

# Macedonian Call



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## A Note From Pastor Randy

Last month's action by the Charlotte City Council to pass what's known as the "bathroom ordinance" by a vote of 7-4 is further evidence of the erosion of biblical and moral values in our society. The ordinance will force businesses, schools, stadiums, movie theatres, restaurants, retail stores & other public accommodations to allow men to use women's restrooms or women to use men's restrooms based on their self-determined "sexual orientation, "gender identity" or "gender expression." Business owners who refuse to allow for this provision because of religious beliefs or moral convictions will face steep fines or may even be forced to close. One council member, Al Austin, defended his vote for the ordinance saying: "Are we a city that panders to fear and hate to those who wish to perpetuate fear and injustice?" Once again we see an example of the "tolerant" being intolerant of those with opposing views based on religious or moral convictions. Rather than engage in intelligent, reasonable debate, and consider deep-seated religious beliefs of others, supporters of the LGBT agenda resort to labeling opponents as "haters" and "fear-mongers." Christians must understand that the LGBT agenda is systematically and methodically eroding biblical views of sexuality, marriage and family. Gabriele Kuby, author of *The Global Sexual Revolution* writes: "We live in a time when sexual norms are being turned completely upside down, which is unique in human history. No society has done this. No society has ever said, 'Live out your sexual drive any way you like,' but our society does. I think this issue of sexuality is the main attack on the dignity of the human being, and on society as a whole, because if a society lets go of its morality in general, and especially in the area of sexuality. It tumbles into anarchy and chaos . . . ." I believe she's right! Any time God's design is undermined anarchy and chaos are the result. Therefore, we must "watch, stand fast in the faith, be brave, be strong" (1 Cor. 16:13). ~ Pastor Randy

It is such a joy to be a part of the family here. Thank you for all of your help and encouragement over my first few months here. It is my desire that we grow closer and that we also reach out to bring others into our family. In order for anyone to grow any closer, they must trust each other, bear each other's burdens and just be real with one another. That is a very hard thing to do most times. I am guilty of putting up a front and making everyone think I have it all together. Life is hard and it's even harder acting like you have it all together. None of us have it all together but thank God as believers we have a Savior who does. I am content in Christ but I still have struggles. I struggle to balance work and family, to make decisions for a household, and to be the man I need to be as a husband, father, and pastor. I fail daily at being the man I need to be but I am learning more and more every day that I must be honest with others about that. Our struggles encourage others who may be going through the same thing and let people know we all struggle but God is at work in us. Jesus has given us church family to be there for us and sometimes even to call us out on some things in love. Life is hard but Jesus is with us though it all, blessing us with brothers and sisters to help bear our struggles. It is my prayer that this encourages you all be real with others about your struggles. "Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ. For if anyone thinks he is something, when he is nothing, he deceives himself." Galatians 6:2-3 ~ Pastor Jeremy



*Annie Armstrong Easter Offering during the month of March.*



*Week of Prayer for NA Missions March 6<sup>th</sup> - 13<sup>th</sup>*

**Community Prayer Point**  
Saturday, March 5<sup>th</sup> 5:00 pm  
Everyone come join a prayer point close to you & pray for our church and communities!



*Embrace Women's Ministry*  
*We had a great time at our February "Sock Swap"*

*This month, Tuesday, March 8<sup>th</sup>*  
*"Mugs & Muffins". Bring a mug to exchange and muffins to share and join the fun!*



Friday, March 4<sup>th</sup>  
7 - 9 pm - Lawings  
Chapel Baptist Church



**"Winter Jam"**  
Saturday, March 26<sup>th</sup> - Leave  
Church at 2:00 pm  
Tickets \$10.00 at the door

**MBC Bible Drill**  
Wednesday, March 16<sup>th</sup> @ 6:30 pm  
SFBA Bible Drill - March 20<sup>th</sup>



**"Road to the Resurrection"**  
Saturday, March 26<sup>th</sup> 1:00 pm

Sat. March 12<sup>th</sup> "Mighty Men of Valor"  
Uplands Reach Conference Center.  
Early Registration \$35 at the gate \$45.

**CARE Night - Wednesday, March 9<sup>th</sup>**  
Meal @ 6:00 pm  
Ministry @ 6:30 pm



**Daylight Savings Time Begins**  
March 13<sup>th</sup>



March 2016 marks the 1 year anniversary of my brain bleed and subsequent 3 surgeries and by chance also my 62 birthday. (My favorite color is blue and my favorite vehicle is a Jeep Grand Cherokee – just for your information). In these 6 years there have been many pleasures, many memories and many trials. Why is it that often when we review our lives we focus on the bad things? I don't have the answer to that, but I do have encouragement for those of us who are believers. The encouragement is found in Nahum 1:3, "The way of the Lord is in the whirlwind and the storm"(MLB). No matter what you are struggling with **God is in control!** William Cowper stands as testimony to this truth. During a dark period of his life he tried to commit suicide. He drank some strong poison, but it didn't do anything. He hired a coach to drive him to the wild Thames River to hurl himself off the bridge but he could not climb across the barriers. The next morning still depressed he fell on a sharp knife, the blade broke. Next he hung himself, the rope broke and someone found him. He then picked up the Bible, read the book of Romans and gave his weary heart to Christ. Later in his life he wrote these words:

*God moves in mysterious ways His wonders to perform.  
He plants His footsteps in the seas and rides upon the storm.  
Deep in unfathomable mines of never ending skill,  
He treasures up His bright designs and works His sovereign will.*

I have a quote on my desk, "A brook would lose its song if you took the rocks away". Whatever has happened is happening or will happen to you remember nothing takes God by surprise. He never says, uh oh, oops, or that one got by me. He knows, He cares and life is much richer when you submit to Him in all things, especially in the whirlwind of the storm.  
~ Pastor Joe

### April at a Glance

- **AWANA each Sunday at 6:00 pm**
- **JOY Bible Study each Thursday at 10:30 am**
- **Thursday, April 7<sup>th</sup> – JOY Monthly Lunch at Noon in the Fellowship Hall**
- **Tuesday, April 12<sup>th</sup> - Embrace Women's Baby Shower for ELPCC at 6:30 pm**
- **Wednesday, April 13<sup>th</sup> – CARE Night Meal at 6 pm & Ministry at 6:30 pm**
- **Fri. & Sat., April 15-16 - NC Baptist Missions Conference at Hickory Grove Baptist Church in Charlotte**
- **Mon. – Fri. – April 18 – 22 – Men's Fishing Trip**
- **Saturday, April 23<sup>rd</sup> – Men's Meeting at 7:00 am Local Missions at 8:30 am**
- **Sunday, April 24<sup>th</sup> - Men's Quarterly Breakfast at 8:00 am**
- **Saturday, April 30<sup>th</sup> – Operation in As Much**

*Thursday, March 3<sup>rd</sup>  
Joy Ministry Weekly Bible Study at 10:30 am followed by our Monthly Lunch at Noon in the Fellowship Hall.*

**Tuesday, March 22<sup>nd</sup> 11 – 2 pm  
SFBA Senior Rally  
Mt. Zion Baptist in Alexis  
Cost \$10.00 per person**



**Saturday, March 19<sup>th</sup>  
Church Work Day at 8:00 am**

*Easter Sunday -March 27th  
Sunrise Service at 7 am  
Morning Service & Choir  
Cantata at 11 am  
No evening activities*

