

First Baptist Church of Lowell Newsletter

From the Heart

Rob McLelland

So many times in life, we try to lead the Holy Spirit, to tell Him what to do and when to do it. The ironic thing is that the Holy Spirit was given to us to lead us. If we desire the Holy Spirit in our lives, we have to allow Him to lead us and get ourselves out of the way. It is ridiculous for us to think that we have any power or ability to direct the Spirit in our lives, but it happens often. The Spirit is not a force that we can use whenever we feel like it. He requires us to submit ourselves and be led by Him. So the question can be asked of all of us, "Do we really want to be led?" Even the world leaders of today don't get to lead the Spirit. Everyone is called to be led by Him.

The thing about being led by the Spirit is that while most of us say that we want to be led, in all reality we are scared of what that may mean in our lives. I know that I am! What could that mean? What if He asks us to give up something that we are not ready to give up? What if He leads us where we don't want to go? Are we willing to follow Him wherever He is leading?

The fact is that God is calling each of us right now. The Spirit is moving everyday in every one of our lives and we have got to start listening more. Listening is one of the hardest things in the world to do. So, are we ready to listen? The tough part of this process is that many times when we listen, the answers are not what we want to hear. If only there were multi-

ple choice answers, then we could pick and choose which answer we liked best. Sometimes God gives us multiple paths to take, but most of the time He doesn't work like that. He calls us to something, a very specific thing, and we have to choose to obey or not. Again, we need to answer this question: "Do you want to lead or be led by the Spirit?"

God has placed each and every one of us on this earth for a very important purpose. I heard someone say the other day that no matter what your life looks like, we are all on the same path and that path leads to the Cross. When I heard him share that thought, I was floored. I thought of how often in life I have felt like my story just isn't interesting enough, or that my life is just too plain for anyone to care whether or not I shared it. The fact of the matter is that our story is important because ultimately our lives may not be that interesting and our story may be a little mundane and ordinary; but there is nothing ordinary about the Cross and the Cross is at the end of every one of our stories.

We are all taking different paths along the way, but the truth is that the end point is the Cross. So, don't let anyone tell you that your story doesn't matter because it does. We all have a story to tell and the reality is that just because your life may not seem exciting or interesting,

your life has a purpose. Matthew 5:16 says, "In the same way, let your light shine before others so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven." Our purpose in this life is to bring glory to God. We must live our lives in a way that will glorify our Father and show others who He is. That is what our lives are about, not the stories we can tell, or the houses we own, or the friendships we have gained. Our lives were given to us to give glory to the Father. Let everything that we do be an act of obedience to our God and let our lives be a story about a loving Father and His children.

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February Devotion: God is Love

“Beloved, let us love one another: for love is of God; and everyone that loves is born of God, and knows God. He that loves not, knows not God; for God is love. In this was manifested the love of God toward us, because God sent His only begotten Son into the world that we might live through Him. Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us, and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins.

Beloved, if God so loved us, we ought also to love one another.”

1 John 4:7-11

“And Jesus answered him, ‘The first of all the commandments is: Hear, O Israel; the Lord our God is one Lord; And you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your

strength: this is the first commandment. And the second is like, namely this, You shall love your neighbor as yourself. There is no other commandment greater than these.”

Mark 12:29-31

I couldn't have said anything close to as good as this!

February Recipe: Blondie-Brownie Pie

1 stick butter (cut up)
1/2 cup packed brown sugar
2 large eggs
1 tsp. vanilla
1 cup flour
1/2 tsp. baking powder
1 cup chocolate chips
1 Tbsp. cocoa powder
13 fun size Snickers bars



Spray 9" pie pan with Pam. Melt butter & brown sugar in saucepan until mixture starts to bubble. Remove from heat and let cool 10 minutes. Stir in 1 egg and vanilla, then stir in flour and baking

powder. Scrape (don't spread) 3/4 cup in pie pan; freeze 10 minutes. Heat oven to 350 degrees. Melt chocolate chips as package directs. Stir melted chips, remaining egg and cocoa powder into remaining batter.

Press chilled batter over bottom & halfway up sides of pie pan. Top with cut up snickers, then chocolate batter. Bake 24 to 27 minutes. Sprinkle remaining 1/2 cup chocolate chips in middle, let stand 5 minutes, then spread. Cool.

Current Events

FCA Sunday
The Razorbacks are Coming to FBC!



Sunday morning

Feb. 6th

Hear testimonies from Razorback athletes.

Featured speaker:
Coach Ken Hatfield

Youth Super Bowl Party

Feb. 6th

6:00 p.m.

Youth Building



New York Jets

Vs.

Green Bay Packers

Rock & Worship Road Show - Feb. 20

7:00 p.m.

Springfield, MO

Leave after morning worship service.

\$10.00 + money for food

Mercy Me
Jars of Clay
The Afters
Matt Maher
Thousand Foot Krutch

Children's Activities



Children's Camp Registration

**Camp Dates:
July 5-9, 2011**

**Southwest Baptist
University
Bolivar, Missouri**

**Registration Due By:
February 13**

Information:
Penny Sims—640-1330
pennysims@fbc-lowell.com

Please note the new date for camp. This is the only week the camp was available. If you would like to visit with Penny about camp, call to schedule a visit. She will also be available in her office on February 13, from 2:00 - 4:30 p.m.

We try to keep the cost for families to \$100 per child. However, money should never be a reason for a child not to attend camp. If this amount is not possible for your family, something can be arranged. We want every child who wants to go to camp to have that opportunity.

There will be several fundraisers this spring to help cover the cost. Look forward to our annual garage sale and our second Silent Auction!

There is also a need for sponsors, especially for men. Please let us know if you are interested in a week of watching our children study God's Word, enrich their Christian journeys, and develop loving relationships.

February Calendar

Feb. 6 - 10:30 a.m. - FCA Sunday
6:00 p.m. - Super Bowl Party
5:45 p.m. - Women's Bible Study
Feb. 12 - 6:00 p.m. - Sweetheart Dinner

Feb. 13 - 3:00 p.m. - Stewards' Meeting
2:00-4:30 pm. - Penny available for children's camp information
4:45 p.m. - Deacons' Meeting
5:45 p.m. - Women's Bible Study

6:45 p.m. - Business mtg

Feb. 20 - 10:30 a.m. - Lord's Supper

5:45 p.m. - Women's Bible Study

Rock & Road Show
Youth Concert

Feb. 27 - 5:45 p.m. - Women's Bible Study

Take Notice:

Sweetheart Dinner

**6:00-8:00 p.m.
Fellowship Hall**

**Cost: \$15.00 per couple
Childcare included**

Sign up in foyer.
Sponsored by Women's Committee



Thought for the day:

"Love, and a cough, cannot be hid."

George Herbert



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*"Hospital for the
broken."*

Schedule of Services

Sunday:

Orchestra practice 8:45 a.m.
Sunday School 9:30 a.m.
Morning Worship 10:30 a.m.
Children's Church 10:30 a.m.

Wednesday:

Wednesday meal 5:15 p.m.
AWANA Clubs 6:15 p.m.
Youth Revolution 6:30 p.m.
Adult Bible Study 7:00 p.m.

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