

The Pastor's Pen

Over the past two Sundays, we have looked at warnings from 2 Peter 3:15-17 for Christians to stay on guard against false teachers, who often masquerade as Christian teachers. Tim Challis helps us do that by identifying seven kinds of false teachers that may be found carrying out their deceptive, destructive work in the church today. Highlights of his article are listed below. The full article is available online: <https://www.challies.com/articles/test-every-doctrine-test-every-teacher/>

The Heretic is the most prominent and perhaps the most dangerous of the false teachers. Peter warned against him in 2 Peter 2:1. He teaches what blatantly contradicts an essential teaching of the Christian faith. Like Jehovah's Witnesses, he may alter God's finished word, or like Mormons, he may add to it.

The Charlatan is only interested in the Christian faith to the extent that it can fill his wallet. He uses his leadership position to benefit from others' wealth. Paul identifies him in 1 Timothy 6:3-5. Today Benny Hinn, Creflo Dollar, and a host of others peddle the prosperity gospel to enrich themselves from their followers' gifts.

The Prophet claims to be gifted by God to speak fresh revelation outside of Scripture – new, authoritative words of prediction, teaching, rebuke, or encouragement. In reality, though, he is commissioned and empowered by Satan for the purpose of misleading and disrupting Christ's church. John offered an urgent warning about him in 1 John 4:1. In the 19th century, Joseph Smith claimed to receive *The Book of Mormon* from the angel Moroni. Today the airwaves are chock-full of people claiming to speak in the name of God.

The Abuser uses his position of leadership to take advantage of people. Usually, he takes advantage of them to feed his sexual lust, though he may also desire power. Both Peter (2 Peter 2:2) and Jude (Jude 4) warned of the Abuser's lechery. Tragically, the history of the Christian faith features countless Abusers. Today it seems that every week, we learn of another leader who has been found guilty of sexual sin with men, women, or even children. Meanwhile, we hear sad accounts of abuse from survivors.

(Continued Inside Newsletter)

First Focus

A Weekly Newsletter for the Family and Friends of Pickens First Baptist

- All Church Members.....Ministers
- Fred Stone (859-5853).....Senior Pastor
- Bryan Hester (704-4802).....Worship & Associate Pastor
- Jeff Rafferty (607-8306).....Discipleship & Missions Pastor
- Mike Sterlachini (395-5880).....Student & Family Pastor
- Jennifer Hendrix (449-5381).....Preschool Director
- Katie Freeman.....Financial Secretary
- Tricia McJunkin.....Church Secretary

Church Phone: 864-878-6564 Website: www.fbcpickens.org

Office Hours: 8:30 AM – 5 PM, Monday – Thursday

8:30 AM – 12:30 PM, Friday

The Pastor's Pen Cont.

The Divider uses false doctrine to disrupt, divide, or destroy a church. Jude warned about him in Jude 18-21. He sometimes makes a minor doctrine into the mark of Christian maturity, causing factions to arise within the body. He may slyly introduce unbiblical doctrines, or he may undermine the ordained leadership. He does it all for the perverse satisfaction that comes with destruction.

The Tickler is the false teacher who cares nothing for what God wants and everything for what men want. He is the man-pleaser rather than the God-pleaser. Paul described him as the ear-tickler in 2 Timothy 4:3-4. The Tickler craves popularity and praise from the world. Therefore, he speaks much of happiness but little of sin, much of heaven but nothing of hell. He gives them only what they want to hear. He preaches a partial gospel which is no gospel at all. In the 20th century he was Norman Vincent Peale and Robert Schuller. Today he is Joel Osteen.

The Speculator is the one obsessed with novelty, originality, or speculation. The author of Hebrews warned his church of these "strange teachings," (Hebrews 13:9), while Paul told Timothy to protect the church against any "different doctrine" (1 Timothy 1:3). The Speculator tosses aside the bulk of the Bible's content and the weight of the Bible's emphasis in order to obsess about minor or novel matters. Today, as in every age, the Speculator obsesses about End Times. He may obscure the clear message of Scripture to search for hidden codes in Scripture. Well did Paul label the Speculator a contradictory, irreverent babbling (1 Timothy 6:20-21).

Bryan's Notes

Senior Adult News...

Monday, March 18th: Luncheon and Special Time of Worship with Richard Painter and Furman Whitmire. Lunch at 11:30 am and the service at 12:15 pm. Cost: \$8 per person for lunch. Deadline to Sign Up: Sunday, March 17th.

Monday, May 6th: Trip to Strawberry Hill to get Strawberries. Eat Lunch at The Auction. Cost: Money for Lunch and Strawberries. Leave at 10:00 am and return around 3:00 pm.

