

# “Flock Talk”



## Franklin First Church of God Inspirational Newsletter



Issue Seven of 2016

NEWS AND VIEWS FROM THE PEWS

July 2016

### The Drinking Gourd

*Shine as lights in the world, holding fast the word of life. —Philippians 2:15-16*

Prior to the American Civil War (1861–1865), fugitive slaves found freedom by following the Underground Railroad, a term for the secret routes from the South to the North and the abolitionists who helped them along the way. Slaves would travel at night for many miles, keeping on track by following the light of the “Drinking Gourd.” This was a code name for the collection of stars known as the Big Dipper, which points to the North Star. Some believe the fugitives also used encoded directions in the lyrics of the song “Follow the Drinking Gourd” to keep them from getting lost as they traveled.

Both the abolitionists and the “drinking gourd” served as points of light directing the slaves to freedom. The apostle Paul says that believers are to shine as “lights in the world” to show the way to those seeking God’s truth, redemption, and spiritual liberation (Phil. 2:15).

We live in a dark world that desperately needs to see the light of Jesus Christ. Our calling is to shine forth God’s truth so that others can be directed to the One who redeems and is the path to liberty and life. We point the way to Jesus, the One who is the way, the truth, and the life (John 14:6).

*Dear Lord, thank You for redeeming me and giving me new life. Give me compassion for those who are still lost in spiritual darkness. Use me to be a light that points others to You, the Light of the world.*

**Light up your world by reflecting the light of Jesus.**

### What Do You Expect?

*In the world you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world. —John 16:33*

In C. S. Lewis’ book *God in the Dock*, he wrote: “Imagine a set of people all living in the same building. Half of them think it is a hotel, the other half think it is a prison. Those who think it a hotel might regard it as quite intolerable, and those who thought it was a prison might decide that it was really surprisingly comfortable.” Lewis cleverly used this contrast between a hotel and a prison to illustrate how we view life based on our expectations. He says, “If you think of this world as a place intended simply for our happiness, you find it quite intolerable; think of it as a place of training and correction and it’s not so bad.”

Sometimes we expect that life should be happy and pain-free. But that is not what the Bible teaches. For the believer, this world is a place of spiritual development through both good times and bad. Jesus was realistic when He explained what to expect in life. He told His disciples, “In the world you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world” (John 16:33). In facing life’s blessings and bruises, we can have the inner peace that God is orchestrating events according to His sovereign plan. Christ’s presence in our lives enables us to “be of good cheer” even in the midst of pain.

*He whose heart is kind beyond all measure  
Gives unto each day what He deems best—  
Lovingly, it’s part of pain and pleasure,  
Mingling toil with peace and rest. —Berg*

**In the midst of troubles, peace can be found in Jesus.**





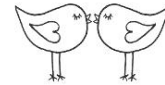
## July Birthdays

1	Brandon Kenyon	19	Meggan Curran
4	Kara Dilley	23	Kathi Clark
6	John Doyle II	25	Ginny Weltner
7	Tom Staab	25	Ali DeLong
8	Denny Montgomery	26	Linda Linn
12	Dennis Geib	27	Michelle Staab
12	Dorothy Rodgers	28	Terry Rodgers
16	Jim Murdoch	30	Randy Jolley
17	Ed Shiner		

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## July Anniversaries

3	Ron & Pat Master
15	Terry & Peg Benson
27	Tom & Judy Shiner #60



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## Patriotic Quotes

\*"I tremble for my country when I hear of confidence expressed in me. I know too well my weakness and that our only hope is in God." - Robert E. Lee

\*"Our national motto is 'In God we Trust,' reminding us that faith in our Creator is the most important American value of all." - Marco Rubio

\*"It is necessary for the welfare of the nation that men's lives be based on the principles of the Bible. No man, educated or uneducated, can afford to be ignorant of the Bible." - Theodore Roosevelt, President

\*"The secret of my success? It is simple. It is found in the Bible', "In all thy ways acknowledge Him and He shall direct thy paths." - George Washington Carver, 1939

\*"The Bible contains more knowledge necessary to man in his present state than any other book in the world." - Benjamin Rush, Signer of the Declaration of Independence

\*"There is a moral and spiritual war for the souls of Americans. And this war must be waged by preaching the Gospel, prayer, and obedience to God's Word." - David Jeremiah

## A Note From Our Pastor

Dear Flock,

WOW! What a day June 25<sup>th</sup> was! Thank you to everyone involved in Vacation Bible School. God has blessed America with those volunteering for V.B.S. and those children that were a part of the day. Through V.B.S. we are fulfilling our purpose of being God's hands sharing the hope and the dream.

We will worship at Sugar Creek Station on Sunday, July 3<sup>rd</sup> at two o'clock in the afternoon. Your participation will be a blessing to the residents and bring glory to our God. Sondra Sensenbach is a resident there and a member of our church.

The Worship Cell is meeting on Saturday, July 9<sup>th</sup> at nine o'clock in the morning to select music for our Sunday morning worship services.

The church will gather outdoors for worship on Sunday, July 10<sup>th</sup> at ten-thirty in the morning. A picnic meal will take place at noon and activities are planned after the picnic. This will happen at the Miller-Sibley pavilion. Dress for the picnic is acceptable for the entire day.

