



The First Family

"To be found faithful as God's People."

JANUARY 2021

FROM YOUR PASTOR

A Blessed and Prosperous New Year

As we enter 2021, we do so with much baggage from 2020. We have just journeyed through a year unlike any over the past one hundred years. It would be an understatement to say it has had an impact on us personally and on the church corporately. A good deal of the impact has not been positive for many of us. I recently read a couple articles that really hit the spot when it comes to the next step after ten months coping with the health crisis and the election cycle that has led to a political crisis. I would like to share the highlights from these articles and make a few remarks that hopefully will provide guidance as we face the new year and allow us to face it confidently and courageously.

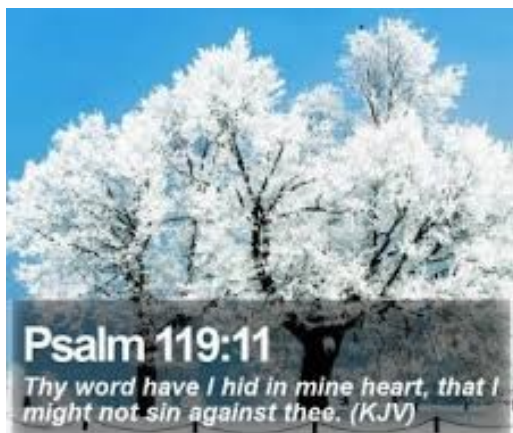
Aretha Grants article on "The Ways Satan Wants us to Respond to the Coronavirus" gives ten potential responses. Those responses include fear, anger, distrust, lack of faith, coping through immoral means, hoarding and selfishness, thinking and acting irrationally, walking foolishly, praying less, and fellowshiping less. These are all good reminders no matter what side of the aisle you sit on concerning the coronavirus. I find it interesting that these are not just responses to a virus but true for any issue that causes stress or worry. Stay alert to these responses as you face the next challenge in 2021.

Clarence Haynes article on "Five Steps the Church must take for Post-Election Unity" is also relevant for more than just the latest election crisis. The challenge to the church is to recognize God's sovereignty, which means God is in control and has ultimate authority to will and do as He please. (Daniel 2:21) We must also remember the mission of the church because it remains the same no matter who is President and it is our job to accomplish the mission of sharing the Gospel. We must also be and stay humble and have a listening ear to those of a different persuasion which leads to a fourth step of not neglecting other issues while we battle on behalf of particular issues. Jesus chided the Pharisees who were quick to tithe mint and spices yet neglected justice, mercy, and faithfulness. It is right to fight for the sanctity of life and marriage, but we must not become hard, harsh, and calloused toward people who may disagree with us yet still need the hope of the Gospel. The article concludes with a reminder of the mandate to love. The beloved John wrote in I John 4:20 that it is inconsistent to say we love God and have hate in our heart for our brother or sister or those not in the family of faith.

This is weighty stuff to live out, but we must remember that the Gospel is at stake and we must strive to guard the unity of the church through these reminders and remedies.

Our Wednesday services have re-started, and we now have a new time of meeting which is 6:30 p.m. We are also meeting again on Sunday evening at 6:30 p.m. and hope to re-start the 11:00 a.m. nursery and Sunday School as soon as possible. We are thankful to have a full team headed to Alaska for our June mission trip. The first payment of \$300 is due on January 17. What a blessing that we have received another fantastic offering for the Lottie Moon International Mission Offering. God bless you for being a blessing to our missionaries.

