

TrailNotes speaks to forward movement, paying attention to the “landscape” we are passing through in this trail-laced wooded hillside and valley, not to mention the world beyond. **TrailNotes** is an unfolding, ongoing journal of the people who share the trail with us and the things we’re learning and doing.

ElderTalk

The “Want to” of Worship

TIM BARBER

Ed’s Note: November 19th marks the 20th anniversary of the death of beloved pastor of Grace Fellowship Church, Tim Barber. Enjoy one of his messages from the collection, “Partaking of the Salvation of the Lord.”

God has opened up for us the possibility of coming into His presence in worship. But before we can talk about *how* to worship, we first need to ask ourselves, “*Do we have the ‘want to’ to worship in the way that God intends?*”

If there is one person who personifies a heart for worship in both the Old and New Testaments, it is David. David wrote many of the songs we call psalms as expressions of worship. I doubt that he realized that they would be written down and preserved as part of the Scriptures. He was simply worshiping God.

David worshiped by himself and he led the people of Israel in worship. I want us to take a look at a contrast in two attitudes: the spirit of David and the spirit of Saul, the king who preceded David. There’s a difference in the heart attitude of these two men. David was not a flawless man. He sinned grievously many times. He did things that displeased God and he was judged for them. However, it was said that he was a man after God’s own heart. That was never said of Saul. Furthermore, you never get an indication from Saul that he understood what worship was all about. He never realized that God had selected the nation of Israel as a covenant people for Himself.

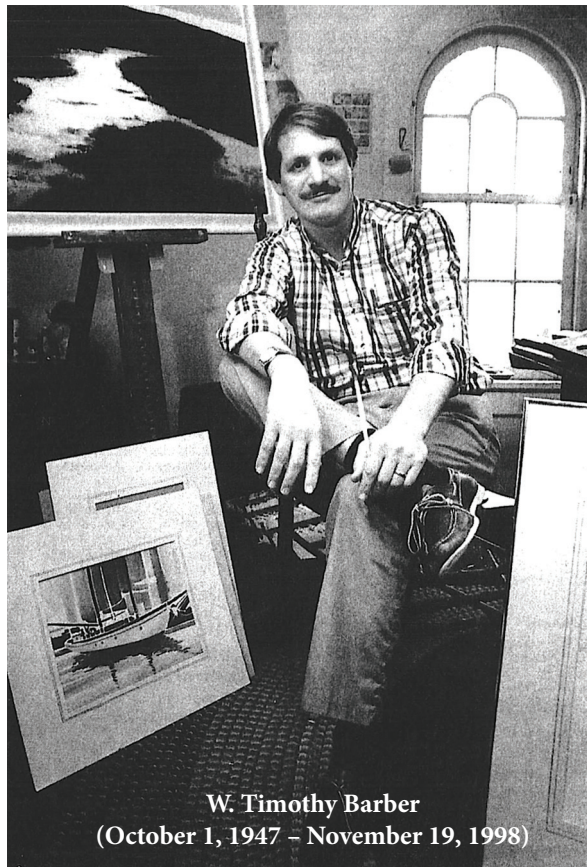
During the day of Saul, the Ark of the Covenant, the chest that held the tablets of the Law and other articles, that had been overlaid in gold as a focus for worship, had been “set on the shelf.” It was not even present in the city of the king. Rather, the Ark was in the house of Abinidab until David decided to bring it back to Jerusalem.

At this time David was married to Michal, the daughter of Saul. The Bible says that she loved David. What do we know about this man? He was strong and courageous. He was godly. He was a hero and a champion. Perhaps these are some of the

attributes Michal found attractive. The question is, however, did Michal love David for the way he loved God?

II Samuel 6 describes the occasion when David was bringing the Ark to Jerusalem. Things did not go the way they were supposed to! Instead of being carried by the Levites, the Ark was on an ox cart. When it began to fall off the cart, a man named Uzzah reached out to balance it. Because he touched the Ark, God took his life. David was upset and left the Ark at the home of Obed-Edom. Later, he went back and did it right! With David leading

continued on p. 2.



The 'Want To' of Worship *continued from p. 1*

the procession and all the people rejoicing, the Levites carried the Ark up to Jerusalem.

As the Ark entered the City of David, Michal watched David from a window. He was leaping and dancing before the Lord. She despised him in her heart.

