



The Beacon

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Reflections on my Upcoming Marriage

25 Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her, 26 in order to make her holy by cleansing her with the washing of water by the word, 27 so as to present the church to himself in splendor, without a spot or wrinkle or anything of the kind— yes, so that she may be holy and without blemish. 28 In the same way, husbands should love their wives as they do their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. – Ephesians 5:25-28

By the time you read this I will already be married, but right now I have a week to go. As Katy and I run around taking care of all the details that go into a wedding, I want to pause for a moment to reflect on this from a faith perspective.

It is not by accident that when the Gospels talk about the relationship between Jesus and the church, marriage is the metaphor employed. Jesus is often portrayed as the bridegroom and the church his bride and the image seems to capture the kind of relationship Jesus wants with us; Jesus wants a deeply committed, intimate and abiding, loving relationship with us. A redemptive relationship that transforms us.

Love works that way. In the above text, Paul declares that husbands ought to love their wives in the same way Christ loves the church (this really ought to and does apply to both parties in a loving, committed relationship). Paul says that through this love Christ made the church holy. In the same way, the love shared by one spouse has a similar effect. Love is redemptive. Being loved affirms our worth and value. Loving another opens our heart to compassion and caring beyond our self. It truly does transform and call us to be more than we are. Love breeds trust and, in truth, it really cannot exist without trust because love requires us to be exposed and vulnerable. However, in that vulnerability, we are free to be who we really are. Our faith in Christ opens us up to this kind of love and our love for another opens us up to this kind of faith; in Christ and in a partner.

When Katy and I met and began to date, it was important to me that we shared a faith in Christ. I think I gave her a speech about it on our second date. I dare say it was important to her too. It was important because we both wanted to link our faith with our partnership. We wanted our faith to center our relationship and our relationship to strengthen our faith. We both share a deep understanding of the kind of love Christ has for the us and that understanding helps us know how to love each other. Because whether we are talking about marriage or we are talking about church, at the heart of it is love. My love for Katy and her love for me has and will continue to strengthen and

deepen my faith and my commitment to the Gospel of Christ. As we pray together and learn from each other and grow in love for one another, our faith grows as well. Because love, in all its forms, just brings us closer to God. I think that is what Paul was trying to say.

I cannot begin to express my sense of blessing at having found this wonderful person to share that love with. God has truly given me a gift, and I am eternally grateful.

Grace and Peace,
Pastor Curtis

May at First Baptist Church:

- May 2: Beers and Bros at Fiddler's Elbow at 6:30
- May 7: Communion Sunday
Groundbreaking for Pave The Way Parking Lot Project
Cinco de Mayo dinner and bazaar
- May 11: ABWomen Luncheon at noon in the library
- May 16: Beers and Bros at Fiddler's Elbow at 6:00
- May 21: Important Foundation Meeting at 10:30 in the Chapel
Spaghetti Dinner & silent auction following worship
- May 23: Council of Ministries at 5:45
- May 26: Office closed for holiday
- May 29: Office and Child Development center closed for holiday

Happy Birthday to: May 2: Hattie Layton, Billie Tripp. May 4: Joyce Urry. May 6: Julia Watson. May 7: Valerie Winn. May 9: Jeff Norris, Pat Schoenwolf. May 10: Bishop Brown. May 13: Deborah Taylor. May 14: Brian Cooper, Cassie Cooper. May 15: Ken Burnett. May 19; Meghan Fellows. May 20: Ethan Alstrom. May 21: Steven Ireland. May 23: Al Heitman. May 24: McKenzie Nelson, Al Deware. May 25: Megan Roth, Augustine Tutonda. May 26: Bob Brown. May 31: Stephanie Gosdis, Guy Tutonda.

Thank you to all of those who helped make Holy Week so special this year: To the Choir and Beth and Aaron for all your hard work and wonderful music. To the Brass and Timpani for the amazing addition to our worship on Easter Sunday. To all of those who read during the week. To Kelly Byrnes and all those who brought food for the Seder. To Ken Burnett, Gay Men Outloud and all those who helped with the great breakfast Easter Morning. To all those who donated Easter Lilies to decorate the Sanctuary. To Pat Ditton and Julia Watson and all their help for the reception following worship and to the ABYouth for the Easter Egg Hunt. We could not have done this without each and every one of you.

It soon will be camping time again! And while the camp leaders are busy getting ready and making sure all of our kids are signed up for camp, we once again make a plea for our Angel Fund.

There will be an important Foundation Meeting on May 21 at 10:30 in the Chapel. We will be discussing and taking a vote on the Foundation support for the new parking lot. Please join us.

May 7th—You will want to be here this Sunday!

The day starts off with a small breakfast at 9:15—Thanks Karen Carter!

Christian Ed at 9:30

Community Prayer in the Chapel will be at 10:30 a.m.

