

Highlights:

- **Conference & Pastor Call**
- **Br. Freddy Harris Obituary**
- **Ben Kallin Baptism**

January 2012

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Elder Michael Gowens, Pastor

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Lexington Primitive Baptist Church Newsletter

New Member

Lexington Church rejoiced on Sunday, December 11, when Br. Ben Kallin came forward expressing his desire to unite with the church by baptism. His baptismal service is scheduled at the close of morning worship on January 8. May the Lord bless this dear brother as he begins his journey of Christian discipleship.

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Pastor Call Time

At my request, the church agreed to begin an annual "call time." We will have a pastor call during our first Conference of the year at the close of morning worship, January 22nd. I want to encourage everyone to approach this event with fervent prayer that the will of the Lord be done.

- Elder Gowens

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Unloading Crew

We are pleased to welcome David and Kate Goodwin (and Lucy) to Lexington. The family is relocating from Memphis, TN the first week of January. David has assumed management of a new hotel in the city.

The Goodwins plan to arrive at their new home at 729 E. High St. at approximately 4:00pm on Wednesday, January 4th. We will need a group of brethren to assist them in unloading the moving truck. If you can possibly arrange to help, I'm sure your muscle and brawn will come in handy.

Kate is a member of Raleigh PBC in Memphis. She is the daughter of Sis. Polly Whitten (step-daughter of Eld. Charles Whitten) of Rocky Springs PBC, Jackson, TN. Welcome to Lexington!

Q&A with Elder Gowens

Q: I wonder if you could help me with 2 Cor. 5:17. What are the old things that are passed away and the all things that become new? Is "all" really "all," as in "completely"?

A: Well, obviously, it isn't talking about "all things" for the human anatomy is not changed or altered in the new birth, i.e. the hair doesn't change color, the scars do not go away, etc. And obviously, it isn't talking about a change in circumstances, for a person's financial woes are not suddenly taken away, nor is his headache problem suddenly relieved, neither is his wife suddenly sweet and kind and his children and dog suddenly obedient. The person who insists that the phrase "all things" means "all things," then, has some real explaining to do.

So, the sentence doesn't mean that "everything has changed," but rather, that "regeneration is a fresh start, a new beginning, a year of Jubile." The thought "old things are passed...all things are new" is simply a way of saying "Today is the first day of the rest of your life."

What kinds of things are new? The context answers that as a result of our new identity, we have a new perspective on everything: (1) we have a new relationship with God—a relationship of amity, not enmity (vs. 18-20); (2) we have a new view of death; physical death is no longer the tragedy that it once was (vs 1-8); (3) we have a new motivation for obedience—Christ's love, not fear of punishment (v. 14); (4) we have a new aim or ambition in life—the glory of Christ, not self-gratification (vs 15-16). It is in that sense that we are to understand the statement that "all things are become new."

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Q: How do you refute the idea that eternal life is not experientially and empirically in us but IN Christ? That is, we only have it by faith, and that we'll have it in reality after this life is over?

A: I think I would first acknowledge that it is good that this person makes a distinction between something "positional" and something "experiential." That is a distinction that very few people see and make. Next, I would insist that this person has left out a very important step between the "positional" and the "experiential," i.e. the "vital" step.

To say that something was done on the cross that we will later receive in heaven, and that we now apprehend that by faith as we hear and believe the gospel, discounts the fact that unless something is done IN a man, he cannot understand the gospel, for "the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God..." Faith itself is a "fruit of the Spirit." Romans 8:9 speaks of "The Spirit of Christ dwelling IN you." Col. 1:27 speaks of "Christ IN you the hope of glory." And many other verses talk about the need for a personal, vital change in the heart of man before he can hear and believe the gospel. It seems to me that the error of the argument is the omission of the "vital" phase of salvation.

