

FROM OUR INTERIM PASTOR

Matthew 23:2, 3 Jesus said, "... do whatever they (the Pharisees) tell you and observe it. But don't do what they do, because they don't practice what they teach." Consequently, He often labeled them hypocrites.

Webster's dictionary says "the word *hypocrite* ultimately came into English from the Greek word *hypokrites*, which means "an actor" or "a stage player." The Greek word itself is a compound noun: it's made up of two Greek words that literally translate as "an interpreter from underneath."

That bizarre compound makes more sense when you know that the actors in ancient Greek theater wore large masks to mark which character they were playing, and so they interpreted the story from underneath their masks. Hypocrite, thereby, came to refer to any person who pretended to be someone or something they were not.

While the Pharisees wore masks, of sorts, Jesus was as transparent as glass. There was no pretense in Him whatsoever. He lived in the light and that's why he was often the target of wrongful criticism. They, on the other hand, lived in a make-believe world, where they espoused one thing and did another. They weren't rule followers, they were rule makers.

Are you who you appear to be or is there someone lurking behind the mask? I hope not. We all have struggles and none of us ever live as well as we'd like. But instead of pretending, repent. Apologize to God and man for your short-comings and move on. Don't work to create an illusion of who you are; let people see the real you. To do otherwise, is to set yourself and others up for failure.

Let your holiness be the inner, hidden holiness of the heart, not that which some wear on their sleeve.

First Focus

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

All Church Members.....	Ministers
Ralph Carter, Jr.	Interim Pastor
Bryan Hester (704-4802).....	Worship & Associate Pastor
Jeff Rafferty (607-8306).....	Discipleship & Missions Pastor
Colton Ashley (420-6454).....	Interim Youth Minister
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

Discipleship and Missions News from Jeff

Praying for Revival

We would like to invite you to join us on Wednesday evenings at 6:30 p.m. in room E200 for our weekly Prayer Meeting. As we see the events in our nation and world unfolding there is little doubt that we desperately need the Lord to bring a revival in our nation. We will be starting a new study entitled "Returning to Holiness" as we seek the Lord and pray that He will bring a revival in our individual lives, our church, and our nation.

We Shall Not Be Silenced

Current culture considers biblical faith an expression of bigotry and hatred - yet resorts to shaming and pressure tactics to enforce other views. How do you witness to Christian beliefs without arguing or being intimidated into silence? In *We Will Not Be Silenced*, Erwin Lutzer offers ways to respond with truth, gentleness, and Christlike love, showing compassion and not compliance or conformity.

"We Shall Not Be Silenced" will begin this Sunday during the Sunday School hour (9:15 a.m.- 10:15 a.m.) in Room S111. All are welcomed to join. If you have questions, please contact Pastor Jeff at 878-6564 ext. 105.

Praying For Peru

Pre-Covid we had partnered with Belen Baptist Church in Lima to plant churches in the mountains of Peru. Covid brought this work to a stop temporarily. Will you join us in prayer and ask the Father to be working in the hearts of the people in the mountains of Peru. Pray that we will be able to go again soon and share the Gospel with them, and that they will be receptive. There is much community pressure and persecution on those who are interested in Evangelical Christianity, so pray that the people will be bold to receive Jesus and to be a light in these communities. Pray for the people of Belen Baptist Church that the Lord is putting it on their hearts to once again go and help us to plant churches in towns such as Collo, Aruahuay, and Obrajillo. Also, continue to be in prayer for Pastor Jaime and our partner church in Huaros.

Operation Christmas Child



Thank you to everyone who packed a shoebox and everyone who contributed money for the shipping and printing costs! Millions of children will receive GO (Gospel Opportunity) shoeboxes this year thanks to you!! That means millions of children may give their lives to Jesus then begin spreading the Gospel to their families and friends!! What an amazing tool a simple shoebox is in the hands of the Lord!! Thank you for being a part of it!

If you did not get your boxes to church today, please bring them by next Sunday- November 21.

Thank you!!!

Opportunity to Volunteer for Operation Christmas Child Processing Center

We have reservations to volunteer at the Operation Christmas Child Processing Center in Charlotte on Tuesday, December 7th. We are also planning a Youth day to volunteer on Saturday, December 18. If any adults or youth would like to go, please let either Colton or Jeff know. You may e-mail Jeff at jeff@fbcpickens.org or Colton at colton@fbcpickens.org to reserve your spot or with questions.



Bryan's Notes

Look at these upcoming events for the Fall:



- **December 2-4: Trip to Myrtle Beach for 2 Christmas Shows**
(Call me (Bryan) for more information)
- **December 13:** *We Will Not Be going to the Dillard House. Please Note the Change: **Monday, December 13th: We will go to the Hare and Hound Restaurant in Landrum.** We will leave at 10:00 am and the cost is \$10.00 per person. We will eat Lunch at the Hare and Hound and then take some time to roam around Landrum. Please bring cash for lunch when you come. **Deadline to Sign Up: Sunday, December 12th.** The sign up sheet is located outside the Adult IV Sunday School Area



*Please Contact me (Bryan) for more information: bryan@fbcpickens.org or 864-704-4802.

2021 Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for International Missions

Theme: Together, We Reach the Nations

PFBC Goal: \$66,000.00

100% of your gifts supports missionaries overseas.

Some 2020-21 statistics to rejoice over:

- * 422 new missionaries sent
- * 247 new people groups & places engaged
- * 769,494 people heard the gospel witness
- * 144,322 new believers; baptized 86,587
- * 18,380 churches planted
- * 127,155 pastors received training

However, there are still:

- * 7,200 unreached people groups
- * 155,000 people dying daily without Christ
- * 4.5 billion unreached people around the world

Please clearly mark your offering envelope for Lottie Moon or pick up a Lottie Moon Christmas Offering envelope in the Fellowship Hall.



