

## A PAIR OF SHOES

One cold and wintery day, a boy was standing outside a shoe store, praying to God for some socks and a pair of shoes. Just then a lady walked up to him and said, "Is there something I can help you with?"

He looked down at his feet and said, "Well, I would like some shoes".

She grabbed his hand and took him into the shoe store. She asked for a dozen pairs of socks and a pair of shoes. They sat down, and the clerk put a pair of socks and shoes on the boy.

As the woman got up to leave, the boy thanked her. She told him that if he ever needed anything else, to not be afraid to ask.

He looked at her, his eyes bright, and asked, "Are you God's wife?"



## SPEAK UP

A little boy was kneeling beside his bed softly saying his prayers while his mother and grandmother watched. "Dear God, please bless Mummy and Daddy and all the family and please give me a good night's sleep."

Suddenly he looked up and shouted, "And don't forget to give me a bicycle for my birthday!!"

"There is no need to shout like that," said his mother. "God isn't deaf."

"No," said the little boy, "but Grandma is."

## A BABY BROTHER

5-year-old Johnny told his daddy he'd like a baby brother and offered to do whatever he could to help. His dad replied, "son, if you pray for two months for a baby brother, God will give you one!"

Johnny responded eagerly and went to his bedroom that night to start praying for a baby brother. He prayed every night for a whole month, but then began to get skeptical. So, Johnny quit praying.

After another month, Johnny's mother went to the hospital. she came back home with a little bundle lying next to her in bed. His dad pulled back the blanket and there was -- not one baby brother, but two!

Johnny's dad looked down at him and said, "Now aren't you glad you prayed?"

Johnny hesitated then looked up at his dad and said, "Yes, but aren't you glad I quit when I did?"

***Dear God, I didn't think orange went with purple until I saw your sunset  
That was so cool!***

***First Baptist Church Strathroy***

**Where Christ is cherished, family is loved and everyone is family!**



# GETTING CONNECTED

*Publication of...*

***First Baptist Church Strathroy***

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## September 2025



"O Lord, how manifold are  
your works!" (Psalm 104:24)

## What's inside...

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Where Christ is cherished, family is  
loved & everyone is family!

## *On the Wings of Prayer*

Just close your eyes and open your  
heart

And feel your worries and cares depart.  
Just yield yourself to the Father above  
And let Him hold you secure in His  
love...

For life on earth grows move involved  
With endless problems that can't be  
solved –

But God only asks us to do our best,  
Then He will 'take over' and finish the  
rest...

So when you're tired, discouraged and  
blue,

There's always one door that is open to  
you –

And that is the door to 'The House of  
Prayer'

And you'll find God waiting to meet you  
there.

~ Helen Steiner Rice



***Sunday, 10:30 a.m. Services***

***11 a.m. as of Sunday September 14<sup>th</sup>***

**20 Centre Street W., Strathroy, Ontario**

**Thot:** "Let nothing less be your prayer and meditation, that your meditation may be true worship, the living surrender of the heart to God's Word in His presence." ~ Andrew Murray

## LEARNING TO PRAY

A mother saw her little boy sitting in a corner of the room, saying, "A-B-C-D-E-F-G..."

"What are you doing?" she asked him.

"Mom, you told me I should pray, but I have never prayed in my life and I don't know how. So I gave God the whole alphabet and I asked Him to make a good prayer out of it."



## MORNING PRAYER

"Lord," came the prayer, "so far today, so good! I haven't sworn, stolen any thing, boasted, gotten angry at anyone, or any evil thoughts. But now comes the real test, and I implore your help. I have to get up and go to work..."



### *Something to Think About...*

*"And we prayed to our God and set a guard as a protection against them day and night" (Nehemiah 4:9).*

In the Old Testament we find the record of the rebuilding of the wall around Jerusalem when Nehemiah was the cupbearer, an important servant of King Artaxerxes Longimanus who ruled Persia from 464 – 423 B.C. As a cupbearer, Nehemiah was responsible for the King's safety, testing his wine for poison. What a wonderful God who, even with His people in exile, prepares His workers and puts them in the right places at the right time.

