Truth matters. However, what matters even more is how truth is ascertained!

We have people in our church fighting cancer. When their oncologists make a diagnosis, the patients expect it to be accurate. When chemotherapy is given, it’s expected to be the right blend of chemicals proper for their particular cancer. Accurate. Right. Proper. These ideas are established by research, by trial and error, and by experts who have studied and achieved past successes.

Imagine for a moment that your doctors relied on their emotions to diagnose illness? How about feeling a chemo blend and intuiting the right meds for the sensed type of cancer. Absurd, isn’t it? And yet, that is exactly where our society is going in the area of gender identification. Like making medical decisions, precision and objectivity also matter when making psychological determinations. However, when it comes to a person’s gender, society now expects us to simply trust a person’s feelings.

As early as seven weeks, a fetus’ sex can be established via a blood test. Wait a few more weeks and it can be reliably confirmed via ultrasound. Wait a few more weeks and it can be definitively verified via visual inspection. When baby Jesus was born in Bethlehem, Mary and Joseph had no confusion about whether or not the kid was a boy or a girl! Anatomy tells the verifiable truth about gender identity. It always has for all time.

Unfortunately, our brave new world has expanded its sexual confusion to include a budding infatuation with transgender identification. If you don’t know somebody personally whom psychology calls gender dysphoric, you’ve certainly heard of Bruce Jenner. When I was a boy, he was an American hero. Today he is arguably the most famous face behind the latest sexual trend. How are Christ-followers to respond? What are we to do when someone claims to feel their anatomy doesn’t match the anatomy of their birth? Should we trust in human emotion to deliver information that is accurate and reliable? Are we obligated to accept that human feelings are not and cannot be mistaken? What if I feel that God doesn’t love me anymore? What if I feel I’m not really a Christian? What if I feel like my life isn’t worth living? Can we trust feelings to tell us the truth—really trust them? In many ways, we are actually hurting people by telling them, “If you feel it, it must be true.”

From the desk of Pastor Jamey

Truth Matters

We have people in our church fighting cancer. When their oncologists make a diagnosis, the patients expect it to be accurate. When chemotherapy is given, it’s expected to be the right blend of chemicals proper for their particular cancer. Accurate. Right. Proper. These ideas are established by research, by trial and error, and by experts who have studied and achieved past successes.

Imagine for a moment that your doctors relied on their emotions to diagnose illness? How about feeling a chemo blend and intuiting the right meds for the sensed type of cancer. Absurd, isn’t it? And yet, that is exactly where our society is going in the area of gender identification. Like making medical decisions, precision and objectivity also matter when making psychological determinations. However, when it comes to a person’s gender, society now expects us to simply trust a person’s feelings.

As early as seven weeks, a fetus’ sex can be established via a blood test. Wait a few more weeks and it can be reliably confirmed via ultrasound. Wait a few more weeks and it can be definitively verified via visual inspection. When baby Jesus was born in Bethlehem, Mary and Joseph had no confusion about whether or not the kid was a boy or a girl! Anatomy tells the verifiable truth about gender identity. It always has for all time.

Unfortunately, our brave new world has expanded its sexual confusion to include a budding infatuation with transgender identification. If you don’t know somebody personally whom psychology calls gender dysphoric, you’ve certainly heard of Bruce Jenner. When I was a boy, he was an American hero. Today he is arguably the most famous face behind the latest sexual trend. How are Christ-followers to respond? What are we to do when someone claims to feel their anatomy doesn’t match the anatomy of their birth? Should we trust in human emotion to deliver information that is accurate and reliable? Are we obligated to accept that human feelings are not and cannot be mistaken? What if I feel that God doesn’t love me anymore? What if I feel I’m not really a Christian? What if I feel like my life isn’t worth living? Can we trust feelings to tell us the truth—really trust them? In many ways, we are actually hurting people by telling them, “If you feel it, it must be true.”

Continued on next page
Pastor Jamey’s article continued...

