



Seventh Notes

SEVENTH & JAMES BAPTIST CHURCH

April 2011

A NOTE FROM BURT

Dear Friends,

I told someone recently that preaching at 7th is like a child turned loose in a homilectical candy store. It's a delight... it's stimulating... it's a rush... it's a wonder to be able to make one small reference and connect a room full of sensitive seekers to worlds of meaning. You all just go with me. Thank you for doing that. It's reminded these past nine months that preaching is something that a community does.

Seventh & James is a fun place to preach and there is somewhere "out there" a very blessed pastor whom we are trusting God is drawing to us even as we search and discern and make our way towards her or him. As that process happens, as our Search Committee prays and travels and listens and deliberates, remember that we all have work to do in these days of transition. There is something for you to do.

If I were a pastor considering a move to a church and were asked by a search committee member, "what will you be hoping for as you arrive?" Here's how I would answer...

Well... um... (I almost always begin with "well, um") here's what I hope. I hope for just two things. I hope that they're taking hold and letting go. I hope they're taking hold; that all the councils are functioning well and that they're not waiting on a pastor to arrive and prompt their ministry. And I hope that they're connecting with one another and with the visitors coming their way. And... well... um... I hope that they're letting go; that they're practicing the way of surrender to God. I hope that they're able both to celebrate the past and to let go of that basic human need to control the future.

There's something for you to do. Out there, somewhere, is one blessed minister that will (hopefully soon) be coming our way... and there's something for you to do in preparation. Take hold... let go. Do your part. Let go. Let God be God.

God's peace to us,
Burt

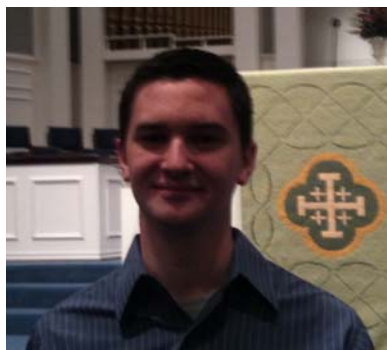
PASTOR SEARCH COMMITTEE UPDATE

The Pastor Search Committee has continued to meet on a regular basis. We have now reviewed a total of 78 candidates from all across the United States. We have listened to sermons, sent questionnaires, requested references, and traveled to hear candidates preach. Through this process, we have narrowed our list to six candidates and have continued the narrowing process.

We are enclosing a 30 Day Prayer Calendar so the congregation can join with us in prayer over the month of April. Pray for our candidates, that they will hear God's guidance. Pray for our committee, that we will be able to discern God's voice. Pray for our staff, that their energies will be renewed. Pray for our congregation, that our hearts will begin to burn with anticipation of what God is bringing to us.

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|--|---|--|--|--|--|--|
| 30 Days of Prayer <i>Please join the Pastor Search Committee in 30 days of prayer for Seventh and James and the pastor search process.</i> | | | | | <i>April 1</i> Pray that our Pastor Search Committee stays open to God's guidance. | <i>April 2</i> Pray for our candidates – that they may know God's will for their lives. |
| <i>April 3</i> Pray that we as a congregation will continue to step forward to do our part in caring for one another. | <i>April 4</i> Pray that our church staff will have renewed energy for the journey. | <i>April 5</i> Pray for committee members Jamie and Ellen – that they will be refreshed and have discernment. | <i>April 6</i> Pray for committee members Derek and Daryle – that they will be refreshed and have discernment. | <i>April 7</i> Pray for committee members Becky and Jeanne – that they will be refreshed and have discernment. | <i>April 8</i> Pray that our committee continues to have cohesion. | <i>April 9</i> Pray for our candidates' families – that they will also know God's will. |
| <i>April 10</i> Pray for our congregation – that we will have open hearts for what God will bring us. | <i>April 11</i> Pray that our church staff will have continued wisdom as they lead our congregation. | <i>April 12</i> Pray for committee members Bill and Carl – that they will be refreshed and have discernment. | <i>April 13</i> Pray for committee members Pat and Donna – that they will be refreshed and have discernment. | <i>April 14</i> Pray for committee members Sharon and Ann – that they will be refreshed and have discernment. | <i>April 15</i> Pray that our committee has wisdom and discernment. | <i>April 16</i> Pray for our candidates and their families – that they will have peace through the process. |
| <i>April 17</i> Pray for the congregation as we prepare to love and serve together with a new pastor. | <i>April 18</i> Pray that our church staff will sense God's presence and our love for them. | <i>April 19</i> Pray for committee members Lynn and Bert – that they will be refreshed and have discernment. | <i>April 20</i> Pray for Committee Chair, Sharon – that she will lead as God directs, with wisdom and fairness. | <i>April 21</i> Pray that our committee will be refreshed and well-rested. | <i>April 22</i> Pray that our committee will continue to hear God's guidance. | <i>April 23</i> Pray that our candidates will clearly hear God's call for their lives. |
| <i>April 24</i> Pray that our congregation will experience new life through this process. | <i>April 25</i> Pray that our staff will be prepared to transition with a new pastor. | <i>April 26</i> Pray that our committee will be prepared to transition with a new pastor. | <i>April 27</i> Pray that our congregation will be prepared to transition with a new pastor. | <i>April 28</i> Pray that the candidates, the committee, and the congregation will know God's call and be at peace with it. | <i>April 29</i> Pray that God will bless our congregation with growth, love, and renewed energy as we choose a new pastor to lead us. | <i>April 30</i> Pray that Seventh will join with a new pastor in a renewed call to follow and serve God, both in Waco and around the world. |

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS



Bryan Maine

Bryan joins Seventh & James by transfer of letter. Bryan is a graduate of Truett Seminary and is currently pursuing a PhD at Baylor. Welcome, Bryan!



