



**OWENTON FIRST BAPTIST**

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

# The First Family

**FEBRUARY 2024**

## FROM YOUR PASTOR

### *The Love of God!*

The message of I John 4:16 expresses the essence of God's love and invites us into a deeper understanding and an unwavering belief in His affection toward us. The verse states, "So we have come to know and to believe the love that God has for us. God is love and anyone who abides in love abides in God, and God abides in them."

The call to "know" and "believe" speaks of our ability to have awareness. It implies a dynamic relationship that is intimate between the Lord and us. This love is not some distant, unattainable concept but a living reality. The phrase, "God is love", reminds us that love is not only His nature but His very essence. It demonstrates how He interacts with us. He is a loving God!

When we grasp the connection of our abiding in the love of God and God abiding in us, we become a vessel of God's presence. This in turn allows His love to be revealed to others. My prayer is that we will each experience an answer to the request the Psalmist made to our LORD in Psalm 35:22, "Let your steadfast love, O LORD, be upon us, even as we hope in you."

This month we will begin a series entitled, "Road to Calvary." Our final two months in the Gospel of Mark will traverse that road together and will culminate with a message on the resurrection on Easter Sunday. We plan to re-start our Sunday afternoon outreach on February 18 at 4:00pm. The Annie Armstrong Easter Offering for Home Missions will be received on Sunday, March 3. Please pray and give as the Lord leads.

Blessings,  
Bro. Brad

## YOUTH MINISTRY

Hello church family!

At the beginning of this month, the youth group had our annual Christmas party and Amazing Race. We had a great turn out and the students really enjoyed racing around town to beat each other back to the church! This month, we talked about stories of sacrifice in the Bible and how this can apply to living bold lives as Christians.

The annual Valentine's Banquet will be on February 11, right after church (around noon). The youth group will be serving drinks and Quinton Miller will be providing entertainment for this event as well. The offering from this event raises funds to send the youth to church camp each summer so we appreciate everyone's support!

We are also looking forward to our youth ski trip on the 17<sup>th</sup>. Sign-ups are open until February 3<sup>rd</sup> so if your student is interested in going there may still be time! There is a link on the church website to sign up. The cost of the trip is \$90 and that includes rentals and an 8-hour lift ticket. Please send extra money with your student for food and snacks. If the cost is an issue for anyone, please contact me and we will make it work. Our spring Bible Study will kick off on February 18<sup>th</sup> at 6:30. If you have a student grades 6-12<sup>th</sup>, please send them! This will be an 8-week study and the girls will be with Alli while the boys are with me. We will be announcing the books we are using to the youth in the next couple weeks.

The youth group is going back to Crossings at Cedarmore for church camp this year. This is for students 7-12<sup>th</sup> grade (entering 7<sup>th</sup> through exiting 12<sup>th</sup>). Camp is scheduled for June 8-12. We have 30 spots available and will not be able to get anymore so if your student is interested in going, please sign them up on the church website soon! The first deposit is \$75 and is due by February 28<sup>th</sup>. Please contact me with any questions.

The church volleyball team, which several of our youth group members play on, has been doing a great job so far this season! We have won our first two matches and we plan to keep this up in the games to come!

As always, it is a blessing to be the youth pastor here and it is my prayer that the Lord will use me in this role to be a mentor to the youth.

Blessings,  
Ross

We will collect this Home Missions Offering on March 3. Pray and give as the Lord leads.



## MUSIC AND MEDIA

### WORSHIP IS A VERB!

Can you believe that it's already the second month of the year??!! I feel like we just celebrated the new year last week but when I look at my calendar it snaps me back to reality that February has arrived. I'm praying that with it comes less rain, warmer weather, and more sunshine!!

As we move further into this new year I want to take a moment and focus on our worship. Even though the temps have been frigid at times, I want to encourage you to not let your worship become frigid and cold. Worship, at its very core, is a *verb*. It can be defined as, "showing reverence and adoration for." Shouldn't that be the goal of our corporate and private worship? I submit that it is!

