



First Baptist Church

Growing Toward Christ

Whiteville, NC

THE CONTACT MONTHLY NEWSLETTER JANUARY 2018, VOLUME 53, NUMBER 1



We are looking forward to 2018 and the events that are ahead. We have truly been blessed in 2017! New deacons have been ordained, new members have joined, new babies have been born; the Holy Spirit is at work!

The opportunities are many in 2018. There are regular weekly activities for all ages - check out our calendar on the back of the newsletter. We also have several important dates in the near future:

Ash Wednesday - February 14
Lent Begins - February 18
Festival by the Sea - March 2-4
Spiritual Gifts Assessment Study Begins - March 7
"A Service of Shadows" Maundy Thursday Presentation by
The Chancel Choir - March 29
Easter Sunday - April 1

EVENTS AT A GLANCE

JANUARY 1, NEW YEAR'S DAY, CHURCH OFFICE
CLOSED

JANUARY 3, WEDNESDAY NIGHT ACTIVITIES BEGIN

JANUARY 14, BAPTIST MEN'S BREAKFAST, 8 A.M.

JANUARY 15, FINANCE MEETING, 1 P.M.

JANUARY 16, DEACONS MEETING, 7 P.M.

JANUARY 21, CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING, 2 P.M.

JANUARY 24, COVERED DISH AND CHURCH
CONFERENCE, 5:45 P.M.

COMPLETE MONTHLY
CALENDAR ON BACK.

TO ADD AN EVENT TO OUR CALENDAR, PLEASE
CONTACT THE CHURCH OFFICE:
(910) 642-2139

"The steadfast love of the LORD never ceases, his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness."

Lamentations 3:22-23

PASTOR'S CORNER:



During our Wednesday night discipleship studies we have been exploring the book "The Equipping Church" by Sue Mallory. A few weeks ago we read a quote by Rick Warren that guided a lot of our discussion that night. Warren said, "Vision is being alert to opportunities."

As we consider congregational "vision," we could wrongfully assume that vision includes knowing what the future holds, or at least having a foggy view of what the future holds. But walking by faith means that we continue to move forward even though we can only see enough light to take one step at a time.

If vision is about being alert to opportunities, then it would not be a giant leap of logic to recognize that we must also be willing to alter our direction when new information comes into the light. In other words, being

"VISION FOR 2018"

alert to opportunities requires not only the *capability* to be flexible, but an *eagerness* to be moved. It's one thing to *have the potential* to do something, but actually getting to the point where we *actually do it* requires a new level of faith altogether.

We don't know what 2018 will hold. We don't even know what tomorrow holds. But we can map out a direction one brick at a time. I hope you will continue to join us for our discussions on Wednesday nights as the bricks we are laying are beginning to build something that is somewhat recognizable. We are now one step closer to becoming an Equipping Church. We are one step closer to becoming a church *where every member is a minister* and every member is serving out of their passion and giftedness.

As we ring in 2018 with joy and hope, I hope you will consider joining us for these fruitful discussions on Wednesday night! Happy New Year, First Baptist Church!!!

- Rev. Ryan Clore



For as in one body we have many members, and not all the members have the same function, so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members one of another. We have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us: prophecy, in proportion to faith; ministry, in ministering; the teacher, in teaching; the exhorter, in exhortation; the giver, in generosity; the leader, in diligence; the compassionate, in cheerfulness.

Romans 12:4-8 NRSV

JANUARY SERMONS

January 7 - Dr. Fred Senter, Guest Speaker

Baptism of the Lord
"To See the People"
Matthew 9:35-38

January 14 - Dr. Fred Senter, Guest Speaker

Second Sunday After the Epiphany
"Lest We Become Pharisees"
Matthew 9:1-13

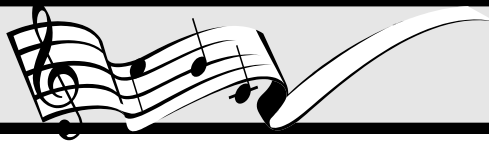
January 21

Third Sunday After the Epiphany
"A Compelling Invitation"
Mark 1:14-20

January 28

Fourth Sunday After the Epiphany
"Evil's Loud Mouth"
Mark 1:21-28

Music in Ministry



2018 Music Ministry

There is a choir for you! Join us this year!

Young Musicians & Children's Handchimes
(for grades 1-5)
Wednesday, 5:00 p.m.

Melody Makers (for ages 4 years-grade 1)
Sunday, 4:00 p.m.

