

First Baptist Regina Weekly News

For the Week of February 28th, 2021

The sports journal, "The Athletic" recently published a damning article on the management of the Arizona Coyotes' hockey club, highlighting a number of habits and actions involving, in particular, the club's owner. The long article outlined multiple examples, from multiple sources, of the owner breaking supplier and employee contracts, and using bullying tactics to control the outcomes. All of this, the article claimed, has created a toxic environment. The club responded by issuing a statement calling the article "a harassment campaign," undertaken largely against the owner, and concluded that legal actions were being considered. It is worth noting that their statement did not claim that the article was libellous (that is, no claim that lies were printed.)

I am obviously quite removed from everyone in this story, so I'm not sure what to make of it. But I can't help but see the statement made by the club as a confirmation of the very behaviour described in the article. The article describes unflattering behaviour by the organization. The club's response focused on the damage to the owner's reputation, pointed to all the good the owner has done, and made legal threats (albeit vague ones). There has been no explanation, no defence, and no apology. Instead, the owner has read the article as a personal attack on himself, and responded with threats.

At this point you may be wondering if you've picked up the wrong newsletter. Did Joel forget he is writing for the First Baptist newsletter? What does this have to do with Jesus or Lent?

I see myself in the owner's (apparent) reaction to his sin being exposed. When someone notices and names my sin, one of my reactions is to take it personally. Another reaction is to point to all the good things I've done. Another is to make accusations of my own against the other person. Of course the only good pathway forward is to ask Jesus in prayer, "Is this true about me? Did I do that? Is there sin I need to repent of? Do I need to make amends with others?" We can trust Jesus.



However, what do we do if we find Jesus' words offensive? Is Jesus trying to ruin our lives? Was he, for example, trying to ruin the lives and reputations of the Pharisees? Or did he love them and want the best for them? Sometimes our sin will be found in the very place where we are offended.

Lent is meant to help us be honest with ourselves, with others, and with God. Unfortunately, there are few 'quick fixes' in life. "Wretched man that I am! Who will rescue me from this body of death? Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord!" (*Romans 7.24-25*)

With love,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. M. L." with a stylized flourish at the end.

Pastor Joel

Birth Announcements (in case you missed them last week)

Anna TianYue Mor Hepting was born January 22, 2021 in Malaysia to David and Jetaime Hepting. She is a granddaughter to Merv and Carol Hepting. She was born prematurely at 33 weeks but has been improving and is now home with her parents. David and Jetaime are both teachers in an international School located in the south of Malaysia.

Due to her early birth, Anna has had some serious health complications, including issues with her heart and lungs. She is making good progress, and Merv and Carol would like to express their heartfelt thanks to all those who prayed for her.



Kylian Tazi Ngongo was born to Marco Kisembe and Miriam Kay (Malik) on November 4, 2020. He is a little brother to Kamil Kisembe Ngongo. Marco, originally from Republic of Congo and then South Africa, was married to Miriam on July 13, 2016 in Capetown, South Africa. Marco is now a school teacher in Ponteix, SK. Miriam has been in our church since a young girl, growing up with her aunt Adijah and Uncle Emmanuel and cousins Lilian, Patrick, Bonifise and Arno. Miriam is on maternity leave from her job in Health Care.

David Godwin Tabio was born on July 7, 2020, in Regina, to Dieubeni Tabio and Gloria Hytahe. David is a little brother to Grace and Theresa. Dieubeni comes to us from Central African Republic via Chengdu China.

Dieubeni has been part of our congregation since 2012 and has sung in the choir since shortly after his arrival. His wife and daughters, after several moves (China – 2011 to 2016, Senegal – September 2016 to June 2018, then back to Central African Republic), were finally able to join him in Regina on July 3, 2018. A thrilling reunion!



What's happening at First?

Morning Prayer

Join us each morning, Monday to Thursday at 7:15 am to begin your day with scripture and prayer, via Zoom. Visit our [website](#) for the link.

Children

Pastor Kayely: "Over the last few months, the children have been gathering for Godly Play (ages 4-6) and Oasis (ages 7-11) with Julie and Kayely. In Godly Play, Julie has been teaching stories about Jesus' life on the journey to Easter. In Oasis, Kayely has been teaching about the concept of "Shalom," using materials from our mission agency, Canadian Baptist Ministries.

