



The Lamplighter

Terrill Road Baptist Church
Pastor William C. Page

...doing the work He is doing in the world...

DECEMBER 2011

Maturing Faith

Pastor Page Turning 50

On November 1st I was greeted by a letter in the mail from AARP welcoming me into their club. I thought you had to be 55? The next day a cashier asked, "How is Grand Dad doing today?" I pointed out that the shirt I was wearing said "Grad" Dad, in celebration of my Master's degree several years ago. Now I was already not liking the idea of turning 50 and I still had 19 days to go! Well, I want you to know it has ended well. The special birthday celebration at our TRBC's Thanksgiving gathering was AMAZING! I couldn't understand why everyone seemed so excited about my 50th but now I know! Jim Wilson's video was a hoot! I have watched it three times already! I did not know we had such hidden talent (hams) in this church.

Thank you to everyone for your kind words and sentiments. It is the most memorable birthday I have ever had. I also received an ipad2 from my children. Am I now hip or what? I actually have a gadget that my children want (they laugh at my cell phone).

The combination of my birthday and Thanksgiving enabled me to really celebrate the most important things on this Earth – family and friends. I know Facebook can help, but for me face time is better.

As we enter the season of Christmas let us remember that relationship with the people we love and the God who sustains us is at the center of all the hustle and bustle. It really is the thought that counts because you are thinking about a person you care for. A person who you do not want to take for granted. This Christmas celebration is as much an American phenomena as it is a religious observance and sometimes the lines are blurred. I don't get too worried about it. I heard a preacher once say that the whole world is decorating for Jesus' birthday whether they know it or not. It's kind of true.

I hope for you that Christmas can be something that can point you to a celebration, an eternal celebration that will take place when we finally reach our heavenly home. Home...what a great word...the yearning of the heart. When I was young, I wanted to be anywhere but home. Now I don't want to be away from home any more than I have to be. I guess I really have turned 50.

Blessings,

Pastor Bill

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And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people.

**Today in the town of David
a Savior has been born to you;
He is Christ the Lord.**

Luke 2: 8-11

Inspiration Point

No Room in the Inn

You've driven for hours on vacation. You're exhausted and you pull up to the motel you booked weeks ago. You drag yourself inside, ready to relax only to find out your reservation had been misplaced or mishandled and there are no rooms available. You get back into the car more tired than ever and look for the next motel. Little did you know there is a huge football game in the area tomorrow. Every room is booked. All you see for miles and miles are "No Vacancy" signs. About 100 miles away, you find the first available room in a place that looks like it hasn't been cleaned in years and you take it, just so you can get some shut-eye. You try to sleep, but the people in the next room are loud and behaving like ... well, animals. The next morning you find no coffee, no breakfast buffet, and you're more exhausted than ever as you hit the road again. That's when you feel the first bedbug crawling out of your shirt and down your arm.

"And she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn." Luke 2:7

Do you suppose the innkeeper would do things differently if he knew it was the King of Kings and Lord of Lords about to be born in the stable he sent them to that night? Would he have gone out of his way? Would he have given up his own bed? How did he react when he later saw shepherds sent by angels showing up amazed and praising God? At what point did the innkeeper get it? Did he ever? As far as we know, he never even offered breakfast. Not even coffee.

If it had been us, would we have invited Mary and Joseph in that night, knowing that the birth of Jesus was just hours away? Would we have found room for Jesus?

It is never too late to answer that question. Do you have room in your heart, in your life, for Jesus? We'd all like to think we'd say "of course". But how often does your own "No Vacancy" sign go up?

Jesus stands at the door and knocks. Do you have room?

There is a great hymn that is especially poignant at Christmas: "Thou Didst Leave Thy Throne". Look at the lyrics and, as they say, ponder them in your heart.

*"Thou didst leave Thy throne and Thy kingly crown when Thou camest to earth for me;
But in Bethlehem's home was there found no room for Thy holy nativity.
O come to my heart Lord Jesus – there is room in my heart for Thee."*

Do you have room?

