



Pastor's Perspective — Rethinking Sunday

By Dr. Ron D. Lindholm, Senior Pastor

In the Old Testament, Israel was instructed to set aside the seventh day of the week as a Sabbath, a day of rest. On that day, they were to rest from the labors of the other six days and dedicate that day to the Lord as an act of worship—as a remembrance of the fact that He had created them, and as a symbol of their satisfaction in and dependence upon Him. According to Leviticus 23:3, the experience of Sabbath day worship entailed the people meeting together in holy convocation.

If you need to rest on Sunday, come to church.

In the New Testament, we find the church gathered for worship on the first day of the week, owing to the fact that the resurrection of Jesus occurred on that day (Acts 20:7; 1 Corinthians 16:2; John 20:1). In recognition of the change of day but similarity of purpose, Sunday has been referred to as “the Christian Sabbath,” but the more common title and my personal preference is “the Lord’s Day.” Using this title serves not only to underscore the special purpose of the day—to celebrate Christ’s resurrection through the rest of gathered worship—but also to remind us of who owns the day (as well as our lives). Above all the other days of the week, Sunday is the Lord’s Day. It is to be used for the pursuit of His purposes, not our own (Ephesians 4:11-16; Hebrews 3:12-19; 10:24-25).

As I look at the church today, I’m not convinced that we understand the principle of the Sabbath or the purpose of the Lord’s Day. Our tendency is to use Sunday for ourselves rather than for the Lord who loved us and gave Himself for us that we might be a people uniquely His own. Sunday is the day we sleep

in, reserve for sports, go for a long ride, drive to the shore, spend time with our family and friends,

or just choose to do nothing because we need the rest and can’t get it the other days of the week.

As I said, I’m not convinced that we understand the principle of the Sabbath or the purpose of the Lord’s Day. The prescribed rest is for us. We’ve been created for His glory that we might find our hope and satisfaction in Him. Gathered worship gives us the opportunity to express that hope and satisfaction corporately, and to know it more completely as we find our rest in Him.

If you need to rest on Sunday, come to church. This is where gathered worship happens and true rest is found.

2015 Vacation Bible School — To The Edge

In what some staff called “one of the best VBS weeks we’ve ever had.” We hosted 41 registered students at the “To the Edge: Encounter the God of the Universe!” Vacation Bible School last month. While studying outer space and crafting with lots of glue and glitter, the students also heard about Jesus and how He cares about them, loves them—even though He knows all about them—and died to save them.

Several students in different classes prayed, asking Jesus to be their Savior. The Gospel was presented to VBS families through the closing ceremony and through literature sent home.

“VBS was a success,” Nancy Gardner said. “We had many children in my class who had not gone to church or if they did, only went on holidays. And yet five of 14 children were able to say the prayer of forgiveness and understood who their Savior is. Praise God! We pray that they all start going to church so they and their whole families get saved.”

By far, most of the children were those who did not attend our church. It was a joy to share the Gospel with them, and then to invite them, at the close of the week, to attend AWANA in the fall.



“The weather each day was very nice and the kids had a lot of fun playing games that were designed to support the Bible message each day. All the teachers had such joy in their hearts. I’m glad to be a part of teaching at Fellowship,” Nancy said.

Our VBS Director, Stuart Odom, said “It was a great week all around. The Lord worked significantly in the lives of the children and our workers. We’re thankful for all He did in this ministry.”

2015 Missions Conference – Christ’s Love Compels Us

Next month we will be hosting our annual Missions Conference, September 11-13, with the theme "Christ's Love Compels Us." It is our delight that the missionaries contributing to the conference are those we have known and loved for a long time.

George and Arlene Blood, Nathan and Dawn Patefield, and Joel and Beverly Shoaf, all working with Baptist Mid-Missions, will be participating in the event.

George and Arlene have served with BMM since 1965. First working in church planting, they are now in retirement, filling in at various missions stations while other missionaries are away. George reports that they have been able to help former churches that do not currently have a resident pastor.

"We are now in retirement, whatever that means," he told the Missions Committee in March. "But we have not quit yet. Praise God for good health."

The burden on their heart is the few workers coming to the field today. "That is why we are staying in Alaska, to fill this need," he said. "I continue on wherever I am needed to serve the Lord and to keep things moving forward while we pray and hope for an increase of missionaries in Alaska."

Serving in a completely different environment are Nathan and Dawn Patefield, planting churches in Brazil. Their work there is progressing slowly...but growing. With the third of their four children entering college this year, and just one returning to the mission field, they are eager to seek the Lord in their personal lives and to share the Good News with the dear people of Rio de Janeiro,

One possible outreach they may have is with the local outreach for the 2016 Olympic Games. They are

building relationships and continuing to develop leadership with the goal of seeing men capable of regularly preaching and teaching in the church there.

"We thank the Lord often that we have the privilege of being a part of your ministry abroad," Nathan said.

Church planting in New Zealand is the goal of Joel and Beverly Shoaf.

They were commissioned as appointees to that country in 1989, arriving on the field in 1992. The parents of three children, they are currently working to plant the Bay Baptist Church in the city of Napier.

They are not new to us. They participated in our missions conference in 2009, We are excited to have them join us again.

Missionary Cupboard Shower & Ice Cream Social

Join us on Sunday evening, August 30, as we restock our Missionary Cupboard in preparation for the Missions Conference. A list of needed items will be made available at the church.

Money Matters

July Giving Per Week (General Fund)	\$4,878
Budgeted Needs Per Week	\$4,933
Budgeted Receipts to Date	\$147,990
Budgeted Needs to Date	\$143,966

August Calendar	
Aug. 12	Nursing Home Ministry (2:00 PM)
Aug. 14	Women’s Movie Night (7:00 PM)
Aug. 21	Washington Nationals’ Game (7:05 PM)
Aug. 26	Missions Prayer Meeting (7:30 PM)
Aug. 30	Missions Cupboard Shower & Ice Cream Social (after PM Service)



2015 Bible Memory Project
August Verse

Remember the former things, those of long ago; I am God, and there is no other; I am God, and there is none like me. I make known the end from the beginning, from ancient times, what is still to come. I say, My purpose will stand. And I will do all that I please.
~ Isaiah 46:9-10

Fellowship Baptist Church

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