

THE PARK BENCH

Franklin Park Baptist Church



Crossing the Cultural Divide

Dear Student:

"Listen to advice and accept instruction, that you may gain wisdom in the future."

Proverbs 19:20

Greetings in the name of the Lord.

By now, many of our kids are back to school and university. This month we are looking at some of the issues that our kids face, and the demands placed on them by unrelenting media outlets as they head back into 'the world' where they are called to be 'salt and light'. Hopefully, this article will give some practical tips for engaging this generation of young people in a meaningful way so that they may take the (above) charge from the book of Proverbs seriously.

Few people would argue the central role of media in the lives of today's students.

Shouts of, "*Whuddup dawg?*" or, "*Sup Dude?*" and "*You da' bomb*" can cause most English teachers to hyperventilate and shudder at the verbiage used in today's school hallways. There has always been a bit of a language *barrier* between the generations; but today, it seems more like a sophisticated language *fort* deliberately engineered by kids to confound adults in order to keep them at arm's length or further.

Ironically, one of the typical marks of adolescence is a desire to be understood by someone who can relate to their lives... Today's media outlets are always ready with a listening ear. *Young people typically become easily enamored by pop music artists and actors who seem to share in their struggle for identity.* Right or wrong, today's often struggling, vulnerable teen identifies with the language of today's media, music and pop culture, which often meets them right in the midst of their struggles for identity.

Today's high-tech world can assault students with enormous amounts of information (and often misinformation) that is not always filtered by a discerning ear before reaching their impressionable minds. Todd Gitlin, a professor of journalism and sociology at Columbia University, calls this assault, '*the media torrent*' or '*hyper-media*', in his book, *Media Unlimited: How the Torrent of Images and Sounds Overwhelms Our Lives*.

Educators have long understood and capitalized on the relationship between repetition and learning. According to a Kaiser Family Foundation report, the average teen spends more than six hours a day exposed to this *super saturation* of media material. That is a heavy dose of repetitive exposure to messages from various media producers that propagate the idea, "*You should be miserable and completely dissatisfied with your present lifestyle and indulgence is the solution*". One theologian notes that this overstimulation of their senses causes what he calls an "entertaining of themselves into boredom."

Noted author and essayist, GK Chesterton, once quipped, “*An open mind like an open mouth does have a purpose, and that is to close down upon something solid; otherwise, it could become like a city sewer that rejects absolutely nothing.*” Students need someone who can help them sort out the torrent of media information with a critical mindset. As adults, we can help them *if we understand them.*

The acronym **R.U.L.E.R.** may help you to “cross the cultural divide” and meet your kids right where they are as you strive to build relationships with them in the coming school year and for the rest of their lives.

RECOGNIZE- Popular youth culture (i.e. music, advertising, movies, TV) has a profound influence on the way kids think, act, spend their resources and relate to their peers, teachers, families and environment.

Things certainly aren't the way they used to be; but it is up to adults to make cultural adjustments and then to hold kids accountable.

UNDERSTAND- There is a natural, generational “cultural divide” and resulting language barrier that exists between adult and adolescent culture.

You will probably never comprehensively understand their culture; but you can understand and identify with their desire for individuality.

LISTEN- While it is *difficult* for adults to communicate within the context of popular youth culture, it is often *impossible* for an adolescent to communicate in adult culture because of a modicum of life experience.

We hear kids with our ears; but it requires an open mind to listen to students and the struggles of their hearts.

EVALUATE- For us adults to maximize our relationships with young people and effectively communicate the gospel message across the “cultural divide”, we must learn to understand and interpret the language and environment of today’s popular youth culture and meet young people “*right where they are*”. This is not easy and requires an intentional commitment on our part.

Consider spending some time watching the shows and listening to the music of the young people in your world in order to let them know that you are willing to take the time to understand them and the culture that they live in. The apostle Paul made it his business to understand his culture in a sermon he delivered on Mars Hill in Acts 17. It is a classic example of a gospel presentation that begins where the listeners are and then presents the gospel message in a logical and biblical fashion. Paul started his message by addressing the false beliefs of those gathered there that day and then used those beliefs as a way of presenting the gospel message to them.