Biblical Authority

by Pastor Bill

[From the Baptist Faith and Message]

I. The Scriptures

The Holy Bible was written by men divinely inspired and is God's revelation of Himself to man. It is a perfect treasure of divine instruction. It has God for its author, salvation for its end, and truth, without any mixture of error, for its matter. Therefore, all Scripture is totally true and trustworthy. It reveals the principles by which God judges us, and therefore is, and will remain to the end of the world, the true center of Christian union, and the supreme standard by which all human conduct, creeds, and religious opinions should be tried. All Scripture is a testimony to Christ, who is Himself the focus of divine revelation.

I am oftentimes asked, "What is the difference between Baptist and [fill in the blank with the denomination d'jour]." For me, that comes down to asking a basic question, "Where does the authority lie?" Where is truth found? Who makes the rules? Who says what is right and wrong?

A Bible believing church (which TRBC is) understands the Bible to be the "supreme standard by which all human conduct, creeds and religious opinions should be tried." Put another way, the Bible is the sole rule of faith and practice. The Bible is inspired by God and bears the absolute authority of God Himself. Whatever the Bible affirms, we affirm. Creeds and confessions of faith are ultimately judged by the Scripture. No human opinion or decree of any church group can supersede the Bible.

So the authority lies in Scripture. Years ago I heard a religious leader say that although the Scripture does not forbid clergy to be married, it is church tradition that they remain unmarried. In my opinion, this is putting a tradition above the Scripture. Tradition is not all bad, but when it is in clear opposition to Scripture it is time to re-examine it. Once we make another book or another collection of man's idea co-equal with God's Holy Word, we cease to give the Scripture its rightful authority.

There are a lot of issues that the Scriptures do not address. There are a lot of issues that good Bible-believing Christians differ. Oftentimes they actually use the same verses to support their differing claims. While that can be confusing, I appreciate the embracing of the Bible's Authority over man's ideas.

I think the important thing is to wrestle with the Scripture. 2 Timothy 2:15 states,

"Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed,
rightly dividing the word of truth."

The important thing is to let God's Word be our instruction. This means we bow to Him and say "yes" to the things in His Word. Here's where it gets hard - when it means that we have to change our thinking or our actions. Ouch! But we know that God's way is best. This is why the Bible has been and will always be the textbook for our Sunday School classes and sermons and devotion etc. The Lord should have the first and last word.

Saluting Our Veterans *(Update)*

In the November Lamplighter, the names of three of our veterans were inadvertently left out. Wanting to give tribute to each and every one of our TRBC veterans, we honor them in this issue with our thanks and our apologies. -Jim

Tom Cole, E-7, U.S. Marine Corps and Army National Guard.

Pat Martino, U.S. Army

Steve Vorrius, Lt., U.S. Army

Milestones **December Birthdays and Anniversaries**



Birthdays

- | | | | |
|--------|-------------------|---------|-----------------|
| Dec. 3 | Matthew Spies | Dec. 22 | Patrice Brown |
| Dec. 4 | Mary Frances Olds | Dec. 24 | Alessia Vorrius |
| Dec. 5 | Sheryl Morales | Dec. 24 | Jenna Vorrius |
| Dec. 8 | Kristina Williams | Dec. 26 | Mike Billian |
| Dec. 9 | Allyson Salisbury | | |

Anniversaries

- Dec. 29 Winston & Patty Buckridee

If your birthday or anniversary is not listed, or if you choose for it not to be listed, please contact Jim Wilson. Thanks.

January Question of the Month:

What is one way that God really blessed you in 2011 (*that is, what is the best thing that happened to you in 2011, or the most memorable*)?

Please give your responses to Jim Wilson or e-mail them to The Lamplighter at Capebum@aol.com by December 25th.

Thank you in advance for your responses. We will all be blessed by what you have to share.

Question of the Month:

The December Question of the Month was

“What is your favorite Christmas carol or Christmas song, and why?”

Thanks to all of you who responded.

