



The Link

Connecting
Church To Home

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The Newsletter of Bethel Free Will Baptist Church

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Pastor: Dr. Dave Nobles
Address: 3713 Pennington Lane, Woodbridge, VA 22192
Email: bethel@bfbwbc.com

Associate Pastor: Rev. Jamie Lane
Phone: 703-590-5199
Website: www.bfbwbc.com

WHO AM I?

Who is the pastor and what in the world is he to do? I often have folks to ask, "What do you do all day anyway?" This is a legitimate question which does not any longer offend me. I realize that most people have little frame of reference on which to base an idea of the ministry.

It has been true, also, that we as pastors have not been the best at teaching the Biblical perspective of the office of pastor. For this, we are to be held in account. We are to "feed the flock of God." This includes the Scriptural definition, ministry, and care of the pastor.

The New Testament primarily uses six terms for the description of the pastor. These are listed below with a little basic information. **Read each one carefully seeing it as a piece of the puzzle and not the entire picture. Each one makes us part of the whole so as to give a full, well-rounded, complete picture.**

1. 1 Peter 5:1-4—Shepherd or *pastor* [same word]. No doubt Peter had in his mind the time that Jesus said to him three times, "Do you love me? Feed my lambs, shepherd [tend, pasture] my sheep, feed my sheep."
2. 1 Peter 5:1-4; Titus 1:5-9; 1 Timothy 5:17-20—*Elder*. [The terms *bishop* and *elder* are used interchangeably by Paul. - comp. Acts 20:17-38 where they are called *elders* in verse 17 and *overseers* (bishops) and *shepherds* in verse 28. In Titus he calls them *elders* first, then *bishops*. If there is a difference, it is that the *elder* is a man called of God to preach in maturity and wisdom who does not actually *bishop* the church. I personally think that is incorrect and that the *bishop* must have the mature wisdom to be able to be a proper *bishop*. This would fit the qualifications of 1 Timothy 3 better. In 1 Peter 5 the term *oversight* is the same word as *bishop*. Again you have the interchanging of terms as though they are the same office from two different

perspectives.] The *elder* is the source of mature wisdom both in the pulpit, in his daily interaction with the people, and in privately and personally helping people through their times of trial and testing and tragedy.

3. Hebrews 13:7-18 [Especially 7,16-18]—*Ruler*. [Concept taken from the obvious meaning of "them which have the rule over you" and "Obey them that have the rule over you, and submit yourselves."] The idea of *ruler* is as a good king who cares for his people. It carries the same idea as a father "ruling" his own household well.
4. 1 Timothy 3:1-7; Titus 1:5-9—*Bishop*. *Bishop* is the idea of superintendent or overseer. This is like a supervisor in a business. He is not the owner or the head man, he is the "in-between." It is his job to help those under him to please the owner [the Lord Himself].
5. & 6. Thessalonians 2:7, 11—Paul says to that church that when he was with them he was to them as a *nursing mother* [KJV *nurse*]. He was like a mother feeding milk nurturing to those who were little and immature. He dealt with them in tenderness in the church as a mother expresses tenderness and sweetness in the home. He says in verse 11 that he also was to them as a father exhorting, comforting, and charging each one. It would appear from his dealing with the Corinthian church that this meant that he would be lovingly harsh if that is what was required to fulfill his office and correct them in their sin or their misunderstanding of the Word. This gives the concept that the structure of the home is to be followed in the church since it is to be only an extension of the home. (The local church is a group of homes, or families, banded together in love around the Word of God for the mutual benefit of leadership of the home). Thus we have the admonition of Hebrews 10:23-17. In a godly home, the father and mother are accountable to their children, but not in the same way that the children are to the father and mother. The concept of proper roles being carried out so that a "chain of command" is established is vital. This is not a

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BETHEL FREE WILL BAPTIST CHURCH
3713 Pennington Lane
Woodbridge, VA 22192

June Events

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| June | 5 | Guest Speaker: Dr. Bruce Barnes |
| June | 18 | VBS Training Meeting 1:00pm |
| June | 19 | Father's Day Service |
| June | 25 | VBS Training Meeting 1:00pm |

Weekly Schedule

SUNDAY

- Sunday School: 9:30 AM
Worship: 10:30 AM
Choir Rehearsal: (after the morning service)
Casa de Dios Worship: 3:30 PM

TUESDAY

- Mother's Morning Out: 9:00 AM
Men's Bible Study: 7:00 PM

WEDNESDAY

- Co-Ed Bible Study: 7:00 PM
Ladies Bible Study: 7:00 PM
Youth Group : 7:00 PM
Kid's Club: 7:00 PM
All Church Bible Study & Dinner: 6:30 PM
(first Wednesday of the month)

THURSDAY

- Mother's Morning Out 9:00 AM
Casa De Dios Bible Study (Fellowship Hall) 7:30 PM

FRIDAY

- Casa De Dios Youth Group : 6:30 PM

SATURDAY

- Casa De Dios Prayer Meeting: 7:30 AM
Men's Prayer Meeting: 8:00 AM

military concept, but one that provides security for and understanding between each member of the family. So it should be in the church.

