

The Baptist Builder

Vol. XII

No. 25

June 22, 1961

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
PALAFOX AND LA RUA STREETS
PENSACOLA, FLORIDA

JAMES L. PLEITZ
PASTOR



The Church Is God's

The church of Jesus Christ has more traitors in her ranks than any other institution of her size in the world.

And the reason is that she is in the greatest business in the world, that of saving men for time and eternity, by saving them from sin. If a man in the United States Army were as unfaithful to his duty as multitudes in the church are to their obligations, he would be imprisoned or shot. And if a leader in a political party misrepresented the party by life and speech to the same degree that many misrepresent Christ and his church, he would be dumped out bag and baggage.

No human institution could possibly live and carry on where there was so much betrayal. But the church is a divine institution and her greatness consists in what she is, and not in her numerical strength in local communities, although the church as a whole is a mighty institution and has done, and is doing a work that all human beings cannot do.

Nineteen hundred years have abundantly proven that it did not pay Israel to betray her king. All eternity will show the everlasting folly of all professing Christians who play traitor to the cause of Jesus Christ.

—Copied

Pastor's Paragraphs

My good friend, Dr. Carl Bates of Charlotte, North Carolina, recently wrote an excellent article on backsliding. I

want to share this with you:

"John Bunyan's Pilgrim's Progress is still one of the most widely read books ever written. A modern psychologist has called it 'the journey into self'. I am sure that it is such for Christians.

IN ONE PLACE

Christian and Hopeful are discussing the matter of backsliding. Christian traces the course of backsliding from its earliest beginnings until the believer becomes of no more value to Christ than if he had never been saved.

Here are the steps he names:

1. They refuse to think about God, death and judgment.
2. They cease praying. They no longer curb their lusts. Neither do they guard against temptation. They are not genuinely sorry for sin. This is done gradually.
3. They shun the company of lively and warm Christians.
4. They cease to be faithful in church attendance and Bible reading.
5. They begin to "pick holes in the coats of the godly", in order to justify the ungodly course they themselves are taking.
6. They begin to associate with loose and wanton men.
7. They begin to tell dirty stories in secret.
8. They begin to play with little sins openly.
9. Being hardened, they show themselves as they are with boasting.

JEREMIAH 2:13 gives good indication of what a backslider is: "For my people have committed two evils; they have forsaken Me the fountain of living waters, and hewed them out cisterns, broken cisterns, that can hold no water."

WE USE THE TERM very loosely. We say one is a backslider when he is deteriorating spiritually or when he has committed some sin. A backslider is neither. He is worse than both. First, he has forsaken God. Second, he has taken up with something else. He knows what God's grace is; what sin is; what deliverance is; but, he has deliberately forsaken God and gone back because he loves something else better. It is the most awful crime one can commit spiritually.

THE TWO SONS in Luke 15 are classic



SERMON TOPICS

11:00 A.M.

"I Am the Way"

(John 14:1-14)

7:15 P.M.

"Sons of God"

(Philippians 2:14-18)

examples of backsliding. One strayed and one stayed but each forsook the heart of the father for his own way.

THERE IS NOTHING we can do for a backslider. He must get up himself and "take words" (Hosea 14:2). If the lash falls, it will just have to fall. If the father sends me to work with the servants, I shall have to go. I will take words and say to Him, "Father, I have sinned and am no more worthy to be called Thy son."

ONE BACKSLIDER IS more dangerous in a community than a hundred sinners who have never been saved—his disease spreads more quickly. So far as I know, the Holy Scriptures give no indication that any one is ever sent after the backslider. He is healed when he comes back, but it is up to him to get up, take words, and come back. It is a long road that knows no turning and, soon or late, comes the sad admission, "I perish with hunger" and then . . . "I will arise and go."

I will see you Sunday.

Faithfully in Christ,

James L. Pleitz

KEENE SCHOLARSHIP FUND

Mrs. F. B. Keene gave five hundred dollars to our church to be utilized to provide scholarships in memory of her husband, Fredrick B. Keene. The assemblies committee of our church was asked by the deacons to administer this fund. The plan is that two boys and two girls shall be selected each year for five years. The assemblies committee asked superintendents and directors of Senior and Young People Departments to suggest possible recipients.

