

Audubon Baptist, *a Church in the Park*

SO WE, THOUGH MANY, ARE ONE BODY OF CHRIST

1046 Hess Lane, Louisville, KY 40217, (502) 635-2100, www.achurchinthepark.org

February 2020

AS FITS THE OCCASION

Let no corrupting talk come out of your mouths, but only such as is good for building up, as fits the occasion, that it may give grace to those who hear. Ephesians 4:29

As we journey through the Epistle of Ephesians, we have often met “challenges” to the way that we are exhorted to speak to one another in God’s community. Against the backdrop of church unity, we are warned in the Scriptures to be slow to speak, to guard our mouths, to put away foolish talk and crude joking, to bridle our tongues, and to give watch over our lips, the door to our mouths. It seems that one of the most significant barriers to unity among God’s people is the hurt caused by our communications with one another.

Sociologists reveal in increasing wariness the “sharpness” of our society’s dialog with one another in our day. In a generation fueled by sound clips and 140-character tweets, the harshness of communication has accelerated; not surprisingly, so has the hurt. The tide of our cultural river sweeps many in its torrent.

Paul’s words, and the eternal message of the Bible, remain of paramount importance today. Christians are not immune from the temptation to speak our mind, and sadly, often in situations wholly out of turn and without proper contextualization. In military terms, such “friendly-fire” lobs hurtful consequences upon God’s people and our demonstration of His glory among the peoples. We must be on guard; we must be faithful to the Word.

There is a phrase in v29 that I beg of your attention. That phrase, “as fits the occasion” offers guidance for the Believer in how, and significantly when, to navigate between speaking the truth in love on one occasion and holding our tongue in another. The Christian is told to demonstrate godly discernment in determining not only the timing of conversation, but also the manner. As fits.

Many pursue misplaced liberty, under the guise of Christian conviction and duty, to speak their mind in all times and in all places. Such unbridled tongues rarely edify fellow brothers or sisters. Often such self-serving talk builds friction between those who are called to be bright lights to a watching world.

Paul provides guide rails for those wishing to speak well. First, is our speaking of a holy and sanctifying nature? Some language offers nothing other than hurt, causing corruption that impedes the efficient working of the Body. That kind of talk is rightly admonished by the Apostle. Secondly, will my “truth in love” moment build up my brother, and by extension, His church? We usually know the answer and it is our duty to obey His Spirit’s leading in such occasions. Lastly, the Apostle urges, do our words show grace, and rightly point others to His grace, His atonement, His salvation?

Unity hangs in the messy divide between speaking Grace and Truth. Such tension is best labeled LOVE among the faithful.

On the journey, *Pastor Jeff*

FEB BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

02 Lauran Goodlett
09 Ruthie Akin
11 Stella Bright
12 Tina Kerr Kahl
13 Mary Catherine Cooper
18 Mona Brashear
20 Olivia Padgett
24 Christy Whigger
25 Anola Sinnott
28 Elijah Akin

PREPARING FOR SUNDAY (PREACHING TEXT)

2/2 (Eph. v3:14-21) Pastor Dan H.
2/9 (Eph. v4:26-27) Pastor Jeff Akin
2/16 (Eph. v4:29) Pastor Jeff Akin
2/23 (Eph. v4:30-v5:2) Benaiah Neetz

MISSIONS – REACHING OUR COMMUNITY

There are many families on the backside of Churchill Downs that are ministered to through the generosity of Audubon Baptist Church. During the month of February, our church will serve meals on select Monday evenings. Many of us will join their community in worshipping our great God in one accord. You are invited to join with us as we take the love of Christ into the community. See Susan Snyder for details.

MEN'S STUDY – BAPTIST FOUNDATIONS

A group of men gathers every 2nd / 4th Saturday to study together. It is an encouraging time of study, prayer, and fellowship with one another. Please consider joining us. 7:30AM in the church library. See Benaiah for details.

TRI-ANNUAL CHURCH CONFERENCE REPORT

A special thank you to all those Audubon members who gathered for the January church conference. The congregation was

encouraged to receive reports from several committee chairs, in addition to leaders of the Deacons and Trustees. The business of the church was heard and approved by congregational vote. The next conference will be held in May.

HEALTH O SHIP

As God's chosen people we are called to steward many things well. Perhaps there is nothing more important than how we steward our bodies – mind, body and soul – for the glory of God. As image bearers, we certainly have much to learn.

Scott van Outer has spent a significant portion of his life studying the topic of nutrition. He invites all who are interested to join in a conversation of learning and encouragement. The first gathering will be on Sunday, February 9th following our Fellowship Luncheon.

Scott will introduce a documentary called "Forks Over Knives", aiming to bring increased awareness of modern health issues to our church body. All are invited to learn and converse on these important topics.

AUDUBON BAPTIST WEBSITE

Sermons – Newsletters – the Monthly Calendar
– Upcoming Events and more can be found at:

www.achurchinthepark.org

MEET STEPHEN EVATT



Stephen joined our church community in 2018. He will graduate from Boyce College in May with a degree in Youth & Family Ministry. Affectionally referred to as "Akin #7", he serves as our AV Specialist from week-week. We are blessed by his service "from the back".