We will observe communion on Sunday morning during worship on July 17<sup>th</sup>. Come prepared to receive the bread and cup in remembering the sacrifice of Jesus.

God has blessed America. Let's be a blessing too.

Your Shepherd,  
Pastor Jim

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## PRAYER CHAIN

An update of our PRAYER CHAIN is in process. The PRAYER CHAIN is a way of notifying those who wish to receive the prayer requests about a need for prayer. Whenever prayer is desired, telephone Pamela Leichliter at 432-5245. She will notify the captains of the prayer chains to let those on their chains know of the need.

You can join a prayer chain by letting Pamela know that you are willing to pray. A telephone chain and an email chain are being updated. Let Pamela know now of your willingness to participate. Let her know if you want to be on the "Call List" or the "Email List". If you have participated previously, please confirm with Pamela your desire to continue.

We thank Angela Prather for many years of sending the email prayer requests. Hazel Kean has accepted this responsibility now.

If you have any questions about the prayer chain, please contact Pamela Leichliter.

Thank you for praying. God answers prayer.

# Joseph Benson's Commentary

## 2 Chronicles 7:14

If my people, who are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land.

2 Chronicles 7:14. *If my people shall humble themselves, and pray, &c.* — **Thus national repentance and reformation are required.** God expects, that if his people, who are called by his name, have dishonoured his name by their iniquity, they should honour it by accepting the punishment of their iniquity. They must humble themselves under his hand, must pray for the removal of the judgment, must seek his face and favour: and yet all this will not be sufficient, unless they turn from their wicked ways, and return to him from whom they have revolted. National mercy is then promised, *Then will I hear from heaven, &c.* — God will first forgive their sin, which brought the judgment upon them, and then will heal their land, and redress their grievances.

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**Bibliography:** Benson, Joseph. "Commentary on 2 Chronicles 7:14". Joseph Benson's Commentary. <http://www.study-light.org/commentaries/rbc/2-chronicles-7.html>. 1857.

Joseph Benson was one of the most eminent and influential Methodist ministers in England after the death of John Wesley. The Methodist Conference requested that he write a commentary and after nearly a decade of work, the commentary was complete. The Methodist Conference officially endorsed the work.

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Face Book post by Rev. Franklin Graham on 6/7/16 at 8:35 a.m.

It seems congratulations are in order to Hillary Clinton this morning. According to the Associated Press, she now has enough delegates to win the Democratic nomination, even though Bernie Sanders disagrees and pledges to fight on. As things stand right now, it looks like the presidential election this fall will be between Hillary Clinton and Donald J. Trump.

As I've said since the beginning of the election season, I'm not endorsing any candidates—but I am appealing to all Americans to pray. This nation is in serious trouble. Both the Democratic and the Republican parties have lost the moral vision for this nation. I pray that God will give us a president who is a strong and courageous leader and who has a vision for the future. We need a president who can lead this nation back to being one nation under God so that we can truly say "In God we trust!" May God bless America again!



# Laughs with a Lesson



## THE GUARDRAIL

A Joyful 'toon by Mike Waters



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Whoever keeps commandments keeps their life,  
but whoever shows contempt for their ways will die.  
- PROVERBS 19:16 NIV

## GET ON BOARD

A Joyful 'toon by Mike Waters



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The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. Instead he is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance.

- 2 PETER 3:9 NIV

## Praises & Prayer Requests

### Praises:

Denny praised God that he and Lance were able to spend some quality time together  
Answered prayers  
VBS Organizers  
Safety in travels  
Spending time with family and friends  
Seeing the smiles on the faces of the young acolytes as they participate in our Worship services  
Christian marriages  
When the weatherman forecasts thunderstorms, but God sends us sunshine!!!

### Requests:

|                   |                      |
|-------------------|----------------------|
| Ron & Pat Master  | Megan Kline          |
| Peg Benson        | James Ginnery        |
| Jim Walbourn      | Sally Reed           |
| Sal Hoover        | Sonya Mullen         |
| Sondra Sensenbach | Judy Eckel           |
| Eileen Yingling   | Joy Global employees |
| Virginia Beatty   | Traveling mercies    |

Jean Kelsey

Pat & Larry McNutt

Pat & Wilbur VanZandt

The Hoover & Krepp families

For those recovering and/or mourning due to shootings, terroristic acts, violence . . .

For those who have been affected by the extreme weather conditions in their areas (flooding, extreme heat, tornadoes, tropical storms, etc.)

ABC Life Center

Expectant mothers (& fathers)

The unemployed

Camp Sunrise Mountain

Leaders of our Church

Those who need Jesus as their Savior

Upcoming Presidential election



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### **Matthew 6:25-34 New International Version (NIV)**

<sup>25</sup> "Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink; or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothes?" <sup>26</sup> Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they? <sup>27</sup> Can any one of you by worrying add a single hour to your life?

<sup>28</sup> "And why do you worry about clothes? See how the flowers of the field grow. They do not labor or spin. <sup>29</sup> Yet I tell you that not even Solomon in all his splendor was dressed like one of these. <sup>30</sup> If that is how God clothes the grass of the field, which is here today and tomorrow is thrown into the fire, will He not much more clothe you—you of little faith? <sup>31</sup> So do not worry, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' <sup>32</sup> For the pagans run after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them. <sup>33</sup> But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. <sup>34</sup> Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own.