One of the modern challenges facing the church is figuring out how to speak the truth in love (Ephesians 4:15). We’re pretty good at the love part of that verse, but we’re tempted to back down on the truth part. In our mixed up American pop-culture, somehow we have come to think that love=affirmation and disagreement=hate. That kind of thinking is downright dopey and that’s the truth! Sometimes the truth causes temporary hurt. And sometimes the people who need to hear the truth will stop liking you. Don’t let that stop you. John 15:18 reminds us that the world hated Jesus long before it hated his followers, so we shouldn’t be surprised. Pray for Bruce Jenner and anyone else you know whose feelings don’t match their anatomy. These individuals are suffering a psychological malady. But don’t increase their distress by choosing to trust emotions over facts. It may seem like you’re helping them but you’re not. God made our bodies and fixed our gender. Feelings can be deceived. Remember, conflicted emotions are typically born of wounds—thinking and relational. This includes your own emotions as well.

Always hold on to this terrific little maxim: **Something is still true even if no one believes it, and a lie is still a lie even if everyone believes it.** When Jesus walked the earth he said he IS the truth, and Christians don’t hold that belief based on feelings. We trust his word because it’s reasonable to do so. And, we trust that he made male and female with intentional design. If there’s ever a discrepancy with anatomy and emotions—go with the obvious. Always tell yourself and everyone around you the truth for that is the only way to be free.

The Spiritual Discipline of Fasting

**Talking to God**

Ask the Holy Spirit to help you be more aware of God’s generosity.

**Diving In**

Write these categories on separate paper slips: after-school activity, toy or electronic gadget, snack, drink, TV show. Place the folded slips in a bowl. Have each person draw a slip, read the category and name one favorite thing in that category. Discuss how difficult it might be to give up each.

**Going Deeper**

Fasting means giving up something you enjoy or need for a designated period of time. In the Old Testament, fasting was common for entire nations who were seeking God’s help or direction (2 Chronicles 20:3, Jonah 3:5). In the New Testament, Jesus fasted (Matthew 4:2) and taught His disciples about fasting (Matthew 6:17-18). (Fasting is not always a good idea for children or pregnant women. They can consider giving up something else that they really want or like.) Fasting allows you to focus your time and attention on God. When combined with prayer and time in God’s Word, fasting strengthens your faith and helps you become more confident of God’s power.

**Talking to Each Other**

- How does fasting bring you closer to God?
- What is one thing you enjoy that you can give up for a day?

— Renee Gray-Wilburn

---

Dear Lord
by Sydney Eedy

I give my life for Your glory
Beautiful author of my story
You’ve chosen me as Your own
And told me that I’m not alone
The strength I have belongs to You
You know my heart through and through
You walk beside me come what may
Even in my darkest day
You gave Your life so that I may live
In the perfect love for which You give
Our Church at Work ...

We are looking forward to the beginning of our Christmas program practices getting underway. The first practice will be on Sunday, November 11, following service. All further practices will be on Sundays after church as well.

There is still time to sign-up for the Christmas program if you have a child interested in participating. Please see Kim Simpson with any questions.

The younger children will also be performing a couple of songs during the Christmas program, but practice for them will take place on Sunday mornings during the Worship Center Sunday School hour.

_________________________

Operation Christmas Child

Distribution week is November 12! Thank you for all you’ve contributed to make this year’s OCC a success. If you’re still interested in participating in this year’s giving, we are in need of money to cover shipping. The $9 per box covers shipping and gospel materials for each package. A huge thank you to everyone who donated items and volunteered their time, with an extra special thanks to Sharon Ritter who faithfully oversees this ministry each year!

_________________________

MARK YOUR CALENDARS EARLY - DECEMBER 2 IS THE FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT AND OUR ANNUAL HANGING OF THE GREENS!

Letter from the Moderator:

Fall is a time of change. Just look around you and you’ll notice the leaves turning colors, the farmers in the fields preparing them for winter, and the birds gathering to fly south for warmer climates. We also prepare ourselves. We might get the landscaping cleaned up, put in some storm windows, or even put away those summer clothes. Hopefully, we also prepare our hearts. Maybe join a bible study, a book club, or even volunteer for some activities at church or at your children or grandkids’ school. Look for the opportunities that are presented and take advantage of being “the change”.

Dawn Wadle
Moderator

Notes from the Diaconate:

- The Diaconate continues to cover the regular needs of our Sunday worship services.
- A big thank you to the various people that attended and shared their wealth of information at the final Next Journey presentation. It was encouraging to hear how many have attended and gathered helpful information from these various presentations in order to make a difficult time easier.
- Plans are already being made for Advent and the Hanging of the Greens.
- Be sure to check in with the Honey-Do coordinator, Beverly Bailey, as fall clean-up needs arise.