When David returned home to bless his household, Michal went out to meet him saying, *"How the King of Israel has distinguished himself today, disrobing in the sight of the slave girls of his servant as any vulgar fellow would!"*...

David answered, *"It was before the Lord who chose me...I will celebrate before the Lord. I will become even more undignified than this, and I will be humiliated even in my own eyes."*

WHAT IS THE RIGHT SPIRIT OF WORSHIP?

There is a certain humility David evidences here that is appropriate. David is reasoning, *"I'm not trying to retain a sense of dignity here. I'm a servant of the Living God!"*

Worship requires humility and a willingness to risk the opinion of those around us. David is unimpressed by what others might think. He is unconcerned with Michal's opinion. There is a certain kind of abandon with which he enters into this time of celebration and worship. He is willing to risk.

I remember the first time I lifted my hands to the Lord. We had talked about the priestly stance. It was very appropriate to lift our hands to the Lord. It was a common practice down through the history of Israel and in the early church. But in many congregations today, only the fanatics hold up their hands to the Lord.

A number of years ago when I was in worship here, some of my relatives were visiting. They were not sitting with me—I was up front and they were sitting in the back. In the course of this worship, I remember thinking, *"I should lift my hands to the Lord,"* and immediately I felt a number of eyes were watching. It was as though I had to overcome this scrutiny. No one said anything to me about it, but I thought, *"The Lord wants me to lift my hands and I'm going to lift them."* I chose at that moment to disregard what might be viewed by some of the people I cared about as a bit fanatical, and I lifted my hands.

I had no sooner broken through that barrier, when the Lord said. *"Tim, I want you to get down on your knees. I want you to put your head on the carpet. I want you to bow before Me."* And I thought, *"Oh Lord, what are they going to think?"* The words came, not audibly, but He said, *"That's the point. That's the point."* So I got

down on my knees and bowed down before God, and said, *"Lord, for You. This is for You. I'm offering this to You."*

If we can break out of that pride and concern for our own dignity and how we look to others, there is a breakthrough. God has us where He wants us. He is not going to do something ugly. He is not going to do something that is a display of unbridled, splatter-happy-who-knows-what. His purposes and His Word reveal that full-spectrum worship is something of beauty before Him.

Lord Jesus, we bow our hearts and minds to You as a people who have been called to worship. We know that our worship is more than what we do for an hour and a half on Sunday morning. It is all our lives. But Lord, we desire to experience the blessing that we see in David's life as he gave himself fully to You. He was king of Israel, honored and admired by all the Israelites, and yet he was willing to humble himself in obedient worship with delight and joy. Lord, may that be our spirit as well.

November 2018

- 3** Men's Retreat, "Men on a Mission," with Harvest Christian Church, at GFC, 9 am to 6:45 pm. \$35 – includes lunch and dinner. Speaker: Tom Kelby, president of Table Fellowship.
- 4** Presiding Elder Eric Byrom preaching on John 4: 27-42. GFC Members' Meeting potluck, 5-7 pm.
- 11** Eastern Standard Time resumes. Set clocks back! Elder Jon Vega preaching.  Last day to bring Operation Christmas Child boxes
- 18** Elder Jadaé Fox preaching on Matthew 20:28
- 22 THANKSGIVING!**
- 25** Elder Robert Key preaching on James 2:23 

December 19: GFC Christmas Party, 6:00-8:00 pm.

Grace Fellowship Church

365 Straub Rd East • Mansfield Oh 44903
419-526-4699 • gracefellowship01@gmail.com

Eric Byrom Presiding Elder/ Pastor
Jadaé Fox Elder
Andy Heiningner Elder
Robert Key Elder
Jon Vega Elder
Rick Widener Elder

(A complete list of church functionaries will return next month)

A letter from Gretchen Barber

Hi, I appreciate you getting in touch. I don't get on Facebook that often, and am so happy to see lovely photos from GFC friends and their children and grandchildren. I'm thrilled to have three of my children and two grandchildren in the Bay Area. At present, I live in a large home in Concord, CA that I am renting with Heidi and her son, Noah (10) and daughter, Noelle (8). Noelle is a wiz at crafting, and Noah has recently taken up playing the clarinet. They also very much enjoy their church Awana group. They are both lively and interesting and never cease to amaze me. In addition to being a fabulous and encouraging mother, Heidi is studying real estate and is working in sales part time.