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Prayer List

- Ⓟ Nancy Hodges suffered a severe stroke.
- Ⓟ Alice Click is recovering at home after hospitalization.
- Ⓟ Flo Harris and family, as they adjust to life after Br. Freddy's passing
- Ⓟ Mae Dotson – chronic back pain
- Ⓟ Joyce Hatfield – chronic back pain
- Ⓟ Katie York – expecting mid-January
- Ⓟ Joyce Leasure – some relief after spinal block for back pain
- Ⓟ Rick Leasure – seeking employment
- Ⓟ Joe Winfrey – heart disease
- Ⓟ Zelpha Blake – frail health
- Ⓟ Jane Smith – homebound
- Ⓟ Dianne Borchers – guidance re: employment decisions
- Ⓟ Nathan Ferrell (FL) – battling mitochondrial disease

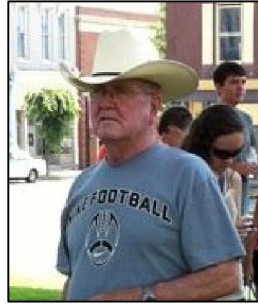
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Pastoral Post-its:

- Br. Jon Winfrey will be speaking during the morning worship service on January 1, 2012. There will be no evening service on that day. Elder Gowens is scheduled to be with Vestavia PBC, Birmingham, AL, for their New Years Meeting.
- A new "Cleanup List" for 2012 has been posted on the bulletin board. Please sign up soon before all the best slots are taken.
- We thank the Lord for news of the constitution of Grace PBC, Loudon, TN, pastored by Elder Bill Taylor.
- Bradley Gowens and Amber Scott were united in marriage in a private ceremony on Dec. 17, 2011. May the Lord abundantly bless their union.

Brother Freddy Harris

1/2/1938 – 11/1/2011



Lexington Church mourns the passing of Lt. Col. (Ret.) Freddy Harris on November 1, 2011, after a brief but courageous battle against leukemia. He is survived by his loving companion of forty-nine years, Sister Flo, daughters Angela, Samantha, Kimberly and Amie, four brothers, two sisters, five grandchildren (Stacy, Mindy, Charcy, Josh & Kristen), and numerous great grandchildren.

A native of Claude, TX, Br. Freddy was a long-time farmer/cattle rancher and an officer in the U. S. Army. During the month he spent in hospital prior to his death, the reason I admired him so finally dawned on me. I told him, "You are the kind of person every little boy aspires to be. You are both a real cowboy and a real soldier. Brother, you've lived the dream."

Of course, I admired him even more for his kind and compassionate spirit, his consistently pleasant and positive attitude, and his steady Christian walk. It was my privilege to be his pastor and to call him my friend. Lexington Church has lost a faithful member whose positive influence on others by means of his wit and good humor, concern for others, humble and unassuming spirit, exemplary work ethic, and love for the Lord will be greatly missed. Our congregation is blessed, however, to have known this dear man's fellowship for as long as we did.

I will miss his characteristic comment in the handshake line: "Ah! You had a good one today, preacher." I am thankful, however, for the legacy he leaves to others by his example. May we always remember Br. Freddy as someone who successfully struck the balance between what it means to be a real Christian (serving the Lord by serving others) and a real human being (putting on no pious airs but just being himself). How refreshing to my life was the influence of this good man.

And may we anticipate that happy day of reunion in heavenly bliss when we will join with him in perfect fellowship, satisfaction and praise around the dazzling throne of glory. May God gently comfort and sustain Sis. Florene, holding her hand and enfolding her in His strong and everlasting arms (Is. 41:13; Deut. 33:27) until she, too, is reunited with this man who was "the dearest on earth" to her. We pray to that end and bow in humble submission to the God who does all things well.

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Bible Reading

The decision to read through the Bible in a year is always a noble and worthy aim at the beginning of a new year. Have you considered making this goal your primary "New Year's resolution"?

Even if you have read through the Bible many times before, such a daily spiritual discipline will prove to be very profitable in terms of renewing your mind and attitude. It may also prove to be helpful to stimulate you in your own personal Bible study.

I am providing a unique lectionary, or Bible-reading schedule, this year to assist you in this task. Each week, you will read a passage on Sunday from the Epistles, Monday from the Pentateuch, Tuesday from OT History, and Wednesday through Saturday from the Psalms, OT Poetic Books, Prophecy, and the Gospels, respectively.

If you prefer a more conventional approach, Br Mark Brown will be happy to put your email i.d. on the distribution list for his daily Bible readings. You may also search online for another format that may suit your preference.

Whatever the format, I urge you to adopt this as your New Year's resolution.

Join us for public worship each Sunday at 10:30 a.m.
& 6:00 p.m.

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