

August 2014

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 Meals on Wheels Youth Camp—July 30 thru August 3	2 9:00-11:00am SAMA Back-to-School Celebration
3 Sunday School 9:30am Worship 10:45am & 6:00pm 12:00 pm Trustees Meeting 5:00pm WMU Meeting 5:00pm Youth, Men's Bible Study 6:00pm Children Youth Camp	4	5	6 10:30am Worship at SNH 7:00pm Prayer & Bible Study 7:00pm Youth & Children	7	8	9
10 Sunday School 9:30am Worship 10:45am & 6:00pm 5:00pm Youth, Adults 6:00pm Children 7:00pm Business Meeting	11 5:30-8:00pm Children's Back-to-School Pool Party at the Stockton Country Club	12	13 7:00pm Prayer & Bible Study 7:00pm Youth & Children	14	15	16
17 Sunday School 9:30am Worship 10:45am & 6:00pm 5:00pm Youth, Adults 6:00pm Children	18	19	20 7:00pm Prayer & Bible Study 7:00pm Youth & Children	21	22	23
24 Sunday School 9:30am Worship 10:45am & 6:00pm 10:45am Benevolence Offering 5:00pm Youth, Adults 6:00pm Children 7:00pm Deacon's Meeting	25	26	27 7:00pm Prayer & Bible Study 7:00pm Youth & Children	28	29	30

AUGUST

Birthdays of the Month



2. Casey Graham
3. Donis Ewing
Bob Garner
6. Phillip Applegate
J.D. Starbuck
Norma Starbuck
7. Taylor Graves
Jason Johnson
8. Edward Camp
9. Taylor Greenlee
10. Rachel Graves
Daisy Morrison
16. Miranda Applegate
John Wilson
17. Paul Flohr
Roy Mantonya
Rodney Edington
18. Pepper Martin
Judy Coppedge
19. Richard Chism
22. Paul Wilson
Nathan Mantonya
Judy Ford
24. Neal Bough
31. Colt Whitesell

Anniversaries of the Month

1. Lawrence & Elaine Johnston
3. Joey & Rachel Graves
13. Phil & Sandra Holdeman
17. Greg & Betty Thomas
25. Kenny & Sarah Turner
26. Richard & Judy Brumback



Views from the Church Pews

For a while now and especially in the last week or two, I spent some time pondering my "feelings" with regard to music in church. My little piece here is not intended to attempt to sway opinions of specific types of music nor is it trying to be subversive in any way. It is what it is...my take.

How close is God? 2 words help us understand: Immanence and Transcendence. God is immanent. He is "right here", if you will. He is not an impersonal force that we cannot "observe" (not see with our eyes, but see the attributes of). He is not unapproachable for a born-again Christian (Hebrews 4). He is close and loves like a Father. Jesus coming to Earth is the perfect example of this closeness...fully God, fully man walking with His sinful creation...amazing. See *John 1:14 – The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.* And see *Philippians 2:6.*

God is also transcendent. He is wholly NOT like us. He is huge. He is completely self-sufficient, in need of nothing we or anyone else can offer. He is separate. He is, in every way, holy. We depend on Him for every breath. He holds the world and everything in it in his metaphoric hands. *Isaiah 55:8-9 – “For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways,” declares the LORD. As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.* And see *Psalms 19.*

He is near and He is far. He is both. We must come to a basic grasp of this truth or we will mess up how we think of Him and become unbalanced in our walk. I have heard many well-meaning pastors say you need to move your relationship with Christ from your mind to your heart. I say you need both. Loving a God you don't know is an oxymoron.

What does this have to do with music you ask?? Everything.

Praise and Worship/Contemporary Christian music, it seems to me, is designed to focus on loving God "immanent-ly", if you will. It is sometimes more emotional music that is designed,

in part, to help us "feel" closer to the God. Often it uses personal pronouns such as I and we and focuses on our love of Him.

Hymns, in many cases, focus on the transcendence of God. They paint a picture of a huge God and what He has done. They often focus less on our response to Him and more on theology/knowledge of Him.

Some are a mixture of the two types. Age can't completely dictate the answer since all songs were contemporary to their original singers although something can certainly be said for standing the test of time.

So which type of music is "right"? Both can be. Just like we need head and heart knowledge, we need to praise Him and experience/grow in Him in song. Some of us are swung so far on the "head side" that we want less of the immanence of God, and others want a really close God and are less concerned of His vastness.

Music, like few other things, reaches our emotions. We memorize hundreds or thousands of songs in our lives whether commercials, Gilligan's Island-like jingles or songs at church. Let's not let music, and the emotions that it generates, cause us to sin. Praising while you sin? Not happening. If it is strictly a preference issue, we must all agree to bend and defer to others. If I had my way, we would never have a song without a clarinet, a flute, a harmonica or a bagpipe in it...but I defer to others. :) If a song tweaks our conscience, we should lovingly discuss it after praying about it. We have to check ourselves first to be sure that we are not the guilty one....

Last thought. Church services were established by God for believers to worship and to get disciplined/be disciplined (Matt. 18)/perform ordinances of the Lord's Supper/Baptism and such. We lovingly welcome non-believers in to see/hear Christianity and to start getting a feel for the "hope that lies within us". The church building/service is not the evangelism program of the church. We are the evangelism program of the church. Music can bring in types of people to church. It could be used to bring in more believers who need a place to do the list I just mentioned. It can bring in interested lost people. It could also bring in lost people who are only here for a show. (Break out the laser lights, the fog machines, camels...) However, when people

only come for "a show", if they find a better show down the street or if your show doesn't continue to get more exciting, they leave. Forget the transcendent part...Jesus is now my home boy or my boy/girlfriend. The opposite extreme is also a real possibility...we are so focused on transcendence that we do not show His worth to us in worship...and grow cold and Gregorian Monk-like. We are frowny and distant, not letting what we know about Him affect how we feel about Him. Then a lost person stumbles in and sees a church that appears to have no passion and doesn't care what the hope that lies within us is since it isn't apparent that we have hope. Worse yet, God is not honored in worship.

We are here to worship in spirit and in truth. There is no way that Judy or anyone else can satisfy the tastes of every congregant...nor should they try. We all join together seeking to show how much we value Christ and His sacrifice to an audience of One...Him. We must leave every service asking the questions "Was God Glorified in this service?" and "Did You like the service, Lord...did it honor You as much we can?" Sin and division abound, amazingly enough, in this topic. Each should examine themselves every day.

Your Brother in Christ,
Mark

First Southern Baptist Church
405 W. Englewood Drive
Stockton, MO 65785

(417) 276-3441

Office Hours: Tues.- Fri.—8:30am-2:30pm

Office: fsbcstockton@windstream.net

Website: <http://fsbcstockton.org>

FSBC NEWSLETTER



2014

Upcoming
EVENTS

Several Children & Youth Activities are in the works...

- Back-to-School Pool Party for the Children on Monday, August 11th from 5:30-8:00 pm at the Stockton Country Club. Hot Dogs & Chips will be provided.
- Back-to-School Party for the Youth...Watch for more information coming soon!

Jason Mabry	Pastor
Steve Ewing.....	Youth/Children's Pastor
Judy Ford.....	Music
Susan Applegate	Secretary
Sandra Camp.....	Treasurer
Ken Spurgeon.....	Deacon Chairman