

Deacon of the Week:

1st Sunday: Alex Little
2nd Sunday: Rhonard MacRae
3rd Sunday: Stephen Willie
4th Sunday: Mickey Gilliam

January Wedding Anniversaries

Carl & Darlene Epley 1
Lawrence & Betty Reel 1
Kelly & Teresa Coons 7



January Birthdays

Megan Favorite 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 2019
Volume 53, Issue 1

THE VOICE

**JANUARY
EVENTS**

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

WEDNESDAY:
6 - Adult Bible Study/Prayer,
Youth, Children in Action,
Mission Friends
6 - Children's Choir
7 - Adult Choir Practice

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

Jan 2 - WMU & Baptist Men 6 pm

Jan 6 - Deacon's Meeting 7 pm

Jan 13 - Church Wide Breakfast
9 am; Church Council 5 pm

Jan 20 - Sanctity of Human Life
Sunday; Newsletter Articles Due;
No Evening Services

Jan 27 - Baptist Men's Day;
Quarterly Conference 6 pm



Reflections of a
Shepherd

Another year has come and gone; and it seems to happen faster with each passing year. If you haven't figured it out by now, I am introspective sort. There are many times during the year that many of us will take inventory of where our life is, and where our life is going. Birthdays, anniversaries, and holidays are popular times to take the time to do this. The danger we can run into with all this introspection is that it can often leave us depressingly pessimistic or hopelessly optimistic. Neither of which is very helpful, though I would say that there is more danger in the depressive state (which says "My God is too small") than the hopeful (which says "My God is so BIG!"). And I have to admit that many times I have to be on guard because my nature, as sad as it is for me to admit, is to take the negative, pessimistic route.

I think that is important to do these inventories, especially at New Year's. What resolutions did you make? Did you keep them? Where they realistic? Where they too easy? I for one made a resolution to lose some weight and become healthier. Now I didn't make it down to my goal weight by my 40th birthday. But I did lose about 30 pounds, I'm more conscience about my eating habits, and I regularly exercise. And I can actually be honest about regularly exercising. Not like before. "Sure Doc. I exercise regularly. I mean, I walk to church and back three times a week. That counts don't it? Plus, it's uphill!" Seriously though, I can say that I feel healthier than I have in several years, and it feels good. But I also know that there is more work to be done in 2019.

Inventory is not just for personal evaluations, though. It is also for corporate ones as well. Where are we as a church? How are we growing? Are we slipping in any areas? The

last year saw many changes to help us become more mission minded. In the beginning of the year we had special focus Sundays on our Men's Mission group and WMU, as well as children & youth; and these are planned for this year too! Our children's department went to camp last year and the kids are already talking about going back this summer! And don't even get me started about all the baptisms, the Fall Festival or the opportunities we have with our partnership with Advent Church in the South Loop of Chicago. Yes, God did many things in our church in 2018.

I'm also very excited about all awaiting us as a church in 2019. The task force has been hard at work trying to get our facilities looking better and more changes are on their way. I attended several leadership workshops last year and plan on attending more this year. These are helping me grow as a leader and exposing me to new ideas and challenges. One such idea/challenge is that of a visioning team. A team has been assembled and we will begin to meet very soon to talk about what God's vision is for us here at First Baptist Church of Old Fort and how are we going to accomplish it.

I firmly believe that God has great and wonderful things planned for us. This Newsletter is called **The Voice**, and one of our taglines is "A Voice to the Mountains." I truly believe that God desires us to be that. But if we are going to do that, we need to fully rely on God and remember the Israelites in the desert. Are we going to be like the Exodus generation and say "we are grasshoppers" compared to our obstacles? Or are we going to be like the Conquest generation and say "Shout! For the LORD has given us the city!"

Pastor Drew

Church Staff

Rev. Drew Dalton, Pastor
Stephen Willie, Minister of Music
David Workman, Pianist
Susan Willie, Secretary
David Patton, Custodian

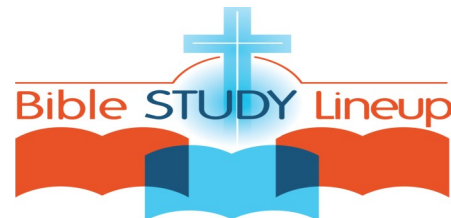
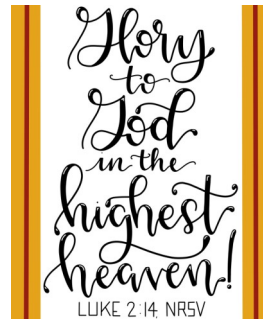
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Profiles in Character:
David
A Man After God's Own Heart
Starts January 6th

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.