I'm reminded of a post on Facebook by Worship Pastor Chris Watson from Atlanta, Georgia. He perfectly sums up what worship is by saying, *"If I can worship God during my favorite song but not with one I really don't like, I'm not worshipping God, I'm worshipping a song. If I can worship God when the 'atmosphere' is right and everything's clicking but I can't if it's off, I'm not worshipping God, I'm worshipping the atmosphere. If I can worship God because I had a great feeling and experience with a large group but I can't worship Him alone, then I'm not worshipping God, I'm worshipping a feeling/experience. Worship can happen at at time, any place and anywhere. We must guard our heart to make sure we are worshipping God and not a movement/experience or something we deem as worship that may just not be."*

Our worship must be intentional, passionate, and constant. We, as sons and daughters of The Most High King, have every reason to show our Lord and Savior the worship He deserves, so why not do it every day? David said in Psalm 119:164, *"Seven times a day I praise you for your righteous rules."* He praised God 7 times a day! Some times we can't even do 20 minutes on a Sunday morning, right? Church, the worship we bring on a Sunday morning should be the *overflow* of the worship we have been doing throughout the week; it should be spilling out when we gather on the Lord's Day. We shouldn't be filling an empty cup when we show up on Sunday.

I have mentioned that one of my favorite quotes is, *"Trying to genuinely worship publicly without having had significant times of private worship is like having the dry heaves. You're trying to bring up something that isn't there."* Lets no try to "heave" up worship that isn't there. Instead, let's worship in spirit and in truth so that we have an overflow that spills out over us in our day to day lives. Take the time this month to really work on your private worship. If we all worship individually, our time together on Sunday will be even more glorifying to God!

Our FBC Sanctuary Choir has started working on our Easter Cantata, *"This Is God."* We had the joy of presenting this cantata back in 2019 and it is still one of my favorite musicals we have done. It's full of wonderful songs and narration that takes us through the entire story of Christ's life. I can't wait to share this beautiful musical with you, church family! As always, the invitation to join the Choir is extended to everyone 7th grade and up!! No experience necessary just a passion to sing praises to our Heavenly Father. We meet Wednesday evenings at 7:00pm in the Carla G. Pennington Choral Suite right near the church offices. We hope you can join us!!

I am looking forward to what this month has in store!!

*Soli Deo Gloria,*  
Bro. Chuck

## CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

Happy New Year!

"I apologize for the accidental repeat of my Christmas thoughts last month. These are my thoughts on the turning of the calendar to the New Year that were meant to be included and I think they are still timely enough to share! "

*"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold the new has come." 2 Corinthians 5:17*

Nothing encourages a fresh start like a new year! I'm thankful that Christ has made me new and continues to remind His mercies are new every morning. It's easy to get stuck in our old ways, but I encourage all of us to consider some spiritual goals for this new year! Here are a few suggestions:

\*Put God first - what does this look like? Maybe we've been kidding ourselves in how we prioritize our lives. Is it possible there are some things that need to change in our schedules, finances, or service to God and others?

\*Learn to be content in all things- Philippians 4:11 reminds us to be content in all situations. Such peace can only be found in an abiding relationship with Christ. When He is all we need, circumstances around us can't change the hope and peace we find in Him.

\*Tech detox - This can look different for all of us. Perhaps you can lead your family in a tech-free week...maybe just not having tech at dinner time is a challenge. Whatever it might be, I think this could be a beneficial goal in the new year and leads to the next suggestion.

\*Be present in the moment - I need to make these my goals for the year as much as anyone. Putting down the phone and turning off the tv are great starts to being present in the moments we've been given. For those of us that have been reminded this year how quickly life can change, this one should come easy. For the rest of us, let it not take a life changing moment for us to appreciate the moments we have in front of us.

\*Spend more time outdoors- Learn to breathe deeply even in the cold winter air. Enjoy the changing of seasons and find beauty in them all. "The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of his hands. Day after day they pour forth speech; night after night they display knowledge. There is no speech or language where their voice is not heard." Psalm 19:1

Whatever your spiritual goals are for this year remember that God is always doing a new thing. He's not finished with us yet. We can begin this new year committed to leading our families and those around us to a deeper relationship with Christ, one that brings peace and contentment and the ability to see His goodness in all things!

