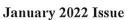


THE BUILDER

The Newsletter of the First Baptist Church of Dunn, N.C.







A small bird sat camouflaged in the Crape Myrtle. Had it not turned its head I would have missed it. The movement was slight. It was so small that I'm not sure why it caught in the corner of my eye. Against the gray of the morning, it blended in with those last stubborn leaves that have not yet fallen. I watched it for a while as it seemed to be peering in through the window watching me watching it. Somehow, I felt I was being visited by a friend.

Birds looking in while I do my devotions awaken my imagination reminding

me that God is present, viewing from hidden places in plain sight. I think of angels, the Holy Spirit, Jesus, our Heavenly Father all watching in loving care. Usually, it is a Cardinal that catches my eye, bright red and proud; the contrast of its brightness against dull surroundings speaking to me of emerging hope. This day it was a Wren, the way it blended in made me think of the hiddenness of God; always present, never coercing, just waiting to be discovered and enjoyed.

I had a church member years ago who told me that when her little granddaughter visited, she'd go behind her while she learned to walk and every time she fell, she'd toss a pillow beneath her to cushion the fall. How many times have I landed awkwardly only to discover that God was already there waiting for me? In hindsight, I know that in my darkest moments God has been there waiting to comfort me when I was ready to call out to God for help. God hasn't delayed descending until I cried out as much as God was already there waiting, tapping me on the shoulder, clearing His throat, dropping hints hoping I'd turn and give God my attention.

The awareness of God-with-us is powerful, comforting, assuring, ---peace! There is nothing before us that God has not known. There is no problem we will discover that God had not already solved.

Years ago, I was doing my devotions when I read Psalm 139:5-6, "You hem me in, behind and before, and lay your hand upon me. Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; it is so high that I cannot attain it." As soon as I finished, I called up Lora and asked if I could visit Charlie that morning. He had been diagnosed with cancer; it was not one that was treatable. Sitting in his carport, I read him those verses. He smiled as I read the Psalm. We talked of God surrounding him. Charlie was a quiet man whose faith was deep. God had prepared him for what was happening. It surprised all of us, but it was no surprise for God. The future was known to God long before we arrived there. Because we had paid attention to our faith, we were prepared.

Saint Francis wrote a prayer that goes: "Christ be with me, Christ within me, Christ behind me, Christ before me, Christ to win me, Christ to comfort and restore me. Christ beneath me, Christ above me, Christ in quiet, Christ in danger, Christ in the hearts of all that love me, Christ in mouth of friend and stranger." I wonder if Francis had Psalm 139 on his mind as he wrote this prayer.

2022 will be filled with lots of twists and turns, none of them unknown by God. We will discover surprises filled with joyous wonder, we will face troubles and temptations, but none of them are a mystery to God. God's watchful eye is upon us teaching us to trust, to be faithful, and to know His love that will never fail us.

As we begin a New Year, I am reminded that this year is not new to God. If in the months you are tempted to ask, "Where is God?" remember, God was there before you arrived. God is prepared for 2022---and when we are with God, we are prepared as well.

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Through the generosity of the church family, we were able to abundantly bless others with your gifts.

- We collected 45 Operation Christmas Child Shoe Boxes.
- We packed and delivered 125 food boxes for the Feeding Our Neighbors Program.
- We bought Christmas gifts for 10 Foster Families.
- We purchased and delivered 32 poinsettias for our homebound.
- We participated in collecting funds and food for the Dunn United Ministerial Association Food Pantry and Back Pack Buddies.

Thank you for continuing so share your resources, time and talents!

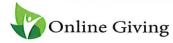
Sound Committee Update:
We are pleased to announce
the new projection system is
up and running.

With the new system in place, we are able to share more information with the viewers at home. They are able to follow along with the scripture readings and the words to the hymns. We are hopeful this, along with the new cameras and computer installed earlier, provides a more meaningful worship experience for those who are unable to attend in person. Thank you to those who made these new upgrades possible.





Budget Update (12/12/21) Received YTD \$378,641.23 Required YTD \$423,998.00 Budget Deficit YTD (\$45,356.77)



Start something new in 2022!
Sign up for online giving.
Go to our website at www.fbcdunn.com and click Give.