The assemblies committee then took these suggestions and has named the following to be the recipients for this year: Ann Hardy, Lynette Overman, Rusty Minshew, Lon Roberts, III. Mr. and Mrs. Lee Hardy will take Ann, Lynette, and Rusty for the first Training Union Week June 29-July 5. Because of summer school, Lon will be attending a week later in the summer.

YOU...TH *in Particular*

By JERRY HOWELL

Summer Fun

Through many untiring and unslackened efforts, our cheerful librarian has prepared a bibliography of church recreation sources. You will find ready for your study and planning excellent materials in areas such as: Recreation Plans and Programs, Recreation Guidance, Banquets, Home Recreation, Holidays and Special Occasions, Seasonal Activities, Graded Activities, and many other appropriate topics which will help you in planning the best sort of party, social, fellowship, or recreational event. See Mrs. Stoesen today.

West Florida Baptist Assembly, July 3 - 8

In the current and recent issues of "The Florida Witness", you will see schedules and general information concerning the West Florida Assembly, 1961. First Baptist Church will be well represented this year, and registrations have already begun to come into the church office. Each person who will attend should pay the \$3.00 registration fee as soon as possible at the church office. The balance of the cost, \$14.00, should be paid upon arrival at the assembly grounds in Panama City. Everyone of Intermediate age or older may attend.

Reservations will be sent to Jacksonville on next Monday. Yours should be in the church office not later than Sunday.

A Forward Look

One of the highlights of our summer activities will be our Youth-led Revival, August 11-13. Mark your calendar, and plan to support our youth leadership.

◆ ◆ ◆ OFFICE HELP

Mrs. Raymond R. Steele has been employed as summer replacement for Mrs. Rountree, our financial secretary. Mrs. Steele is a member of our congregation and as vice-chairman of the banking committee is already familiar with that part of the financial secretary's work. She has in the past helped with special work in the office.

Mrs. G. T. Sutton has been employed as part-time membership secretary. Mrs. Sutton will be working in the mornings and will be working primarily with membership records.

These ladies join Mrs. Dunnam, the pastor's secretary, and Miss Pitts, the educational secretary, in performing the many tasks necessary in our church office.

As I See It!

By CLYDE K. BIZZELL

Sunday School Attendance

Eighteen of our 33 departments were down this past Sunday from the preceding Sunday. We need to be sure that we are in Sunday School every Sunday that we are in town. If you are out of town, you will want to go to Sunday School where you are. Let's work hard this week to see to it that last Sunday's attendance is our lowest for the summer. (See Pastor's Proclamation on Page 4.

Vacation Bible School

Words are completely inadequate to express our appreciation to this year's Vacation Bible School workers. These faithful folk spent many hours in preparation in addition to the 30 actual hours of Bible School. I am sure that the children and parents are grateful to each of them for this investment of time and talents in Vacation Bible School.

Vacation Bible School Textbooks

As we began plans for this year's Bible School, we discovered that some textbooks used in previous years were missing. We also discovered that some workers do not realize that these books are reused. If you have at home any Vacation Bible School textbooks used this year or in previous years, please turn them in.



LIBRARY NOTES

Year-Around Christmas

Last January we suggested an idea about how to use your Christmas cards. It was this: Choose one each day at family devotional time, reread it, and then pray especially for that friend. Have any of you tried it? We have enjoyed it very much. We have now finished all the out of town cards and have started on the Pensacola friends. I have dated each card so next Christmas I will tell our friends we prayed for them on that date. It is about mid-year now, so there is still time for half a year of Christmas.

Our Reading Clubs are going at a great pace. Last week we checked out 529 books. We have some fine new books for all ages, too. We are enjoying the turnover on our shelves in the children's section, but the adult shelves are still so filled we can scarcely add another book. How we wish these were out in your hands blessing your hearts!

MRS. A. R. W. STOESSEN

ACTIONS SPEAK LOUDER

I'm one of those who went home after Sunday School last Sunday. Actually, as I sneaked away from church I didn't say ANYTHING—audibly. I saw others coming to church who, perhaps were not able to get there for Sunday School. I was aware of the older people who were here for the joy that was theirs. I saw little ones preparing to get ready to go into the sanctuary for the climax of the worship hour . . .