Lucas Page: “Mary Did You Know”. It is a great song with a very catchy tune that shows how much Mary did know when Jesus was born.

Winston Buckridee: “O Come O Come Emmanuel” - hymn 245. I like this hymn because I long to see the salvation of Israel. I feel personally indebted to Israel first for Jesus, then the prophets.

Mike and Lisa Billian: “O Holy Night”. This is just a beautiful song praising God for the most wonderful night: that He came to Earth to save us all.

Linda Adam: “What Child is This?” It reminds me of the wonder of the amazing birth of Christ and the awesomeness of such a gift.

Jim Voorhees: “Silent Night”, because it to me is the highlight of Christmas Eve, the meaning of Christ’s birth, the lighting of the candles, sharing fellowship with all the church family in the Lord!

Gene Reynolds: “Hark the Herald Angels Sing!”, because of the words “God and sinners reconciled”. That is the meaning of Christmas, isn’t it?

Rita Vorrius: “Silent Night”. This represents the peace of Christ. “Sleep in heavenly peace.”

Patty Buckridee: I would have to say “Silent Night” for a lot of reasons. First, being of Austrian descent, this song was composed by an Austrian priest in a small church in the foothills of the Alps in Austria (my favorite place in the world). It is beautifully packed with deep theology. And because the organ (according to legend) was broken, this song was first performed on a guitar! How cool is that? Second, I love this song because it is so hauntingly beautiful melodically (even if it was composed in a major key!). Finally, but most important to me, I had many opportunities to play this song with my father on the piano and he taught me so many techniques and dynamics in how to play it and that was very special for me. In hindsight, this memory was by far the happiest of what actually was a very difficult and sad childhood. I only had the opportunity to spend 23 short years with my dad, but I thank God that He made it possible for me to have the wonderful and godly father that I had.

Janet Wilson: This is a tough question to answer! “O Holy Night” is definitely at the top of my list along with “Once in Royal David’s City”. But I have to say “Thou Didst Leave Thy Throne” is favorite. It tells the whole Christmas story from the birth of the infant Jesus leading all the way to the cross at Calvary; God’s purpose foretold, His plan fulfilled. Victory.. The melody is very moving but much more than that: this is a very personal hymn. He humbly stepped down from His throne to come to earth “for me”. Love. that chorus: “O come to my heart, Lord Jesus... There is room in my heart for Thee!” The tears come for me each time as the hymn ends: “Let Thy voice call me home, saying, ‘Yet there is room, there is room at My side for thee.’” Grace.. “My heart shall rejoice, Lord Jesus, When Thou comest and callest for me!”

Craig Di Fiore: “O Holy Night”. Robin Di Fiore: “The Little Drummer Boy”.

Jim Wilson: My favorite Christmas song is one that probably few have ever heard of. Growing up in White Plains, we would have a Christmas program at our Baptist church every year. One at a time, families would come up and sing, or pray, or act out .. or act up. I was probably 7 years old when my family sang “Christmas Means Thinking of Jesus”. The message about redirecting our focus was so simple. Only recently was I able to find a copy of the song and download it. It is even more special to me now.

“A Wake-Up Call for God’s People”

by Patrice Brown

On Friday evening, November 4th, a group of TRBC family and friends gathered to hear a “repeat” message of a Worldwide Simulcast that was presented originally on September 11, 2011, the 10th anniversary of 9/11. The presentation was given by Joel Rosenberg, NY Times bestselling author. The son of a Jewish father and a gentile mother, Joel is a follower of Jesus Christ with a passion to make disciples of all nations and teach Bible prophecy. The second part of the presentation was given by Anne Graham Lotz, daughter of Billy Graham, who is a gifted Bible teacher and leads AnGeL Ministries based in Raleigh, NC.

Joel shared that “Bible prophecy is a weather report, a storm warning for the future. Its purpose is not to scare us but to make us ready, so that we will be AWAKE, staying faithful, and walking closely with the Lord Jesus Christ.”