Blessings,
Bro. Brad



**OWENTON
FIRST BAPTIST**

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH STAFF

BRAD BANKS-PASTOR

WESLEY HADDEN-FAMILY MINISTER

CHUCK HARRIS-MUSIC AND MEDIA PASTOR

SUSAN STOWE-MINISTRY ASSISTANT

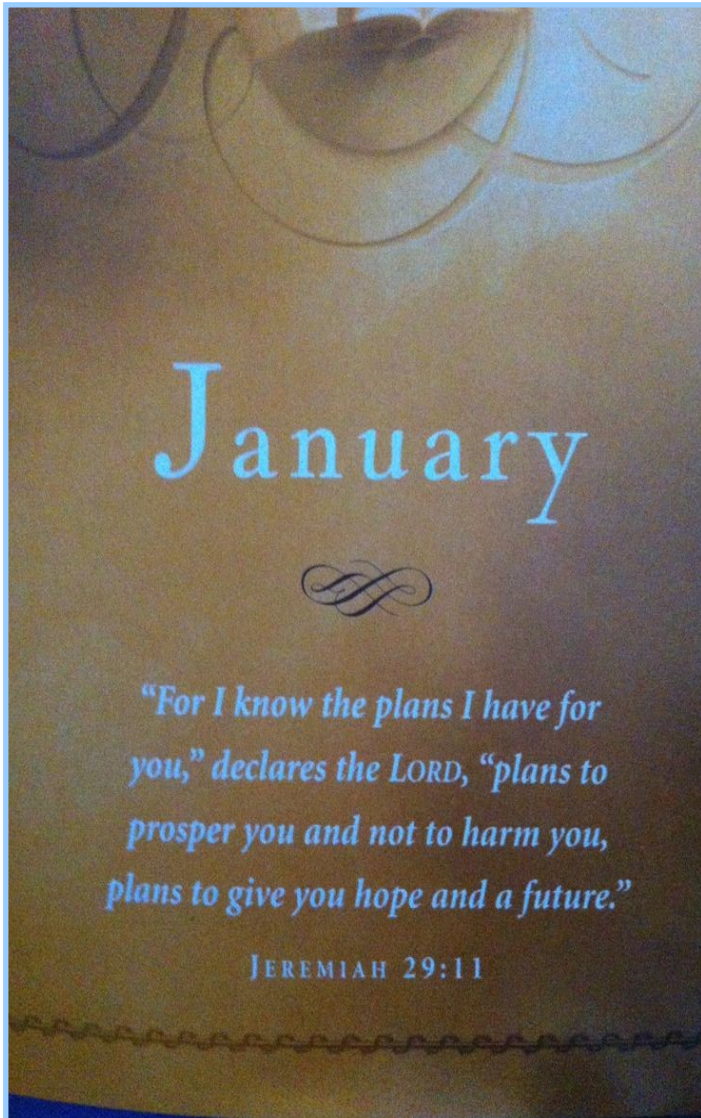


FAMILY MINISTRY NEWS

One Year

I'm blessed beyond measure. The Lord in one year has brought me here to serve you and has given me a beautiful wife. Reflecting on this year is hard but reminds me that we haven't even scratched the surface on growing together. We have been separated for most of the year and unable to meet weekly in person to hear God speak to our hearts. I look forward to this new year as we are able to meet regularly again and begin to get out into the world to share the hope of the gospel. I'm excited to do ministry with you and can't wait to see how God uses us in the years to come. May we keep our eyes on him and continually give him the praise he deserves. Hope everyone had a good Christmas and a happy New Year's!

In grace,
Wesley



MUSIC AND MEDIA

As 2020 goes into the record books, I think I can speak for all of us when I say I'm glad to see 2020 behind us! Like I do every year around this time, I want to share with you some of the groups of people for which I am most grateful. This is not an exhaustive list, nor are they listed in any particular order.

I am grateful for the opportunity to work with such a wonderful staff. Bro. Brad's heart for God, and God's people, is at the core of his ministry as our Pastor. I am glad that I can call him *my* pastor and my friend. Susan is the oil that keeps the "machine" working. She is tireless in her efforts and excellent in her abilities as she serves as ministry assistant. She keeps us in line and we're glad to have her in that church office. Bro. Wesley has been a blessing to work with and get to know this year. Even though this year has been tough for his ministry, he has worked hard to serve the youth of our church and has done a great job. These folks are not only great as co-workers, but I am proud to call them my friends.

I am grateful for the ones who serve as instrumentalists: Dave Stowe, Ruth Kingkade, and Melody Stafford. They are each excellent musicians and love to assist our congregation in worship. They make my job so easy as they intuitively fill in all the parts needed for our worship songs. Thanks to each of you!

Our media team has been a blessing to me and to our church, especially this past year. Tim Craigmyle, Chanceny Perkins, Meagan Greenlee, Bo Cumberland, Joshua Cumberland, and all the others who have filled in do a superb job of making the service flow smoothly in both sound and video, and for making sure our services were broadcast to our church family during quarantine. Thanks to you all for the wonderful work you do to enhance our worship.