Heidi with son, Noah, in 2011



Noah & Noelle in 2013

We moved from Fairfax in Marin last year for mutual support and to pool resources; however, we are delighted to find the east bay to be a wonderful place to live, full of gorgeous parks and delightful small towns. We also presently have Chris with us while he applies for graduate school and perhaps teaching positions in the interim. Chris received his bachelors' and masters' in philosophy from San Jose State, where he has taught Intro to Philosophy after graduation. He also has been working at Cavallo Point resort with me.



Christopher Barber - ? date



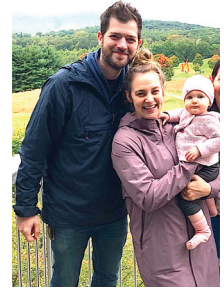
Derek Barber in Oct. 2018

We're happy to be living closer to Derek, who has been in the Oakland-Berkeley area for most of the last decade.

After supplementing his income with barista work for many years, he is now a full-time musician and artist, playing guitar in several Bay Area bands and teaching private lessons. Derek also exhibits artwork in local venues. He tours frequently, and his band, "Bells Atlas," is the touring band for the live NPR radio show "Snap Judgement."

Jenni and husband Ron live with baby Arden (1) in

Manhattan, where Ron works for Atlantic records as director of studio operations, and Jenni continues to perform in NYC and regionally. I had the privilege of being there for Arden's first month of life. I visit whenever I can, which is not often enough given my full time work schedule. It was great to help babysit Arden while her momma played the part of Adelaide in "Guys and Dolls" at Music Theater of Wichita this year. Arden and I "Face Time" often, and I am thrilled to be visiting this sweet child and her parents next week!



Jenni and Ron Robinson with daughter, Arden.



Gretchen in July 2018

I am finishing my fifth year in guest services at the Cavallo Point resort Healing Arts and Spa. It is challenging work, but I very much enjoy my present work team and am grateful to work every day in the beautiful Golden Gate Park area. I am planning to become semiretired when

I get to Medicare age next year, and look forward to more time for the family and especially the grandchildren. I enjoy seeing my sister and her husband, Dennis, in Fairfax when I can, and when these two retired teachers aren't traveling.!



Gretchen and Derek standing by poster of Jenni when she was playing Glinda in "Wicked" in 2015.

I hope this fills things in somewhat, although I have probably left out some important details. Life is continually evolving and challenging us to be our best in all circumstances. All blessings to my dear friends from Grace Fellowship.

Love,
Gretchen



The view from Gretchen's workplace on Cavallo Point.

An October GFC Potpourri

On October 7 Mr. Kosuki Maki and Shinji Okubo returned with Mr. Imura from Japan as part of the Sister City exchange. They, along with Nathan Tucker, Lori Barker and Nathanael Shifley (who will be going to Japan to teach in Mr. Maki's school next month) addressed those assembled at GFC. Mr. Maki also spent some time with Rebekah Stefaniuk and her children beforehand.



As speaker for the GFC Misions Sunday on October 14, we welcomed back Jay Shifley from Ashland who together with his wife, Heather, will be returning to India next year to further develop his "Dynamic English Schools" in New Dehli. May the Lord bless them as they live for Him!



We've known it was coming, but now it is finished—the "new" GFC sanctuary building is wearing a bright red metal roof.

Sharon Kaye Coulter: 1948-2018



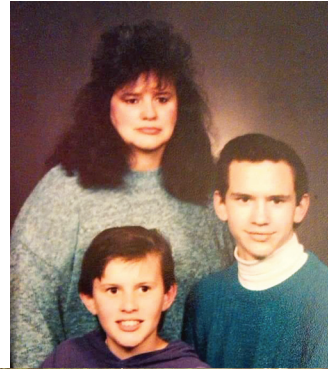
As a little girl.

Our dear sister and long-time GFC member, Sharon Coulter went home to be with the Lord on October 13, 2018. Here are some photographic memories of her life.



As a high school graduate

Sharon with her two sons, Brian and Mike. → That's Brian again (below) at brother's wedding. ↓



← At the GFC wedding of son, Mike Glass, and with him (below) at a later date. ↓



Recent photos with daughter Kerri (above) and standing alone (at right)



On Sunday, October 21, following GFC Morning Worship, Sharon's life was celebrated by a superb "Memorial Meal" with family and friends. We think Sharon would have loved it all!