The text for Joel’s message begins with Haggai 2:6-7 and 21-22

“This is what the LORD Almighty says: ‘In a little while I will once more shake the heavens and the earth, the sea and the dry land. Tell Zerubbabel governor of Judah that I am going to shake the heavens and the earth. I will overturn royal thrones and shatter the power of the foreign kingdoms. I will overthrow chariots and their drivers; horses and their riders will fall, each by the sword of his brother’. Joel stated; “God did not cause 9/11. Radical believers in a false god did that. However God did let it happen. Why? To get our attention, to shake us, to wake us up.” He went on to ask, “since 9/11, are you morally and spiritually better off than you were 10 years ago? Is your family? Are your children? How about your congregation?”

10 years ago, God shook us. The question is – were we listening?

These were some of the sobering facts that Joel shared:

Since 9/11, nine of the costliest hurricanes have occurred (Katrina alone cost \$108 Billion).

2011 has been a year of the WORST national disasters.

The worst outbreak of fires, followed by the worst droughts, have taken place in Texas.

The biggest earthquake has taken place on the East Coast since 1875.

The biggest earthquake has taken place in Colorado since 1882.

The US economy has been shaken to the core - 42,000 American factories have closed, 14 million Americans have lost their jobs in the last few years, millions of Americans have lost their homes; the national debt is now **14 TRILLION** dollars. Even if we paid it back at \$1 per second, it would take 32,000 **YEARS** just to get the debt down to **1 Trillion** dollars.

Morally in the U.S. - since 1973, more than **53 MILLION** abortions have been performed in the U.S. and there is no end in sight; Pornography revenues today exceed the revenues of ABC, CBS and NBC COMBINED and are larger than the revenues of Microsoft, Google, Amazon, E-bay, Yahoo, Apple, Netflix, and Earthlink COMBINED.

What about the Church? The divorce rate of born-again Christians is 32%, as opposed to people who say they do not believe in God at 34%. Of the 85% of Americans who are born-again, only 50% believe that the Bible is accurate and without error, and only half claim to have attempted to share the gospel with 1 person over the past year.

How can this be? Well, the message is sobering, and the shaking will continue.

Anne Graham Lotz, spoke to us of the remedy for God’s people and what God is calling us to do. Clearly God calls his people to be salt and light in this ever-darkening world.

Anne brought a powerful message of hope and healing through her own testimony and that of the Prophet Isaiah in Isaiah 6:1- 8. She led us in a time of personal repentance before God.

Here are some of the ways people responded to “A Wake-Up Call”:

Linda Adam: I was moved to the point that I realized I have SO much more to do. I ready for the second coming of Christ? No! seeing the video was my wake-up call!

Jim Wilson: I was struck by the first speaker with one word: “urgency”. So much is happening so quickly in our world that shows the day of Christ’s return is closer than ever. Christians are far too silent in our nation. The thing that struck me most

about Anne Graham Lotz is how, even when we are going through hard times, we should look up and see Jesus on the throne, in charge, more powerful than anyone else in the universe.

Pastor Bill: Three verses. “Then said I, Woe is me! for I am undone; because I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips: for mine eyes have seen the King, the LORD of hosts.” Isaiah 6:5 “That no flesh should glory in his presence.” 1 Corinthians 1:29 [It is only by the grace of God that] “we live, and move, and have our being;” Acts 17:28

Christy Caruso: To say I was moved by Anne’s message is an understatement. Hearing her speak on the passage from Isaiah 6 caused me to reflect on my life and where I stand in light of God’s holiness. Needless to say, it started an inward searching that hasn’t stopped yet!

Sheryl Morales: It was convicting to hear that even though many (including myself) believe we are living in the last days, how are we living differently in light of that fact? “Why do you call me Lord, Lord, and do not do what I say?”

Robin Di Fiore Made me want to come home and start packing! Put earthly things into perspective. A reminder that whatever “brown package” shows up at your doorstep, doesn’t take God by surprise! To surrender to His will for my life, not mine!

