

Deacon of the Week:

1st Sunday: Stephen Willie
2nd Sunday: Mickey Gilliam
3rd Sunday: Kelly Coons
4th Sunday: Josh Becker

January Wedding Anniversaries

Carl & Darlene Epley 1
Kelly & Teresa Coons 7



January Birthdays

Bill Faw 1
Megan Gaffigan 1
Terra Wyatt 2
Alex Little 14
Doris Grant 16
David Patton 16
Joyce Pugh 18
Chuck Walker 19
Darlene Epley 26
Bill Ramsey 27



FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
Old Fort, NC
January 2018
Volume 52, Issue 1

THE VOICE

Offertory Prayer:

1st Sunday: Bob Smith
2nd Sunday: Susan Hoyle
3rd Sunday: Rhonard MacRae
4th Sunday: Tony Silver

**JANUARY
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

Jan 1 - New Year's Day (Office
Closed)

Jan 3 - WMU 6 pm; Youth
Council Meeting 7 pm

Jan 7 - Choir Practice Resumes
4 pm; Deacon's Meeting 7 pm

Jan 14 - No Evening Services

Jan 15 - Martin Luther King, Jr.
Day

Jan 20 - Newsletter Articles Due

Jan 21 - Sanctity of Human Life
Sunday

Jan 28 - Church Council 5 pm;
Quarterly Conference 6 pm

Church Staff

Rev. Drew Dalton, Pastor
Stephen Willie, Director of Music
David Workman, Pianist
Susan Willie, Secretary
Wanda Parker, Custodian

Pastor Drew 828-448-5659
Office: 828-668-7853
Fax: 828-668-7578
Email: offbc@frontier.com
Website: oldfortfirstbaptist.com



Boy has the time flown by! It is hard to believe that in a few weeks I will have been here for six months. It's also hard to believe that 2017 has come to an end and 2018 is ready for its start. Where did the time go? I know that for some New Year's Eve and New Year's Day is a depressing time. Christmas is over, the presents have been unwrapped, the turkey has been eaten, and the kids are going back to school. I can remember my mom and her daddy feeling this way about the end of December.

But I can honestly say that I have never really felt that way. Do you know why? Because I love beginnings! Remember?? January 1st is a great blank page. It's a new year, a new beginning. The story of 2018 is untold, and I can't wait to begin writing it! There are so many things the Lord has in store for me and for you. For my family and my church family. It's such an exciting thing to be able to press forward to the future! To see what lies ahead in the undiscovered country! (Star Trek fans anyone?)

The advent of a new year also gives us all a time to reflect on the previous year. By December 31, most of us are ready to put the year down for bed. We're ready to move on. I'm willing to bet that 2017 didn't exactly turn out the way you had intended. We probably all experienced some disappointments along the way.

There were physical struggles, financial struggles, professional struggles. Maybe even personal or spiritual struggles. It would be easy, even natural, for us to focus only on these discouraging matters.

Instead, as Christians, I think it is important that we focus on the positive instead of the negative. Okay, maybe there were some failures in 2017. What lessons could be learned for 2018? Sure there were struggles in 2017, but were there not blessings as well? Blessings that give you hope moving forward into 2018? Maybe you're still in that storm of life. Maybe that storm is promising to plague you in 2018. Maybe there is no end in sight. But God doesn't promise us still waters all our days, but he does promise that He will be there with His presence; guiding you, comforting you, strengthening you. So I urge you to be encouraged!

Paul tells us in Philippians to forget those things which are behind, and press forward to those things ahead. So again I urge you, be encouraged! 2018 is a new year! A new opportunity!! Don't be fettered to the disappointments of 2017. Thank God for the blessings of the past year, but don't bask in the glory and remain in place. 2017 is over! That year is done! The page has turned! 2018 is here!! BE ENCOURAGED!!!

2018

Happy New Year!

