

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF SHALLOTTE JULY 2023

# FREEDOM OF SPEECH

Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances.

The First Amendment of the Constitution guarantees freedom of speech. The Founders intentionally included it alongside freedom of conscience (religion) and the freedom of the people to hold the government accountable (the press, assembly, and petition).

The survival of our Republic depends on these rights. We don't have to agree with one another, but we need to listen to one another and, together, seek the truth. And the government doesn't dictate what we believe.

#### Freedom of Speech Under Assault

Historically colleges and universities have upheld this precious value. In higher education, free speech is necessary to protect the free expression of ideas. In the past, students have been encouraged to hear differing sides of issues as they were taught to pursue the truth or the best course of action.

But no more. Freedom of speech is under assault on campuses across the nation. Examples abound. Here's just one.

#### The Silencing of Judge Duncan

In early March, Stanford University's Federalist Society (CA) invited Judge Stuart Kyle Duncan of the US Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit to speak on campus. It gave students the opportunity to engage with one of the highest-ranking judicial officers in the country, and to connect with an influential jurist.

But Duncan is a conservative, so left-wing students would have none of it.

Students shouted down Judge Duncan and refused to let him speak. He tried to calmly continue. But the more he tried to speak, the more disruptive the students became.

Tirien Steinbach, the Associate Dean for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion, stepped in as if she was going to mediate the situation and calm the crowd. Instead, she sided with the students, interrupting Judge Duncan when he tried to talk to her. She claimed that if having free speech meant that he could talk about his positions, then it wasn't worth it.

Let that sink in: A Dean at the Law School of a major American university would rather stifle conservative speakers than advocate for freedom of speech.

#### Free Speech thrives with Christianity

But there's good news. Some universities still grasp the value of free speech.

### **Church Events**

- July 4<sup>th</sup> Office Closed
- July 4<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup>- Free Basketball Camp
- July 5<sup>th</sup> No Services/ Activities at Church
- July 9<sup>th</sup> Baptism & Quarterly Ministry Meeting
- July 11<sup>th</sup>– Men's Ministry Meeting Speaker Nick Hugh
- July 16<sup>th</sup> Deacon Nominations

Tuesday Homestyle Foods Bible Study and Ladies Ministry Meetings will resume in September

Thank you all for making VBS a huge success!

### FREEDOM OF SPEECH continued

**Grand Canyon University, a Christian College in** Arizona, is exploding in growth and attributes this growth to its commitment to freedom of speech for all students, faculty, and visitors.

Enrollment at the university has tripled in the last decade and has especially mushroomed since 2020 because, GCU President Brian Mueller says, they are committed to teaching and not indoctrination.

Their commitment to free speech extends to everyone on campus. "Not everybody that comes here has the same biblical belief that we teach here, but they're free to be here, and they're free to share their worldview in the classroom and outside the classroom," he said. "We are very serious about honoring free speech."

#### Why It Matters to Christians

Christianity thrives in an environment of free speech. That's why Christians are typically silenced by totalitarian governments and left-wing ideologues who deny free speech.

Here are four reasons that every American should protect free speech, and why it especially matters to Christians:

#### Four reasons everyone should protect free speech:

#### • Freedom of speech values all citizens equally.

Not every idea is of equal value, but every citizen should be. So when the Constitution protects free speech, the law is acknowledging that all people are "created equal."

The right to speak freely and share ideas reflects the fundamental truth that all people have a Creator. While our status in life might be different, we should all be heard. Unlike totalitarian regimes, the American system of government guarantees that all citizens matter and everyone should have a voice.

That's why it is so important that institutions of the State permit people to speak up and speak out. When the State squashes certain ideas that do not follow the narrative that the State wants to promote, it devalues the citizens themselves.

### • Freedom of speech protects the citizens from oppression.

So, along with that, a government institution that squelches free speech is also fortifying its own narrative and squelching the truth. That is a key indicator that totalitarianism is on the rise.

Free speech gives citizens the right to cry foul when the government tries to override the vote of citizens, the will of the populace, or the best interests of the people. Free speech protects freedom. Stifling the citizens enforces oppression.

#### • Freedom of speech fosters the pursuit of truth.

Colleges and universities should be places where students can engage differing viewpoints. In the past, that has been the case, but today's universities are trying to protect students from anything that might challenge their preconceptions or left-wing ideologies.

Today students are shielded from challenges to their "truth." They are not taught to compare ideas and to pursue the truth, so they also disrespect anyone who disagrees with their preconceived "truth." Students are taught to attack people rather than challenge or debate ideas.

That's not education. It's indoctrination. And freedom of speech will die on those college campuses.