Last, but definitely not least, I am grateful for each of you in our First Baptist family. You are so loving and kind to me — you are truly family. You have been so supportive of my ministry with you, and for that I am thankful. I am grateful to First Baptist for calling me to serve in a full-time capacity as your Worship & Media Pastor. This church is truly a loving, giving church family — one I am proud to be a part of.

I pray that 2021 will be a year we see a little bit of normalcy return to our lives, and I hope it will be a great year for First Baptist and our church family!

Soli Deo Gloria,

Bro. Chuck





january

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<p>3</p> <p>9:00 and 11:00 a.m. Morning Service</p> <p>6:30 p.m. Evening Service</p> <p>7:30 p.m. Deacon's Meeting</p>	<p>4</p> <p>7:00 p.m. Associational Quarterly Meeting</p>	<p>5</p>	<p>6</p> <p>5:30 p.m. Trustees Meeting</p> <p>6:30 p.m. Midweek Service and Business Meeting</p>	<p>7</p>	<p>8</p>	<p>9</p>
<p>10</p> <p>9:00 and 11:00 Morning Service</p> <p>6:30 p.m. Evening Service</p>	<p>11</p>	<p>12</p>	<p>13</p> <p>6:30 p.m. Midweek Service</p>	<p>14</p>	<p>15</p>	<p>16</p>
<p>17</p> <p>9:00 and 11:00 Morning Service</p> <p>6:30 p.m. Evening Service</p> <p>Payment #1 of \$300 due for Alaska Mission Trip</p>	<p>18</p>	<p>19</p>	<p>20</p>	<p>21</p>	<p>22</p>	<p>23</p>
<p>24</p> <p>9:00 and 11:00 Morning Service</p> <p>5:30 p.m. Ordination Council Meeting</p> <p>6:30 p.m. Evening Service</p>	<p>25</p>	<p>26</p> <p>Meeting the Needs</p> <p>11:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.</p> <p>6:00-8:00 p.m.</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>28</p>	<p>29</p>	<p>30</p>
<p>31</p> <p>9:00 and 11:00 Morning Service Men's Day</p> <p>6:30 p.m. Evening Service/Ordination Service</p>						

PRAYER CONCERNS



Glenda Allnutt
 Jerilyn Anderson
 Lorene Byrd
 Nancy Castle
 Chad Condra
 Lynsey Farrar
 Jerry Greene
 Gene Harris Mason
 Harold Miller
 Crissy New
 Lashonda Olds
 Lucy Parker
 Flo Parker
 Denise Perkins
 Bernie Poe
 Ina Prather
 Veneda Smith
 Lana Smoot
 Levi Stamper
 Joyce Utterback
 Joe Wyles
 Shelby Young

<u>1/1</u> David Wainscott	<u>1/14</u> Matthew Osborne	Dan O'Toole
<u>1/3</u> Derris Hedger	Brett Wooten	Rodney Parker
<u>1/4</u> Glenda Allnutt	<u>1/16</u> Shelby Carter	Krista Power
Lee Drew Stivers	Morgan Weintraught	<u>1/29</u> Nancy Jo Osborne
Darryl Traylor	<u>1/20</u> Lacie Risch	<u>1/30</u> Moto McDanell
<u>1/7</u> Debbie McMillen	<u>1/21</u> Kitty Cammack	Clark Roberts
Bruce Wash	<u>1/22</u> Easton Baldwin	<u>1/31</u> Kiley Blair
<u>1/9</u> Sally Patterson	<u>1/24</u> Teresa Dempsey	Matt Cammack
<u>1/10</u> Lloyd Vannarsdall	<u>1/25</u> Cortney Gobel	
Linda Webster	<u>1/26</u> Machele Bess	
<u>1/12</u> Paul Banks	<u>1/27</u> Tyler Cammack	
Austin Perkins	<u>1/28</u> Jane Ayres	
<u>1/13</u> Joyce Stack	Dana Cobb	



HAVE A NEED? CALL!
 CHURCH OFFICE:
 502-484-2430
 BRO. BRAD:
 901-651-1157

Return Service Requested

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