RESPOND- True **Character** is forged out on the anvil of relationships that are based on truth, trust, and a personal willingness to seek the highest and best interest of others.

Our response to this generation of young people is crucial. It is our faithful Christian duty to provide vision for; and help young people establish goals that are in keeping with our Christian call to glorify the living God.

In His Service, Pastor George



Catherine Eleanor Meteny (CATE) was born July 16, 2017 at 9:52 a.m. She was 20 ½ inches long weighing 8 pounds 1 ounce. Her parents are Erin and Jon Meteny and she has a big brother, Jack, 3. Grandparents Tom and Jane Myers welcomed their first granddaughter as she joins their 3 grandsons, Jack, Luca and Bodie. Congratulations



Mark Your Calendar !

Saturday, October 7
 we will be sorting and packing boxes at the World Vision Warehouse from 9 a.m. until noon. More details will be coming. If you have any questions please see Marcy Hofstetter.



- 1 JOHN & LYNN CRESS
- 3 MILLIE & JOHN FLINCHUM
- 4 RICK & SANDY HUGHEY
- 6 DOUG & PAM FRAZIER
- 6 Ryan Cochran (his 10th !)
- 7 Brooke Merriman (her 4th!)
- 8 TOM & NANCY McNAUGHTON
- 10 CHRISTY & CLAY NICHOLS
- 10 LUCA DORIA (his 2nd !)
- 14 Marlene Merriman
- 17 Andrew Stewart (his 11th!)
- 20 Sandy Bonham
- 21 Erin Meteny
- 21 Kristen Doria
- 21 Rev. Robert Cunningham**
(his 97 th !)
- 21 Matthew Mowod (his 12th !)
- 23 Pam Frazier
- 24 Jack Meteny (his 3rd !)
- 25 SCOTT & JENNY MERRIMAN
- 28 Shelby Cunningham
- 29 RON & MARLENE MERRIMAN



- ^ **Kaitlyn Frances, 16**, has begun treatment for her cancer that will continue into October. Her counts were good so she has been able to come home for now. A devastating fire recently took her home in Ellwood City and we will receive a special offering September 10 and 17th that will benefit this family. Kaitlyn is the great-granddaughter of Millie and John Flinchum. Please keep this family in your prayers.
- ^ **Hank and Angie Cochran** ask for prayer for a member of the Hartman family who has been diagnosed with ALS.
- ^ **Bill Mooney** continues to recover from being hospitalized and treatment for an infection.
- ^ **Prayer for all** the policeman and first responders who are in danger as they are out there doing their job. Especially Shawn McNaughton who is a member of this church family and works in Cecil Township.

- ❖ **Continued Concern For:** John Cress, Rev. Robert Cunningham, Lois Gobrecht, Jean Willoughby, Cindy Foight's father Bill, Jeremy Styron, Mary Glassburn, Katie Jones, Tim McCrory, Landon Noulett, Edith Yockel, Christians around the world who are being persecuted.
- ❖ **Those With Cancer:** Bill Smith, Lance Cunningham, Bill McGahee, Sue Snyder, Matt O'Leary, Robert Stinebiser, Horatia Hammerschmitt.
- ❖ **Missionaries :** **Becky and Larry Stanton** (Hungary); **Peter and Sarah McCurdy** (Dominican Republic / Cuba); **Carol Sydnor** (Nepal); **Nora and Pieter Kalkman** (Prague, Czech Republic}, **Brian and Lynette Smith & their boys** (Haiti). **Valerie and Aaron Osterbrock** (East Malaysia) **Ted Parks**.
- ❖ **In Service of Our Country :** **Major Doug Bauer**, his wife Hope and children, Walker & Mackenzie are now in North Dakota serving our country.

