



FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH FAIRDALE

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

MAY 2025

Philippians 1:6

"And I am sure of this, that He who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ"

You've probably seen the banner in the hallway, or the bookmarks we have around the church, and you've almost certainly heard at least one Philippians 1:6 Testimony during church over the last year.

If you've somehow missed all of this, for the past few months, our church has set aside regular time on Sunday mornings to allow members to share what we call a Philippians 1:6 Testimony. During this part of the worship service, a member of our congregation will

share from the stage three things: when they came to know Jesus, a time in their past when they saw significant spiritual growth, and how they see God working in their life currently.

Not everyone will be equipped or feel totally comfortable on stage and speaking in front of the entire congregation. But every person who claims to be a follower of Christ does have a testimony and should be ready to share it when the moment calls. We challenge you to consider these ques-

tions in your own life. Perhaps write it down or share with a trusted friend or family member to practice.

Everyone's testimony will be different and that is a wonderful thing! Mary Catherine's article inside discusses one way that this can be particularly encouraging to other believers. Regardless of what your walk with Christ looks like, remember that this is a story about what God has done in you and be ready to share it with others in a way that God gets the glory!

Anger Management

Matt McBroom | Pastor

During the week leading up to Resurrection Sunday, the Wednesday night EKids class watched an animated depiction of the events of Holy Week. One of the scenes that got the biggest reaction from the kids was when Jesus went into the Temple and ran the money changers and animal vendors out. For a few of the kids, this scene came as a big surprise. While they knew about the betrayal, crucifixion, and resurrection, they hadn't heard of (or seen) Jesus being angry and flipping over tables in the Temple.

When the scene came on I could see kids turning to look at each other and then at me with somewhat shocked looks on their faces. They wanted to know "Why was Jesus angry?" and "Was he even allowed to be angry?" We briefly paused the show and discussed that Jesus was upset about the way the people were treating his Father's house by turning it into a marketplace. These were great questions from the kids and it made me think about how we often minimize the fact that Jesus became angry. Jesus was fully human, after all, and he experienced the full range of human emotions, navigating them all without once engaging in sinful behavior.

While it can be hard for us to imagine Jesus being angry, we have to know that Scripture says that he was angry with people and situations on more than one occasion. Another example can be found in Mark 3. In this passage of Scripture, we find Jesus in the temple at Capernaum speaking with the Pharisees. This is just before Jesus would heal a man with a withered hand. Jesus asks the Pharisees if it is lawful to do good or to do evil on the Sabbath. The Pharisees were hoping to catch Jesus performing a healing on the Sabbath and they would not re-

spond to his question. Scripture says, "After looking around at them with anger, he was grieved at the hardness of their hearts and told the man with the withered hand to, 'Stretch out your hand.' So he stretched it out, and his hand was restored."

What is important for us to understand from Jesus in these interactions is that while He was angry, His responses were not sinful. Jesus never sinned in action, word, or thought. He was definitely angry and upset with the actions of other people at times (specifically the Pharisees) but his responses were controlled, righteous, and holy. He did not allow the sun to go down on his anger, meaning we do not see Jesus continuing in anger for long periods of time. He did not allow anger to have control over him or his actions. All of these things are things we can learn from and apply in our own lives as we deal with situations and people who may make us angry.

"Be angry and do not sin. Don't let the sun go down on your anger, and don't give the devil an opportunity."

Ephesians 4:26-27 CSB

Encouragement from Philippians 1:6 Testimonies

Mary Catherine Anderson | Director of Nursery

Your testimonies have been a regular source of encouragement to me over the last few months. I look forward to hearing them on the Sundays we have them scheduled. I want to find ways we can share them more regularly (maybe be on the lookout for some in the newsletter soon?). I love being witness to the myriad of ways that God has worked in the lives of my fellow church members. One aspect that has been especially encouraging is the variety of people that God has used to speak the truth of the Gospel into the lives of those sharing their testimonies. One thing I've noticed is that these truth-speakers fall into some very basic categories, and this in particular is what is encouraging to me.

First, these people are just ordinary people. We have had one person share about initially hearing the Gospel through a Billy Graham crusade, but for the most part, everyone heard the gospel from someone who didn't have a huge platform or great influence. And even in the Billy Graham example, our church member mentioned that there was so much growth that came from Bible lessons that were mailed to her house regularly that allowed her to learn God's truth. The people working behind the scenes making sure lessons got written and mailed out on time were instrumental in her spiritual growth. All of these people were doing their jobs and following their callings – teachers, coaches, office workers, and more – and using the opportunities they had to share the Gospel when they were able.

Second, a common theme I've noticed is God working through family. Maybe it's a parent who faithfully read and taught

the Bible to their children, a grandparent who took their grandchild to church every Sunday, or a cousin who shared about the way God changed their life. In so many different testimonies, there have been examples of those who have boldly declared the Gospel to their families and seen the fruit of that bear out in the lives of our church members.

Finally, I have loved seeing how God works through the local church to change lives. Pastors and teachers who take time to carefully lead people through Scripture. Lay leaders mentoring and discipling those younger in the faith. Our own church being involved with FCA in the schools and students responding to the gospel through that work. When everyone in the church uses their gifts to work together for the sake of the gospel, the body of Christ grows both in size and in strength to the glory of God.

The most encouraging part about these different categories is that I – and you – are a part of each group. We are each just a regular person, with a unique calling, living as part of a family and a church. We may have a small circle of influence, or we may have a bigger audience, but no matter what, we have people in our lives that need to hear the truth of Jesus. We don't have to worry about making our gospel presentations big or flashy. We simply must be faithful to honor God in our areas of influence and then seize moments to speak clearly about what God has done in our lives through the death, burial, and resurrection of our Lord Jesus.

Reminders

Ladies' Tea | Saturday May 10

All ladies are invited to join us for a morning of fellowship, refreshment, and encouragement as we hear from Dani Ruher of Refuge International. Childcare provided for ages 0-5

Church Suppers | May 14 & 28 (Family Night)

Prayer Breakfasts

Men's - May 17 - 8:00 a.m.

Ladies' - May 24 - 9:00 a.m.

Morning Playdate | 10:00 a.m.

May 20 | June 17

Next2Him Shaker Village Outing | May 13

Sign up on the office bulletin board
See Becki McBroom for more info

New Members Class | May 4, 11, 18 | 9:30 a.m.

If you are interested in or want more information about church membership, please plan to attend this class.
Contact the church office to sign up

Summer Dates

Ecuador Mission Trip | June 26-July 5

VBS | July 6-10

Student Camp | July 13-17

Kids Camp | July 19-20

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