

The Lamplighter

Pastor's Page by Pastor Gary

This is the second installment of my pledges series. Last month we looked at the pledge to the flag of the United States. This month, we will look at the pledge to the Christian flag.

The history of the Christian flag was unplanned humanly speaking. Charles Overton was a Sunday School Superintendent in New York in 1897. When the guest speaker for his Sunday School kick-off event did not arrive, Overton had to improvise. Seeing an American flag near the podium, Overton began to talk about flags and what they symbolized. As part of his remarks, Overton said that Christianity should have its own flag. The thought never left Overton's mind, and in 1907 he teamed up with Ralph Diffendorfer to design and produce the first Christian flag. Just like the colors of the American flag, the colors of the Christian flag are symbolic. White stands for purity, blue for fidelity, and red for the blood of Christ.

The first pledge to the Christian flag was written by Lynn Harold Hough and went like this, "I pledge allegiance to my flag and the Savior for whose kingdom it stands; one brotherhood uniting all mankind in service and love." The pledge has been altered through the years and now goes like this, "I pledge allegiance to the Christian flag and to the Savior for Whose Kingdom it stands. One Savior crucified, risen, and coming again with life and liberty to all who believe."

Let's analyze the current pledge. First, the pledge is **personal**: the first word is "I". The individual is pledging of his own accord. Second, the pledge is a **promise** of allegiance; those who say this pledge are promising to be faithful to what the flag represents, which is stated next. Third, the pledge addresses our **practice**: Christianity. Christianity is classified as a religion, but it is not actually a religion. Religion is how man seeks to go to God; Christianity is God's coming to man. Even so, Christianity is a practice that involves prayer, worship, singing, and evangelism. Fourth, the pledge mentions the **Person**: Our Savior. Our Savior is Jesus Christ about

whom Peter preached in Acts 4:12, “Neither is there salvation in any other for there is none other name under heaven given among men whereby we must be saved.” Jesus said of Himself in John 14:6, “I am the Way, the Truth, and the Life: no man cometh unto the Father but by Me.” Fifth, the pledge speaks of a **place**, a kingdom. God’s Kingdom is in Heaven, but it is also here on earth as Jesus rules in the hearts of believers. Jesus said in Luke 17:21, “. . . the Kingdom of God is within you.” Sixth, is the historic **proclamation** of the Gospel: Jesus was crucified, is risen, and will come again. Seventh, is the **promise** of life and liberty. God is the Creator and sustainer of life; however, life as used in the pledge refers to eternal life. In John 10:28 Jesus said, “And I give unto them eternal life and they shall never perish . . .” Eighth, we learn who all are invited to life and liberty: the **public**; all are invited. The curse of sin is universal, the redemption of Christ is universal, so the invitation is universal. Lastly is the **prerequisite**: while everyone is invited to life and liberty, only believers can receive life and liberty by grace through faith in Christ.

Pledging allegiance to the Christian flag is good, but living a life of allegiance to the Savior is what truly matters. May we all live lives of service to our Savior and His Kingdom until He comes again. Jesus is coming again -- just like He promised and the pledge proclaims!

Library News – New and on the Shelf by Bob Mathews

Fiction

Sea Glass Cottage by Irene Hannon

Nonfiction

Not All Roads Lead to Heaven by Robert Jeffress (NF 234)

Echoes of His Presence by Ray Vander Laan (NF 232.9)

Hell’s Best Kept Secret by Ray Comfort (NF 269.2)

Children’s Fiction

God Gave Us So Much by Lisa Bergren

Twice Yours by Nan Gurley

Children's Nonfiction

Joseph and the Coat of Many Colors by Ellen Titlebaum (CNF 222.11)

Missions & Outreach by Jennifer Miller

When you ask someone what they are intentional about, you may hear car maintenance, what they eat, the words they use, and how they spend their time. Someone else would probably have a different answer because priorities are different. Much of what we do is intentional, and we know if we weren't focused, things could fall between the cracks. While intentions may be good, if there is no follow through, they are just ideas. Action must follow intention if anything is to happen. We can never expect our intentions to stand as tributes to what we believe. In order for results to happen, there must be intentionality coupled with action.

