

WE LOVE YOU!

the VISION

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER | FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF SHALLOTTE | MAY 2024

HAPPY Mother's DAY

SHE OPENS HER MOUTH WITH WISDOM, AND THE TEACHING OF KINDNESS IS ON HER TONGUE.

PROVERBS 31:26

Grad Sunday is June 2 at 11am

Sign Up Your Grads Before
May 29, 2024

fbcshallotte.org/grad-sunday



Church Events

- May 8th—New Disciplelife Classes Begin
fbcshallotte.org/wed-discipleship
- May 11th—Car Show/ Boston Butt Fundraiser
fbcshallotte.org/car-show
- May 13th @ 6:30-8:30p—Ladies' Ministry Meeting
- May 14th @ 6:30-8:30p—Men's Ministry Meeting
Speaker Miquel Ramos
- May 16th @ 10a—Bags of Hope Packing
Volunteers Needed
- May 18th @ 10:30a—Bags of Hope Distribution
Volunteers Needed

Just One Generation Away

I have said it many times from the pulpit: We are always just one generation away from losing the church.

But now we are closer than we ever imagined.

Recent research and the decline of belief

For decades Christian parents have taken for granted that raising their children in church and exposing them to the faith was enough. They believed that their children would follow Christ and adopt Christian values.

But surveys consistently show that once children grow up and depart from the protective influence of the church, 70% will abandon their childhood beliefs. Sometimes they return, but often they abandon those original beliefs and adopt culturally friendly ideologies.

And it's getting worse. In February a prominent Christian researcher warned that "we are on the precipice of Christian invisibility in this nation," following a new study that shows *preteens* are rejecting beliefs associated with a biblical worldview.

That's right, preteens. In other words, the slide away from the Christian faith is happening at increasingly younger ages.

Arizona Christian University's report

Each year the Cultural Research Center of Arizona Christian University (ACU) studies the condition of the Christian worldview in American. In their 2024 research, the ACU contrasted the beliefs of preteens with those of their parents, children's pastors, and of teenagers.

The results showed a consistent decline in a biblical worldview among preteens and echoed by their parents and even their pastors. Basic Christian beliefs, such as the deity of Christ and the need to confess sin in order to be saved, are no longer affirmed by the majority of preteens.

What causes a decline in such basic beliefs? The study showed the most fundamental of all beliefs is vanishing.

Less than half of preteens (21%), parents (28%) and pastors who lead children's ministries (36%) believed that "there are absolute truths — things that are right and things that are wrong, that do not depend on feelings, preferences, or circumstances — those truths are unchanging and knowable."

A trust in God's truth is essential for Christian faith. So the loss of a biblical faith accelerates with the dissolution of absolute truth. The study rightly concluded that the demise of a biblical worldview among preteens is consistent with the loss of belief among their parents and leaders. When their adult leaders lose a grasp of God's truth, children will do the same.

Preteens, truth, and church

Their diminishing belief in absolute truth mirrors our cultural slide into relativism, fed by the notion that truth is a personal choice and is not universally absolute. This is not simply a fluke that will go away. This is the result of a steady decline in biblical values in the church, in the culture, and in the home.

Preteens are now more affected by postmodern relativism than biblical teaching. At the rate we are going, it is quite likely that our preteen generation will either oversee the complete collapse of Western culture and its biblical foundations, or they will be the generation that reverses the trend.

So, the question is, how can we help them reverse the trend? What steps can we take now to ensure a better future?

Let's focus on two areas.



- **At Home**

Be intentional. Start young. Raise your kids in the Lord and in the church. Teach them what it means to follow Christ, through good times and bad times. Have set times for devotions and for discussion about the Bible.

And let them ask questions. When young adults abandon church, they often say that in their preteen and teen years they had questions, struggles, and doubts. But when they asked questions, they were muffled, and their questions were left unanswered.

Rather than feel "seen" and "heard," they felt unaccepted and implicitly were taught that Christianity could not stand up to scrutiny, so when their time came to decide whether they would live for Christ, they walked away.

So, teach your kids that it's okay to ask questions and that wrestling with faith is normal (because it is!). Let them know they are in a safe environment and nurture their faith. Trust that the Bible and the Lord can handle the examination. And don't be afraid of hard questions. You will not always know the answers, but you and your preteen can learn together what you don't already know.

And, of course, bring them to church. By the time they are preteens, church participation should be habitual.

To be blunt, if you pull your preteens and teenagers out of church for sports and hobbies now, don't be surprised when they are not in church at all when they leave the nest.

- **At Church**

We have spent the last two years intentionally structuring our church ministries to provide cohesive and comprehensive family-oriented ministries that will grow disciples for Jesus at every age.

We recrafted our Family Life Pastor position for that purpose and called Kevin on board to lead these areas. Our family ministries are now designed to be disciple-making ministries, and they are intentionally interconnected.

D6 and DiscipleLife provide cohesive disciple-making ministries for Wednesday nights. Sundays are family-focused as well. With The Gospel Project, you can bring your whole family to Sunday School and know that all ages are learning from the same biblical passages. That gives you seeds for discussion on Sundays and throughout the week. (By the way, remember that The Gospel Project also provides devotional materials for you to use at home).

And with the addition of the Trail Life Troop at FBCS, we are continuing to build ministries that disciple boys to be men with a biblical worldview, and to nurture their faith in the Lord.



Just One Generation Away continued

These, and more, are ways we want to partner with you to strategically raise your children to believe the Bible and to live for Christ.

