

## What's in a Name?

I thought someone was pulling a practical joke on me. It was my very first Sunday as a preacher. I was standing in the lobby of the Clark Avenue Church of Christ in Granite City, Illinois greeting the members as they entered. A man walked up and extended his hand to me and asked, "Are you the new preacher?" I said, "Yes, I'm Phillip Treat." He said, "Nice to meet you. I'm Babe Champion." My first thought was that it really sounded like a made up name. Then I wondered why someone would do this to a preacher on his first Sunday. But he was serious. That's when I really began to struggle. Could I walk up to a grown man, shake his hand, look him in the eye and say, "Hi Babe"? Could I see a 5'7", 225 pound sixty five year old man across a crowded room and shout, "Hey Babe, can you come over here"? As time passed my struggles subsided. Babe Champion was from a baseball family. He played, coached and umpired baseball. So remembering one of the most famous baseball players ever, Babe Ruth, the name made more sense. So for the next nine years every time I saw him I would just smile and say, "Hey Babe." If you go to Granite City High School today you can visit the Babe Champion Memorial Baseball Stadium.

I believe that must have been the way the other disciples felt about their friend Simon. Simon was about as solid as a puddle of mud. He was more wishy washy than the ocean's tides. Simon spoke before thinking and had absolutely no filter. That is what makes his first meeting with Jesus so interesting. Simon was introduced to Jesus by his brother Andrew. Here is what Jesus said to Simon the first time they met.

*Jesus looked at him and said, "You are Simon son of John. You will be called Cephas" (which, when translated, is Peter). John 1:42*

The name Cephas is Aramaic and the name Peter is Greek but they both have the same meaning, ROCK. Simon was anything but a rock. I imagine the other disciples had a hard time looking Simon in the eyes and calling him Peter. But Jesus could see in Simon something that no one else could see. And by the end of his life Simon Peter was as solid as a rock.

How do you see yourself? How do others see you? Both of those answers should pale in comparison to how Jesus sees you. Jesus doesn't look at your past or your current condition, He looks at your potential. We should strive to see ourselves as Jesus sees us: loved, accepted, worthy, precious, able, a friend of God and a child of God.

Phillip

**Eastern Hills Church of Christ**

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**Elders:** Carrell Dennis ♥ Chase Palmer ♥ Brandon Smith

**Pulpit Minister:** Phillip Treat ♥ **Childrens' Director:** Marla Caton

**Deacons:** Lafe Caton ♥ Terry Cloud ♥ John Grubbs ♥ David Little  
Dakota Nowell ♥ Brandon Pyle ♥ Dan Streety ♥ Richard Yarberry

February 8, 2026

*You are Welcomed  
Here*

*Eastern Hills Church of Christ  
2705 E Travis St  
Marshall, TX*

### SERVICE TIMES

**Sunday**

Bible Class 9:30,

Worship 10:30,

6PM - Sunday Evenings

**Wednesday**

Devo & Bible Classes at 6:30

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SCAN ME

## **Pearls of Wisdom From the Pew**

The very things that I  
am insecure in... God  
maybe wanting to  
USE me in 2026. My  
daily goal is to BE  
LIGHT and SPEAK LIFE

**Marla Caton**

64 yrs. wanting to learn  
more

### ONLINE

[facebook.com/EASTERNHILLSCOC](https://facebook.com/EASTERNHILLSCOC)  
Watch LIVE on the app or website  
at 10:30 Sunday mornings