The definition of intentional is interesting. Synonyms are deliberate and calculated. Being deliberate indicates there is thought behind the action. When we are calculated, we take action with the full awareness of the likely consequences. Do we approach our witness with the full knowledge our sharing could make the difference between eternal life and death? The consequences of faithful witnessing of God's love are people's hearts turning to him and accepting His Son's sacrifice for their sins.

Philip's witness to the Ethiopian eunuch occurred because Philip took deliberate action to talk to him. When we pray for witnessing opportunities, we must be prepared because God will provide them. Scripture gives us encouragement to do this. We are told to let our light shine (Matthew 5:16), know we will have power (Acts 1:8), make good use of our time (Colossians 4:5), and pray for other workers to help us share (Matthew 9:38). If we become more intentional in sharing Christ, what changes would we need to make? Here are several ways we can fine-tune how we share how God sent His Son to rescue us from sin:

- Be intentional by rearranging your daily schedule to include spaces of time when you could share without time constraints.

- Be intentional in your conversations, directing the topic into spiritual dialogue.
- Be intentional in your prayers, asking for opportunities, boldness, and insight as you relate to others.
- Be intentional in your relationships, building trust and openness for sharing.

God has given us a new song to sing! It's to be a song of praise, and we are to share it with many (Psalm 40:3)

August Mission Opportunities of the Month
(See Jennifer Miller for any additional information.)

- Baptist Friendship House (New Orleans, LA) - They help with homelessness and human trafficking; they are complexly nonprofit and rely on donations for their supplies. They have an Amazon wish list; you can donate Amazon gift cards to purchase items from their list. Visit [About Us - Baptist Friendship House](#) to learn more about this ministry!
- Catherine Foundation (Aug. 21st at 12:30 PM) - We will have a tea to help support this local ministry. Please bring an UNWRAPPED baby item or monetary donation. (Larger size diapers and pull ups, 9 mos - 2T clothing, baby toiletries). Visit [Home - Catherine Foundation](#) to learn more about this ministry.
- Donate items for our BLESSING BAGS- A Blessing Bag is a gallon size Ziploc bag filled with items to donate to people that we meet on the street that are less fortunate. Items can include granola bar, water, gum, toothbrush/paste, hand sanitizer, lotion, jerky, nuts, comb, ChapStick, etc.). Please bring items to the designated box in the church foyer. We will distribute these bags in September.
- Would you like to get more involved with local mission opportunities, then the **OUTREACH COMMITTEE** is for you!!! You can help with local organizations, community



events that the church is involved with (such as the Fireworks event), local prayer walks and visitations.

Upcoming Events

- Aug. 21st - Catherine Foundation Tea at 12:30 PM in Fellowship Hall- Bring a baby item and finger foods (Sign up sheet at Welcome Desk)
- Sept. 10th Museum of the Bible Trip and Prayer Walk - The church has secured FREE tickets (\$19.99 value). Transportation is on your own (parking is limited) or travel to Federal Center Metro Stop - Blue, Orange or Silver line). We will meet at the museum at 10 AM, but come at 9 AM if you would like to participate in the prayer walk around the museum area and distribute BLESSING BAGS. (Sign up sheet at Welcome Desk)
- Oct. 8th Sight and Sound 'David' Trip (3PM show) - Right now we have an overnight option (if there is enough interest) that will leave on Friday, Oct. 7th at 2 PM and return after the show on Saturday, Oct. 8th. The day trip is Oct. 8th, and we will depart the church around 7 AM and return around 9 PM on that date. Price includes admission ticket, 'Family Style' meal at Hershey Farms, and hotel (if choosing overnight option). Transportation TBD (as may need carpools and drivers). Final payments due ASAP but no later than Aug. 28. (Sign up sheet at Welcome Desk)



Women on Mission by Carol Gill

Women on Mission will not meet during the months of July or August but will resume monthly meetings on Thursday, September 1st. See you in the fall!

