

Deacon of the Week:

1st Sunday: Charles Gaffigan
2nd Sunday: Rhonard MacRae
3rd Sunday: Tony Silver
4th Sunday: Arthur Burnette

February Wedding Anniversaries

Danny & Judy Willis 23



February Birthdays

Marjorie McEntire	.....	5
Joyce Noblitt	.....	8
Nick Favorite	.....	11
Ruby Robinson	.....	13
Paul Brooks	.....	15
Rhonard MacRae	.....	15
Vauta Elliott	.....	17
Regan Revis	.....	18
Jeff Parker	.....	19
Winston Riddle	.....	19
Scott Gaffigan	.....	25
Josh Biddix	.....	26



FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
Old Fort, NC
February 2018
Volume 52, Issue 2

THE VOICE

Offertory Prayer:

1st Sunday: Arthur Burnette
2nd Sunday: Alex Little
3rd Sunday: Bob Smith
4th Sunday: Susan Hoyle

FEBRUARY EVENTS

SUNDAY:
9:45 - Sunday School
11 - Worship Service
4 - Choir Practice
6 - Adult Bible Study, Youth

WEDNESDAY:
6 - Adult Bible Study/Prayer,
Youth, RA's, GA's, Mission
Friends,
7 - Choir Practice

Feb 4 - Deacon's Meeting 7 pm

Feb 7 - WMU, Baptist Men 6 pm;
Choir Practice 7 pm

Feb 8 - Senior Adult Rally at
Clinchfield BC 10:30 am

Feb 10 - Valentine Dinner 6 pm

Feb 14 - St. Valentine Day

Feb 17 - Children's Missions
Day

Feb 18 - WMU Focus Sunday;
Newsletter Articles Due

Feb 19 - President's Day

Feb 25 - Youth Roller Skating
(after worship service)



Reflections of a Shepherd

I'm sure that most of you are familiar with the song "What the World Needs Now Is Love" made famous by Dionne Warwick. I can remember being a teenager listening to the oldies station out of Winston Salem and thinking to myself, "No, the problem is we have too much love!" If I'm honest, I hated the song.

You have to realize that at that point, I had spent most of my life in churches that only preached half the gospel. The half that everyone likes. See, most of them spent an exorbitant amount of time talking about the "love of God." But they spent very little time talking about His holiness, His wrath; you know, the things we don't like to think about. They would emphasize God loving us so much that He died on the cross, but spoke very little of our sin that drove Him to it. There was an invitation of forgiveness but no repentance. It was all about the free gift of salvation, that God loved you just the way you were. Sadly most of them were fascinated with Jesus being their Savior, but had no intention of allowing Him to be Lord.

As the years went by, I became more and more exposed to what could only be called legalism and I was shocked at how it had infiltrated my thinking. It's about the fruit in your life! It's about obedience! It's about a changed life! But the more I studied Scripture and developed in my own walk with Christ, I realized that in reality this too is just half the gospel. Not that fruit, obedience, and a changed life don't matter; they do! But they come about as a result of the change that Jesus has brought in us, not something that is brought through human effort.

Yes, it is loving to speak the truth to someone, and we shouldn't shy away from addressing sin. But most of the time (perhaps because of human nature) this "love" isn't very loving at all because it is harsh, unsympathetic, and judgmental. It is a message that says God loves obedience, and only those who are obedient. When dealing with sin in others' lives, many legalists fail to realize "but by the grace of God go I." They fail to truly understand that "while we were still sinners, Christ died for us." They failed to see that Jesus died for our sins, but it was His love that motivated Him. Legalists may have Jesus as their Lord, but is He truly their Savior?

As I'm in 9th year of ministry and 34th year of my Christian walk, I realize that as the song says, "What the world needs now is love." But not the mushy, spineless, empty love that is offered by "free-gracers" or liberals. And not the cold, hard, unforgiving love of the legalists and Pharisees. What the world needs now is the love of the Gospel. The love that says, I don't love you because of your obedience and I don't love you just the way you are. I love you *IN SPITE* of who you are. I love you in spite of the fact that you are a despicable wretch. I love you in spite of the fact that you are a disobedient reprobate. In fact, I love you so much that I will send my Son to die for your sins. I love you so much that I will send my Spirit to sanctify you and make you capable of obedience.

Yes, Ms. Warwick is right,
what the world needs now is love.

Church Staff

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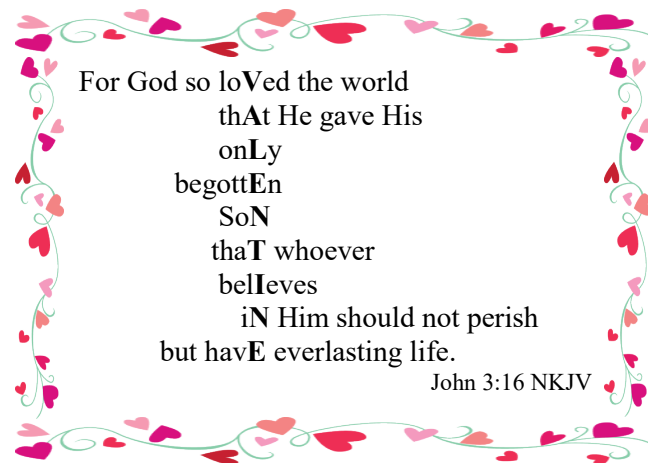


YOUTH NEWS

Mark your calendars for February 10th at 6:00 pm. The youth will be preparing a special Valentine Dinner in the fellowship hall. The youth will seat and serve you and a guest. Menu includes a garden salad, spaghetti with sauce, bread, drink and dessert for a donation of \$5.00 per person. So tell your friends and family to join us for a special Valentine Dinner. Child care will be available.