The Chancel Choir (for Adults and Youth)
Wednesday, 7:15 p.m.

Youth and Adult Handbells
Sunday, 4:30 p.m.

Youth Choir (for grades 6-12)
Sunday, 5:15 p.m.

Sing with Understanding (a devotional hymn study)
Every second Tuesday of the month, 10:30 a.m.



It is hard to believe that 2018 has arrived. *Happy New Year!*

All of our music groups will begin the new year on Wednesday, January 3 or Sunday, January 7.

Our Young Musicians and Children's Handchimes will begin at 5:00 each Wednesday this year instead of 4:30.

Our Youth Choir will continue to prepare music for the 2018 *Festival by the Sea*, March 2-4.

Ash Wednesday (February 14) and the First Sunday in Lent (February 18) is early this year. Plan now to attend our Ash Wednesday service.

The Chancel Choir will begin work on *A Service of Shadows* which will be presented on Maundy Thursday, March 29.



O sing to the LORD a new song, for He has done marvelous things. His right hand and His holy arm have gotten Him victory.

Join us on Wednesdays for Supper (5:45 p.m.) and study of *The Equipping Church* at (6:30-7:00 p.m.)
A nursery is available after supper.

Wednesday Night Supper



Equipping Church, Ch. 7, pp. 110-121 January 3 Jackie Jones, Chair Glenn & Sherry Waters Peggy Walters Merle Worley Muriel Hill Charlie Duncan Nursery Mary Alice Stanley Katherine Scott	Dr. Fred Senter Leading Bible Study January 10 Melvin Ezzell, Chair Marty Ezzell Eric & Peggy Underwood Grayanna Young Rose Langston Yvonne Bass Nursery Tricia, Leah, & Carly Sanderson	Equipping Church, Ch. 8, pp. 123-134 January 17 Myrtle & Haywood Corbett Sylvia Walker Brad & Anna Johnson Dale Duncan Mel & April Ray Ella Jo Sellers Nursery Peggy Norosky	No Equipping Church study this week January 24 Church Conference & Covered Dish Brenda Carter, Chair Genie Carter, Chair Kirby & Trish Sanderson Tina Sauls Jerry Wilson Nursery Brenda Carter or Genie Carter Kate Carter Lee	Equipping Church, Ch. 8, pp. 134-147 January 31 Mary Alice Stanley, Chair Myrtle Corbett, Chair Haywood Corbett Myrtie Sellers John & Janet Plasky David Heath Nursery Taylor Jordan
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JANUARY MEMBERS IN MINISTRY

CHILDREN'S CHURCH

7 Grayanna Young
 14 Gina Morningstar
 21 Katherine Jordan Scott
 28 Tricia Sanderson

DVD DISTRIBUTION

7 Peggy Walters
 14 Hilda Butler
 21 Rose Langston
 28 Frances Price

HOSPICE MEAL

19 Martha Senter

NURSERY

7 Emily Lawson, Peggy Norosky, Yvonne Bass, Melissa Williamson
 14 Jennifer Armbrrecht, Jennifer Hall, Wendy Hensley, Tina Sauls
 21 Taylor Jordan, Heather Bazemore, Jennifer Bowling, Sandi Floyd
 28 Holly Faulk, Dale Duncan, Jenny Clore, Lauren Lynn

OFFERING TELLERS

Haywood & Myrtle Corbett

PEW STOCKER

Yvonne Bass

SOUND & VIDEO

7 Jason Schoolcraft
 14 Wil Ezzell
 21 Kirby Sanderson
 28 Eric Kronenwetter

SUNDAY SCHOOL GREETERS

7 Clint & Carolyn Grainger
 14 Bill & Jolene Lewis
 21 Rose Langston & J.C. Hyatt
 28 Jerry Wilson & Yvonne Bass

SUNDAY SCHOOL MINISTRY AT LIBERTY

28 Apostles, Inquirers, and Youth Classes

USHERS (CHAIRMAN: JOE HOOKS)

7 Ellis Jordan, David Carter, Mitchell Sauls, & Clint Grainger
 14 Jerry Wilson, Travis Harrison, John Sauls, Buster Carter, & Mel Ray
 21 Harry Ward, David Tedder, Mitchell Sauls, Haywood Corbett & Edgar Tison
 28 Buster Carter, Glenn Waters, David Heath, Grayson Ward

WORSHIP SERVICE GREETER

Jackie Jones



HAPPY BIRTHDAY!