And though I didn't speak out loud, I'm aware that I said many things to many people.

I told MY FAMILY that it would be better for us to go home rather than remain for the morning worship hour. I told them that we would receive a greater blessing by going home, so I did not stay for church this morning.

I told THE UNSAVED passing by the church door that we did not like our church worship program nor our pastor's preaching, so we are going home. We pushed the stranger back so he couldn't enter in; we made such a surge toward the door that it was impossible for him to enter. I do not care what the stranger thinks of the church, so I did not stay for the morning worship hour.

I told GOD that I had ENOUGH of Him for the day. I did not care to sing praises to His name. I did not care to have His Word read to me any more. I did not care to bow down on my knees and worship Him, so I did not stay for church this morning.

I told CHRIST I had HEARD ENOUGH ABOUT HIM for today. I did not care to hear any more about Him. I did not care to hear my pastor lift up Christ as the hope of a lost world. I did not care about communing with my Master any longer. so I did not stay for church this morning.

I told my UNSAVED FRIEND that I was not interested in his finding Christ; unless he's saved in the church services he will probably not be saved at all. But I do not particularly care whether the unsaved become saved or not, so I did not stay for church this morning.

(Immanuel Clarion, Paducah Ky.)



TWO FELLOWSHIP GROUPS

The Intermediates and Seniors will form one group, and the Young People A and B will form the second of our Youth Fellowship Groups for this Sunday evening. We will meet just following the services of the evening—The big "3"—Training Union; Evening Worship; Youth Fellowship.



SOFTBALL GAMES

Tuesday, June 27—First Baptist vs.
Whifield Baptist; Exchange Park

THE *Singing* CHURCH

By JERRY HOWELL

First Baptist Church Men To Sing This Sunday

Again it will be our treat when the mellow voices of the Men's Chorus present and lead our service through song. How pleasant was the response and the sound of their effort. We expect even a larger and louder response for this service. We feel confident of the blessing which can come from such cooperation and willing service. See you Sunday evening, men, at 7:00 in the choir room—57 song-filled hearts.



Training Union



TRAINING UNION MONTHLY OFFICERS' COUNCIL MEETING SUNDAY AFTERNOON, JUNE 25

4:30 p.m.—Adults meet in Adult B Department. All others meet in your own departmental room.

5:30 p.m.—Snack and general promotion lower auditorium of educational building.



OUR CHURCH FAMILY

III Out of Town:

Mrs. Fred Baird
Bonifay Nursing Home
Bonifay, Florida

Mr. David Riddle
National Institute of Health
Bethesda 14, Maryland
(To have surgery June 26).

We Extend Our Deepelt Sympathy To: Mrs. Neil Blue in the loss of her mother.

Congratulations To:

Wendell Carpenter and Jim Rogers who recently graduated from New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary.

Baptist Hospital:

Mr. L. W. Eckhoff, Walter Belford, Sr.,
Mrs. C. J. Rice, Mrs. Henry Wyatt
Shows..

Sacred Heart Hospital:

Mrs. E. C. McAdams, Mr. E. W. Davis,
Mr. Henry Holt, Sr.

Home from Hospital:

Mrs. Byron Lane, Mrs. C. O. Stewart,
Mrs. Robert Ansley, Mrs. V. L. Powers.

Congratulations To:

Mr. and Mrs. Wyatt Shows upon the birth of a baby girl on June 16.

THE BAPTIST BUILDER

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CHURCH OFFICE HE 3-5451

CHURCH OFFICERS

Henry L. Ashmore, Chr. of Deacons.....HE 3-4743
T. A. Guthrie Sunday School Supt.....HE 2-6683
Capt. Robert E. Sparks,

Training Union Director.....GL 5-3211 Ext. 2158
W. T. Osborn, Brotherhood Pres.....HE 2-5238
Mrs. W. C. Carr, Jr., WMU Pres.....HE 3-0769
Mrs. A. R. W. Stoesen, Librarian.....HE 2-6502