Wednesday Night Bible Study

Jan. 9th - Matthew
Jan. 16th - Mark
Jan 23rd - Luke
Jan. 30th - Prayer Emphasis



National Sanctity of Human Life Day is celebrated on January 20, 2019. 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 for your gift!

By sending a Gideon card, your donation of \$230.00 will provide for the purchase and placement of Scriptures throughout the world. It will provide approximately 46 Bibles here and across the globe. This includes all costs of getting a Scripture into the hands of someone who needs it.

Cary Hensley

Thank you to all who supported the "Old Mountain Christmas" meal in the Morgan Cabin. Your contributions have added \$200 to our fund.

Your Relay for Life Team,
Helen Gilliam, David Patton & Cathy Moore

Special Thanks to all who helped decorate the sanctuary and participated in the Hanging of the Green and Advent. You really made this year a wonderful Christmas season!

Pastor Drew

Thank you to the Homebound Committee for the Christmas Fruit Basket. Church Family, thank you for the Christmas cards we received and the Personnel Committee, thank you for the Christmas Bonus. Your thoughtfulness is very much appreciated.

Stephen & Susan

On behalf of the Old Fort Community Forum, thank you for allowing us to use your fellowship hall this year.

Merry Christmas,
Ginger Webb



American Red Cross
Together, we can save a life

A total of 24 units were collected on December 13.

Thank you to the volunteers from our church who made all the donors feel comfortable.



Church Wide Breakfast
Sunday, January 13
at 9:00 am

Please join us for food and fellowship.
Breakfast will be in the Fellowship Hall.
Bring a dish and a friend.



Sunday, January 13
at 5:00 pm
in the South Classroom

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
Young Adult Rep.



The youth would like to say Thank You to everyone who helped us with our trip to Hearts on Fire this year. It was truly a blessing for our youth. We couldn't have gone without the support of our church family.

Hearts on Fire is more than just a weekend away in a cabin full of youth. It is a weekend for our youth to worship with so many other youth groups from all over the country. We also get to grow closer as a group. Again thank you.

Friends Giving was something the youth wanted to do the weekend after Thanksgiving. This is where they invited their friends to join them for a Thanksgiving meal with all the trimmings. Everyone invited at least two or more. We had a great turn out. 25 youth joined together and said what they were thankful for. We had a great time together.

The youth has been visiting on Sunday nights. We have visited many of our church homebound. You all have been sweet to welcome us into your homes to share Bible scripture and hymn songs. If we have not been to your house yet let us know. We will be glad to come visit.

Christmas caroling had been a challenge for us due to the weather and busy schedule. We did not get to have a soup and sandwich lunch in December, but are planning to have one soon!

A snow tubing trip is in the works, along with roller skating!



Baptist Men's Day - January 27th
Guest Speaker: Rev. Paul Langston

Rev. Paul Langston has been in ministry for many years, serving as a pastor and associational leader as well as an international missionary. He has led several mission trips across the U.S. and the world. Currently he serves as Missions Mobilization Consultant for Baptists on Mission.

Paul has a passion to see local churches and associations becoming more involved in missions. He loves seeing the joy that comes when a person surrenders their gifts, talents and time to God. He believes that involvement in missions is essential to the life of the church. Some of his greatest joys are seeing the renewal and revitalization that comes in an individual's life and in the life of a church when people use their gifts to make an eternal impact through missions involvement.



Sunday, January 27
6:00 pm
In the Fellowship Hall

A Note from the Church Clerk

If you are chair of any church committee, please bring a report to the Quarterly Conference including the following:

1. Activities or accomplishments from the previous 3 months (quarter).
2. Planned activities during the next quarter.

A copy of this report should be available for the church clerk before or at the meeting.

If you or a representative will not be able to attend and present the report, please provide the report to the clerk, who will present the report and record it in the minutes.