- | | |
|--------------------|-------------------|
| 1 Dale Duncan | 24 Vivian Brown |
| Al Williams | Watha Cook |
| 2 Betsy Fisher | 25 David Tedder |
| 3 Linda Ward | 27 Frances Yow |
| 9 Shannon Ray | Kirby Sanderson |
| 17 Angie Melvin | Chase Love |
| 18 Martha Senter | 29 Charlie Priest |
| 20 Kimberly Worley | 31 Alice Schott |
| 21 Sarah High | |
| Kay Huggins | |
| 22 Joanne Vereen | |

JANUARY

Our Financial Stewardship

Worship Attendance Average: 140
 Sunday School Attendance Average: 59

Dec. 3, 2017- Attend 98	YTD		
Budget Rec'd	\$6,872.00	Budget Needs to Date	72,884.70
Budget Needed	\$7,288.47	Budget Received YTD	\$86,700.07
Under	\$416.47	Budget Over YTD	\$13,815.37

Dec. 10, 2017- Attend 172	YTD		
Budget Rec'd	\$6,251.05	Budget Needs to Date	\$80,173.17
Budget Needed	\$7,288.47	Budget Received YTD	\$92,951.12
Under	\$1,037.42	Budget Over YTD	\$12,777.95

Dec. 17, 2017- Attend 171	YTD		
Budget Rec'd	\$4,892.00	Budget Needs to Date	\$87,461.64
Budget Needed	\$7,288.47	Budget Received YTD	\$97,843.12
Under	\$2,396.47	Budget Over YTD	\$10,381.48

Dec. 24, 2017- Attend 120	YTD		
Budget Rec'd	\$10,907.81	Budget Needs to Date	\$94,750.11
Budget Needed	\$7,288.47	Budget Received YTD	\$108,750.93
Over	\$3,619.34	Budget Over YTD	\$14,000.82

December 31, 2017 will be listed in the January Newsletter.

Christmas Missions Offering

	<u>Goal</u>	<u>Received</u>
Lottie Moon	\$1,500.00	\$1,250.00
Global Missions	\$4,000.00	\$3,305.00

FBC SPOTLIGHT

This month's Member Spotlight highlights the mission trip of our pastor, Rev. Ryan Clore.

In 2016 our pastor applied to participate in *Clergy Making a Place: Early Career Pastors as Generative Community Leaders* through the Wake Forest School of Divinity. Out of nearly seventy applicants Ryan was one of the fifteen selected. As a part of this initiative he will have the opportunity to travel with the group to Nicaragua for a mission trip.

In Nicaragua, the group will be working with *AMOS Health and Hope*. AMOS seeks to improve the health of impoverished communities by working alongside them in health, education, and development. But this opportunity is more than a mission trip. It will also be a learning experience for our young pastor as he seeks to understand more about poverty, health, and possible ways our congregation can make an impact in our community.

To learn more about AMOS visit: <http://www.amoshealth.org/>

To learn more about Clergy Making a Place visit: <http://divinity.wfu.edu/continuing-education-and-programs/clergy-making-place/>

Please pray for Pastor Ryan this month that the Lord will bless the work he does and that he also will be blessed by his efforts there. He will be in Nicaragua from **January 5** until **January 14**.

GODLY PLAY

It's going to be a great January in Godly Play as we discuss the Mystery of Easter and the Parables! Join us every Wednesday night from 6:30-7:30! Godly Play is a great way for young people ages 3-11 to experience God in new, interactive ways.



Perhaps you sent a lovely card,
Or sat quietly in a chair,
Perhaps you sent beautiful flowers,
If so, we saw them there.
Perhaps you sent or spoke kind words
As any friend could say;
Perhaps you were not there at all
Just thought of us that day.
Whatever you did to console the heart,
We thank you so very much, whatever the part.

It is our sincere prayer that the
blessings of the Lord be upon each of you.

The Family of Bettie Lou Powell Memory

Important Nursery Announcement!

We have exciting news... Our nursery is growing!

The Nursery Committee wants to be sure we are serving our growing families in the best ways possible. We would like to purchase a pager system that would allow us to provide each family with a pager when they drop off their child. This would allow us to contact them quickly and discretely if they are needed in the nursery. We feel this system will help provide peace of mind for parents knowing that we have an efficient way to communicate with them during the worship service.



The system will cost \$663 and will be a one-time cost for the nursery. We have already collected \$445.

