



Senior Heartbeat



TEMPLE
BAPTIST CHURCH
COME GATHER AROUND THE WORD

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44 years at Temple and counting!

By Dale Oden

Another New Year has arrived! It is something that we are now in the second month of 2020. I am thankful that He has allowed me to serve with you.

It was on the fourth of February, 1976, that Sadel, Angela and I moved to Ruston to begin my ministry at Temple Baptist Church.

Thank for your continued love and support that has encouraged us over these 44 years.

Our church has continued to be a

lighthouse in our community and all around the world.

Please pray that God will continue to guide and bless our church as we seek to share the name of Jesus with people in our city and to the ends of the earth.

Our January luncheon had a great crowd in attendance and the food was delicious!

Many thanks to our decoration committee and our kitchen crew for their work. And we enjoyed a wonderful program given by the Alex of the "Pilots

for Patients" ministry out of Monroe.

He did a great job telling of how pilots in this area volunteer their skills, their time, and their planes to take patients to hospitals around the country.

There are several people from Temple and Ruston who have been to Houston on several of the flights.

I hope you can join us for our next luncheon on Tuesday, February 18. We meet in the Fellowship Hall at 11:45 a.m.

Our program will

be presented by Dr. Jon Barker. He was on the music faculty at Louisiana Tech University and is now retired.

He will be presenting gospel music that was sung through the years by George Beverly Shea. Invite someone to come with you for this inspirational program.

In recent weeks, several people have had to drop out of

our trip to Oberammergau, Germany, scheduled for May 26-June 6.

So there is space for others to go. We will be attending the "Passion Play" and touring several areas of Germany and Austria.

Perhaps some of you might be interested or know someone who might also like to make the trip with us. Give me a call for a brochure.

First, get their attention!

An elderly man in Arizona calls his son in Minnesota. "Son, I don't know how to tell you this, but your mother and I are thinking about getting a divorce. I'm telling you now, so you and your sister shouldn't go into shock later when I move out."

The son is stunned. All this time he thought his parents were perfectly happy. He immediately calls his sister in New York to break the news to her.

The sister is equally surprised. "This is terrible!" she says. "But maybe it's not too late to talk

some sense into them."

She quickly calls her father. "Don't do anything until Ricky and I get there!" she says. "Everything's going to be all right. We just booked flights, and we'll be there on Wednesday night."

The father hangs up the phone and looks at his wife. "Okay," he says, "They're coming for Thanksgiving. Now, How are we going to get them here for Christmas?"

—From Fred Benefield



from *The Joyful Noiseletter*
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Laugh lines

Messages seen on church signs:

•“The Lord seeks righteous fruit, not religious nuts.”

•“If you’re looking for a sign from God, this is it.”



On a funeral parlor’s sign: “Ask about our layaway plan.”



A committee of five consists of one

person who does the work, two people to pat them on the back, and two people to

bring in a minority report.

—From *The Joyful Noiseletter*

Group photo available

Last year’s group photograph of Temple’s couples who had been married 50 or more years is available online at:

<https://tinyurl.com/tbepic>

An email message from Hawkins Photography says, “Use the following password to access your photos: **Ruston**

“This gallery will expire on Feb 18, 2020.”

‘Inverse paranoids’ enjoy life

If you want to keep happy and healthy, try being an “inverse paranoid.” An inverse paranoid is someone who thinks everyone is out to make him happy.

“Try it. It works. Just imagine everyone you meet is trying to bring happi-

ness and joy to your life. And then try to do the same for them,” wrote Dr. Richard Bimler.

That’s one piece of good advice in a Bimler’s book, *Angels Can Fly Because They Take Themselves Lightly*.

Bimler, a Luth-

eran pastor and president of Wheat Ridge Ministries in Chicago, wrote:

“You and I are called by God to be happy. To be happy does not mean that everything has to go right, and that problems and frustrations disappear. A happy person in the Lord is one who knows from where strength and comfort come.”

He advises Christians to “live joyfully in the forgiveness that is yours each day.”

He suggests that you “make a joy list. Each day write out events and activities that help you celebrate and share your joy in the Lord. Add to it each day.”

The title was inspired by G.K. Chesterton’s observation: “Angels can fly because they take themselves lightly. Never forget that Satan fell by force of gravity.”

—From *The Joyful Noiseletter*

*No strength of Nature can suffice
To serve the Lord aright:
And what she has, she misapplies,
For want of clearer light.*

*How long beneath the law
I lay In bondage and distress!
I toil’d the precept to obey,
But toil’d without success.*

*Then to abstain from outward sin
Was more than I could do;
Now, if I feel its pow’r within,
I feel I hate it too.*

*Then all my servile works were done
A righteousness to raise;
Now, freely chosen in the Son,
I freely choose his ways.*

*What shall I do, was then the word,
That I may worthier grow?
What shall I render to the Lord?
Is my enquiry now.*

*To see the Law by Christ fulfill’d,
And hear his pard’ning voice;
Changes a slave into a child,
And duty into choice.*

—William Cowper



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**“Joy is the holy fire
that keeps our purpose
warm and our
intelligence aglow.”**

—Helen Keller

Love, faith and His leadership

By Ann Clark

"Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth is come, he will guide you..."
John 16:13

The Two Horses

If you have heard the story of the two horses before, then you know this is a true love story of one friend for another.

There was a man who lived just up the road from his pasture that held two horses. From a distance, each one looked like every other horse. However, if you stopped your car, or were just walking by, you would notice something quite amazing. Looking closely at one horse's eyes, you would note that he was blind. His owner had chosen not to have him put down, but instead made a good home for him.