Matie O’Brien-Cole: I liked Anne Graham Lotz’s presentation a lot. I was thinking of wrapping up some packages in brown paper as I consider a visual for what the treasure is inside the unappealing “gifts”. Joel’s information was a good reminder about the approaching end of the age. He puts things in perspective. Still, the coming could be lifetimes from now...still following Jesus...lots of brown paper packages and all....looking for the treasure...not there yet...just frustrated and weary by it all.

2 Chronicles 7:14 is applicable. “If my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then will I hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and will heal their land.”

If you missed this powerful message, it can be viewed online until January 13, 2012 at this address:

<http://mediasuite.316networks.com/player.php?p=i0yi846u>

Mark Your Calendars!

December is a very special month at TRBC. On Sunday, December 18th, the adult choir will present its annual Christmas Program during morning worship. We will have our traditional Christmas Eve Candlelight Service, always a favorite, on Saturday, December 24th at 7 p.m. And with Christmas falling on a Sunday this year, our December 25th morning worship promises to be especially meaningful.

And, the opportunities don’t stop there.

A Springtime Musical called “The Ultimate Question” is coming to TRBC. It’s a “simple+ musical about who God says we are!” The set is one of a game show and I’m looking for elementary, Jr. high and Sr. high kids to make it come to life. Rehearsals will begin in January (most probably sometime on Saturdays) and the performance will take place in March. Details to follow. Invite your friends to be a part of our show! music, fun storyline, some parts. See Janet Wilson asap if you’re interested, as casting will need to begin soon.

How Well Do You Know God's Word?

“For everything that was written in the past was written to teach us,
so that through endurance and encouragement of the
scriptures we might have hope.” Romans 15:4

Fill in the blanks, then check your NIV Bible to see how you did.

Isaiah 53:6all, like _____, have gone _____, each of us has turned to his own _____.

Isaiah 53:12Hethe _____ of many, and made _____ for the transgressors.

Isaiah 54:10Though the _____ be shaken and the _____ be removed, yet my unfailing
_____ for you will not be shaken nor my covenant of _____.

Isaiah 55:6_____the Lord while He may be found; call on Him while He is _____.

Isaiah 55:9As the _____ are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than _____ ways and my
_____ higher than your thoughts.

Isaiah 59:Surely the _____ of the Lord is not too short to _____, nor His ear too dull to hear. But your
iniquities have _____ you from God; your _____ have hidden His face from you, so that He will not
hear.

Isaiah 60:1Arise, _____, for your light has come, and the _____ of the Lord rises upon you.

Celebrating Our Members

Winston Buckridee

Winston met Patty while delivering pizza. Describing her as “a great tipper”, they’ll celebrate their 20th anniversary this month.

Winston Doodnath Buckridee (*his middle name is an Indian name meaning “messenger of God”*) was born on October 30th, 1967 on the island of Trinidad in the Caribbean. “I grew up in a Hindu household, but I went to a Presbyterian primary school.” The pastor there was Winston’s first real chance of knowing about Jesus. “He would come to the big, one-room school house and he told the story of the ten lepers. Growing up, I really didn’t know anything about lepers or the Bible or anything. He randomly pulled out ten kids from the whole school, and I’m one of the ten. So he said, ‘You’re a leper. Jesus healed you. What do you do?’ The other nine said, ‘Oh, I’d go home, get something to eat, whatever’. He comes to me, I’m the last guy and he says, ‘What would you do?’ And I said, ‘I’d go back and thank Jesus.’ And he said, ‘That’s exactly what happened in the story’. And I could see it in his eyes, it’s like God blew him away. Maybe it was just God tapping me on the shoulder to let me know that He was there.” Winston went from Presbyterian primary school to Catholic high school in Trinidad.

