

Repetition (continued)

the danger of becoming a routine. When it does, we approach rituals as though they were merely performing a problem-preventing function. Baptism becomes about preventing damnation. The Lord's Supper becomes about mere obedience and we become more concerned with making sure we have observed the Lord's Supper than we are concerned that we experienced it. But when a ritual becomes a routine, it has broken down at the very place that should distinguish a ritual from a routine.

When we repeat the meaningful, we call it a ritual. Rituals mark the timelessness of specific events and realities. When the Israelites were commanded to observe the Passover on an annual basis, they were asked not only to remember what happened to their ancestors, they were asked, via the rituals connected to Passover observance, to relive that event and to experience what it meant to be an heir of God's deliverance. When Jesus instructed his disciples to share broken bread and wine in remembrance of him, he was asking them not only to remember what happened to him, but to see their own place in his story and to relive what it means to be an heir of his sacrifice and a follower of his way.

Likewise, when we are baptized into Christ, we are joined to his story (the story we call the Gospel) as we die to ourselves, are buried in water, and raised from that watery grave to walk in the newness of life. Furthermore, our baptism signifies new realities of purity, the indwelling of the Holy Spirit, and membership within the body of Christ. And while we are baptized just once (as opposed to a ritual we observe weekly like the Lord's Supper), we witness baptisms repeatedly for the duration of our lives. Each time we witness a baptism, we are reminded of our own and if we will think and reflect on what is taking place in baptism, our own baptism is made richer and more meaningful.

On a less formal note, actions like prayer, Bible reading, and other spiritual disciplines likewise grow in their potential to instill meaning to our lives the more often we repeat them. Whether it is disciplines such as this or the simple act of spending time with family and loved ones, we can find that the best parts of life (and those filled with the deepest meaning) are the parts of life that are meant to be repeated. So whether you watch the game or not, try to pay more attention to the things that matter every time than you do that which only matters once.



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John Turpin

Deacons

Bobby Bailey
Jeff Craig
Harold Fisher

February 5
2012

Northcrest
Today

Upcoming Events:

Senior Saints Banquet
February 11

Nursery Attendant:
Today: Sheila Sims
2/12/12: Teresa Turpin
2/19/12: Ellen Hogan

Communion Servers:
Don Corbitt
Mark Scott
Alec Bailey
Harold Fisher
Jim Saling
Dean McCoslin

Elder of the month:
Charles Sims

For the Record

<u>Attendance</u>	
AM Class	77
AM Worship	110
PM Worship	44
Wednesday	50

<u>Contribution</u>	
Budget	\$3,965
Received	\$3,283
Yr. to Date	\$18,107
Under	\$1,718

Repetition

By Shane Alexander

I do not feel obligated to write about the Super Bowl this evening. In fact, I have no plans to watch it. The good commercials will air again. I certainly won't miss the half-time show. The teams even share the same basic color scheme. Boring! And that is not even mentioning the fact that I already saw this Super Bowl four years ago. It was exciting to watch the Giants finally beat the Patriots who won every other game they played that season. But unless we are talking about *Empire Strikes Back* or *The Godfather, Part II*, sequels tend to stink. So, I'll pass.

Instead, I intend to play games with my kids, eat dinner with my family, and then watch a movie with Kara once the kids are in bed. Of course, I've done those things before too, but not all repetition is the same. When we repeat that which has little or no meaning, it can become stale and lifeless. When we repeat that which holds great meaning, however, it is imbued with life and an energy that can only increase over time.

When we repeat the meaningless (or, perhaps better said, the mundane), we call it a routine. Routines can be helpful. Some aspects of life do not require thought or reflection. Healthy living requires maintenance. We have routines for bathing, brushing our teeth, getting ready in the morning, eating breakfast, exercising, and relaxation. Each of these routines is preventative of possible problems. We use routines to prevent these problems from occurring so that we don't have to develop a fresh preventative strategy to address these issues every day. Our routines handle these issues on their own and we are free to use our problem-solving and problem-preventing faculties elsewhere.

But not all repetition is routine. Some repetition is ritual. Some of you may have a negative connotation with the word ritual. You may think of the prophets who warned God's people against engaging in ritual and sacrifice without showing mercy to the have-nots of their society. Ritual has

(continued on back)

Youth Group

Today – Super Bowl party at the Siders at 5:00 pm; bring your favorite snack.

Tuesday – Bible study at the Siders from 6:30-8:30.

Senior Saints banquet – This Sat, need youth help.

Central Texas Worship is next Sunday, leave at 4:30.

Ignite – Feb. 24-26.
Friday – 7:30 pm.
Saturday – 9:00 am.

Other News and Notes

There is a signup sheet in the foyer for Ignite volunteers; the food list is also attached.

The Senior Saints Banquet will be this coming Saturday at 5:00 p.m.

February 17 we will host a dinner for the volunteers at Caritas. There is a signup sheet in the foyer if you would like to help.

Prayers

Anita Chandler is recovering from pneumonia.

Phil DeKemper, Ellen Hogan's brother, is still receiving treatments to slow the progression of his cancer.

Duke Pittman is doing well after his surgery.

Linda O'Connell's daughter had foot surgery and her husband is in Afghanistan.

Mercy Fuentes is recovering from a staph infection.

Kathy Clements is still recovering from shingles and chest pain.

Devin Corbitt's bridal shower will be next Sunday at 2:30 pm. in the Fellowship Hall.

There will be a super bowl party today at 5:00 at the Siders; bring your favorite snack food.

We will have a workday here at the church on February 18.

Birthdays & Anniversaries

February Birthdays

6 – Betty Holt
11 – Larry Russell

We at Northcrest...

- Demonstrate Christ-like moral and ethical behavior
- Actively attempt to discover where God is at work and join him there (active involvement in ministry)
- Practice acts of devotion frequently (prayer, Bible study, quiet time, and listening to God)
- Share his or her faith at every opportunity
- Participate weekly in the worship assembly and a Bible study class
- Faithfully give as you have prospered
- Have love as the motivation for doing all these things

Gathering

797 "Lord, We Come Before Thee Now" *Mike Clements*

Announcements *Charles Sims*

Shepherd's Prayer

Call to Worship *Coy Siders*

8 "Let Every Heart Rejoice and Sing" *Mike*

Abiding

679 "Tis So Sweet to Trust in Jesus" *Mike*

792 "My Eyes Are Dry"

Call to the Table *John Turpin*

Communion

Offering

845 "Gentle Shepherd"

Reading of the Word - Genesis 39:1-6
"Jeopardy, Part 4: Joseph Edition" *Don Corbitt*
Shane Alexander

Song "What the Lord Has Done in Me" *Mike*

Prayer *Jeff Craig*

Sending

410 "He Leadeth Me" *Mike*

Benediction *Shane*