Now this in itself is amazing but another amazing thing was that if you listened you could hear the sound of a tinkling bell. Looking around for the source of the sound, you would see that it was coming from a smaller horse close by in the field. Attached to this horse's halter is a small bell. It lets the blind friend know where he is so he can follow.

As you watch these two friends, you will see how the one with the bell is always checking on the blind friend, and that he in turn was always listening for the little bell. Then he would slowly walk to where the bell sound was coming from, always trusting that the bell and his friend would not lead him astray. His friend would lead him safely over rough terrain, lead him to water, and always to just the right place to graze. When it was time to move on, the friend would shake his bell and lead the other to another place for food, water or shelter.

When evening came and they were returning to the barn, the one with the

bell would stop occasionally and look back, making sure the friend wasn't too far behind to hear the bell until both friends were safely inside.

A Biblical Love Story

Remember when Abraham's servant was sent to get a bride for Isaac? He traveled a long way off on a desert journey to find her. And Abraham and Isaac had perfect faith in the servant to find the perfect bride for Isaac!

Now that he has found her, he is preparing to take her back to Abraham for Isaac. Her family wasn't ready for her to go, but they asked her and she said she would go.

These two were to travel a long way through a Middle Eastern desert. Rebekah was being led by a man she had never seen before, a stranger, the servant of Abraham, whom she had heard about, and now she was in his servant's care. She was the servant's responsibility. He was to be her guardian for the journey. It was his duty to bring her safely through this awful desert and home to the tents of Abraham. Only he knew the way. Rebekah had no idea. Her duty, however, was to follow wherever he was leading.

She had to trust ... trust his intentions, his knowledge, his leading, and his commitment to bring her safely where she had to go. And she had to let him lead her there.

Our love story

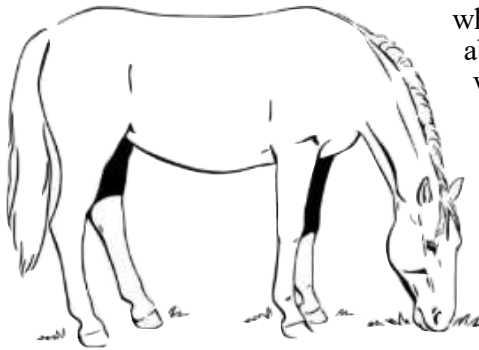
Rebekah represents us, the intended bride, and Abraham's servant, the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit's mission is to bring us to the bridegroom. We the bride have never seen Him, but we have heard about Him and His Father. And now that we have agreed to go, it is the Holy Spirit's mission and responsibility to lead us, to empower us, to keep us, to guard against our going off the path, and to bring us safely home to the Son. And since the Holy Spirit alone knows the way, we

must trust Him and let Him lead.

Each and every day of our lives is now dependent on God's Word and the ability of the Holy Spirit to lead. Like the owner of these two horses, God does not throw us away just because we are not perfect or because we have problems or challenges. He watches over us and we must go where His Spirit leads. We must listen for His voice and hear His words and follow and trust Him implicitly. We don't need to know every detail of the journey or the details of the path. We just need to know Him who journeys with us, and to allow ourselves to be moved by His moving. As we stay close to Him and go where He leads, we too will end up dwelling in the tents of the Father as the bride of the Son.

God has prepared a safe home for us and has sent someone to guide us through the daily journeys and to bring us safely home. Our responsibility is to listen, trust and follow.

And then one day, just like Isaac who saw Rebekah "far away off," and ran to meet her — so will Jesus come to meet and joyfully welcome us to our new home. We just have to have the same faith that the blind horse and Rebekah had in the ones who were leading them.



SPEED BUMP

by Dave Coverly



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Temple Baptist Church

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Congratulations!!!

February Birthdays

1	Cindy Burns	6	Shirley Pesnell	16	Robert Hearn	22	Kay Lynn Tettleton
1	Mike Collie	6	Jackie Robbins	17	Rita Belding	23	Nita Mobley
2	Virgil Orr	9	Pat Tippit	17	Howard Whitlock	24	Becky Strozier
2	Harold Shrell	10	Rusty Mabry	18	Fredric Hoogland	24	Beverly Beasley
2	Ivin Hood	10	Pat Dickson	18	Mary Jane Rogers	25	Reagan Sutton
3	Carole Elkins	10	Janece Miller	19	Cindy Austin	26	Jeraldine Tolar
3	Susan Stutson	12	Randy McWhorter	19	Linda Evans	26	Nelda Neal
4	Beth Riley	13	Wayne Parks	20	Tommy Gregory	27	Claudette Christian
5	Kay Naff	14	Carolyn Fleming	20	Sue Moore	27	Billie Dawkins
5	Janie Cherry	14	Jim Watkins	20	Harold Naff	27	Dottie Ferrington
6	Alice Brazzel	14	Lynne Pippen	22	Zilla Cone	28	Phillip Washington

February Anniversaries

1	Joy and Leonard Faulkner (1956)	17	Jean and Ronnie Cole (1968)
3	Patsy and Wayne Causey (1956)	21	Joyce and Reagan Sutton (1958)
14	Louise and Bud Alexander (1959)	26	Mary and Billy Wilkinson (1960)

If you would like your birthday and/or anniversary added to the lists published each month in Senior Heartbeat, please call the Church Office (255-3745).