General Information

Sermon Topics (Subject to Change)

Aug 07	AM	“The Greatest Faith”	Matthew 8: 5-8
	PM	“Thankful for God’s Word”	Numbers 2: 1-3
Aug 14	AM	“Healing Forgiveness”	Matthew 9: 2
	PM	“Counting the Levites”	Numbers 3: 3-8
Aug 21	AM	“John’s Uncertainty”	Matthew 11: 2-3
	PM	“Order and Service”	Numbers 4: 1-3
Aug 28	AM	“Jesus’ Invitation”	Matthew 11: 28-30
	PM	“Rules for Holiness”	Numbers 5: 1-2

Tellers

Month of August – Sherry Bresnahan and Betty Moore

Greeter of the Week

	<u>8:30 AM</u>	<u>11:00 AM</u>
Aug 07	Glenn Miller	Dean Irwin
Aug 14	Nick Papanicolas	Billy Moore
Aug 21	Dave Bode	Scott Nupson
Aug 28	Bob Gill	Paul Dillon

Children’s Worship

Aug 07	Debbie Schneider, Becky Bucher, Gloria Schneider
Aug 14	Stephanie Walton, Caitlin Hancock, Hannah Pankhurst
Aug 21	Jennifer Cooke, Callie Hancock, Corbin Cooke
Aug 28	Ellen Nupson, Alison Bode, Jessica Miller

Sunday Morning Security Team

	8:30 AM	SS & 11:00 AM
Aug 07	Sherry Bresnahan Courtney Harbin	Jennifer Miller Jerry Pruitt
Aug 14	Donna Duehring Marion Simpson	Jim Miller Kevin Guiffre
Aug 21	Norma Stump Sheri Bresnahan	Melvin King Paul Miller
Aug 28	Courtney Harbin Donna Duehring	Robert Hicks Sheri Bresnahan

Sunday Morning Nursery

Aug 07	Norma Stump, Gerald & Kay Hancock
Aug 14	Norma Stump, Patrick & Jill Hancock
Aug 21	Norma Stump, Debbie Schneider, Becky Bucher
Aug 28	Norma Stump, Donna Fleming, Kay Hancock

Volunteers are still needed for Sunday and Wednesday evenings.

AUGUST FAMILY NEWS

Birthdays

Aug 01	Paul Milcetic, Jody Miller
Aug 02	Vicky Boyce
Aug 04	Edward Blunt, Pat Hancock
Aug 05	Joshua Hancock, Karen Jones, Patricia Yowell
Aug 09	Robby Jones
Aug 10	Matt Cooke

Aug 11 Angela Deal, Hannah Krauel
Aug 12 Nora Dodge, Colton Jones
Aug 13 Don Cooke, Paul Miller
Aug 14 Sophia Adamo
Aug 15 Chuck Bonn
Aug 18 Alexiah Daye, Chad Irwin
Aug 19 Robert Simmons
Aug 20 Robert Krauel, Jr., Diane Sheffe, Lauren Thrift
Aug 21 Mariah Hancock
Aug 23 Elaine Anderson, Eli Hancock, Patrick Hancock
Aug 26 Lauren Bonn
Aug 28 Wesley Tippet
Aug 29 Kayla Gibson

Anniversaries

Aug 15 Pastor Gary & Debbie Schneider
Aug 16 Jeff & Sheri Bresnahan
Aug 26 Calvin & Cheryl Allison
Jim & Carolyn Shaffer
Aug 31 Louis & Gloria Schneider

NOTE: If you don't see your birthday or anniversary listed here and would like to have it included, please call the church office. Also, notify the church office if you find an error.