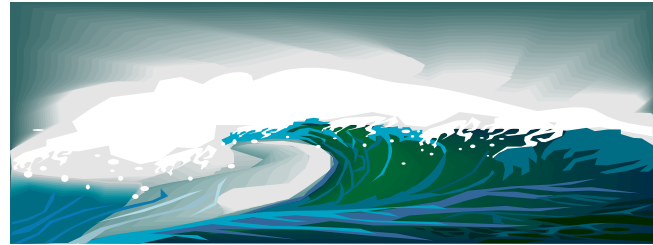




The *January 2018*  
**Anchor**



We have this hope, a sure and steadfast anchor of the soul...Heb.6:19a

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During this Christmas season many familiar carols have been sung and enjoyed by our congregation. Most of what we sing reflects our prayers of what we hope for and envision for our futures.

This is most common as we approach a New Year. What are you hoping for and praying about? What lessons can we take with us into the New Year? On the street, *Merry Christmas!* is now replaced with *Happy New Year!* I cannot think of any way to make it happier than to fall into a deeper relationship with Jesus Christ, the King of Kings and Lord of Lords.

I find comfort in knowing that *one day every knee shall bow for the second coming of Jesus Christ*. Many times we refer to the baby New Year. Jesus explained to Nicodemus that he must be born again. What does this mean? Jesus was talking about a spiritual rebirth. *This rebirth can happen at any time; however it must be desired and sought.*

So what is your New Year's resolution? There are many worthwhile ones from which to choose. Getting physically more fit, stopping a bad habit, ***but the most important is walking with a firmer grip, hand in hand with Jesus Christ.*** There are many people who just don't feel worthy or they just don't take time to think of their relationship with Jesus.

One great New Year's resolution would be to become more inviting to those people who are unchurched. At FBC we have a great church family. A family to be proud of which is doing many things right in advancing the message of love and friendship. People will want to be a part of something when they see it making a positive difference in the world around them. Are you making a positive difference in the life of a friend, co-worker etc.? Let's be excited about this baby New Year with all its potential. I think it is easier to share Christ with people in which you have things in common. Take advantage of these inroads and be sure your friends know you are a Christian.

Within walking distance of our church we most likely can find many people in need. Many simply just need to be noticed. Our church has a wonderful card ministry, take time to send a card to someone recovering from a recent surgery or illness. FBC has special outreach with its CommUnity Kitchen. This is a ministry in need of volunteers and there are blessings waiting to be realized for those who volunteer in this effort.

2018, like any year, is experienced one day at a time. **Serving Christ together, let's be all Christ intended each of us to be.** A body has many parts which performs many tasks. If not for the tiny muscle that lifts the eyelid we would not be able to see. The church body is much the same. *As your new year matures, be sure to take full advantage of opportunities to serve in the advancement of His kingdom here on earth.*

*Happy New Year!*

*Pastor Mark*



The New Year is a reminder of a new and better way forward. *When I think of the New Year, I think of the power of forgiveness and a re-do in life when we accept Jesus as our Lord. I've never found anyone who says, "last year was great and there's no way this one will be better". In fact it's almost always, "I hope next year is better".*

We can make next year better and more spiritual if we want. It's not hard like losing weight or quitting smoking. *It's simply agreeing to put God in the forefront of our lives. Here's what we can do: We can pledge to pray more, read our Bibles more, invite people to church more, pledge to serve more than be served, and to love more this year than last year. These are pretty simple things that have a tremendous return on investment in our walk with Jesus. **The Holy Spirit empowers us to be the light of the world.***

As parents and grandparents we are the Bible that our kids read. They see us every day. Are we genuine in our walk? When we fall, do we demonstrate how we say we are sorry to the Lord and press on?

**As we move into 2018 I challenge each of you to let your light shine before your kids.** Let them hear your goals for including God in your life. Ask them what *they* can do to have a closer walk with the Lord in 2018.

These conversations are extremely valuable. Don't miss the opportunities the New Year allows for talking to your kids about Jesus and what they think they can do more of to honor him.

As far as youth groups, I want to thank you all for allowing your kids to be involved in our youth programs. ***For those of you who volunteered your time last year to help our youth programs in any way, I want to say thank you!*** It's means so much. You may not get much recognition on Earth for what you're doing, but in heaven they are taking note.

Please consider volunteering for the nursery, junior church, and youth programs. ***You don't have to be a theologian, just someone who loves kids and the Lord. It's not hard, just let your light shine.***

In His service,

**Pastor Toby**