

JESUS' MOTLEY CREW

Have you ever wondered where the term “motley crew” came from? Historically, it was a term used to describe the rag-tag, unconventional, and highly diverse crews of early sailing ships which were often made up of men from many different nationalities and backgrounds rather than a uniform, disciplined navy. We Christians are a hodge-podge of people too – a “motley crew”. We are far from perfect. We have many peculiarities. We don't agree about a lot of things, especially regarding the faith we profess. And we have countless subgroups.

In Jesus' day they had motley subgroups too. There were Pharisees and Sadducees. Pharisees believed there was a heaven and Sadducees didn't. There were priests, Roman soldiers, Samaritans, functionaries like tax collectors (like Matthew and Zaccheus),

political zealots (like Simon the Zealot), religious hermits (like John the Baptist), eunuchs, and social outcasts (like lepers). There were also women – one of which had been demon-possessed before Jesus delivered her (Mary Magdalene). Maybe if His other followers were thought to be “ordinary” – *it was only because **their peculiarities weren't known***. It's like my refrigerator magnet says, “The only normal people are the ones you don't know too well.”

But Jesus didn't see categories. He saw people. He didn't see “clean” and “unclean.” He didn't see Jews versus Samaritans, or Gentiles. He didn't defer to men, ignoring women and children. He saw them **all** as “harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd.”

It was His compassion. The Greek word for *compassion* means more than our word does. It means: to feel frustration and despair in the pit of your stomach like the pain of a raw, open wound. It was with that pain that He spoke to His disciples about the overwhelming need to care for so many hurting folks. In fact, He said more laborers were needed - so they should pray for God to provide them.

But in Matthews' next sentence, we see the answer to those prayers – *the disciples themselves*. They were to be the answer to their own prayers. I wonder

how often we might miss the fact that *we're meant to be God's answer to our prayers?*

Therefore, Jesus called his motley crew and sent them out. That's what the word “apostle” means – “sent one”. They were 12 very different men – 4 fisherman (Peter and Andrew, James and John), a zealot, or rebel, against Rome (Simon), a tax collector (Matthew), one with doubts (Thomas), one with no guile (Nathaniel), one full of guile (Judas Iscariot), and three others whose names are about all we know of them. In sending them, he gave them authority to do the very same work He had been doing. Yes, He gave them His power to cast out demons, cure diseases, preach the Good News, and even raise the dead. He gave all of that responsibility to them when not a one of them was formally educated. Like them, we too are completely inadequate followers who are called to do the impossible. ***But we don't have to be adequate. We can never learn or do enough to qualify for this work. But Jesus has given us the power and spiritual gifts to do what He calls us to do, through His own indwelling Spirit.*** Every Sunday after church, the Lord sends us out again. But are we available? There's a saying that He doesn't need our ability near so much as He needs our availability. Catherine of Siena, a 14th

century mystic and spiritual guide, said, *“If you are who God calls you to be, you will set the world on fire.”* All we have to do is trust Him, say “yes,” and then go where, and to whom, He leads. He will take it from there.

I love you! Susan

WEEKLY CHURCH EVENTS

AA MEETINGS

Mondays, June 1, 8, 15, 22 and 29 at 7 p.m. in the fellowship hall

WEEKLY COMMUNITY BIBLE STUDY

Wednesdays, June 3, 10, 17 and 24 from 11:00 a.m. to noon in our fellowship hall. Come join us! We are studying of the gospel of Luke. Invite your friends! There's always room for more.

WEEKLY CHOIR REHEARSAL

Wednesdays, June 3, 10, 17 and 24 at 5:30 p.m. in the choir room. Rob and our choir would be glad to have you join them!

REGULAR MONTHLY EVENTS

PICKER'S & FIDDLER'S MUSIC FEST

Saturday, June 13th from 10:00 to noon in the fellowship hall (and every 2nd Saturday of the month). Every second Saturday of the month we have our own version of the Grand Ole' Opry right

here at Pocahontas! It is truly amazing how many talented people come and share their musical talents, free of charge. Invite your friends to hear some great bluegrass and gospel music! Bring your instrument and play/sing too! We'll have some goodies and coffee for you. It's a great time!

STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE MEETING

Monday, June 15th at 5:30 p.m. in the conference room

DEACONS' MEETING

Tuesday, June 16th at 7:00 p.m. in the conference room

COMMUNITY MEAL

Thursday, June 18th at 5:30 p.m. in the fellowship hall (and every 3rd Thursday of the month). All are welcome to come and help serve, eat, and fellowship with our neighbors of Henry County and Bassett. Workers should arrive at 5:15. If you would like to contribute a dessert, contact Lindy Koger at 276-734-2096.

FEED AMERICA FOOD DISTRIBUTION Tuesday,

June 30th at the Light Electric Building, 24A Governor Stanley Hwy at 12:30 – 1:30. There is also a worship service beforehand, at 9:00 a.m. and a lunch, free of charge, is offered at 11:30 a.m. at the same place. All are welcome!

SPECIAL EVENTS THIS MONTH

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL SET-UP NIGHT

Friday, June 5th at 5:30 p.m. We'll be setting up

and decorating the various areas of the church which we will be using for our VBS.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Saturday, June 6th from 10:00 a.m. 1:00 p.m.

Our theme will be **“Life is a Circus But God is the Ringleader.”** The children will be learning about facing their fears and challenges through the Bible story of David and Goliath. Please invite the children in your life! You can turn in registration forms to Freda in the church office or to Donna Anthony. You can also register children in the foyer on the morning of our VBS. Workers are always needed and there are a many ways to be involved! If you would like to serve, please speak to Donna Anthony. VBS is for 3 years old through 5th grade in the fall.

CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING

Sunday, June 7th at 12:15 p.m. or as soon as the service is over. We will have lunch during our meeting. Please bring your personal calendars.

COOPERATIVE BAPTIST FELLOWSHIP

GENERAL ASSEMBLY 2026 in Jacksonville, Fla. from Wednesday, June 17th – Friday, June 19th. Please pray for this very important meeting of our Baptist denomination.

FATHER'S DAY

Sunday, June 21st at 11:00 a.m. in the sanctuary. How about also making it “Bring Your Dad to Church Day” to celebrate him with us? We will have a special Father's Day gift for all the men in our PBBC family.

HEADS UP FOR JULY!

A "RED, WHITE & BLUEGRASS SERVICE"

Sunday, July 5th at 11:00 a.m. in the sanctuary. We'll have some of our wonderful "pickers" and church musicians share their musical gifts in this service. Some music will be patriotic and some, gospel. Dress is casual. Wear your red, white and blue. Invite friends!

THE COOPERATIVE BAPTIST FELLOWSHIP – OUR DENOMINATION

Our church left the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) in the 1990s and became affiliated with the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship. We are one of 4 CBF churches in our Henry County Baptist Association. The other three CBF churches are: Chatham Heights BC, FBC Martinsville, and Starling Ave. BC.

WHAT IS THE COOPERATIVE BAPTIST FELLOWSHIP?

The Cooperative Baptist Fellowship (CBF) is a vibrant community of diverse individuals and churches united by their commitment to the gospel of Jesus Christ. Founded in 1991, the CBF emphasizes the values of cooperation, compassion, and faithfulness. With a rich tapestry of theological perspectives and a dedication to missions and ministry, the CBF stands as a beacon of hope and love in a world that often feels divided and uncertain.

The CBF prefers to be called a fellowship rather than a denomination. It is a dynamic movement that seeks to embody the teachings of Jesus in a way that is relevant and transformative for today's world. From its commitment to social justice to its inclusive approach to theology, the CBF offers a compelling vision of what it means to be a follower of Christ in the 21st century.

The CBF traces its roots to the SBC, a denomination that experienced significant theological and ideological shifts in the latter half of the 20th century. As the SBC moved toward a more conservative stance on various theological and social issues, a group of Baptist leaders and congregations sought to maintain a commitment to historic Baptist principles while embracing a more moderate and inclusive approach.

In response to these evolving dynamics within the SBC, the CBF was officially formed. The founding of CBF represented a pivotal moment in Baptist history, as it provided a platform for individuals and churches who desired a fellowship that valued cooperation, theological diversity, and a holistic approach to ministry.

From its inception, CBF has been characterized by its commitment to missions, education, and advocacy. The organization has played a significant role in supporting global missions, theological education, and social justice initiatives. This commitment to holistic ministry reflects the belief that faith should be lived out in tangible ways, addressing the spiritual, physical, and social needs of individuals and communities.

