

The Siluria Messenger

August 2023

Going forward together . . .



Siluria Baptist Church
 10696 Hwy 119 S
 Alabaster, AL 35007
 (205) 663-7904
 siluriabaptist.com

A Visit with the Pastor . . .

I visited with my brother in Memphis over the 4th. My sister-in-law has dementia and is with hospice, and my brother wanted to talk about death and dying and funerals. Someone had told him cremations were unbiblical. I've heard this before from other sources but never understood what biblical reference this is. Someone told me it may be because Jesus' body was entombed, but this is a fact, not a command. After all, as Ralph Langley used to say, Jesus didn't purchase a tomb; he rented one!

The last time I rode with a funeral director to a gravesite I quizzed him on current practices. He said 60 percent of funerals now are cremations. A major part of this is cost, since funerals with preparation and caskets can be \$10,000 or more. Another factor is transportation, especially when remains are transported across country. According to the TSA, cremains can be taken in luggage on an airplane.

I see nothing in scripture forbidding the practice of cremation.

Another thing we talked about was scheduling a funeral. We've seen a trend in recent years away from "three days from now." Again, this practice of burial on the third day probably relates to Jesus's resurrection, but this is not a scriptural command. An old book, "The American Way of Death," claimed that many families make bad decisions they regret later after the pressure of a swift funeral. Today it's not uncommon for families to plan a memorial service next week, or next month. I think this flexibility is a good thing.

We also talked about using the family church in Memphis. I explained that most churches try to avoid funerals on Sunday, but other than that, church leaders want to be accommodating in order to help the family.

Along this line, I think it's beneficial when families suggest memorial gifts to their church. No

offense intended towards floral companies, but lasting results can come about with material contributions.

A family related to one of our members asked to use our church last year for a memorial service. Later we received \$3000 designated to the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering. I intend to ask the Budget and Finance Committee this fall to help me emphasize our ongoing building fund for future maintenance needs, so I think this will give a worthy option for families wanting to honor their departed loved ones.

Funeral services are a time to remember, and a time to inspire hope. Siluria Baptist Church wants to do whatever we can to honor our beloved dead, and to honor our risen savior.

Devotedly,
 Michael J. Brooks

Birthdays	
3	Julie Johnson
8	Haleigh Hostetter
8	Hannah Hostetter
9	Doris Newman
9	Sairah Kilgore-Bunn
11	Heather Culpepper
14	Joy Burrow
15	Rosemary Hatch
16	Melonie Palmer
16	Deborah Triplett
18	Addie Lee
18	Judy Brothers
18	Thomas Boyd
21	Patrick Orth
22	Lee Tucker
23	Jan Sims
25	Darin Miller
27	Tracy Smith
28	Eddie Moore

Church Staff

Michael Brooks, Pastor michaeljbrooks2020@gmail.com
 Luther Foreman, Music Minister LV4man@hotmail.com
 Cody Seals, Youth Minister codyseals215@gmail.com
 Katie Abney, Ministry Assistant siluriabaptist@gmail.com
 Visit our website at siluriabaptist.com



This month, we will collect items for Shelby Baptist Association's Hunger Ministry. Their current needs are listed below.

Cereal, Grits (1 lb. box), Oatmeal, Syrup, Sugar, Flour (2 lb. bag), Mac & cheese, Pasta, Pasta sauce (plastic jars), Hamburger Helper, Rice (1 lb. bag), Carrots (canned), Corn (canned), Potatoes (canned), and Diced tomatoes (canned)

Baby food, Diapers (baby and adult), Laundry detergent, Toothpaste, and Feminine hygiene products

They also accept gently used clothing, household items, and medical equipment

See shelbybaptist.org for more information.

Please place donations in the marked bin in the breezeway.



Dates to Remember

- 5 Conference @ Hunter St
- 6 Deacons Meeting
- 10 First day local schools
- 13 Church Council Mtg



And the crowds asked him, "What then shall we do?" And he answered them, "Whoever has two tunics is to share with him who has none, and whoever has food is to do likewise."

Luke 3:10-11