WELCOME New Members

We welcome

Jasmin Vasquez
who joined our fellowship
on November 12, 2017
and

Leland Vasquez
Who joined our fellowship
on November 19, 2017



If anyone has articles, announcements, or information that need to go out to the church, please submit them to the church office by the 20th of the month for the newsletter. You may submit them at offbc@frontier.com or place in secretary's mailbox. If you don't submit it, it will probably not get included in the newsletter.



With Sympathy

Our deepest sympathy is expressed Bob Smith in the death of his sister-in-law, May Smith and to the families of Mike Grant and Bernice McAfee.

Cleff Notes

My how time flies. 2017 is over and 2018 has begun. It seems every year progresses faster than the one before and soon we will be singing Christmas carols again. 2017 saw many new members in our family of faith as well as our FBC Family and 2018 could bring many more. God's word teaches us to take an active and vocal lead in spreading the Gospel of Jesus Christ to people who are either ignorant of His saving power or just don't feel they need a savior.

Many people excuse themselves from this kind of ministry when they exclaim it to be out of their comfort zone. I have heard many, including deacon's from previous churches I have served in, say "I'm just not comfortable with that." or "That's not me." Yet the Bible teaches us to believe with our hearts and to confess with our mouths that Jesus Christ is Lord. Even Moses tried to excuse himself from God's call to rescue Israel from the hand of Pharaoh. Jonah tried to flee from God only to become trapped inside the belly of a great fish until he repented. The New Testament reminds us to not worry about what we shall say or do, for the Holy Spirit will come upon us in our hour of need and give us the words to speak.

In music ministry, God gives the words and music to writers and composers. God gives skills and inspiration to music ministers and performers. Therefore like Moses and Noah, God provides for us that we may skillfully share Christ's Gospel with not only Christian hearts in need of inspiration but also hearts lost in a dark world trying to find their way. Therefore, I invite you to take a stand with other music ministers of our faith and become a member of a team of singers who sing to God's glory and service as we enter into a new year with all of its wonders and adventures.

Bro. Stephen Willie

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.

**DEADLINE FOR
NEWSLETTER ARTICLES**
January 20th

**GIVE
GOD
THE
PRAISE!**



National Sanctity of Human Life Day is celebrated on January 21, 2018. National Sanctity of Human Life Day is an observance declared by several U.S. Presidents who opposed abortion. President Ronald Reagan designated January 22, 1984 as the first National Sanctity of Human Life Day. The date was chosen to coincide with the 11th anniversary of the Roe v. Wade Supreme Court case that first recognized the constitutionally-protected status of abortion in the United States.

Reagan issued the proclamation annually thereafter, designating Sanctity of Human Life Day to be the third Sunday in January, which represents the closest Sunday to the original January 22 date. His successor, George H. W. Bush, continued the annual proclamation throughout his presidency. Bush's successor, Bill Clinton, discontinued the practice throughout his eight years in office, but Bush's son and Clinton's successor, George W. Bush, resumed the proclamation, and did so every year of his presidency.



Thank you to the Homebound Committee for the Christmas basket. It is so wonderful to have a caring church. Thank you so much.

Bill & Mary Faw

Dear Church Family,
Thank for the yummy Christmas Basket and for all the Christmas cards we received. Your thoughtfulness and kindness is very much appreciated.

Stephen & Susan Willie



Where in the Bible is found: Men lapped water like dogs?

Sunday, January 28th
at 5:00 pm
in the Fellowship Hall



Church Council:

Pastor
Church Clerk
Treasurer
Building/Grounds Chairman
Senior Adult Director
Hospitality/Bereaved Rep.
Children's Council Rep.
Youth Council Rep.

Church Staff
Deacon Chairman
SS Director
Prayer Ministry
Security Chairman
WMU Director
Baptist Men's Director



The next Quarterly Conference will be Sunday, January 28th at 6:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall. Please make plans to attend. It is important for church members to be aware of the progress of the ministries and activities of the church. The Quarterly Conference is an excellent time to be informed and let your voice be heard.