

the VISION

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER | FIRST BAPTIST
CHURCH OF SHALLOTTE | FEBRUARY 2024

The Comeback of the Traditional Family and What It Means for Us

Recent studies show that Americans are once again embracing the traditional family as the best way to raise healthy kids, meet our basic needs for relationships, and to be productive citizens.

In an article called “The Resurgence of the Two-Parent Family,” the Institute for Family studies affirms that “traditional two-parent families” are on the rise after a long decline. That means that children living with two parents in the home is also on the rise. And of those two-parent homes, 60% are living with parents who are married. That’s good news.

On the other hand, aside from using the term “traditional,” the study nowhere defines who these two parents should be. Do they mean that those two parents should be a man and a woman, or will two men do just fine? Or two women? As far as I can tell, they never say.

We are officially confused

This ambiguity is understandable. In our culture, the idea that “married couples”

may not necessarily be a man and a woman has gone from being a soft ideology to a hardened truth. And with the 2022 passage of the “Respect for Marriage Act” (RMA) it’s the law.

The RMA codified the Supreme Court’s 2015 ruling in Obergefell v. Hodges and, in short, now requires same-sex marriages to be legally recognized in every state. The RMA also “repeals and replaces provisions that define, for purposes of federal law, marriage as between a man and a woman.”

The impact of this cannot be overstated. Now, at least theoretically, a legal marriage can be between any adults who say that they “love” each other. For us, that means two things. First, it means that when you have a conversation with someone about “marriage,” they may not always mean what you mean by that word.

And second, it means that, as a result of the RMA, standing for the truth, for biblical marriage, and for healthy families will run contrary to what our

Church Events

- **Feb 12th @ 6:30p—Ladies’ Ministry Meeting**
Collecting Donations of Diapers & Wipes for Samara’s Village
- **Feb 13th @ 6:30p—Men’s Ministry Meeting**
Speaker: Rob Michel
- **Feb 14th @ 6pm—Valentine Banquet Fundraiser**
- **Feb 16th-17th—Weekend of Encouragement Marriage Conference**

Coming Soon:
- **Mar 2nd—10a-12p Children’s Safety & Security Training**
w/ Cheryl Markland (BSC) RSVP at fbcshalotte.org/training
- **Mar 9th 8-10a—Cars & Coffee**

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culture is taught to practice.

But that's what we do. As a church, we stand for God's design for marriage and family.

Our role in culture

The passage of the RMA, and the shifting condition of our culture, was a primary motivation for us to focus on discipling children and families together at FBCS. In addition, we want to foster biblical families who, in turn, serve as an example to our culture of the strength and health of a family that seeks to serve Christ and influence the culture in positive ways.

Our defense of the traditional, biblical family is more significant than ever. But it is also more difficult than ever.

Even so, it's a fact. Biblical teaching about love, marriage, and family is always better for culture and better for families. Remember these four biblical truths:

1. God created marriage and family (Gen. 2:18, Matt. 19:1-12).

We did not invent marriage and family. God did. The family is the primary institution of humanity, necessary to thrive and to provide purpose and identity for all people.

When we ignore or reject God's design for marriage—of a husband who is a biological male and a wife who is a biological female—we not only disavow what it takes to have a healthy family, we also erode the foundations of culture itself.

God created marriage and the family first before any other institution. Before law, before government, before education, and, yes, even before the Church. No institution is more essential for humanity to thrive.

2. God uses families to show grace and love and to restore the broken (Ps. 68:6).

Following the fall of humanity into sin, God did not dissolve the institution of the family. Instead, He provides grace and restoration within families, and He even uses the family structure for that purpose.

Adoption, single-parenting, blended families, and grandparents raising their grandkids are all examples of how God can use His original design for families to bring about restoration and show His grace.

However, he does not bless intentional efforts to thwart His design for the family and for marriage. Same-sex unions and cohabitation are two examples of couples who are not honoring God's design for marriage because they are refusing God's purpose.



3. God requires Christians to honor marriage (Heb. 13:4).

Marriage within the created order should be honored, fostered, and cultivated. Christians should never do anything to undercut God's design for marriage and family, or to interfere in someone else's marriage.

4. God calls Christian families to disciple the next generation (Deut. 6:4-9).

Boys and girls best realize God's design for them as men and women when they are raised in homes that teach biblical values. And the church should cultivate that environment.

So, we prioritize discipling our families and our children. Through the Gospel Project, D6, and now Trail Life, and a host of other ways, we want children and families to know that we are doing our best to foster healthy, biblical marriages and families at FBCS.

And you and I should do our part to cultivate God's design for families and for the boys and girls who will be the next generation of men and women in our culture.

With Love in Christ,

Pastor Bob



February Next-Gen Ministry Update

Valentine's Day is a great opportunity to express your affection for your loved ones. This year it is also an opportunity to love on our students! On Feb 14th, there will be a Valentine's Day Banquet put on by the students raising funds for summer camp. The banquet will consist of a spaghetti dinner with dessert, with our prospective campers serving food and filling drinks when they aren't up on stage performing. It will be a night of good food, fun, and laughs! Our students have the opportunity to attend CentriKid (2nd-6th) while our older students (6th-12th) are going to CentriFuge. These camps provide a mountain-top experience for our students, and provide a conducive environment to draw close to God surrounded by other students their age. But trips cost

money, so we fundraise! Be sure to catch a student selling tickets on a Sunday morning or Wednesday night to purchase your seat at the banquet. Tickets will also be sold the at the door.

Along with our student fundraisers, our new Cars & Coffee – Shallotte will kick off March 9th, and run all year on the 2nd Saturday of the month. This is a great opportunity to use a passion for cars to reach other enthusiasts for Christ. This new ministry fits in nicely with a future student fundraiser: a car show this Spring. Be on the lookout for more information!