Candle Lighter

Jan. 2 Bill Tarplee

Jan. 9 Carly Jo Barefoot

Jan. 16 Lillian Moore

Jan. 23 Campbell Phillips

Jan. 30 Allison Wise

Scripture Reader

Jan. 2 Zoey Godwin

Jan. 9 Ella Holland

Jan. 9 Ena Honand

Jan. 16 Aubrie Wise

Jan. 23 Mary Charlotte Pope

Jan. 30 Ron McLamb

Radio Lesson

Jan. 2 Kelly McLamb

Jan. 9 Bo Jones

Jan. 16 Chuck Turnage

Jan. 23 Larry Snipes

Jan. 30 David Moore

Children's Church

Jan. 2 Family Worship Together

Jan. 9 Melissa Barefoot and Mary Overby

Jan. 16 Sara Williams and Miranda Moore

Jan. 23 Lauren Stephens and Courtney Phillips

Jan. 30 Angela Jones and Kathy Fennell

JANUARY EVENT & BIRTHDAY CALENDAR

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Regular Activities 9:45 Sunday School 11:00 Worship Service 5:00 Handbells 2nd/4th Wks. 6:00 Youth Fellowship			Regular Activities 5:45 Virtual Bible Study 6:30 Kids Club 252 6:30 Youth Bible Study 6:30 Adult Bible Study 7:30 Choir Practice			METCOWE
2 Julie Mason Rachel Wells	CHURCH CIUSEI	4 Jade Ferretiz Kelly Wrench	5 Kelly McLamb	6 Victoria Fusco	7 Scarlett Moore	8 Hubert Warren Sarah Weaver
Infant Dedication	10 7:00 Deacon's Meeting Ricky Weaver	11	12	13 Peyton Brown Greta Snow	14	15 Kenny Lee
16	17	18	19	20	21	22 Dawn Lee
Kathy Horne 23	Aubrie Wise 24	Peter Tart	Rosa Barfield 26	Mason DeBose 27	28	Dee Mitchell
Beecher Aldridge Kathleen Davis Harvey Eldridge Gaylia Draughon Mark Williams		Janice Thomas		Jonathan Godwin Shirley Sinclair Daniel West		Sarah Pope
30	31					
Kevin Snipes	Suzette Smith					

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First Baptist Church of Dunn, Inc. 309 West Broad Street Dunn, NC 28334 (910) 892-6161



Pastor
Minister to Families & Outreach
Minister of Music
Accompanist
Administrative Assistant
Custodian

Dr. Len Keever Sara Williams Kathryn Wise Mary Sue Godwin Angela Jones Kevin Snipes



January 2nd: Sunday School schedule:
Sunday School 9:45am
and Worship at 11am.
January 5th at 6:30 kicks off our
Wednesday nights

with Club 252 and Kids Praise

DIG IN: We are digging back into the "character of God" on Wednesday nights and learning how to live out God's Character in the world around us.

We also practice "singing and ringing" to share our songs in worship so come join us!

January Kids Challenge: "Show Me Your Snowflakes!"

Each snowflake that falls is different and unique . No two are alike. Likewise God, our creator created each one of us with unique and different qualities.

- 1. Read Psalm 139:13-14 together with your family.
- 2. Make a snowflake and write several unique things about you on that snowflake.
- 3. Show me your snowflake! You can bring it to me at church and I will display it or you can take a picture and text or email it to me. Can wait to see what's unique about you!

BONUS: you get a special prize if you memorize the verse and say it to me.

"And Jesus grew in wisdom and stature and in favor with God and man." - Luke 2:52



January

Sunday School gets back in gear on January 2nd at 9:45
Looking at Questions about God...
What Questions do you have?
Wednesday Nights at 6:30pm
kicks off again on January 5th
We will start a new study in 1 Peter

- ⇒ 5th: 6:30pm Wednesday Night Bible Study
- ⇒ 9th: 9:45a–Sunday School, 6PM YOUTH FELLOWSHIP: "2022 Winter Games"
- ⇒ 12th: 6:30p—Wednesday Night Bible Study
- ⇒ 16th: 9:45a -Sunday School /6PM Youth Fellow ship + Youth Lead
- ⇒ 19th: 6:30p Wednesday Night Bible Study
- ⇒ 23rd: 9:45a Sunday School /6PM Youth Fellowship
- ⇒ 26th: 6:30p Wednesday Night Bible Study
- ⇒ 30th: 9:45a Sunday School /6PM Youth Fellowship

Youth Challenge: Think of a question you have about God...anything! Write it down and bring it in, text or email it and we will talk about it on Sunday Mornings in January. Everyone who sends in a question gets a prize!