

Show Me Your Glory

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH FAIRFIELD

September 2017

Joy in the Lord

In 1974, Richard and Shirley Mason moved to Fairfield from Olney, and even before they had a gravel road to their house, Chester Phillips made a visit to invite them to First Baptist. That is the kind of servant of the Lord that Chester has been for the almost 57 years he has been a member here.

Chester came to faith as a young boy growing up in Burnt Prairie, led to the Lord by his father who was deeply devout. Chester came from a family of six kids and was the youngest of the four boys in his family. His father was concerned that his children needed to know the Lord. Chester admits, "I knew I was lost and needed to be saved." After his acceptance of salvation at home, the next week he made his public profession at church and was soon baptized. Chester did all the things that you do being raised in a Christian home, but acknowledges he was a grown man before he "sold all out," for Christ. He shares that when he became aware of the Holy Spirit working in him, "it made such a difference in me."

His early life after high school involved going to Carbondale for college, with a couple of interruptions. He served in Germany in the Army and found work in Michigan that helped pay for his college. After college, he taught school one year in Rosiclare and then moved to Fairfield where he taught for 32 years. It is at Carbondale where he met his bride, Shirley, who was a year behind him. In the basement of the library, Shirley met a guy she said that she would like to know better. Fortunately her

friend had a connection to him and set them up. Chester shares, "I am firmly convinced the Lord brought us together." They recently celebrated 57 years of marriage and have been blessed with two children and two grandchildren.



They moved to Fairfield after their marriage and became members at First Baptist. Chester has served as a Sunday School teacher and Deacon along with many other ministry roles. Chester was ordained as a Deacon at the same time as Glen Lathrop and served alongside him for close to 40 years.

Recently Chester has had some health setbacks, but through it his faith remains strong and he continues to be an encourager to all who visit with him. "God promised he would forgive me," he shares and the assurance that it is well with his soul comes with confidence. "I have no doubt about my salvation because God promised He would save me and He never lied to anyone." May we all have that confidence in our Savior that Chester has and shares with us.

But we will devote ourselves to prayer and to the ministry of the word. Acts 6:4

Special Note

Every time I interview someone for this newsletter I walk away thinking there were so many things to capture about this person and how God has worked in their life. I feel that with Chester there is so much more to his story than these pages can do justice. To paint a fuller picture of his love for Christ I asked a few friends for their thoughts on Chester and how he has encouraged them.

Shirley Mason calls Chester a “man of prayer.” Just as we see in James 5:16b, *The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much*, Shirley reminds us that Chester is “the kind of person I want praying for me.”

Sheila Kinney shared with me a story of when she and Bob were torn about changing churches and in many ways were looking for a sign that they were in the correct place. It came through a Sunday School lesson that Chester taught that morning, “He explained the depravity of man like we had never heard it explained before.” The way that Chester confidently taught that lesson trusting God’s word to teach, led them to have confidence they were in the right place. *They must hold the mystery of the faith with a clear conscience. 1 Timothy 3:9*

Randall Baker recalls his first visit from Chester in his home, “Chester, Shirley, and Cheryl came to visit and he promptly and lovingly shared the Word with us and prayed with us. After they invited us to Sunday School, he was ready to go. At the time this seemed odd, no small talk, no convincing, and no pressuring. Now I can see that Chester was doing what we are called to do, lovingly share the Gospel, and let God do the rest.” *How then will they call on him in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in him of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone preaching? And how are they to preach unless they are sent? As it is written, “How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the good news!” Romans 10:14-15*

As for me, I keep going back to Catherine commenting every time we sing “Joy Unspeakable,” that it is Chester’s favorite song. When I see Chester, I see a man full of joy for the Lord. That joy was demonstrated to my family when Richard made his public profession of faith and Chester welcomed him with tears in his eyes and joy in his heart. Richard hadn’t seen that kind of joy in a man before and it spoke volumes to him that someone could be so happy for his salvation. So whether “Joy Unspeakable” is his favorite song or not, every time I hear it, I am thankful for Chester and his joy in the Lord. *Though you have not seen him, you love him. Though you do not now see him, you believe in him and rejoice with joy that is inexpressible and filled with glory, obtaining the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls. 1 Peter 1:8-9*

Pat Scarbrough

AROUND THE CHURCH



Hillary and James participating in At the King's Table softball with assistance from Dennis and Tammy



Serving incoming students at Frontier Community College during orientation



3M Fishing at the Houser home.
Bradlee catching a nice fish.





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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Sermon Broadcast on WFIW 1390 at 10:45 each Sunday

Holy, Holy, Holy

Reginald Heber—1826

Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord God
Almighty!
Early in the morning our song
shall rise to Thee.
Holy, Holy, Holy! Merciful
and mighty!
God in three persons, blessed
Trinity!

Holy, Holy, Holy! All the
saints adore Thee,
casting down their golden
crowns around the glassy
sea;
cherubim and seraphim falling
down before Thee,
which wert and art and
evermore shalt be.

Holy, Holy, Holy! though the
darkness hide Thee,
though the eye made blind by

sin Thy glory may not see,
only Thou art holy; there is
none beside Thee,
perfect in pow'r, in love, and
purity.

Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord God
Almighty!
All Thy works shall praise Thy
name in earth and sky and
sea.
Holy, Holy, Holy! Merciful
and mighty!
God in three persons, blessed
Trinity.

In 325 AD, Church leaders
convened in the town of
Nicaea in Bithynia to
formulate a consensus of belief
and practice amongst
Christians. What resulted was
the Nicene Creed, a document
passed on through the ages as
one of the pillars of church

doctrine. The primary function
of this creed was to establish a
firm belief in the Trinity,
countering the heresy of Arius,
who believed that Jesus was
not fully divine. It was this
creed that inspired Reginald
Heber to write this great hymn
of praise to the Triune God,
with the intent that the hymn
be sung before or after the
creed was recited in a service,
and on Trinity Sunday – eight
weeks after Easter. The tune,
composed by John B. Dykes
for Heber's text, is also titled
NICAEA in recognition of
Heber's text. The words evoke
a sense of awe at the majesty
of God, and call on all of
creation – humans, saints and
angels, and all living things –
to praise the Godhead three-in-
one.

[http://hymnary.org/text/
holy_holy_holy_lord_god_almighty_early](http://hymnary.org/text/holy_holy_holy_lord_god_almighty_early)