

The Siluria Messenger

November 2023

Going forward together . . .



Siluria Baptist Church
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A Visit with the Pastor . . .

I met an adult editor from LifeWay at Shocco Springs Baptist Assembly several years ago who has been kind to invite me to write a few times for him. He superintends “Bible Studies for Life,” though our adults study “Explore the Bible.” Nevertheless, writing for LifeWay is a great discipline since one has to study to understand scripture and then try to make the application plain—just like every teacher and preacher must.

He has also invited me several times to do appraisal readings – read either the lesson or the teacher’s commentary and look for better ways to communicate. The materials presented are anonymous, so the appraiser doesn’t know who the writers are. He first explained this to me in a unique way, asking me to “see if there’s anything bone-headed in the lessons.”

The only “bone-headed” thing I’ve found, other than a few grammar issues, is a writer using the

phrase, “When Jesus was alive, he did thus and so.” Of course, I suggested rephrasing to, “When Jesus walked on earth, he did thus and so.”

But I’ve been thinking about the bone-headed things I’ve said over the years without having the benefit of an appraiser.

I have sermon notes from 30 years ago. Back in the day we didn’t have external hard drives or OneDrive, so I laboriously typed notes on my Smith Corona Galaxy 12 portable and filed them. I’m ashamed that my understanding was so limited and that I apparently spoke a number of “bone-headed” things. I’m feeling the leading of the Lord to have a bonfire just like the pagan magicians did in Ephesus and get rid of those old sermons. Fortunately, there was no livestream in those early years!

In speech communication we talk about “feedback.” It can be immediate; the speaker looks at his audience to see how he’s doing. But

feedback can occur later when audience members share. I certainly welcome helpful feedback. I think communication is never a goal we fully realize, but a goal we continue to strive for, somewhat akin to our calling to be Christlike.

In one place I had a plaque attached to the rear of the pulpit that included Paul’s exhortation to preachers: “Speaking the truth in love” (Ephesians 4:15). It was a good reminder about the sanctity of the sermon time. Truth and love are partners in Christian teaching and preaching.

Many thanks to kind Silurians for being tolerant of their fallible preacher for over nine years.

Fall is a busy season as we prepare for two major holidays and conclude the year honoring a true Southern Baptist heroine, Lottie Moon. God bless our troops and God bless our missionaries.

Devotedly,
 Michael J. Brooks

Birthdays	
2	Lee Doebler
3	Terri Douglas
14	Steve Gibbs
15	Laura Thornton
15	Sandra Berry
16	Faye Durrett
18	David Helms
22	Stacy Powell
23	Leana Krater
23	Brianna Seals
23	Gale Durrett
23	Talley Copeland
25	Bryan Brown
29	Rosie Davidson
29	Colin Hostetter

Enjoy your extra hour of sleep and we'll see you at church

Dates to Remember	
4	Youth/Kids Bonfire & Bible Study 5 p.m.
4	Youth Lock-In 7 p.m.
5	Daylight Saving ends
5	Friend Day
5	Deacons Meeting
21	Wed. on Tuesday
23	Thanksgiving
25	Kids Tree Farm 8:30
25	Youth IronBowl Party

I will give thanks to the Lord because of his righteousness;
 I will sing the praises of the name of the Lord Most High.
 Psalm 7:17

Homebound of the Month
 David Helms

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