“I got an opportunity to come to the United States in 1987”, Winston says. “I was working at a pizzeria in Scotch Plains. And these kids would come on Sundays with a box guitar and they would sing songs while eating their pizza. And they were always so happy. They had asked me one time, ‘Why don’t you come to church with

us?' I avoided them. About two years later, I said to them, 'the next time I see you, I'll go with you.' I saw them coming to the restaurant and I hid from them. The next time they came, it was Saturday and they said, 'Come with us. We have a Bible study on Saturday, too. It's about getting to know who God is.' And I went to Evangel Church with them. The guy leading the study talked about how 'the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ'. And he talked about 'All we, like sheep, have gone astray.' All these verses started to come alive. I felt like those words were for me. I'm driving down Terrill Road and this fear came over me. I never feared anybody. I pulled the car to the side of Terrill Road and I said, 'Jesus, save me from hell.'

Winston got to be the manager of the pizzeria. Back then, they gave a \$3 discount if the pie was not delivered in 30 minutes. "Quite a few times, we had to give Patty \$3 off and that came out of our bottom line." So, Winston started delivering Patty's pizzas himself to make sure he got it to her in under 30 minutes. "Great tipper!", he says about Patty. "It turned out, delivering pizza to her all the time, we became friends." One Sunday, she showed up at the pizzeria. "She stopped in and I said, 'What are you doing later?' We went to Charlie Brown's and have been together ever since. In December, we'll be married 20 years."

Winston says what drives him .. is telling people about the Lord. "There is a way, and Jesus is the Way." When people say to Winston, "Why would God allow this?", he is ready with an answer. "That's my opening right there, and He always affords me that opportunity to witness, to tell people the Good News."

The owner of Lady Bug Pest Services in Westfield, Winston considers himself "a full-time preacher with a part-time exterminating job."

For people going through difficult circumstances, Winston has been there. "I get through hard times believing, taking God at His word. When the trouble does come, I know He's right there with me. I know He will get me out of it."

How has Winston seen God working in his life? "I see him on a daily basis, man! He is so constant. He truly never changes. He's faithful. People who seek Him will never be disappointed."



Dear Heavenly Father,

Thank You for giving me the very best gift ever: Your Son,
our Savior, and for the forgiveness that comes through Him.

Great is Your faithfulness.

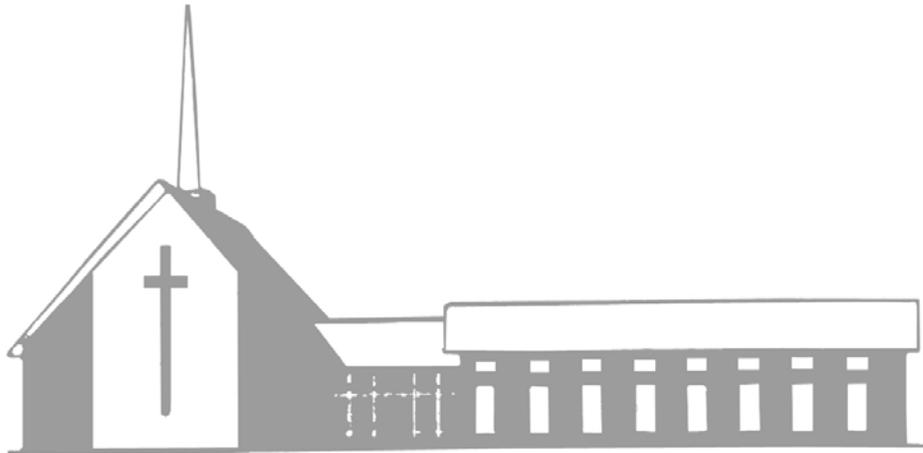
In Jesus' Name I pray. Amen.

The Lamplighter

SUNDAY BIBLE STUDY 9:30 A.M.
SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICE 10:45 A.M.
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Terrill Road Baptist Church is a Bible-believing Church where people connect with God, each other, and influence our world for Jesus Christ.



December Nursery Schedule

December 4 Jim & Christine Voorhees
December 11 Spring & Tony Casterlow
December 18 Lisa & Danielle Dyer
December 25 Robin Di Fiore

Thanks to all of you!

Deadline for January
Lamplighter:
Sunday, December 25

My thanks to everyone who
contributed to this issue.
-Jim Wilson, Editor