We are asking for our congregation's help to make this purchase and would appreciate any gift to go toward this new system!

If you are able to make a contribution, please write "nursery" in the memo of your check and submit to the church office. Thank you!

If you have any questions, please contact Jenny Clore, Nursery Committee Chair at (540) 760-7253.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BAPTIST MEN'S QUARTERLY MEETING

Baptist Men will be have their quarterly meeting on **January 14 at 8:00 a.m.** We will have breakfast in the Fellowship Hall and get an update on the activities of last quarter and discuss projects for the upcoming quarter. We would like to encourage **all men** of the church to come out for breakfast and to have part in the projects undertaken by the Baptist Men as we band together to serve our community.

January Meeting: January 15, 2018, 10:00 A.M., Fellowship Hall
Call to Prayer: Juanita Stanley
Program: TBA

December 2017 was a full month of wonderful events for our church, one of which was The Missions Breakfast. Thank you to everyone who attended and participated. Rev. Doug Reedy and the Lumberton First Baptist Church Youth gave an inspiring program on some of the missions projects they have performed and are currently involved in.

There is still time to make your offering to **Global Missions/Lottie Moon Christmas Offering.** Our goals are **\$4,000/\$1,500** for these two offerings and we will continue to collect through January.

Happy New Year !

WMU NEWS



NURSERY ANNOUNCEMENT

We are looking forward to a New Year and are excited about our *growing* nursery!

*** For our new families, we will have nursery volunteers every Sunday during Sunday School (9:45 a.m.) and Morning Service (11 a.m.) and every Wednesday evening from 6:30 p.m. - 7:15 p.m. during Bible study. We'd love for your little ones to join us! ***



PLEASE PRAY

The leadership of First Baptist Church is asking for your prayers for Leigh and Brownie Cook. Most of you have probably heard by now that on Christmas Day the Cooks lost their home to a fire. Everyone was able to escape the house without injury, but the home is lost and most of their clothes and personal items were damaged – whatever the fire didn't get, the smoke did.

If anyone would like to offer support to the Cook's at this time, the church is accepting monetary donations by way of cash, check, or gift card so they can go out and purchase their own clothes and any other personal items they will have need of. You may bring your gift by the church office or mail it to the church. Any checks can be made out to First Baptist Church (with "Cooks" in the memo line) and we'll make sure the money gets to them.

50'S + GROUP (SUNSHINE GROUP)

Event: "AMAZING Grace"
Date: January 20, 2018
Time: 7:30 p.m.
Place: Wilson Center at Cape Fear Community College

Amazing Grace is a new musical based on the true story behind the world's most beloved song. This captivating tale of romance, rebellion and redemption follows one man whose incredible journey ignited a historic wave of change.

Transportation will be provided for this event. We are going to K & W for dinner. If you will be riding the van, please meet at the church at 4:30 p.m. on Saturday afternoon.

CBFNC 2018 Annual Gathering Knollwood Baptist Church, Winston-Salem, NC March 15-17, 2018

*Fit Church
Nurturing Healthy Congregations*

Leadership Institute | March 15
Tunes & Tales | March 15
Annual Gathering | March 16
All Are Called Forum | March 17

Join us for three days of fellowship, learning, and growth!
Anyone who is interested in the annual CBFNC meeting is welcomed and encouraged to attend.

You can check out all of these events on their web site using the link - <http://www.cbfnc.org/events/fitchurch>

CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING

Committee Chairs, please mark your calendars for our next church council meeting on **January 21 at 2 p.m.**

COVERED DISH & CHURCH CONFERENCE



Covered Dish Meal

and Quarterly Church Conference

to get a better view of how our church is ministering to its members and to the community.

Our next Quarterly Church Conference is scheduled for **January 24**. For Conference, we meet after Wednesday Night Supper, which is a covered dish meal, to discuss the changes/activities during the last quarter. If you are looking for service opportunities, this will be the perfect time to get the full overview of church activity. **If you are a chair of a committee, please remember that all committee/organizational reports need to be turned in to the church office by Wednesday, January 10.** Please join us

“WHAT’S NEXT?”

If all goes as planned, we should finish our reading of *The Equipping Church* by the end of February. The next step in the process is a spiritual gifts assessment! :)

We will begin collecting money this month for books if you would like to join us on Wednesday nights for the gifts assessment. The book we will be using to guide our study is *Network Participant’s Guide, Revised: The Right People, in the Right Places, for the Right Reasons, at the Right Time*, by Bruce Bugbee and Don Cousins. The cost per book is \$10.00. Please turn your money into the office by **Monday, February 19** if you’d like to participate.