"For Lent, the kids have been invited to consider their intentions for the Lenten season. They have also received art pages for 7 "Psalms of the season" and have been invited to colour their journey through these Psalms.

"We are hoping that some of the adults will also join in on this fun art project! Although Lent has already begun, if you would enjoy colouring and reflecting on these Psalms during the week, please send an email to [the church](#), and we will send you a PDF file of the colouring pages by email so you may print off the pages you wish to. If you choose to colour, you're invited – but not required – to post your finished product on our Facebook page to encourage others this season!"

For more information on our children's program, please contact [Pastor Kayely](#).

Youth

Pastor Chris: "On February 12th, the youth met over Zoom. Rev. Dell B joined us and led our devotional time on prayer. This was the first meeting of two where he will join us to do the devotional.

"In the devotional time, we were reminded of three different types of prayer: Prayers of lament, prayers of thanks, and prayers of praise. We also talked about how we participate in our relationship with God through these prayers. Both Dell and I were very encouraged with the engagement of the youth."

For more information about our youth program, contact [Pastor Chris](#).

Adults

Learning for Life: Pastor Richard is facilitating an online series: "Jesus' Earthly Ministry: Revealing the Heart of God." This class is focusing on the four Gospels, allowing them to shape the account of Jesus' life and teachings, and discovering how Jesus revealed not only God's heart toward humanity, but also how our hearts ought to be toward one another. For more information, visit [our website](#) or contact [Pastor Richard](#).

Voice: A small group for women who like to read and enjoy lively conversation. The group meets every second Wednesday from 7 to 9 pm, using Zoom. For more information, visit [our website](#), send an email to [the church](#), or contact Laureen S or Bonnie AW.

Reading through the Old Testament: In this online reading group, participants are reading through the Old Testament chronologically. The group meets every Thursday at 10:30 am, via Zoom. For more information, please visit [our website](#) or contact [Pastor Richard](#).

Gospel of John small group study: Pastor Richard is leading a small group online that is looking at the Gospel of John. There are two groups meeting, via Zoom. The first group meets on the 2nd and 4th Sunday of each month at 7 pm, and the second, on the 2nd and 4th Friday of each month at 10 am. For more information, please visit [our website](#) or contact [Pastor Richard](#).

Give & Take

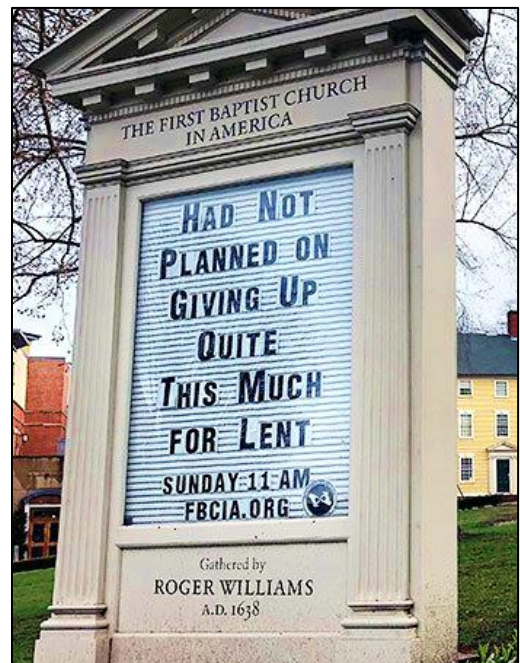
Items needed:

1. Piano Light – bright and wide.
(Contact person: Marilyn P)

If you can use or supply any of these items, please contact the person listed or call the church at (306) 359-1450. If you have items either to “Give” or “Take” (something you need), please contact us and we will list your items here.

What was that again? (Actual Announcements from Church Bulletins)

- Thursday night – potluck supper. Prayer and medication to follow.
- Remember in prayer the many who are sick of our church and the community.
- For those of you who have children and don't know it, we have a nursery downstairs.
- Irving B and Jessie C were married on October 24 in the church. So ends a friendship that began in their school days.
- Next Thursday there will be tryouts for the choir. They need all the help they can get.



