the privilege of seeing someone come to faith in Christ.

### 2. Pray for the opportunity.

Next Paul advises that they "stay alert in it with thanksgiving." And when they pray for Paul and his team, the core of their petition should be that "God may open a door to us for the word, to speak the mystery of Christ."

That is, pray with expectation and anticipation that God is softening the heart of your One. Assume God is at work.



Then, ask God to provide a gospel conversation. Maybe that makes you nervous. Don't be. God will be at work in that person's heart and will give you the words you need. So, if you are praying, expect God to answer that prayer. If we know anything, we know that it is always God's will that we share the gospel!

Here are four ways to keep an expectant attitude as you pray for your One:

- **Be alert.**

The phrase "stay alert" pictures someone wide awake, paying attention, and not distracted. Why? Because when you are alert, you are tuned into what God is doing, and you are looking for Him to provide an opportunity for a gospel conversation.

- **Be thankful.**

Always pray "with thanksgiving." Faith includes an attitude of thanksgiving because, in your praying, you assume God is at work. You are thanking Him in advance for the opportunity to share the gospel.

- **Be specific.**

Paul instructed his friends to pray that "God would open a door for us to speak the word." Ask God to open that door for you to have a gospel conversation. When you do that, you put your One's spiritual condition above your own comfort or convenience, and you foster your anticipation that God will answer that prayer. If you don't pray for it, you won't look for it.

- **Be ready.**

Prepare yourself to have a gospel conversation. Paul wanted a chance to "speak the mystery of Christ." He didn't ask for a way out, for an excuse not to share, or for someone else to do it. Nope. He asked that God would let him, personally, have a gospel conversation.

If you believe God will answer that prayer, be ready and willing. He will open that door!

### 3. Next, pray for yourself.

A Christian whose lifestyle is out of sync with God's will forfeits the chance to share the gospel. So Paul admonished the Colossians to "act wisely toward outsiders, making the most of the time."

Visit Pastor Bob's Blog:  
[BOBWEATHERS.NET](http://BOBWEATHERS.NET)





## .....Who's Your One? How to Pray for a Gospel Conversation continued

Paul's literal expression is "in wisdom be walking." Your "walk" is biblical terminology for your lifestyle—your choices, habits, and behaviors. Above all else, "wisdom" characterizes the life of the person God uses to share the gospel.

So, Paul says, "in wisdom be walking." Be exercising sound judgment. As never before, people are looking for holes in your lifestyle and reasons to doubt. Don't give it to them. First and foremost, you and I are disciples of Jesus, so make sure your lifestyle fits the gospel you claim to represent (Eph. 4:1). When the opportunity arises to have a gospel conversation, your lifestyle should never be a hinderance.

### 4. And last, pray for the words.

Paul requested prayer for him to make the gospel "known as I should." He wanted to be clear. He wasn't expecting to be perfect, but he also knew that each person is an individual and clarity matters.

So, to the Colossians Paul added, "Let your speech always be gracious, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how you should answer each person." Our goal is not to memorize rote presentations, but to engage people in gospel conversations. I will talk more about it in May's newsletter, but for now, remember to ask God to give you the right words at the right time for each person you share with.

For your gospel conversations, pray this:

- That you would be

**gracious.** Ask God to help you be loving and kind, never argumentative, and generous with your time and attention.

- That your words would be specific and precise, as if "seasoned with salt."
- And when objections arise, that you would know how to "answer each person."

So pray for your One, pray for yourself that God would open the door for a gospel conversation, and pray for one another.

And together we will see God change lives! One at a time.

In His Love,

Pastor Bob

## Progress to New Associate Pastor

- ☒ With prayer and input from ministry sources, Pastor Bob drafts a new job description
- ☒ The Personnel Committee and the Deacons review the job description
- ☒ The Personnel Committee reviews a second draft of the job description
- ☒ The church adopts the job description in the April Quarterly Ministry Meeting
- ☐ The Nominating Committee activates a Search Committee in a called business conference
- ☐ The Search Committee begins the process of searching for a new Associate Pastor
- ☐ The Search Committee brings a candidate to the church in a called business conference
- ☐ The new Associate Pastor begins service at FBCS!