We have been enjoying increased participation and fruitful discussions and we hope that you will make plans to join us in the weeks and months to come! The movement we have from these conversations will shape our vision and our future. The more people we have participating the stronger our church will be!

DID YOU KNOW . . . ?

As we look back on that very first Christmas when Jesus Christ was born, did you know that there probably was no “inn”?

The Greek word that is used in Luke 2:7 is *kataluma*, which in this instance probably refers to a lodging room or dining room – it is also translated as “guest room” or “upper room.”

You may be familiar with another time when *kataluma* is used in the Gospel of Luke – during the Passover meal with the disciples. In Mark 14:14, Jesus asks, “Where is my **guest room** where I may eat the Passover with my disciples?” (NRSV).

Still not convinced? Later on in the Gospel of Luke, in 10:34, he refers to a public inn and uses a completely different word, *pandocheion*. Why the switch of words if indeed Luke wanted to imply that Mary and Joseph were staying at a public inn?

Historians have taught us that most peasant families in Bethlehem would have lived in a small two story home with the living quarters upstairs and the valuable animals would be stored downstairs at night. The feeding troughs, or mangers, would have been built into the floor. The *kataluma* of most peasants’ homes would not have been a large area. On the contrary, it would have been very small, thus, why Jesus would have been placed in the manger of the “lower room” with the animals.

Though there was probably no “inn” as we think of today, and this might change our understanding of the narrative a bit, but the meaning stays unchanged. Jesus, our God, came to us where we live. He entered into our normalcy, not as a royal king to be exalted, but as a lowly peasant, here to serve humanity in the most humble of ways.

As we begin 2018, we should consider how great God’s love is, that he is willing to step into the normalcy of our lives!

January 2018																																																							
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat																																																	
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7 9:45 Sunday School 10:30 Chancel Choir Warmup 11:00 Morning Worship & Children's Worship 4:00 Melody Makers 4:30 Youth/Adult Handbells 5:15 Youth Choir 6:00 Youth Bible Study	8 10:00 Staff Meeting 3:00 - 5:00 Knit Wits (Knitting Ministry)	9 10:30 Sing with Understanding	10 5:00 Young Musicians Choir/ Children's Handchimes 5:45 Wed. Night Supper, 6:30 Prayer Meeting, Bible Study, Godly Play Program 7:15 Chancel Choir Committee Reports Due	11 10:00 Peer Learning Group for Pastor	12	13																																																	
14 <i>8 a.m. Baptist Men's Breakfast</i> 9:45 Sunday School 10:30 Chancel Choir Warmup 11:00 Morning Worship & Children's Worship 4:00 Melody Makers 4:30 Youth/Adult Handbells 5:15 Youth Choir 6:00 Youth Bible Study	15 10:00 Staff Meeting 10:00 WMU 1:00 Finance CMTE Meeting 3:00 - 5:00 Knit Wits (Knitting Ministry)	16 7:00 Deacons Mtg	17 5:00 Young Musicians Choir/ Children's Handchimes 5:45 Wed. Night Supper, 6:30 Prayer Meeting, "Equipping Church" (Ch 8 pp. 123-134), Godly Play Program 7:15 Chancel Choir	18	19 12:00 Hospice Meals Served	20 7:30 50's + "Amazing Grace" Musical at CFCC Wilson Center																																																	
21 9:45 Sunday School 10:30 Chancel Choir Warmup 11:00 Morning Worship & Children's Worship 2:00 <i>Church Council</i> 4:00 Melody Makers 4:30 Youth/Adult Handbells 5:15 Youth Choir 6:00 Youth Bible Study	22 10:00 Staff Meeting 3:00 - 5:00 Knit Wits (Knitting Ministry)	23	24 5:00 Young Musicians Choir/ Children's Handchimes 5:45 Covered Dish Meal 6:30 Church Conference , Prayer Meeting, Godly Play Program 7:15 Chancel Choir	25	26	27																																																	
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FBC Contact Information: Phone - 910-642-2139, Email - fbcoffice@embarqmail.com, Web - www.fbcwhiteville.com

Sunday Morning Worship www.wtxy1540.com, Audio Streaming Live.....at 11:00 a.m.
Scroll to the "Click to Listen Live" link

First Baptist Church
412 North Madison Street
Whiteville, NC 28472-3298

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