Looking Ahead: Summer Outreach Camps

Our ***Truth Journey Sports Camp*** and our ***Joyful Noise Music Camp*** are coming up this summer! As always, these are great times of outreach to our community. **This year please note that both camps are only 3 days this year with Wednesday night being a special night of fellowship and worship.** We will begin signing up volunteers and children soon. Keep looking for those dates.

For now here are the dates for both camps:

Truth Journey Sports Camp: June 10-12 (Monday- Wednesday) at Jaycee Park with a special Family Fun Night on Wednesday.

Joyful Noise Music Camp: June 24-26 (Monday- Wednesday) here at the church with a special Family Supper and Worship Time on Wednesday night.



Welcome New Members!

Josh and LeAnne Sargent

Joshua and Riley
19 Hedgepath Street
Liberty, SC 29657

Student Ministry News from Mike



YOUTH SUMMER CAMP!!

Yes...it's time to talk about summer camp! On July 8-12, our youth will partner with Student Life Camp (like last year) and head to Liberty University. This year will be similar to last year's trip to Daytona Beach, only it will involve a "mission component." In addition to worship, games, exploring the campus of Liberty University, and free-time, our students will be showing the love of Christ by serving at a retirement home. Scholarships and extended deadlines are available.

Children's Ministry News from Mike



Down on the Farm Theme Night at Awana!

Wednesday, March 20 will be *Down on the Farm Theme Night* at Awana. All children are encouraged to dress up like farmers, farm animals, etc. The Awana team that dresses up the best, will receive extra points that evening. We will also have special snacks and a piñata!



Counting Committee

March 17: Davey Hiott, Chr.; William Reece; Brett Garrison

March 24: Davey Hiott, Chr.; William Reece; Brett Garrison

House Attendant, Prayer

March 17: Andy Williams

March 24: Victor Whitworth

Prayer Room Schedule - March 17

Prayer Room - 878-PRAY (7729)

9:15 am - Pamela Clarkson

10:30 am - Boyce Couch

6:00 pm - Cheryl Agüero

Ushers For March

8:00 a.m. Service **10:30 a.m. Service**

Bob Ward

Phil Stewart

Jim Alexander

Davey Hiott, Group Leader

Doug Hayes Boyce Couch

David Eller Lander Hiott

Len Newman Phil Payne

Gene Hinkle

Greeters - "Hello, How Are You Today?"

March 17: Door #1, Boyce & Loree Couch
Door #2, Greeters Needed

March 24: Door #1, Lynda Kelley
Door #2, Jerry & Ruth Ann Smith

Safety Team Rotation Assignment

The Month Of March

3 - Team A

10 - Team B

17 - Team C

24 - Team D

31 - Team A

Preschool Worship Volunteers

10:00 a.m. Service

March 17: Babies, Mendel & Janice Stewart & Holly Newman ; 1's, Chip & Sheila Dunn
2's & 3's, Amy & Sadie Sawyer; K4's & K5's, Judy Edwards & Lissa Milano

March 24: Babies, Jeff & Kelly Turner; 1's, Milledge & Linda Cassell
2's & 3's, Mac Bolding & Emily Simmons; K4's & K5's, Tom & Jennifer Lehman

Discipleship and Missions News from Jeff

PFBC Mission Opportunities This Summer:

Guatemala:

Carpenters for Christ will sponsor a mission trip to Hope of Life in the Zacapa area of Guatemala. The trip will be Saturday, June 22 - Saturday, June 29, 2019. There will be opportunities to do construction, medical, evangelism and Vacation Bible School. The total cost of the trip will be \$1650 (\$825 for church members). There will be an informational meeting scheduled at a later date. Contact Mendel Stewart with any questions.

Peru:

PFBC will be sponsoring a Medical Mission Trip to two mountain towns of Peru July 13-20. It is our hope and prayer that God will use this trip to open hearts to the gospel where currently there is resistance. There will be other opportunities, such as teaching English, leading children's activities, etc. There is a place for you on this team even if you are not medical personnel. However, we do need a nurse and a pharmacist to go on this trip. The total cost of this trip is \$1800 (\$900 for church members) If interested, please contact Jeff at Jeff@fbcpickens.org or Jim Gilstrap.

Aletheia Church, Arizona

PFBC will be going to Sedona, AZ in order to help Aletheia Church conduct Vacation Bible School July 20-27. Aletheia Church is a growing church plant; however, they still need help from energetic believers to help them conduct VBS and to share the gospel with children. This would be a great trip for teens and college age students. Total cost of this trip is \$1000 (\$500 for church members) If interested or have questions, contact either Jeff at 878-6564 / Jeff@fbcpickens.org or Lisa Hiott at Hiottlc@gmail.com.

You may sign-up for any of these mission trips on the Missions Page of our church website: www.fbcpickens.org.