Into the Wilderness

Scripture: Mark 1:9-15

“Lent is a time of returning to God. It is a time to confess how we keep looking for joy, peace, and satisfaction in the many people and things surrounding us without really finding what we desire. Only God can give us what we want. So we must be reconciled with God ... The season of Lent, helps us in a special way to cry out for God’s mercy.”

—Henri Nouwen

As we enter the Lenten season, we look at how Jesus entered into his years of public ministry. Until this time, Jesus had been quietly living in Nazareth and preparing for what God had in store for him. Much like a play at the theatre, John had the attention of the audience. Then in walks Jesus, seeking to be baptized by John.

If we had been there to witness the event, I imagine it would have been a moment we would never forget! The heavens were opened, the Spirit came down onto Jesus like a dove, and we heard a voice from Heaven that said, “This is my son whom I LOVE; with him I am well pleased!” If you had been there, would your friends have believed you when you shared what had happened at Jesus’ baptism?? And yet, that is how Jesus began. You could say that Jesus stole the show!

At this point, we expect an encore, followed by a series of outstanding sold-out shows. Instead, the Spirit of God sent Jesus out into the wilderness for 40 days. We tend to think of the wilderness as a punishing place. (After all, the Israelites were required to stay there much longer as a result of their lack of faith.)

But the wilderness can also be a place to grow our faith, find clarity and strength, and experience the truth that salvation comes from God. And God alone. It is here in the wilderness that God’s love can sink deeper into our beings. Lent is an invitation, offered with love, to come and enter your own wilderness season.

Through the ways that Jesus was tempted in the wilderness, we are invited to consider our own temptations. Where do we try to take our God-given gifts and use them for our own interests? How are we testing God? In what ways are we tempted to worship the outward signs of success in our lives – such as a good job, home, family, wealth – rather than worshiping God alone?

As we consider our own Lenten journey, the words of Ruth Haley Barton can be of assistance. She writes that self-examination in Lent, “begins by exposing conscious sins and omissions, and culminates in a greater awareness of the deep-seated attitudes and inner orientations of our being, out of which our behavior patterns flow. Here God deals primarily with our ‘trust structures,’ especially those deep inner postures of our being that do not rely on God but on self for our well-being... We discover all the ways we are captive to our own anxieties, driven by our need to control God and others... We take a hard look at whether we really are trusting ourselves to God or whether we are relying on our own defensive, self-protective patterns.”

As you reflect on this, may your Lenten wilderness be a time where you experience God’s loving presence.

Tithing during the pandemic

With the COVID-19 crisis limiting contact with others and restricting meetings of groups, please do not neglect the financial needs of our church.

We have several ways to provide your regular tithes and donations to the church:

1. Mail your gifts to the church or call and leave a message at (306) 359-1450 to arrange for an in-person pick-up. Please place your cheque in your regular offering envelope (or any envelope marked "Offering"), and seal that inside another envelope addressed to: First Baptist Church, 2241 Victoria Ave, Regina, SK S4P 0S4.
2. Establish a **Pre-authorized Remittance (PAR) Plan**. This will automatically transfer funds from your account into the FBC Regina account on a regular basis. Please email the church or contact the Treasurer if you would like to set up PAR, or change your commitment.
3. Make an online donation:
 - Use **Interac e-Transfer** to donate from your phone or computer to FBCRegina@gmail.com (*no fee or cost to the church*)
 - Use a credit card with a PayPal account via the **PayPal Giving Fund** (*no fee or cost to the church... 100% of your donation reaches us and contributes to our mission*)
 - Use a credit card or PayPal via **CanadaHelps** (*a fee of 4% is deducted from the donation*)
 - Use a credit or debit card via **FBC ChurchTrac** (*the church is charged a fee of approximately 3% for each donation*)

PLEASE refer to our website at firstbaptistregina.ca for more specific information on these contribution methods. You may also contact the treasurer at (306) 775-1497 or email the church at main_fbcregina@sasktel.net for further details.



Going over our church finances, I found a receipt from a local paint store signed by someone named Christian. I wasn't aware of anyone buying paint, so I called the store to point out its mistake.

"I'm sorry," I told the manager, "but there are no Christians here at First Baptist Church."

Q. What do you call a hippie's wife?

A. Mississippi.