RSVP to Helen at 828-442-2029

In March the youth will host a Youth Fellowship for our community and local churches to join us for "Fired UP for Christ" on Friday, March 30th. 5:00 pm-8:00 pm. We will serve hot dogs, chips, and a drink. Fire pits will be set up in the lower parking lot. Everyone is welcome to join us for this event. Music will be provided by April and David. For more information contact Josh Becker.



With Sympathy

Our deepest sympathy is expressed to the family of Mary Faw and the family of Don Sowers.

FBC Winter Weather Policy: In the event of snow/ice or other inclement weather the following policy will be in effect.

- 1) Sunday: a) ONE SERVICE will be held for everyone at 11 am in the sanctuary; b) There will be NO evening services (due to re-freeze conditions).
- 2) Monday-Saturday: a) If school has been cancelled or dismissed early due to winter weather conditions, there will be NO afternoon or evening meetings or activities. b) Weddings or funerals will be at the discretion of the families involved.



Buildings & Grounds Notes:

Attention committees & small groups; There are now three rooms on the fellowship hall level set up for small group meetings that offer more privacy and less distraction than trying to meet around activities in the fellowship hall. If meeting before or after fellowship hall events you may want to utilize the following:

- ♦ **Brides Board Room** has a table for 6, chairs for 8 and you can add a couple of chairs if needed.
- ♦ **Choir Room** has a table for 8 to 10 and plenty of additional chairs if needed.
- ♦ **South Classroom** has tables set in a square configuration for approximately 15 + about 5 additional chairs.

Winter Projects?

Don't get the winter time blahs during January and February. Do an indoor winter project at the church and help keep your muscles toned at the same time! Or perhaps burn off some of those extra pounds picked up over the holidays! The December newsletter has a short list of projects; or see a B&G Team member to get started. Arthur, David, Mickey, Ray



Homebound Committee

The fruit basket you gave reminded me of the bags of fruit my childhood church gave each member on the Sunday before Christmas. Thank you for the care you extend to our homebound and church staff; and also for the wonderful memories.

David Workman

Thank you so much for the prayers, cards, visits, and basket from the church. I wish for all of you a wonderful 2018.

Lois Early

Thank you so much for thinking of us at Christmas. We are enjoying all the fruit and goodies.

Jeanette & James Beach

Thank you so very much for the beautiful Christmas basket.

Jean Lonon

Dear Church,

Robert and I want to thank you for the bonus you gave us for Christmas. Thank you also for the basket of goodies from the ladies of the Homebound Committee. We sincerely appreciate you thinking of us in such a kind and thoughtful way.

Sincerely,

Robert & Wanda Parker

The Church Staff would like to thank First Baptist Church for the generous Christmas Bonus.

Words cannot really express what your love and support over the years has meant to us. Thank you so very much for all the cards, calls, food, visits, texts, flowers and everything else involving kindness and Christian love shown to us through my mom's sickness and passing and service. We are very blessed to have the Christian love and support of each other through all these years. Thank you homebound committee for all of the baskets that was sent to my mom and dad. Thank you to the children for the things you have made for them over the years. My mom would show them to me and they are still at the house. She kept it all. She loved our church and served the Lord all her life. Please keep lifting up everyone in our church. Again, thank you for everything. The family of Mary Faw.

Susan Hoyle

Our thanks and appreciation to Sherry Burnette, the homebound committee, and our church family for the Christmas basket. We enjoyed it.

Bill & Juanita Ramsey

Old Fort First Baptist Church Family

Thank you for all the prayers, love, hugs and support thru this difficult time. It meant a lot to have the support of our Church Family-we love you all!

Steve, Stephanie, Shea & Josh House

To the children that made me "Get Well" cards..... Thank You! That was so sweet and thoughtful and made me feel much better. I have them displayed on my office wall.

Mrs. Susan

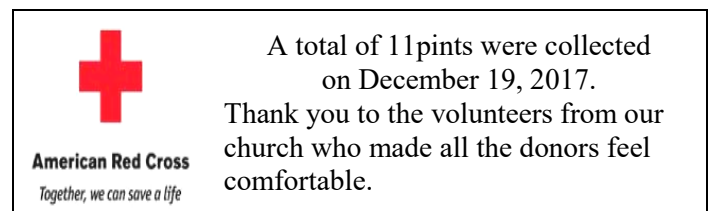
To the Homebound Committee

Thank you so much for the Christmas basket. We thoroughly enjoyed it.

Richard & Rachel Newton

Thank you so much for the Christmas basket. I appreciated it so much. It's nice to have such a group as caring as the Homebound Committee.

Ruby N. Robinson



Please notify the church office in advance if **want to reserve the use of the fellowship hall, to reserve the use of the church bus, need copies made, or would like something included in the newsletter or bulletin.** The office will need sufficient information & time to make the required reservations, print copies, or make sure all needed paper work has been received. Thank you for your cooperation.