Notes from the Trustees:

- Monthly meetings continue to cover review of monthly expenditures.
- There was no October meeting due to scheduling conflicts.
- The leaking in the basement has been completely fixed. The problem was found and repaired at nominal cost.
- Thank you to Carol Korf, Treasurer, and Jo Taylor in getting the proposed budget prepared for 2019.
- The trustee members are always available for questions and comments!

Operation Christmas Child

Distribution week is November 12! Thank you for all you’ve contributed to make this year’s OCC a success. If you’re still interested in participating in this year’s giving, we are in need of money to cover shipping. The $9 per box covers shipping and gospel materials for each package. A huge thank you to everyone who donated items and volunteered their time, with an extra special thanks to Sharon Ritter who faithfully oversees this ministry each year!
Love Talk Starters

- Are you ever tempted to talk about your spouse behind his or her back? Of course, this is not typically a good idea. If it’s a temptation, how do you keep from doing it?
- What can you remember about your wedding vows? How much of it can you repeat from memory?
- What interferes most with the two of you spending quality time together? What can you do about it?
- Think of a time when you were being a bit more hard on your partner than you needed to be. What was the result and was it worth it?

From Love Talk Starters by Les & Leslie Parrott

My reward is with me.
Revelation xxii 12

We are to be rewarded, not only for work done, but for burdens borne, and I am not sure but that the brightest rewards will be for those who have borne burdens without murmuring. On that day He will take the lily, that has been growing so long among thorns, and lift it up to be the glory and wonder of all the universe; and the fragrance of that lily will draw forth ineffable praises from all the hosts of heaven.

—Andrew Bonar
Thoughts for the Quiet Hour
D. L. Moody, ed. (1900)
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sun</th>
<th>Mon</th>
<th>Tue</th>
<th>Wed</th>
<th>Thu</th>
<th>Fri</th>
<th>Sat</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>8</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>30</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Daylight Saving Time Ends**
- 9:30 am - Choir Practice
- 9:45 am - Sunday School
- 11 am - Morning Worship

**5**
- 9:30 am Ladies’ LIFE Group
- 1 pm Women’s Prayer Group

**6**
- 9:30 am Ladies’ LIFE Group
- 1 pm Women’s Prayer Group

**11**
- 9:30 am - Choir Practice
- 9:45 am - Sunday School
- 11 am - Morning Worship
- 4-6 pm - Teen Ministry

**12**
- 9 am Breakfast Bunch at Turk Lake Restaurant

**13**
- 9:30 am Ladies’ LIFE Group
- 1 pm Women’s Prayer Group
- 6 pm Diaconate

**19**
- O.D. Deadline
- 7 pm Stanton OFD Meeting

**20**
- 9:30 am Ladies’ LIFE Group
- 1 pm Women’s Prayer Group

**24**
- 6:30 pm Young Families Group

**26**
- 9:30 am - Choir Practice
- 9:45 am - Sunday School
- 11 am - Morning Worship
- 4-6 pm - Teen Ministry

**28**
- 9:30 am 75+ Birthday & Anniversary Party for Fall Celebrants

**29**
- 6:30 pm Young Families Group

**30**
- 9:30 am - Choir Practice
- 9:45 am - Sunday School
- 11 am - Morning Worship
- 4-6 pm - Teen Ministry

*First Congregational Church of Stanton*

Worship Service through 09/02: 10 a.m.
Worship Service beginning 09/09: 11 a.m.
Phone: 989.831.5240
Email address: sherzog@fccstanton.org
Website: www.fccstanton.org

---

**Events:**
- **RESERVED Fellowship Hall**
- **Stanton OFD Meeting**
- 75+ Birthday & Anniversary Party for Fall Celebrants

---

**Anniversaries:**
- 09 Fritz/Shirley Strautz
- 19 Zach/Tiffany Wright

---

**Happy Thanksgiving**

---

**Daylight Saving Time Ends**

---

**Fellowship Hall**

---

**Happy Birthday**

---

**Happy Anniversary**

---

**First Congregational Church of Stanton**

Worship Service through 09/02: 10 a.m.
Worship Service beginning 09/09: 11 a.m.
Phone: 989.831.5240
Email address: sherzog@fccstanton.org
Website: www.fccstanton.org