## Deacon of the Week



GARY GALLOWAY

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Apr 2<sup>nd</sup>-8<sup>th</sup>



NICK HUGH

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Apr 9<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup>



KELLY HOLDEN

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Apr 16<sup>th</sup>-22<sup>nd</sup>



DICKY CARICO

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Apr 23<sup>rd</sup>-29<sup>th</sup>

## Compassion Sunday, April 30

*"Dear children, let us not love with words or speech but with actions and in truth."*  
— 1 John 3:18

On April 30, First Baptist Church of Shallotte will again join churches across the country for Compassion Sunday - a day set apart to change the future for children living in poverty around the world.

During our worship service, I will take a few minutes to share our family's personal story of sponsoring two children -- Christina and Ilukol --and invite all of us to consider how we might stand up for "the least of these."

You may know that the world is experiencing the most significant food crisis since World War II. This crisis is due to lasting impacts of the pandemic, ongoing conflict, supply chain issues and severe drought. Sadly, children are always disproportionately impacted by crises like this one. Those served by Compassion are typically living on \$1.90 a day or less.

Through child sponsorship, we can share the love of Jesus with a precious child and help them realize a future where they can thrive. I look forward to the opportunity to share more with you on April 30!

- Amy Myers



# FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF SHALLOTTE

LOVE GOD. LOVE ONE ANOTHER. LOVE THE WORLD.

4486 Main Street  
Shallotte, NC 28470

910.754.4048 Y  
fbcs hallotte.org

## Office Hours:

M-Th 9am—3pm

Closed Friday

Sunday School—9:45am

Worship—11:00am



## THE WORD OF GOD IN A YEAR

*O send out thy light and thy truth! let them lead me.*

### READ WITH FAMILY

Leviticus 4	Psalms 1–2
Leviticus 5	Psalms 3–4
Leviticus 6	Psalms 5–6
Leviticus 7	Psalms 7–8
Leviticus 8	Psalms 9
Leviticus 9	Psalms 10
Leviticus 10	Psalms 11–12
Leviticus 11–12	Psalms 13–14
Leviticus 13	Psalms 15–16
Leviticus 14	Psalms 17
Leviticus 15	Psalms 18
Leviticus 16	Psalms 19
Leviticus 17	Psalms 20–21
Leviticus 18	Psalms 22
Leviticus 19	Psalms 23–24

### DAY

1st
2nd
3rd
4th
5th
6th
7th
8th
9th
10th
11th
12th
13th
14th
15th

### READ IN SECRET

Proverbs 19	Colossians 2
Proverbs 20	Colossians 3
Proverbs 21	Colossians 4
Proverbs 22	1 Thessalonians 1
Proverbs 23	1 Thessalonians 2
Proverbs 24	1 Thessalonians 3
Proverbs 25	1 Thessalonians 4
Proverbs 26	1 Thessalonians 5
Proverbs 27	2 Thessalonians 1
Proverbs 28	2 Thessalonians 2
Proverbs 29	2 Thessalonians 3
Proverbs 30	1 Timothy 1
Proverbs 31	1 Timothy 2
Ecclesiastes 1	1 Timothy 3
Ecclesiastes 2	1 Timothy 4

### READ WITH FAMILY

Leviticus 20	Psalms 25
Leviticus 21	Psalms 26–27
Leviticus 22	Psalms 28–29
Leviticus 23	Psalms 30
Leviticus 24	Psalms 31
Leviticus 25	Psalms 32
Leviticus 26	Psalms 33
Leviticus 27	Psalms 34
Numbers 1	Psalms 35
Numbers 2	Psalms 36
Numbers 3	Psalms 37
Numbers 4	Psalms 38
Numbers 5	Psalms 39
Numbers 6	Psalms 40–41
Numbers 7	Psalms 42–43

### DAY

16th
17th
18th
19th
20th
21st
22nd
23rd
24th
25th
26th
27th
28th
29th
30th

### READ IN SECRET

Ecclesiastes 3	1 Timothy 5
Ecclesiastes 4	1 Timothy 6
Ecclesiastes 5	2 Timothy 1
Ecclesiastes 6	2 Timothy 2
Ecclesiastes 7	2 Timothy 3
Ecclesiastes 8	2 Timothy 4
Ecclesiastes 9	Titus 1
Ecclesiastes 10	Titus 2
Ecclesiastes 11	Titus 3
Ecclesiastes 12	Philemon
Song of Solomon 1	Hebrews 1
Song of Solomon 2	Hebrews 2
Song of Solomon 3	Hebrews 3
Song of Solomon 4	Hebrews 4
Song of Solomon 5	Hebrews 5