IN BRIEF

*Dear Church Family,
Thank you so very much for your prayers and the prayergrams, cards, and food following my surgery. Please continue to remember me in the days ahead.
Sadie Lee*

Women On Mission Joint Meeting for North American Missions

The Women On Mission Groups will meet Thursday, March 21, at 11:00 a.m. in Room E106 (Ground Floor near Elevator)



FILL IT UP! GA Project

Girls in Action have placed grocery sacks in Sunday School classes. Instructions are on the bags. If you don't get a bag, you can use any bag and put in clean, gently-used clothing for the Dream Center. Please bring the bag to the fellowship hall before April 16th. Thank you!



Tear Off Here And Put In The Offering Plate

Sign-Up for Wednesday Night Supper on March 20

Name: _____

Number eating: _____

Do you want to be on the Permanent List? Yes No

*** Reminder: All supper reservations and cancellations must be made by 5:00 p.m. on Monday. All cancellations must be made by phone (878-6564) or email (office@fbcpickens.org).**

THIS WEEK AT PICKENS FBC

SUNDAY, MARCH 17

8:00 am - First Worship Service
9:15 am - Sunday School
10:30 am - Second Worship Service
5:30 pm - Children's Choir
6:00 pm - Adult Discipleship Classes;
Preschool Choir; GA's; RA's; Youth D Group

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 20

5:30 pm - Wednesday Night Supper, FH
6:30 pm - Adult Prayer & Bible Study, Sanc.;
Nursery; Awana, FH: Refuel, Xchange
6:45 pm - Orchestra
7:15 pm - Choir

THURSDAY, MARCH 21

6:00 am - Men's Prayer Group, FH
11:00 am - Joint Women On Mission Meeting For
North American Missions, Room E106 (Ground
Floor Near Elevator)

MONDAY, MARCH 18

11:30 am - S.A.M. Luncheon and Special Time of
Worship, FH

TUESDAY, MARCH 19

9:00 am - Ladies Tuesday Morning Bible Studies,
Room E357 and Room E261



Flowers

The flowers are placed in the church today in honor of Kitty Merrill on her 90th birthday, March 25, with love from her family.



Attention Everyone!!!

***** Missed a Sunday Morning Service? *****

Go to our web page, www.pickensfbc.org, and click on the Media tab to listen to past Sunday Morning Sermons.

FACTS & FIGURES

March 10, 2019

Sunday School - 264
Offering - \$16,418.90
Given To Date - \$199,540.96
Goal to Date - \$228,062.10

Building Fund: \$181,304.81

Thank you for worshipping with us Today!

Please complete, tear off, and place in offering plate.

Name _____

Address _____

Today's Date _____ Single _____ Married _____

Phone _____ E-mail _____

Children's Names & Ages _____

I came as a guest of _____

My church membership _____

Age Group: ___ Middle School ___ High School ___ College
 ___ 20-29 ___ 30-39 ___ 40-49 ___ 50-59 ___ 60-69 ___ 70 +

Please check the appropriate box:

___ First Time Guest ___ Returning Guest ___ New to Area

___ Seeking Church Home ___ Would like to know more about Pickens First Baptist

___ Would like to know more about becoming a Christian

Welcome to Pickens First Baptist Church

Sunday, March 17, 2019

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Opening Song

Before The Throne of God Above

Hymn Of Praise

Hymn No. 43 *This Is My Father's World*

Prayer

The Lion And The Lamb.....Adult Choir and Orchestra (10:30 a.m.)

Congregational Songs

Hymn No. 3 *Worthy Of Worship*

By Faith

Welcome and Greeting of Guests

Offertory Prayer.....Andy Williams

Offertory.....Michael Nelson

Message From God's Word.....Pastor Fred Stone

Song Of Commitment

Only Trust Him

Closing Prayer

Ladell Crenshaw, Pianist Beth Dalke, Keyboardist
William Reece, Organist

Pickens First Baptist Church exists to be a Worshiping, Evangelizing, Learning, and Loving (W.E.L.L.) family of faith to the glory of God. (Mt. 28:18-20; Acts 2:42-47; 1 Cor. 10:31).

Are You Considering Joining Pickens FBC?

Sign-up for the next Discovery Class: Sunday Morning, April 14 at 9:30 AM

The Discovery Class is designed to help anyone considering membership "discover" more about Pickens FBC and what is involved in becoming a member. (Attending the class does not obligate you to join the church.) It is for adults and students (high school and middle school), but parents are welcome to bring their younger children with them. The class meets the second Sunday of each month. **Sign-ups are required.** If you prefer to meet with the pastor at another time in your home or his office, please contact him by phone (878-6564) or email (fred@fbcpickens.org) to schedule a meeting.

Sign-up for the next Discovery Class by April 7, using the form below or the pastor's contact information above.

Tear off and place in the offering plate

Discovery Class Sign-Up for April 14 @ 9:30 AM

Name: _____

Phone #: _____ Email: _____