



# THE BUILDER

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

January 2022 Issue



## PASTOR'S NEW YEAR'S MESSAGE

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. *Len*

*Len*  
*Mary Sue*  
*Sara*



*Kathleen W*  
*Angela*  
*Kein*



HOW CAN WE  
*Thank*  
 God  
 ENOUGH FOR YOU?  
 - 1 Thessalonians 3:9, NIV -

*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 to 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)



Online Giving

Start something new in 2022!

Sign up for online giving.

Go to our website at [www.fbcdunn.com](http://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. 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
<b>Regular Activities</b> 9:45 Sunday School 11:00 Worship Service 5:00 Handbells 2nd/4th Wks. 6:00 Youth Fellowship			<b>Regular Activities</b> 5:45 Virtual Bible Study 6:30 Kids Club 252 6:30 Youth Bible Study 6:30 Adult Bible Study 7:30 Choir Practice			
2  Julie Mason Rachel Wells	3  	4  Jade Ferretiz Kelly Wrench	5  Kelly McLamb	6  Victoria Fusco	7  Scarlett Moore	8  Hubert Warren Sarah Weaver
9  	10 7:00 Deacon's Meeting  Ricky Weaver	11  Jade Ferretiz Kelly Wrench	12  Kelly McLamb	13  Peyton Brown Greta Snow	14  Scarlett Moore	15  Hubert Warren Sarah Weaver
16  Kathy Horne	17  Aubrie Wise	18  Peter Tart	19  Rosa Barfield	20  Mason DeBose	21  Dawn Lee Dee Mitchell	22  Dawn Lee Dee Mitchell
23  Beecher Aldridge Kathleen Davis Harvey Eldridge Gaylia Draughon Mark Williams	24  Aubrie Wise	25  Janice Thomas	26  Rosa Barfield	27  Jonathan Godwin Shirley Sinclair Daniel West	28  Dawn Lee Dee Mitchell	29  Dawn Lee Dee Mitchell
30  Kevin Snipes	31  Suzette Smith	Janice Thomas	Rosa Barfield	Jonathan Godwin Shirley Sinclair Daniel West	Dawn Lee Dee Mitchell	Sarah Pope



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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!