#### Freedom of speech cultivates sound reasoning.

Along with that, free speech obligates us to think. It cultivates



sound reasoning. And Christianity flourishes in that context.

The Book of Acts reports the Apostle Paul traveling from city to city advancing the Gospel. His evangelism is described both as preaching and as "reasoning" with his listeners (see Acts 17:2, 17:17, 18:4).

Our Founders knew that God had provided certain universal laws, including the laws of logic and reason. And they wanted sound reasoning to flourish. Christian ideas thrive in a context where people can talk and reason about the truth.

But when free speech is muzzled, so is sound reasoning. The loudest voices will prevail because other ideas are silenced. When free speech is silenced in America, the environment is ripe for persecution of any ideas that do not fit the government's narrative.

And the first target is always biblical truth.

#### But that's not all

But that doesn't mean anything goes. The free expression of ideas assumes that all citizens respect one another. Remember, we do not have to equally value every idea. But we do need to value every person.

And we must take responsibility not only for what we say but also for how we say it. Freedom of speech does not include the freedom to provoke violence, demean other people, or foster cruelty and immorality.

Christians value freedom of speech just as our Founders did. But we need to remember that we are accountable to our Creator for not only sustaining free speech but also for using it wisely.

Even so, the direction our nation is headed, our freedom of speech may not last much longer. Let's be sure we use it wisely while we can.

With Love in Christ,

Pastor Bob





9:30 am—12:00pm, Registration at 9am Kids Grades 1-6; Water & Snacks Provided

> July 4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> Ocean Isle Beach Park \_\_\_6483 Old Georgetown Rd SW, OIB

July 6<sup>th</sup> - Shallotte District Park

Camp provided by the youth of "Deep Impact" and their leaders. Co-Sponsored by:



River of Life Baptist Church riveroflifebc.com



First Baptist Church of Shallotte fbcshallotte.org

#### Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul and with all your strength. These words that I am giving you today.

to be in your

your when

when

with all your strength. that I am giving you today are heart. Repeat them to children. Talk about them you sit in your house and you walk along the road,

## Wednesday D6 Summer Fun

5:30<sub>pm</sub> Meal 6:15<sub>pm</sub> Bible Time

6:30<sub>pm</sub> Activities

Kids & Parents come and join us for summer fun!

Preschool to 4th grade All will meet together in the Worship Center

- when you lie down and when you get up. Deuteronomy 6: 5-7
  - $\partial$  7/12 Pizza and Blowups
  - ∂ 7/19 Bring Your Meal and Obstacle Course
  - ∂ 7/26 Pizza and Tie-dye T-shirts
- 8/2 Bring Your Meal and Water Games
- 8/9 Cookout and Outdoor games



Parents are welcome to stay with their kids, hang out in the worship center or join, "Let's Talk About It: Biblical Conversations About Today's Topics" with Pastor Bob.



You bring the topics—and let's talk! We'll look at what the Bible says and how to apply the Bible to issues we face today. For example, do you want to talk about A specific passage of scripture? A theme in the Bible? A theological problem? A topic Christians are talking about online? A topic in the news? A topic in the culture? A church topic? Or something else?

So join us. Bring your Bible and bring your topics. And let's talk about it! Submit your topics at fbcshallotte.org/talk

# **Deacon Nominations**

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Miller Caison

Ian Carico

Eddie Carroll

Clifton Caulder

Thomas Craig II

Justin Cutrell

**Bobby Davis** 

Graham Davis

Jimmy Elmore

Donald Evans

Travis Fassnacht

Dewayne Etheridge

Wes Causey

Walter Cox

Jackson Canady

This is a list of the men eligible for nomination of deacon. Deacon nominations will be on July 16<sup>th</sup>, following the morning worship service. Members may nominate up to four men to serve as deacons. Please review what the Bible says about deacons, pray and come prepared!

- John Adriani 0
- 0 Michael Alderson
- 0 Darrell Anderson
- Wade Andrews 0
- 0 Dell Anglin
- Ο Tim Artz
- 0 Dennis Baker
- 0 Greg Ballard
- Ο Ed Barrett
- 0 Bradley Bellamy
- Ο Morgan Bellamy
- 0 Larry Blanton
- 0 Ian Buchanan
- 0 Ricky Buffkin
- 0 Bradley Caison

- 0 Henry Gales 0 Mark Giordano
  - 0 Joey Godley
    - 0 Derrick Green
  - Ο Larry Harris
    - 0 Justin Hayes
    - 0 Anthony Hewett
    - Greg Hewett Ο Roy Hewett

0

- 0 Ryan Hill
- Jeff Hopkins Ο
- 0 Norman Horne
- Houston Howie 0
- 0 Earl Hughes
- William Hughes Ο