FBCS Youth are continuing through our "Foundations" series on Wednesdays, covering essential topics such as "Who is God?", "What is Sin?", and "Why is the Resurrection Im-

portant?" These topics we often assume or take for granted in church, today's generation often lacks the foundation that we often assume and rely on in our Bible teaching. My goal is to break down these assumed topics and provide clear understanding and a firm foundation for our youth to build their faith upon.

This month our FBCS Kids in D6 are learning about the spiritual discipline of evangelism. Their memory verse is Romans 10:14, "How then will they call on him in whom they have not believed? And how are they to hear without someone preaching?"

On Wednesdays, Fusion is continuing their study in the Gospel Foundations series, a one-year plan that goes from Genesis to Revelation.

That is what's going on this month with our D6, Fusion and Youth groups! Join me in praying for our next-gen ministries and their leaders, encouraging our students, and helping campers fundraise!

In Christ's love,

Pastor Kevin

Bags of Hope

Catherine White

At our January 14th Quarterly Ministry Meeting, I accepted leadership for the Bags of Hope Ministry that was started and has been led by Priscilla Evans. I know that moving forward with this ministry I (figuratively, not literally) have some very large shoes to fill. Before I go further, let me first thank Priscilla for her faithful service and heartfelt insight into the needs within our community!

Going forward, I have some ideas to involve more of our congregation in this ministry. For instance, Pastor Kevin and I are talking about ways the youth ministry may participate in Bags of Hope. I am also asking that, if you have a heart for feeding the bodies and also the souls in need in our community, you would come alongside me in prayer and service to help with this much needed ministry within our

community. All ideas are welcomed and encouraged to build this ministry in our future.

The Bags of Hope helps provide food for many of the families in need in our community. In particular, the aging population has significant needs, and these needs are only growing, many of whom live on limited incomes and are struggling to make ends meet. In addition, grandparents and even great grandparents within our community are raising another generation of children. Due to family tragedies and circumstances out of their control, many of these seniors have faithfully stepped back into the role of caretaker for their younger family members. Some are struggling financially to meet even the basic needs of their families.

If you are like me, no matter your source of income, lately you have suffered from "sticker shock."

Rising prices compound the food insecurity that is a very real problem within our community. The church receives requests on an ever-increasing basis from people needing food assistance.

Having said all that, I am asking you to pray about this need and consider donating to the Bags of Hope fund so that we can continue and even expand this much needed ministry.

Visit fbcsshallotte.org/hope to give, designate Bags of Hope on an envelope or in the memo line of a check.

Deacon of the Week



JACE MYERS

(910) 603-3501

jace_myers@hotmail.com

Feb 4th – Feb 10th



MARK VARNAM

(910) 842-3076

[markmonicaandgirls\[at\]mc.net](mailto:markmonicaandgirls[at]mc.net)

Feb 11th – Feb 17th



JEFF HOPKINS

(859) 358-4224

abney358655@gmail.com

Feb 18th – Feb 24th



MICHAEL NORTON

(910) 367-6869

[compasspointe\[at\]atmc.net](mailto:compasspointe[at]atmc.net)

Feb 25th – Mar 2nd

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



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Bible Reading Plan

With Daily Proverbs

2/1/2024	<input type="checkbox"/> Lev 11-14; Pro 1	2/16/2024	<input type="checkbox"/> Num 33-36; Pro 16
2/2/2024	<input type="checkbox"/> Lev 15-17; Pro 2	2/17/2024	<input type="checkbox"/> Deut 1-3; Pro 17
2/3/2024	<input type="checkbox"/> Lev 18-20; Pro 3	2/18/2024	<input type="checkbox"/> Deut 4-6; Pro 18
2/4/2024	<input type="checkbox"/> Lev 21-24; Pro 4	2/19/2024	<input type="checkbox"/> Deut 7-9; Pro 19
2/5/2024	<input type="checkbox"/> Lev 25-27; Pro 5	2/20/2024	<input type="checkbox"/> Deut 10-13; Pro 20
2/6/2024	<input type="checkbox"/> Num 1-3; Pro 6	2/21/2024	<input type="checkbox"/> Deut 14-16; Pro 21
2/7/2024	<input type="checkbox"/> Num 4-6; Pro 7	2/22/2024	<input type="checkbox"/> Deut 17-19; Pro 22
2/8/2024	<input type="checkbox"/> Num 7-10; Pro 8	2/23/2024	<input type="checkbox"/> Deut 20-22; Pro 23
2/9/2024	<input type="checkbox"/> Num 11-13; Pro 9	2/24/2024	<input type="checkbox"/> Deut 23-26; Pro 24
2/10/2024	<input type="checkbox"/> Num 14-16; Pro 10	2/25/2024	<input type="checkbox"/> Deut 27-29; Pro 25
2/11/2024	<input type="checkbox"/> Num 17-19; Pro 11	2/26/2024	<input type="checkbox"/> Deut 30-32; Pro 26
2/12/2024	<input type="checkbox"/> Num 20-23; Pro 12	2/27/2024	<input type="checkbox"/> Deut 33-34; Josh 1; Pro 27
2/13/2024	<input type="checkbox"/> Num 24-26; Pro 13	2/28/2024	<input type="checkbox"/> Josh 2-5; Pro 28
2/14/2024	<input type="checkbox"/> Num 27-29; Pro 14	2/29/2024	<input type="checkbox"/> Josh 6-8; Pro 29
2/15/2024	<input type="checkbox"/> Num 30-32; Pro 15		