Gene Worst Concordia of Franklin Park 1600 Georgetown Dr. Sewickley, PA. 15143	Dorothy McKinney Creek Meadows Personal Care 1630 Ellwood City Road Zellenople, PA. 16063	Albert (Buck) Bucklew Chicora Medical Center 160 Medical Center Road Chicora, PA. 16025-2612	Peggy Bucklew Chicora Medical Center 160 Medical Center Road Chicora, PA. 16025-2612
Janet Tehois Broadmore Senior Living 3275 Washington Pike Apt. 221 Bridgeville, PA. 15017 412-559-2813		George Green Cranberry Place 5 St. Francis Way Room 122 Cranberry Township, PA. 16066	Mrs. Shirley Wright Passavant Retirement Community Trillium House Room 215 Zellenople, PA. 16063 Telephone 724-452-5400
Homebound - Jane Nagel & Dale, Jr. 4015 Wick Place Wexford, PA. 15090	Gloria Meinert 2915 Salisbury Court Wexford, PA. 15090	Jean Downing	Bill and Eleanor Mooney 221 Chickasaw Avenue Pittsburgh, PA. 15237

Special Offering:

September 10 and 17 we will be receiving an outreach offering that will benefit the Frances Family who lost everything when a fire took their home in Ellwood City in July.

Brittany and Jason Frances and their 2 daughters, Kaitlyn and Brianna, are staying with Brittany's mom, Dawn Lilly while they deal with the insurance company and other issues.

Kaitlyn, 16, great-granddaughter of Millie and John Flinchum has also begun another round of treatment for cancer which she was diagnosed with at age 8. Please prayerfully consider your gift as we designate these 2 Sundays on their behalf.

If you can not be with us those 2 Sundays you can mail or bring your gift to the church and mark "The Frances Family" on the envelope.



Our college students:

Katelyn Dauer
Grove City College

Kaylah Stine
Grove City College

Matthew McKenna
Robert Morris University

Shelby Cress
Edinboro

Madison Cress
Community College of Allegheny
County

The long-awaited restart of the FPBC Choir is here! The choir will have its first gathering on **Wednesday, September 6, 2017 at 7:00 p.m. at the church.**

Everyone is welcome to attend. If you are unable to make the gathering but are interested, or if you have any questions,

contact Erik at

kolodzieje@qvsd.org

or

[412.508.0073](tel:412.508.0073).

Looking forward to making music together.

Address: 2470 Nicholson RD. Sewickley, PA 15143 [View On Google Maps](#)

Phone: 724-935-3950

Follow



Pittsburgh Baptist Association Event

Erika Spring Ordination Service

A Service of Ordination to the Christian Ministry will be held for Erika Anne Spring on Sunday, September 10, at 7 p.m., at the North Hills Community Baptist Church; 7801 Thompson Run Road; Pittsburgh, PA 15237.

Everyone is welcome and invited to share in the celebration with refreshments to follow.

Erika is the daughter of Tim Spring, Pastor of the North Hills Community Baptist Church

Coming Up In October at Franklin Park Baptist Church

A Major Event

“Legends of the Huddle”

Saturday, October 21, 2017

8 a.m. – 1 p.m.

Exciting details will be forth coming !

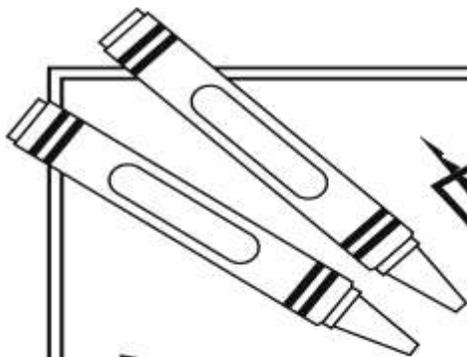
Pastor George is seeking a team of individuals to help out with the upcoming Men's Conference, *Legends of the Huddle*, on October 21st. If you are interested please let him know ASAP by emailing him at

georgepalombo1@gmail.com or by calling him at [724-601-3111](tel:724-601-3111).

This is an open conference and we hope you will invite every guy you know!!!

The conference will be hosted by FPBC and Christian Sports International. Featured conference speakers will be former Pittsburgh Pirate and (Atlanta Brave) Sid Bream; Pittsburgh Steeler, Jon Kolb; and Will Allen (Steelers, Cowboys, Buccaneers) Also speaking will be former Pittsburgh radio personality, Dennis Bowman.

We would like to make this a premier event for the entire community.



PUZZLE

Think about these things...

With so many things to remember each day, the apostle Paul provides guidelines in Philippians 4:8 (NIV) for what should fill our minds.

Directions: Match each word in column 1 to the word in column 2 that means the same thing. Then use the words from column 2 to fill in the boxes below.