Peace and joy,  
Kiley



### FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH STAFF

BRAD BANKS — PASTOR

CHUCK HARRIS — WORSHIP & MEDIA PASTOR

YOUTH PASTOR — ROSS FORD

DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN'S MINISTRY—KILEY BLAIR

SUSAN STOWE — MINISTRY ASSISTANT



# February

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
 <p><b>“And you must love the Lord your God with all your heart” (Deuteronomy 6:5).</b></p>				1	2	3
4 9:00 and 11:00 a.m. Morning Services 10:00-11:00 a.m. Sunday School  6:30 p.m. Evening Service 7:30 p.m. Deacons	5  6:30 p.m. Volleyball	6	7 10:00 a.m. Manna in the Morning  5:30 p.m. Trustees  6:30 p.m. Mid-Week Service/Business Meeting 6:30 p.m. Main Street Youth 6:30 Mission Friends 7:00 p.m. Choir	8  7:00 p.m. Worship Band Meeting	9	10
11 9:00 and 11:00 a.m. Morning Services 10:00-11:00 a.m. Sunday School  Noon Valentine Luncheon	12  6:30 p.m. Volleyball	13	14 10:00 a.m. Manna in the Morning  6:30 p.m. Midweek Service  6:30 p.m. Main Street Youth  6:30 p.m. Mission Friends/Valentine Party  7:00 p.m. Choir	15	16	17  Youth Ski Trip
18 9:00 and 11:00 a.m. Morning Services 10:00-11:00 a.m. Sunday School  4:00 p.m. Outreach 6:30 p.m. Evening	19  6:30 p.m. Volleyball	20	21 10:00 a.m. Manna in the Morning  6:30 p.m. Midweek Service  6:30 p.m. Main Street Youth  6:30 p.m. Mission Friends 7:00 p.m. Choir	22	23	24
25 9:00 and 11:00 a.m. Morning Services  10:00-11:00 a.m. Sunday School  4:00 p.m. Outreach  6:30 p.m. Evening Service  CAMP DEPOSITS DUE	26  6:30 p.m. Volleyball	27  Meeting the Needs 11:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.	28 10:00 a.m. Manna in the Morning  6:00 p.m. Family Night  6:45 p.m. Activities 7:00 p.m. Choir	29		

# february

BIRTHDAYS

<u>2/1</u> Mallory Craigmyle Joyce Utterback	<u>2/12</u> Dennis Miller Adam Patterson	<u>2/20</u> Andrea Perkins Ammon
<u>2/2</u> Jonathan Locker	Jessica Treece Brax Ward	<u>2/21</u> Kyle Riddle
<u>2/3</u> Kaleb Epperson Adam Green	<u>2/13</u> Bobby Cull, Jr. Chuck Gill	<u>2/22</u> Tim Craigmyle Linda Osborne
Becky Shryock Jimmy Sutherland	<u>2/15</u> Bruce Kingkade	<u>2/24</u> Ryan Perkins
<u>2/5</u> Don Allnutt, Jr.	Jodie Ransdell	Kevin Welsh
<u>2/6</u> Broox Ward	<u>2/16</u> Blake Duncan	<u>2/25</u> Debbie Parker
<u>2/7</u> Krissy Locker	Megan Hearn	<u>2/26</u> Waylon Locker
<u>2/9</u> Dave Stowe Khloe Welsh	<u>2/18</u> Crystal Lilly	Ty Smith
<u>2/10</u> Luke Hanson	Beverly Marcum	<u>2/28</u> Haisley Cammack
<u>2/11</u> Kelly Gamble	Carol Wooten	Bradley Rose
	<u>2/19</u> Jenny Cobb	Zayden Rose
	Donna Gregory	Ronnie Wooten
	Megan Harris	<u>2/29</u> Chip Colee
	Danielle Stephens	Kendall Lilly

## FEBRUARY VOLUNTEERS

### NURSERY VOLUNTEERS

2/4: Mitzi Ford  
2/11: Karen Wash  
2/18: Gabi Welsh  
2/25: Kelsey Gognat

### CHILDREN'S CHURCH

2/4: Brian Blair  
2/11: Lindsay Smith  
2/18: Rae Gina and Meleah Beatty  
2/25: Blair Baldwin

### Memorials

Wanda Mills—Billy and Janice Riddle

Ethel Kincaid—Dave and Susan Stowe

Return Service Requested

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