From the Scripture, the role of the pastor is quite involved. It is more than just someone who lectures on Sunday and makes a few visits. He is vitally involved in leading the lives of those in his care. He is responsible to God for their souls.

This involves teaching things that are not always according to the whim of the day. If the pastor is to be a prophet of the Word and not a puppet of the times, he must stay on his knees and in the Word of God.

That is why the apostles in Acts 6 had to make some organizational changes to the church. "It is not reason that we should leave the word of God, and serve tables." If these men were deacons, as it would seem since they were to "diakonos" the tables, then deacons are to be an extension of the apostles (in our day, the pastor's ministry). Serving the widows was now to be under their control since these men were "appointed" and delegated by the apostles. This was so that the apostles would not have to leave the more important task of "the Word of God" to do a task that was certainly also important. They would give themselves ". . . continually to prayer, and to the ministry of the word."

This sets the priority for the pastor - the study, preaching, teaching, and sharing of the Word of God, saturated with prayer. Any other priority is out of line with the thinking and teaching of the New Testament church.

What an awesome responsibility!!! Except it be done in the supernatural power of the Holy Spirit, it cannot. Human means will utterly fail.

That is not to say that crowds cannot be gathered, that programs cannot be organized and implemented. Certainly today we have many churches and pastors that are operating in the power of the flesh.

I never want this to happen at Bethel Church. We have seen the power of God. We have seen precious souls come to the altar and step into the kingdom of God through faith and repentance of sin. We have seen homes restored, lives changed, and hearts made alive in Christ through His power in the church. Let's keep it that way.

Pray for your pastor that there will not be any hint of anything less than the fulfilling of the joyous but awesome task before me. Pray for our church that God will show Himself mightily and bring many more to Himself and bring the Light in a dark world.

Who am I? I am proud to be called Pastor of Bethel Free Will Baptist Church!!!!!!

—Pastor Dave Nobles



Birthdays

- June 2 William Bowen
- June 3 Judy Barr
- June 8 Tom Barr
- June 9 Shianne Dennis
- June 10 Rose Ramey
- June 14 Gaye Nobles
- June 24 Jayne Hylton
- June 24 Justin Hovmiller
- June 27 Carolyn Mock

Anniversaries

- June 12 Charles & Judy Jackson
- June 14 Melvin & Mary Ellen Settle
- June 17 Rick & Cheryl Woodward
- June 21 Pastor Dave & Gaye Nobles
- June 27 Joshua & Joyce Lewis
- June 27 James & Melissa Meredith
- June 29 Mike & Drema Yates

If we have missed your special day, please let us know!

June Scripture

**"Do not be wise in your own eyes;
Fear the LORD and depart from evil."
Proverbs 3:7**

THE FOOL

Rev. Henry Ward Beecher entered Plymouth Church one Sunday and found several letters awaiting him. He opened one and found it contained the single word "FOOL". Quietly and with becoming seriousness he announced to the congregation the fact in these words: "I have known many an instance of a man writing a letter and forgetting to sign his name, but this is the only instance I have ever known of a man signing his name and forgetting to write the letter."

Just for KIDS

Give to those in need

John the Baptist spoke to a crowd, telling them they should be fruitful. When the crowd asked how they could be fruitful, John the Baptist responded with some specific ideas.

Unscramble John the Baptist's reply from Luke 3:11 (NIV), and write the words in the blanks below.

WORD BANK

with food him who should with man share do the should
two tunics has the who none and one the same has

hte nma wthi owt cintus

douhs hares hiwt mbi how sha

onen dan eth neo owh

ash ofdo slouhd od het smao

Answer: "The man with two tunics should share with him who has none, and the one who has food should do the same." (Luke 3:11, NIV)



Lamb Mission Bank

God can do great things with our gifts. This craft reminds us that every little coin counts. When your lamb is full, empty out the coins and give them to a charity or church mission program.



- What you need:**
- Knit glove (black or white)
 - 1-foot-long piece of thin ribbon, any color
 - Stapler
 - Craft glue or hot glue gun
 - Fiberfill or cotton balls
 - 2 googly eyes

- What you do:**
1. Staple one end of the ribbon to the inside of each side of the glove's opening to make a hanger.
 2. For the lamb's body, cover the palm and half of the thumb with glue. Stick the fiberfill or cotton balls onto the glue.
 3. Glue a googly eye to each side of the mitten's thumb. (The other fingers will be the legs.)
 4. Hang the lamb where you'll see it often. Whenever you have extra change, drop it into your lamb bag.