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THE STAFF is
grateful
FOR YOU!

The staff would like to thank the members for all of their support .

It has been a difficult year and we truly appreciate all the patience, love and kindness you have shown us as we adjust to a different way to worship while trying to continue to serve our church.

We love you all and pray for a happy, healthy New Year!



THE BUILDER

The Newsletter of the First Baptist Church of Dunn, N.C.
January 2021 Issue



This time last year, I was working on a series of sermons to preach in January and February on developing 20/20 vision for 2020. My thoughts were that we needed to get back to the basics, look at the 10-Commandments in detail, and work to restore our relationship with God for an exciting journey into a new decade. I knew there would be change. I knew we would be tested. Still, I had no idea of how much faith would be required to meet the challenges of the year.

Over these last months I have spent a lot of time thinking about how strongly I felt God leading me to preach that series of sermons. It has been an epiphany of sorts realizing how much God was preparing us for what God knew was coming. 2020 presented so many problems. Thinking of them now, seeing how God was preparing us ahead of the turmoil we'd face, I am humbled and encouraged. If we need proof of God's rod and staff guiding us through the darkest valleys, looking back at what God was showing us then should only deepen our trust that God is always with us, never forsaking us, always preparing a place for us in God's kingdom on earth and in heaven.

When you read this, many of you will have turned the page and it will be 2021. What new word is God giving us for what is ahead in the new year? For starters, I think God would want us to realize that just because the year is different it doesn't mean we don't need to remain vigilant. We must remain watchful, hopeful, and disciplined. A new calendar on the refrigerator will not guarantee long awaited relief. The gifts of a new year are God's to bestow. We must stay alert and faithful. We must trust that God will provide. God is showing us things, drawing us into a deeper faith, attuning our hearts to see things differently, making us ready for other challenges we'll face in our lifetimes. One thing life has taught me is that it is not standing on the mountaintop that makes me stronger, it is the journey it takes to get there that makes the difference. And the thing is, just as soon as I have stood on the mountaintop, God shows me another deep valley I must cross to get to the next place God has in mind.

This leads me to mention the danger I sense as we begin a new year. I sense the danger is fatigue, over confidence, allowing ourselves to let our guard down. We cannot allow ourselves to be desensitized to the problems we face. We cannot let our faith become compromised by impatience. We must keep our eyes focused on where God wants us to be.

Today, I received a phone call from Massachusetts telling me my car's warranty is about to expire. I got a call from Texas wanting to discuss my Visa account. Yesterday someone who identified themselves as being from Amazon said there was suspicious activity on my account and if I'd enter my account number, they'd talk to me about it. Last week someone called about my social security account being hacked. None of these calls are real! They are attempts by hackers to gain access to my personal information. I am getting to the point that if I don't know the number, I don't answer the phone. The problem is, what if in my being numbed by all the nefarious calls, I miss getting a call that I need to receive? Now is not a time to adopt attitudes of indifference but to grow in the practice of discernment.

Jesus said to be wise as serpents and innocent as doves (Matt. 10:16). That's the wisdom I believe we are being called to develop for 2021. Serpents are always wise and aware of their surroundings. Doves are innocent and do no harm. This is how I sense God is leading us as we grow into 2021. This is not a time to forget where we have been but to build on what we have learned. Just as God was with us last January, God is with us now and will be with us with whatever this year brings. Be wise. Stay innocent. Work to do no harm. May we all know God's blessing in this New Year!

Len

Worship WITH US

We invite you to worship with us in the way you feel comfortable.
Sunday School at 10:00 am (in person, radio or online)
Sunday Worship at 11:00 am (in person, radio or online)
Adult Bible Study - Wednesdays at 6:30 pm (online only)
Children & Youth Bible Lessons-Wednesdays (online only)

Our services and Adult Bible Study lessons are available on Facebook live, First Baptist Church of Dunn YouTube channel, and on our website at www.fbcdunn.com.

The children and youth activities are available on the FBC Children's Ministry Facebook page and/or via Zoom. Contact Sara Williams at sara@fbcdunn.com for details and times.

We will inform you of any changes in this information through email and bulletins.

JANUARY Birthdays

- | | |
|------------------|---------------------|
| 2 Julie Mason | 19 Rosa Barfield |
| Rachel Wells | 20 Mason DeBose |
| 4 Jade Ferretiz | 21 Sophia Clayton |
| Kelly Wrench | 22 Dawn Lee |
| 5 Kelly McLamb | 23 Beecher Aldredge |
| 6 Victoria Fusco | Kathleen Davis |
| 7 Scarlett Moore | Gaylia Draughon |
| 8 Hubert Warren | Harvey Eldridge |
| Sarah Weaver | Mark Williams |
| 10 Ricky Weaver | 25 Janice Thomas |
| 13 Peyton Brown | 27 Jonathan Godwin |
| Greta Merlino | Shirley Sinclair |
| 15 Kenneth Lee | Daniel West |
| 16 Kathy Horne | 29 Sarah Pope |
| 17 Aubrie Wise | 30 Kevin Snipes |
| 18 Peter Tart | 31 Suzette Smith |

OUR AMAZING Volunteers

Scripture Reader

- Jan 3 Gracie Byrd
Jan 10 Ron McLamb
Jan 17 Caleigh Jones
Jan 24 Kamryn Wise
Jan 31 Caroline Wrench

Candle Lighter

- Jan 3 Carly Barefoot
Jan 10 Bristol Stephens
Jan 17 Scarlett Moore
Jan 24 Brandy West
Jan 31 Campbell Phillips



- Jan 3 Larry Snipes
Jan 10 David Moore
Jan 17 Kelly McLamb
Jan 24 Bo Jones
Jan 31 Chuck Turnage



- Jan 3 Jackie Byrd
Jan 10 Sue Rupert
Jan 17 Cathy Keever
Jan 24 Sara Williams
Jan 31 TBA



A locking drop box is being installed at the office door. This will allow members to drop off checks, information, etc. in a way that is safe and secure for all.