The Babylonians had destroyed Jerusalem's walls, gates and temple in 586 B.C. But how Nehemiah longed for Jerusalem's restoration. Hearing that the ruins remained and that the remnant in Israel were in great affliction and struggling to survive, he sought the King's permission to return and to oversee the rebuilding of the structures. But he did this only after he prayed and sought out God's direction and purpose.

Are we like Nehemiah? First, in our desire to know the truth even about the worst situations? Is our interest born of honest concern or mere idle curiosity? Is our response to go to God in prayer? The Book of Nehemiah opens and closes with prayer. I believe that it was the commitment to prayer that brought the result that God commissioned through the work of the people. How often do we get so busy 'doing' that we neglect to pray?

What a lesson, also that one person can make a difference. For the Jews in Jerusalem who lived without hope, God used a pagan king to send Nehemiah to build on the past so that Israel could have a future. He asked the king to appoint him as governor and to give him authority to rebuild the city walls – and he spent twelve years as governor. Isn't it amazing how the Lord equips us to serve? When Jesus sent out His disciples to minister, He first gave them the authority to do the job, and to meet their every need (see Matthew 10:1-15). As we serve the Lord, we too have over us all authority in heaven and on earth (Matthew 28:18). The important thing is that, through prayer, we comprehend where He is sending us and that we do the work He has called us to do.

This story of the rebuilding of the walls is all about the impact of prayer and the answers from our faithful God. The work wasn't without its issues. Those opposed to the restoration weren't about to let it proceed. We can relate when we face opposition to our work.

But the Bible reminds us *"He who is in you is greater than he who is in the world"* (1 John 4:4). For the people in Jerusalem, *"the Arabs, and the Ammonites and the Ashdodites... plotted together to come and fight against Jerusalem and cause them confusion"* (Nehemiah 4:7-8). How did the people respond? We read that they *"...prayed to our God and set a guard as a protection against them day and night"* (Nehemiah 4:9). The workers had both tools and weapons and were prepared. So too today, as we're called to *"watch and pray"*, combining faith and works, we follow their good example in our work and in our stand against the enemy. We pray that none should be lost from the kingdom of God and we stand against the forces of Satan. Our battle isn't against flesh and blood but against he who uses them to oppose the work of the Lord.

What opposition do we face today? Often we're confronted by secular ideas and busy schedules; overwhelmed by the changing landscape of the Christian church here in Canada. We need a sense of urgency to combat the decline in faith and return to the source of our strength, humbly coming to the Father in prayer and seeking Him with all our heart, mind, and soul.

Jesus Himself modeled prayer as a source of strength and guidance. In the Garden of Gethsemane, facing His arrest and crucifixion, Jesus prayed, seeking His Father's will and strength to endure the coming trials. *"Father, if You are willing, take this cup from Me. Yet not My will, but Yours be done"* (Luke 22:42). His example teaches us to seek God's will and strength through prayer when confronted with overwhelming challenges. So too, as the people prayed in Jerusalem under the leadership of Nehemiah, God encouraged them, saying, *"Do not be afraid of them. Remember the Lord, who is great and awesome, and fight for your brothers, your sons, your daughters, your wives, and your homes"* (Nehemiah 4:14). Might that be our daily prayer for our families and for our homes.

Whether seeking deliverance, strength, or guidance, prayer is portrayed as a powerful means of accessing God's presence and power. The examples and teachings found in Scripture encourage us to remain steadfast in prayer, trusting in God's sovereignty, and faithful even during times of trial because God is with us.

### **Mark Your Calendar!**

September 7<sup>th</sup> – Communion Sunday  
(service at 10:30 a.m.)

September 14<sup>th</sup> – **Worship Concert!**

**Special Guest – DAVE RANDALL**

Rehearsals Follow

Wednesday 7:30 p.m.

Weekly Prayer (FBCS Prayer Room)

Message Series

**Baptist Distinctives**

*Foundations of our Faith*

Each Sunday 11 a.m.