WMU Emphasis on Week of Prayer For International Missions

Thursday, November 18th

10:00 a.m. - Noon, Room S111 (Young Adult Sunday School Class)

Sponsored by the Baptist Women on Mission of PFBC.

All WMU and interested persons are invited to attend and bring finger foods to share.

Preschool Worship Volunteers, 10:30 a.m. Service

November 14: Babies & 1's, Kim, Riley, & Tara Ann Rogers
Older Preschoolers, Amy, Sophie, & Sadie Sawyer

November 21: Babies & 1's, Sheila Dunn & Jennifer Hendrix
Older Preschoolers, Phillip & Cheryl Aguero

Safety Team Rotation Assignment

The Month Of November

- 7th** - Team A
- 14th** - Team B
- 21st** - Team C
- 28th** - Team D



THE JOURNEY—BECOMING A DISCIPLE

It's so important that each and every Christian is able to answer the question, "How do I become a Christian?" Our youth have been working on answering this question on Wednesday nights. We are memorizing Romans' Road so that they know which pieces of scripture they need to reference when introducing someone to Christianity.

SERVING OUR CHURCH

Ready or not, fall is here. Our youth at PFBC love to be together and love to have a reason to get together. If you know of someone who needs some help taking care of the TONS of leaves that are about to fall, please let me know. The youth would be happy to come help out. You can reach me at 864-420-6454 or colton@fbcpickens.org.



IMPORTANT DATES

The Revised Youth Calendar can be accessed at fbcpickens.org/youthcalendar



November 14—Church-wide Shoebox Collection Sunday

November 21—Bryan's youth and Children's choir practice (needed to sign up for this already)

December 18—Trip to Operation Christmas Child processing center in Charlotte. Let Jeff Rafferty know if you are interested. His email address is jeff@fbcpickens.org. If we get at least 12 people signed up, we will be able to take the church bus.

- *Lauren's due date is January 1, but I would not be surprised if we have an addition to our family in December. This may impact a couple dates, but we will handle that in "due" time (dad joke).*



CONTACT LIST

Want to get on our youth contact list? Just fill out the form at this QR code! Scan it (or click [here](#)) to access the form!

CONNECTING OUR CHURCH

The youth loved getting to visit with some of our long-standing Church members this past week. The modern world has resulted in very busy lives, and that means it is easy for us, as a Church, to end up out of touch with one another. Our youth took time to fellowship with members of our church this past week as a means to preventing us from losing our sense of unity! Thank you to the volunteers that drove us on Wednesday!

CONTACT INFORMATION

Colton - 864-420-6454 or colton@fbcpickens.org
Lauren - 803-420-4835

Help Needed

CONTACT
information



We need your help keeping our contact information for you and your family up-to-date. If you have had any changes to your mailing address, email address, phone number, or you have had a child move out or get married, please let us know by calling the church office at 878-6564 or emailing Tricia at tricia@fbcpickens.org so we can update our records. Thank you for your help!

Pickens First Baptist Church Schedule

Sunday, November 14

8:00 a.m. - 1st Worship Service
 9:15 a.m. - Sunday School
 10:30 a.m. - 2nd Worship Service

Wednesday, November 17

10:00 a.m. - November 28th Newsletter Deadline
 6:00 p.m. - Awana, FH
 6:15 p.m. - Orchestra Rehearsal
 6:30 p.m. - Adult Bible Study & Prayer Service,
 Room E200; Youth Activities, Xchange;
 Preschool Activities; Adult Choir & Small
 Groups Rehearsal

Tuesday, November 16

9:00 a.m. - Ladies' Bible Study,
 Room E250

Thursday, November 18

10:00 a.m. - WMU Emphasis on Week Of Prayer
 for International Missions, Room S111

***Please note:** We will not have a church-wide Thanksgiving meal this year due to the construction going on.

FACTS & FIGURES

November 7, 2021

Sunday School - 217
 Offering - \$20,986.68
 Offering to Date - \$930,171.82
 Goal to Date - \$982,667.70

Building Fund: \$617,021.74

CONNECT WITH US ON SOCIAL MEDIA!

	fbcpickens.org/youtube
	fbcpickens.org/facebook
	fbcpickens.org/instagram
	fbcpickens.org/twitter

Thank you for worshipping with us Today!

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



Connect with Us Here at PFBC!

Name
Email
Phone Number

I would like to know more about becoming a Christian.

I would like to know more about Pickens First Baptist Church.

Welcome to Pickens First Baptist Church

November 14, 2021

Opening Song *Revive Us Again*.....Small Group

Scripture

Psalm 100

- 1 Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth!
- 2 Serve the Lord with gladness!
Come into his presence with singing!
- 3 Know that the Lord, he is God!
It is he who made us, and we are his; [a]
we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture.
- 4 Enter his gates with thanksgiving,
and his courts with praise!
Give thanks to him; bless his name!
- 5 For the Lord is good;
his steadfast love endures forever,
and his faithfulness to all generations.

Congregational Songs

O For A Thousand Tongues To Sing
He Knows My Name

Prayer and Welcome

Message In Song.....Lawrence Crenshaw

Message From God's Word.....Dr. Ralph Carter

Song of Commitment

Have Thine Own Way, Lord

Closing Prayer

8:00 a.m. - David Harper
10:30 a.m.- Colton Ashley

Closing Song

O For A Thousand Tongues To Sing

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).

Online Worship Service Available

* On YouTube: On your smart TV, smartphone, iPad, or computer go to:

fbcpickens.org/youtube

* On Pickens FBC Website: On your smartphone, iPad, or computer,

go to: www.fbcpickens.org