The Core Beliefs of the CBF are as follows:

Bible Freedom is the historic Baptist affirmation that the Bible, under the Lordship of Christ, must be central in the life of the church and individual and that Christians, with the best and most scholarly tools of inquiry, are both free and obligated to study and obey the Scriptures.

Soul Freedom is the historic affirmation of the inalienable right and responsibility of every person to deal with God without the imposition of creed, the interference of clergy, or the intervention of civil government.

Church Freedom is the historic Baptist affirmation that local churches are free, under the Lordship of Christ, to determine their membership and leadership, to order their worship and work, to ordain whom they perceive as gifted for

ministry, male or female, and to participate in the larger Body of Christ, of whose unity and mission Baptists are proudly a part.

Religious Freedom is the historic Baptist affirmation of freedom OF religion, freedom FOR religion, and freedom FROM religion, insisting that Caesar is not Christ and Christ is not Caesar." (also known as "The Separation of Church and State.") (Walter Shurden, *The Baptist Identity: Four Fragile Freedoms*, 1993)

SBC POSITIONS: DIFFERENCES FROM CBF

1. **Who May Lead:** The SBC statement (Baptist Faith and Message 2000) states that only men are called to the office of pastor / elder / overseer / deacon. CBF supports the full participation of women in all aspects of church leadership and Christian ministry.

2. **The Ordinances of Baptism and the Lord's Supper:** The SBC only recognizes and performs baptism by immersion unless medically prohibitive. Regarding the Lord's Supper, the SBC's position is that only those who have been baptized by immersion may become church members and receive the Lord's Supper. CBF churches vary on the kinds of baptisms they recognize, their requirements for church membership, and who may receive the Lord's Supper. *PBBC's positions are that we accept baptisms in whatever manner they have been performed (sprinkling or immersion) by any Christian denomination, and we receive folks into our church on the basis of their statement of faith. They need not be re-baptized or have a church letter of membership from another Baptist church.*

3. **Doctrinal Position Statements:** The CBF doesn't issue position statements to which their churches must adhere, so CBF churches cannot be excluded due to differences. On the other hand, SBC churches must adhere to SBC doctrinal positions or be disfellowshipped.

This information has been reprinted for those who may be new to the CBF. It is a helpful reminder.

(CBF article - continued)

I am grateful for the CBF and that PBBC has long been a part of it. I am also very grateful that that move ultimately led to the call you extended to me to be your pastor – a blessing beyond words! I love and appreciate you so much! Susan

FROM THE DIRECTOR OF LITTLE ANGELS EARLY LEARNING

Summer is in full swing at Little Angels ELC. There are a lot of kiddos running around the center, both downstairs and outside! We have been blessed to have an influx of children. When they are outside playing, there are children everywhere! We really enjoy it when it isn't so hot outside. Heat causes major issues with us. First of all, the kids can't be outside as long. Next, there are bugs, bees, ticks and critters. Lastly, the power consumption to run the air conditioning in Our Place is not wallet friendly.

We are trying to have lunches for all classes under the shelter, due to the number of kids we have and the ease of distributing the lunches as they arrive from the schools. It's like having a picnic every day! If you see us out there, please come out and introduce yourself to the kids! We would love for the kids to have more interaction with Pocahontas families!

We are happy to announce that our staff now includes an assistant director, a lead teacher, three full-time teachers, three summer helpers, one part-time worker,

and two employees who will be hired by the end of June. Even with all of those, it never seems like enough due to vacations and sick days etc. We work hard to accommodate employees with the days and hours off that they need.

We have several children who will be leaving in the fall due to the start of the public schools. We are always sad to see our kids go, even though we know this is the normal process. We hope we have given them the tools they need to have a successful preschool or kindergarten year. Meanwhile, we hope everyone is having a great start to the summer and can find the time to vacation or spend time with family.

We continue to get compliments from parents on how much we have changed the lives of their children, whether it be through learning to speak more clearly, their growth in Bible knowledge, or the manners they have learned and show at home. We continue to do daily Bible lessons, as well as have a weekly chapel with Pastor Susan, and pray these times might spark a love for the Lord in their little minds that will burn long after they leave us.

In closing, I want to say how blessed we are to be in our fourth year at Pocahontas. We are so grateful you stepped out in faith and took a chance on us to go on this journey together!

Blessings! Karen Mayhew