

CEDAR GROVE BAPTIST CHURCH

NEWSLETTER — OCTOBER 2013



We believe the Holy Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments to be the verbally and plerarily inspired Word of God. The Scriptures are inerrant, infallible, and God-breathed and, therefore, are the final authority for faith and life.

We have a serious need for volunteers
to work in the Nursery.
See Denise or Donna

THE PASTOR'S CORNER

As I write this I am enjoying the last few hours of summer and fall will began. Most everyone has finished up their last vacation break and they are bracing for the busyness of Thanksgiving and Christmas. As I think on the activities of summer I believe that God is pleased with the efforts of the Cedar Grove family in the past year. I know that everyone has been working very hard and now we are entering into a very trying time of year for most of us. The fall and winter contains a lot of holidays which will bring financial stress and stress due to scheduling and time restraints to us but this also allows us a lot of opportunity to minister to our family and friends. Galatians 6:9 says, and let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not. I believe this to be true. It seems when we are tired and almost ready to give up that is when God comes through and does something special, so let's not give up.

It seems to me that we should be anticipating God blessing our community through our church Paul said in Ephesians 6:18 for

us to pray and watch, so I believe as we are praying we need to watch for God to open doors of opportunity to minister to our friends. Along those same lines the deacons have been out visiting folks and if anyone has a friend or family member that they would like someone to pay a visit to please let one of us know. Also the deacons have some other things they are working on that should be a blessing to our church in the days ahead. We just need to keep our eyes on Jesus the one who is building His church.

Pastor Marty

SPECIAL OPPORTUNITY

Every second Sunday morning at the close of the worship service an opportunity is provided to contribute to the Benevolence Fund. Monies from this fund are occasionally dispersed discreetly to families within the church who have special needs. With the holidays approaching, several families may need extra assistance. Please prayerfully consider your contribution to the Benevolence Fund each month to aid our brothers and sisters in Christ who are struggling. Contributions may be made any time by designating "Benevolence Fund" on your offering envelope.

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LITE CHURCH

It does not take a genius to realize that this country is in a moral free-fall. This is so evident that I will not even bother creating a list of open sin that surrounds us. We should be far more interested in the cause and cure of this slide into degradation. Historically, nations which have suffered such moral decline have soon become less relevant to the progress of human history. Do you think that this could not happen to America, the world sole remaining super-power in this world? It has happened to empires that were even more dominant in world affairs than we are: Assyria, Babylon, Persia, Greece, Rome, Germany, France, Great Britain have all once either ruled or exerted major influence over all the known world. But each became infected with the cancer of moral decay and now have either passed from the world stage or remain as shells of their former glory. America cannot continue to thumb its collective nose at God and His rules and remain a viable force on this planet.

As I said earlier, we should be more interested in the cause and the cure than in a listing of our collective moral decay. In large part the blame must rest upon the Churches of this country. Far too often they are filled with people who only want to “play Church” and not be active in the service of God. James, our Lord’s brother, long ago declared that *faith without works is dead* (James 2:17). In other words, if the faith that you claim to have has not made a difference in your life, it is not a real saving faith. Unfortunately, far too many people whose names are on the rolls of American Churches are content with such lifeless faith.

R Kent Hughes, in his commentary on James, described a cartoon that illustrates this problem. It contained the picture of an ordinary-looking church building with a large billboard in the foreground. “The sign read:

THE LITE CHURCH

24% FEWER COMMITMENTS,
HOME OF THE 5% TITHE,
15-MINUTE SERMONS,
45-MINUTE WORSHIP SERVICES.
WE HAVE ONLY 8
COMMANDMENTS—YOUR CHOICE.
WE USE JUST 3 SPIRITUAL LAWS.
EVERYTHING YOU’VE WANTED IN A
CHURCH ... AND LESS!

That is the stained-glass experience of so many in the modern church today—no quickening of the conscience, no feeding of the mind, no opening of the heart, no commitment—*no real faith*.

This was James’ concern millennia ago, because it was just as likely then as today for church attenders to slide along with a bogus faith that made no real difference in the way they lived. James wants to make crystal-clear what makes faith real faith, and in doing so he sheds eternal wisdom on the relationship of faith and action. James’ teaching, taken to heart, will steel the church against a ‘lite’ faith.”¹

Do not become a victim of *Lite Church*.