If it's not you, then who?

If you are not intentionally raising your child in your faith, and if you are not the one who is answering the hard questions, then who is?

The bad news is that Satan uses the culture to pummel our preteens and teens with unbiblical ideologies. This has always been the case but is increasing as truth is devalued and biblical influence declines.

State run schools are indoctrinating your preteens every day. And they turn to social media for answers to hard questions. So, would you rather some TikTok influencer shape your child's beliefs and answer his questions, or would you rather it be you and the church?

Passive Christian parents rarely produce solid Christian kids.

Let's turn the tide before it's too late. Remember, we are always just one generation away from Christianity vanishing in America.

In His Grace,

Pastor Bob

Deacon of the Week



MARK VARNAM

(910) 842-3076

markmonicaandgirls@atmc.net

May 5th-11th



JEFF HOPKINS

(828) 964-3904

mrhopj88@gmail.com

May 12th-18th



MICHAEL NORTON

(910) 367-6869

compasspointe@atmc.net

May 19th-25th



DOUG WARD

(910) 512-

1739dgward@atmc.net

May 26th - June 1st

New To Our Family



Amy Bernhardt
Joined April 14



David & Tana Calloway
Joined April 14



David & Cathy Cannon
Joined April 21



Ashton Sullivan
Joined April 7



Mike Craft
Joined April 7

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF SHALLOTTE

LOVE GOD. LOVE ONE ANOTHER. LOVE THE WORLD.

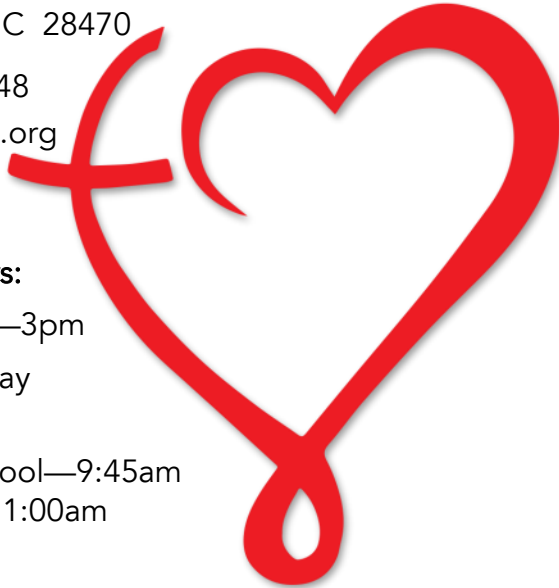
4486 Main Street
Shallotte, NC 28470

910.754.4048
fbcshallotte.org

Office Hours:

M-Th 9am—3pm
Closed Friday

Sunday School—9:45am
Worship—11:00am



Non-Profit Organization
U.S. Postage Paid
Permit No. 318
Shallotte, NC

«Name»

Or Current Resident

«Street Address»

«City», «State» «Zip»

Bible Reading Plan

With Daily Proverbs

5/1/2024	<input type="checkbox"/> 2 Chr 28-30; Pro 29	5/17/2024	<input type="checkbox"/> Job 11-13; Pro 14
5/2/2024	<input type="checkbox"/> 2 Chr 31-33; Pro 30	5/18/2024	<input type="checkbox"/> Job 14-16; Pro 15
5/3/2024	<input type="checkbox"/> 2 Chr 34-36; Pro 31	5/19/2024	<input type="checkbox"/> Job 17-20; Pro 16
5/4/2024	<input type="checkbox"/> Ezz 1-4; Pro 1	5/20/2024	<input type="checkbox"/> Job 21-23; Pro 17
5/5/2024	<input type="checkbox"/> Ezz 5-7; Pro 2	5/21/2024	<input type="checkbox"/> Job 24-26; Pro 18
5/6/2024	<input type="checkbox"/> Ezz 8-10; Pro 3	5/22/2024	<input type="checkbox"/> Job 27-29; Pro 19
5/7/2024	<input type="checkbox"/> Neh 1-3; Pro 4	5/23/2024	<input type="checkbox"/> Job 30-33; Pro 20
5/8/2024	<input type="checkbox"/> Neh 4-7; Pro 5	5/24/2024	<input type="checkbox"/> Job 34-36; Pro 21
5/9/2024	<input type="checkbox"/> Neh 8-10; Pro 6	5/25/2024	<input type="checkbox"/> Job 37-39; Pro 22
5/10/2024	<input type="checkbox"/> Neh 11-13; Pro 7	5/26/2024	<input type="checkbox"/> Job 40-42; Pro 23
5/11/2024	<input type="checkbox"/> Est 1-3; Pro 8	5/27/2024	<input type="checkbox"/> Ps 1-4; Pro 24
5/12/2024	<input type="checkbox"/> Est 4-7; Pro 9	5/28/2024	<input type="checkbox"/> Ps 5-7; Pro 25
5/13/2024	<input type="checkbox"/> Est 8-10; Pro 10	5/29/2024	<input type="checkbox"/> Ps 8-10; Pro 26
5/14/2024	<input type="checkbox"/> Job 1-3; Pro 11	5/30/2024	<input type="checkbox"/> Ps 11-13; Pro 27
5/15/2024	<input type="checkbox"/> Job 4-7; Pro 12	5/31/2024	<input type="checkbox"/> Ps 14-17; Pro 28
5/16/2024	<input type="checkbox"/> Job 8-10; Pro 13		