Jessica Chastain

Jessica joins Seventh & James by Watchcare. Jessica is a second-year Truett student. She received her undergraduate degree from Western North Carolina University. Welcome, Jessica!



Bill and Robbie Lamkin

We are delighted to welcome Bill and Robbie Lamkin back to Seventh! Bill and Robbie were long-time members of Seventh until they moved to Brownwood. They have recently moved back to Waco and have joined Seventh once again.

LENTEN AND EASTER EVENTS

PALM SUNDAY
April 17, 10:50 a.m.

Sanctuary Choir and Orchestra Presentation

MAUNDY THURSDAY COMMUNION SERVICE
April 21, 6:00 p.m.
(Dinner at 5:15 p.m.)

CHILDREN'S EASTER WALK
April 21, 6:00 p.m.
(Grades 1—6)

GOOD FRIDAY MEDITATION HOUR
April 22, 12:00—1:00 p.m.

GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE
April 22, 7:00 p.m.

CHILDREN'S EASTER EGG HUNT
April 23, 10:30 a.m.

EASTER SUNDAY SERVICE
April 24, 10:50 a.m.

CHAUTAUQUA 2011

It's that time again! Each summer, our regular Sunday school classes disband for the summer months and we offer a variety of short-term classes. The Education Council is planning the calendar for this summer. If you would like to teach a class, please submit a written proposal including a title for your class, a brief 3-4 sentence description of the class and your preferred session. Proposals may be submitted to Leslie Rosencrans (leslie@seventhandjames.org). Proposals will be considered on a first-come, first-serve basis.

Chautauqua Sessions 2011

Session 1: June 5, 12, 19, and 26

Session 2: July 3, 10, 17, 24

Session 3: July 31, August 7, 14

WITH GRATITUDE

Dear Seventh & James,

Your support, prayers and care sustained us both in the past and will continue to sustain me in the present and future.

Love,
Mary Ila Colvin

Dear Seventh & James Bereavement Committee,

Thank you for the love and care expressed in the meal prepared and served for Herbert's family and out of town friends after his service. This is a wonderful ministry to our members.

Love,
Mary Ila Colvin

Dear 7th Kids,

Thank you so much for the prayer cards—what beautiful colors of PRAYER! We thank you for the greetings at the time that would have been Martha's birthday, too. Your sweet expressions of sympathy are so appreciated. May your ministry flourish.

Love,
Ron and Jane Colbert

Dear 7th Kids,

Thank you for the remembrance of each of us telling each other Jesus loves us.

I love you,
Aletha Keelen

Dear Seventh & James,

Thank you so much for assisting Ms. Aldava with her water deposit, this is indeed a blessing. I thank God for your ministry among us. May God continue to bless you richly. Valerie, I so appreciate your assistance with this need.

Providence Hospital and
Josie L. Martinez

Dear 7th Kids,

Thank you for the cards you send me. They really are so inspirational and mean a great deal to me.

Love,
Barbara Leavell

To My 7th & James Family,

I first want to thank God for standing with me during these past few months. Second, I want to thank all of you for all the prayers and concern you have shown me. After months of searching I have finally found a job. If it wasn't for God and my church family I don't know where I would have been. Thanks again.

See ya' at Lowe's,
Robin Edgerton

Dear 7th Kids,

On mother's behalf, we want to say thank you for your many wonderful and beautiful cards and their encouraging messages. Mother recognized the envelopes and always looked forward to receiving them. We even used them to decorate her walls at Regent Care.

You were so faithful to remember Mother, not only with the cards, but with your prayers.

Through those cards and prayers was demonstrated God's love for her. Thank you again.

Love,
Liz & Bill Sanders,
Ron & Jane Colbert,
Martha Sue & Art Hall

XYZ • April 28
10:30 • Potluck & Dominoes

MEN'S PRAYER BREAKFAST
SATURDAY, MAY 7
8:30 AM

HARPER HALL
PLEASE INVITE A FRIEND!



Sunday School Fellowship

Join us for breakfast in Harper Hall
before Sunday school on

Sunday, June 5th
from 9:15-9:45am

Food From the Faithful:

Please bring donations of canned meat (tuna, chicken, etc.) to be donated to Caritas for families in need in the Waco community.

DEACON OFFERING COORDINATORS

| Date | Deacon |
|----------|----------------|
| April 3 | College Sunday |
| April 10 | Lydia Bratcher |
| April 17 | Julie Carter |
| April 24 | Katie Cook |
| May 1 | Youth Sunday |

CELEBRATING GRACE HYMNAL

We are now accepting donations for purchasing Celebrating Grace Hymnals in the church office. The hymnals cost \$17.50 each. If you wish, your donation can be made in memory or honor of a loved one, and a bookplate will be attached in the front of a hymnal recognizing your donation. Once we have received donations to cover the cost of three hundred hymnals, the hymnals will be ordered and used at Seventh shortly afterward.

COLLEGE STUDY TABLES



It's that time again! In May we'll open the Melton Building for students to study for exams. If you would like to provide homemade goodies (or store-bought) please see Matt Rosencrans. We will also need volunteers to help with sign-in each night.

College Study Tables:

May 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6

8:00 pm - 2:00 am

Shifts run from 8:00-10:00, 10:00-12:00

and 12:00-2:00

Contact Matt (matt@seventhandjames.org)