Communion Sunday Worship—don't forget your loaves of bread for Lunches of Love

Groundbreaking of the new parking lot

Cinco de Mayo Fiesta and Spring Bazar Vamos de Fiesta! The church will be hosting a Cinco de Mayo party on Sunday May 7th after church. We will also be having a craft and baked goods bazar to benefit our "special projects" fund. Pat and Julia are organizing the bazaar and are looking for people to sell their crafts and baked goods. Please see Pat Ditton or Julia Watson if you have crafts to donate and Shirley Cannon if you can help with cookies, cakes, pies etc.

Plea for the Angel Fund: No child should have to miss camp because they cannot afford to go. We ask all those grandparents and aunts and uncles and cousin to help by donating to our Angel Fund. This fund insures that all our kids get a great camping experience. And if you know kids who are camp age, please encourage them to get their registrations in NOW!

MAKE SUMMER COUNT! The fun begins on July 9th through the 15th Come to Camp Utaba for a week of friends, fun and faith. Connect with old friends and make some new ones, having fun and getting closer to God. There will be campfire, games and water fun. Of course, we will have all those traditional activities one expects at camp such as crafts, music, food, hikes and much more. This year we are running Teen Camp and Elementary Camp simultaneously. The two camps will do some things together but will also be apart for some activities. And we will also have separate times in our age groups. Our camps are open to young people of all faiths. So don't let summer go to waste, make it count at Camp Utaba! Talk to Pastor Curtis for an application.

New Sunday School Class Starting: Hospitality

Romans 12:13 When God's people are in need, be ready to help them. Always be eager to practice hospitality.

Hebrews 13:1-2 Keep on loving each other as brothers and sisters. 2 Don't forget to show hospitality to strangers, for some who have done this have entertained angels without realizing it!

Hospitality can be defined as "the quality or disposition of receiving and treating guests and strangers in a warm, friendly, generous way." In the New Testament, the Greek word translated "hospitality" literally means "love of strangers." Hospitality is a virtue that is both commanded and commended throughout Scripture. Please join us as we explore hospitality throughout the scriptures, learn lessons from the Bible about what it means to provide hospitality in our homes and churches, and discuss ways to provide hospitality to those in need in our society. You will find these sessions interactive, engaging, and hopeful, as we begin the process of embracing Christian hospitality, as given to us in the Bible, as a sacred process of 'receiving' outsiders and changing them from strangers to guests.

We are still looking for at least two adults (1 female and 1 male) to accompany some of our young people to New Orleans, approx. July 30-Aug. 5 (maybe Aug. 7) to participate in a mission project, "Til the Work Is Done," a program started by American Baptist Home Mission Society. Work will take place in the Lower 9th Ward, a neighborhood devastated by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. Young people might work in community gardens, clean up yards, paint houses etc. Of course, they can use

licensed contractors, nurses and other skilled workers. We'd like to stay an extra couple of days to be tourists in the city (French Quarter and eating a beignet. Or two...). Anyone is welcome to join us. Please contact Karen at rkcarter1@comcast.net if you're interested in hearing more about the program. Deadline is June 1.

Spaghetti Dinner/Silent Auction: Tickets are still available. See Stephanie Gosdis on Sunday, April 30. We will have Auction Bid Sheets out in Keck Hall on April 30, May 7 and May 14. We have items from Deer Valley Music Festival, Bonwood Bowl, Ashton Gardens at Thanksgiving Point, Grand Theatre, Kangaroo Zoo, Salmon Dinner at the Carters, Jump Around Utah, Desert Star, Cherry Hill, Tuachan Amphitheatre, Toad's Fun Zone, Scera Center for the Arts, Boondocks, Pioneer Theatre Company, Salt Lake Bees, Ogden Dinosaur Park, Utah Festival Opera, Salt Lake Film Society, Discovery Gateway, Utah Jazz, Odyssey Dance Theatre, Ogden Nature Center, and Classic Fun Center. More items coming in every day. If you would like to contribute something to the auction, please contact the church office.

FBC's week at St Catharine's of Siena for Family Promise will be June 4th to 11th. I will be in touch with everyone who has participated in the past, but if anyone who hasn't volunteered yet wants to help they may contact me at: glrpersonal@gmail.com or 801-918-3597 (cell phone and text) or talk to Gordon Remington on Sunday

ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING

The offering, One Great Hour of Sharing, is a tangible way American Baptists provide for the human need of our world. The offering provides:

Emergency relief available 24 hours day, 7 days a week, for urgent or acute needs brought about by disasters of natural or human origin.

Developmental projects focused on meeting chronic human needs by enabling individuals or groups to establish or maintain a more adequate quality of life.

Refugee ministries focused on holistic ministry to immigrants, refugees, and migrants in detention facilities in the United States.

In times of loss or struggle, after a fire or flood, and when communities struggle to overcome the chronic absence of food, water, or economic opportunity, American Baptists have been present and able to help through the work of One Great Hour of Sharing. Our church will receive this offering on May 21.