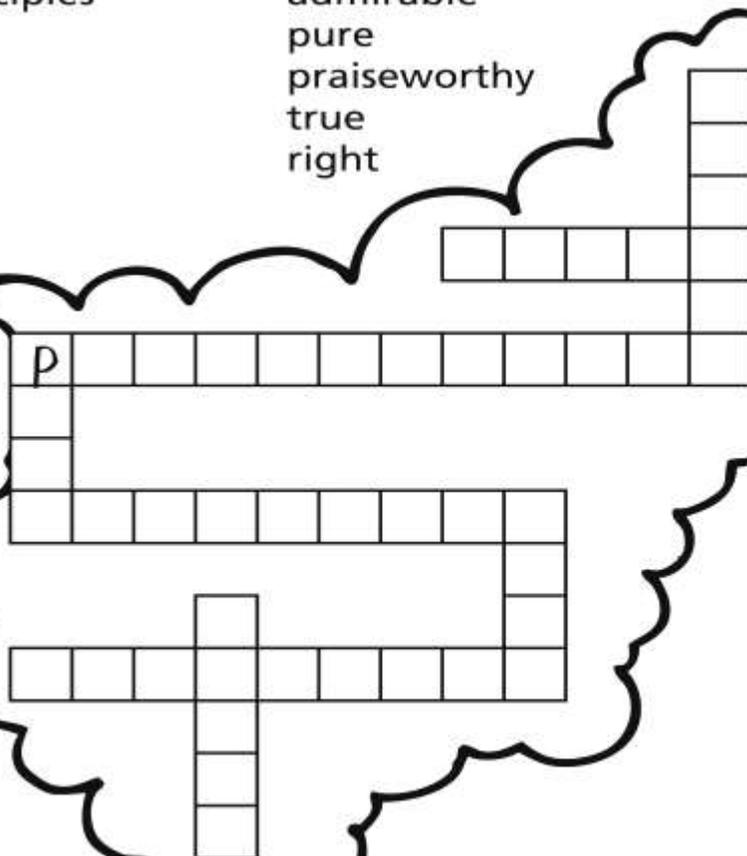
COLUMN 1

correct
commendable
extremely good
having high moral principles
deserving respect
pleasant
real
wholesome

COLUMN 2

excellent
lovely
noble
admirable
pure
praiseworthy
true
right

"Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is **true**, whatever is **noble**, whatever is **right**, whatever is **pure**, whatever is **lovely**, whatever is **admirable** — if anything is **excellent** or **praiseworthy** — think about such things."
Philippians 4:8, NIV





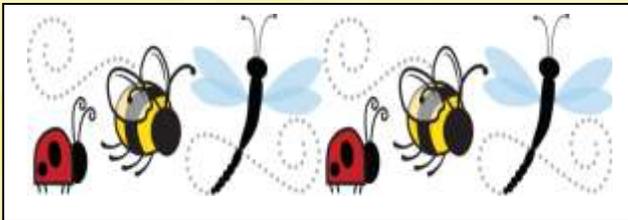
Worship Service Schedule

Sunday, September 3 – 9:30 a.m. Worship Service with Communion

Sunday, September 10 – 10:30 a.m. Worship Service
Matthew Rivers, guest Minister

Sunday, September 17 – 9:30 a.m. Sunday School (Teen and Adult)
10:30 a.m. Worship Service (Children’s Sunday School)

Sunday, September 24 – 9:30 a.m. Sunday School (Teen and Adult)
10:30 a.m. Worship Service (Children’s Sunday School)



If you miss a Sunday sermon or just want to hear it again, send us your email and we will send you a link that will take you to our drop box where you can access it. Just let us know !

Special dates

- Labor Day, *September 4, 2017*
- National Grandparents Day, *September 10, 2017*
- Patriot Day, *September 11, 2017*
- Hispanic Heritage Month, *Sept. 15-Oct. 15, 2017*
- First day of autumn, *September 22, 2017*

September Worship Service Greeters

Sept. 3 – Tom and Nancy McNaughton

Sept. 10 – Darlene Dennis

Sept. 17 – Rick and Sandy Hughey

Sept. 24 – Lois Exton