- Todd Jackson
- 0 Nick Jones

0

- 0 Wes Jones
- 0 Billy Long
- 0 David Long
- Ο **Richard Masters**
- Ο Miguel Moreno
- 0 Aaron Munching
- 0 Jace Myers
- Ο Frank Pihoker
- Lonnie Pittman Ο
- 0 Ronald Powell
- 0 TomPozzo
- 0 Kevin Pressley
- 0 Daniel Richardson

- David Robinson 0
- 0 Devin Sellers
- 0 Drew Sellers
- 0 Christopher Smith
- **Ricky Smith** 0
- Ο Chuck Spangler
- 0 Ed Strother
- 0 Bill Suttles
- Ο Pete Thompson
- Ο David Ward
- Doug Ward Sr. 0
- 0 Bo Watkins
- 0 James White
- 0 Jay Williams
- Joseph Zizwarek Ο







# É Barbara Meadows oined June 11



Kich Vanawan Joined May 28

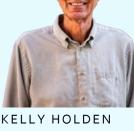
# **Our Family**

## Deacon of the Week



NICK HUGH (910) 398-1962 nvoh@aol.com

Jul  $2^{nd}$ - $8^{th}$ 



(910) 231-6053 seekellrun@atmc.net

Jul  $9^{\text{th}}$ -15<sup>th</sup>

Jul  $16^{\text{th}}-22^{\text{nd}}$ 

DICKY CARICO

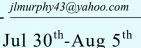
auntieanne1820@atmc.net

(336) 514-5379



TOMMY CARPENTER (910) 200-5091 carpente2001@yahoo.com

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



JIM MURPHY

(910) 755-6568

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LOVE GOD. LOVE ONE ANOTHER. LOVE THE WORLD.

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910.754.4048 Ÿ fbcshallotte.org

Office Hours: M-Th 9am—3pm Closed Friday

Sunday School—9:45am Worship—11:00am Non-Profit Organization U.S. Postage Paid Permit No. 318 Shallotte, NC

# THE WORD OF GOD IN A YEAR

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

READ WITH FAMILY		DAY	READ IN SECRET		READ WITH FAMILY		DAY	READ IN SECRET	
Joshua 3	Psalms 126–128	1st	Isaiah 63	Matthew 11	Joshua 24	Acts 4	17th	Jeremiah	Matthew 2
Joshua 4	Psalms 129–131	2nd	Isaiah 64	Matthew 12	Judges 1	Acts 5	18th	Jeremiah	Matthew 2
Joshua 5–6:5	Psalms 132–134	3rd	Isaiah 65	Matthew 13	Judges 2	Acts 6	19th	Jeremiah	Mark 1
Joshua 6:6ff	Psalms 135–136		Isaiah 66	Matthew 14	Judges 3	Acts 7	20th	Jeremiah	Mark 2
Joshua 7	Psalms 137–138	5th	Jeremiah	Matthew 15	Judges 4	Acts 8	21st	Jeremiah	Mark 3
Joshua 8	Psalm 139	6th	Jeremiah	Matthew 16	Judges 5	Acts 9	22nd	Jeremiah	Mark 4
Joshua 9	Psalms 14 0–141	7th	Jeremiah	Matthew 17	Judges 6	Acts 10	23rd	Jeremiah	Mark 5
Joshua 10	Psalms 142–143	8th	Jeremiah	Matthew 18	Judges 7	Acts 11	24th	Jeremiah	Mark 6
Jo shua 11	Psalm 144	9th	Jeremiah	Matthew 19	Judges 8	Acts 12	25th	Jeremiah	Mark 7
Joshua 12–13	Psalm 145	10th	Jeremiah	Matthew 20	Judges 9	Acts 13	26th	Jeremiah	Mark 8
Joshua 14–15	Psalms 146–147	11th	Jeremiah	Matthew 2	Judges 10-11:11	Acts 14	27th	Jeremiah	Mark 9
Joshua 16–17	Psalm 148	12 th	Jeremiah	Matthew 2	Judges 11:12	Acts 15	28th	Jeremiah	Mark 10
Joshua 18–19	Psalms 149–150	13th	Jeremiah	Matthew 2	Judges 12	Acts 16	29th	Jeremiah	Mark 11
Joshua 20–21	Acts 1	14th	Jeremiah	Matthew 2	Judges 13	Acts 17	30th	Jeremiah	Mark 12
Joshua 22	Acts 2	15th	Jeremiah	Matthew 2	Judges 14	Acts 18	31st	Jeremiah	Mark 13
Joshup 22	Arte 2	16 #	Ioromiah	Matthow 2					