CHURCH STAFF

Residence Phones

James L. Pleitz, Pastor.....HE 3-1502
Clyde K. Bizzell, Assistant to Pastor.....HE 2-7237
Dr. G. J. Rousseau, Pastor Emeritus
Jerry Howell, Minister of Music and
Director of Youth Activities.....438-6818
Mrs. W. H. Adams, Organist.....GL 6-6787
Mrs. Raymond R. Steele, Fin. Sec'y.....HE 8-0888
Miss Mary Lou Pitts, Edu. Sec.....HE 3-3285
Mrs. James Dunnam, Pastor's Sec.....HE 3-8857
Mrs. G. T. Sutton, Memb'ship Sec'y.....HE 2-5640
Ernest Barrineau, Treasurer.....HE 2-5079
Mrs. Kittie Manning, Dietician.....GL 6-2124
S. R. Rutherford, Custodian.....HE 3-3059

All material to be included in The Builder
should be in the office, preferably in writing,
not later than 9:00 A.M. Mondays.



LOOKING AT LAST SUNDAY

Sunday School Attendance.....	1025
Members Present	950
New Members	9
Visitors	66
Training Union Attendance.....	272
Members Present	250
New Members	4
Visitors	18
Additions to church membership.....	6
Baptized	1
Tithes and Offerings:	
Budget	\$4,588.04
Specials	251.05
Building Fund	15.25
Expansion Fund	1.00
TOTAL OFFERING	\$4,855.34



A PROCLAMATION

June 18, 1961

WHEREAS, our Sunday School attendance this morning was disgracefully low, and,

WHEREAS, many of our departments were down in attendance, and WHEREAS, many of our people were absent.

I, therefore, proclaim this day, Sunday, June 18, 1961, as Low Attendance Day for the summer of 1961. I would encourage our workers and members to do all in their power to avoid repetition of this observance.

Signed, sealed, and delivered this 18th day of June, 1961.

Signed/ JAMES L. PLEITZ, Pastor



SUNDAY, JUNE 25—

9:30 a.m.—Sunday School for all ages.
T. A. Guthrie, Supt.

11:00 a.m.—Morning Worship. Pastor.
(Broadcast over WCOA).

1:30 p.m.—Baptist Hour over WDEB.
Speaker: Dr. H. H. Hobbs.
Subj.: "The Cradle, The Cross,
The Crown."

4:30 p.m.—Training Union Officers' Council
Meeting.

NO CHAPEL CHOIR REHEARSALS

6:00 p.m.—Training Union for all ages.
Capt. R. E. Sparks, Director.

7:15 p.m.—Evening Worship. Pastor.

8:30 p.m.—Youth Fellowship in lower auditorium of Educational Bldg.

MONDAY, JUNE 26—

Intermediate G.A. Camp, Camp Ada Begins.

TUESDAY, JUNE 27—

7:00 p.m.—Boy Scouts meet lower auditorium of Educational Bldg.

7:30 p.m.—Lydia Bible Class will meet with
Mrs. Naomi Holbrook, 1920 Bar-
rancas Ave. All members are
urged to attend and help plan a
picnic.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 28—

5:50 p.m.—Fellowship Dinner.

6:30 p.m.—Youth Workshop.

Teachers' and Officers' Meeting.
Sunbeams, G.A.'s, R.A.'s (Junior
only).

7:30 p.m.—Prayer Service.

THURSDAY, JUNE 29—

7:30 p.m.—Church Choir Rehearsal.



NEW MEMBERS

Wednesday, June 14, 1961

BY LETTER:

183. Mr. Jerry Barnard, Box 190, Gulf Breeze,
Fla. From: First Baptist Church, Lake-
land, Florida.

Sunday, June 18, 1961

BY LETTER:

184. Mr. William Arthur James, 3-A Ellinor
Court. From: Columbus Avenue Baptist
Church, Waco, Texas.

185. Mrs. William Arthur James, 3-A Ellinor
Court. From: First Baptist Church,
Houston, Texas.

186. Mr. Walter B. Townley, Jr., 1404 East
Bobe. From: Groveton Baptist Church,
Alexandria, Virginia.

187. Mrs. Walter B. Townley, Jr.

188. Mr. Stephen Townley.

BAPTIZED:

Mrs. W. H. McRee



Lost

Some recreational equipment belonging
to the church has been lost or misplaced.
Some group borrowed it for a picnic and
failed to return it. Please check if you
know anything about this.