SCHEDULED EVENTS FOR OCTOBER

October 13	Jonathan Romaine
October 13	Benevolence Offering
October 14	Planning meeting, 6:30PM
October 26	Cottage Prayer Meeting @ Jack & Lynn’s
October 31	Trunk or Treat @ 6:00PM
November 02	Ordination Council for Asian Pastors
November 10	Lynn Garner (NC Children’s Home)
December 07	Christmas Dinner, 6:00PM
December 20	Christmas Caroling

¹ R. Kent Hughes, *James: Faith That Works*, Preaching the Word (Wheaton, IL: Crossway Books, 1991), 107–108.

The cure for *Lite Church* lies in a surrender to the Lord Jesus Christ in every area of your life, but you cannot make a real commitment from ignorance. To really please God you must first learn what God requires. In other words, you need a Biblical education.

You owe it to yourself—and to your children—to become educated in Scripture. The Sunday Morning Service is not really designed to accomplish this. The primary purpose of that service is to exhort you to put into practice that which you already know. The ministry of this Church primarily designed for training in Scripture is Sunday School. We meet every Sunday morning at 10:00AM, and we have a number of classes for both children and adults.

Come on out next week. You will be glad you did.

When Leonardo da Vinci was forty-three years old, the Duke Ludovico of Milan asked him to paint the dramatic scene of Jesus' last supper with his disciples:

Working slowly and giving meticulous care to details, he spent three years on the assignment. He grouped the disciples into threes, two groups on either side of the central figure of Christ. Christ's arms are outstretched. In his right hand, He holds a cup, painted beautifully with marvelous realism.

When the masterpiece was finished, the artist said to a friend, "Observe it and give me your opinion of it!"

"It's wonderful!" exclaimed the friend. "The cup is so real I cannot divert my eyes from it!"

Immediately Leonardo took a brush and drew it across the sparkling cup! He exclaimed as he did so: "Nothing shall detract from the figure of Christ!"²

² Paul Lee Tan, *Encyclopedia of 7700 Illustrations: Signs of the Times* (Garland, TX: Bible Communications, Inc., 1996).



ANNIVERSARIES

Phil & Marlene Albright October 10



BIRTHDAYS

Chrisany Franklin October 03
Andy Carter October 12
Heather Brewer October 31
Ethan Bell November 05

Visit the Cedar Grove Baptist Church website
<http://www.cedargrovebaptistchurch.net>

BLEST BE THE TIE THAT BINDS

Author—John Fawcett, 1740–1817

He that loveth his brother abideth in the light, and there is none occasion of stumbling in him.

1 John 2:10

John Fawcett was born of poor parents in Lidget Green, Yorkshire, England, in 1740. He was converted to Christ at the age of sixteen through the ministry of George Whitefield. At the age of twenty-six he was ordained as a Baptist minister. He accepted a call to pastor a small and impoverished congregation at Wainsgate in Northern England. After spending several years at Wainsgate where his salary was meager and his family growing, he received a call to the large and influential Carter's Lane Baptist Church in London to succeed the well-known Dr. Gill.

As the day for the scheduled departure from Wainsgate arrived, with the saddened parishioners gathered around the wagons, Mrs. Fawcett finally broke down and said, "John, I cannot bear to leave. I know not how to go!" "Nor can I either," said the saddened pastor. The order was soon given to unpack the wagons.

During one of his ensuing sermons Fawcett shared this hymn text with his congregation. The poem was first printed in 1782 under the title "Brotherly Love," in a collection containing 166 of Fawcett's poems.

Fawcett continued his faithful ministry to these humble people at Wainsgate for more than fifty years at a salary estimated at never more than \$200.00 a year. Soon he became well-known as an outstanding preacher and scholar. In 1777 he opened a school for young preachers. In 1793 he was invited to become principal of the Baptist Academy at Bristol, England, but he declined the offer. He wrote a number of books on various aspects of practical Christianity, some of which had a very large circulation. In recognition of his ministry and accomplishments, Brown University in the United States conferred the Doctor of Divinity Degree upon him in 1811. Yet he remained with his beloved parishioners at Wainsgate until a paralytic stroke caused his death on July 25, 1817. John Fawcett's life can certainly be cited as an example of a spiritual leader who sacrificed ambition and personal gain for Christian devotion.

- 1 Blest be the tie that binds
 Our hearts in Christian love;
 The fellowship of kindred minds
 Is like to that above.
- 2 Before our Father's throne
 We pour our ardent pray'rs;
 Our fears, our hopes, our aims, are one,
 Our comforts and our cares.
- 3 We share our mutual woes,
 Our mutual burdens bear;
 And often for each other flows
 The sympathizing tear.
- 4 When we asunder part,
 It gives us inward pain;
 But we shall still be joined in heart,
 And hope to meet again.