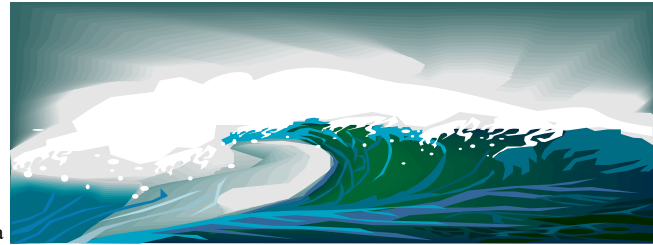




The *January 2024*
Anchor

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



Happy New Year! Can you believe that 2024 is here? I love the idea of the new year bringing about positive changes in people. How many of us set goals or resolutions for the new year? Statistics tell us that about 37% percent of Americans make resolutions or set goals for the new year. Most of the goals we set are secular in nature. It is about us wanting to lose weight, stop smoking or cursing, saving more money, or perhaps to just have a healthier new year. Sometimes we focus on traditions like cooking silver coins in cabbage to bring wealth in the next year. Our family has done that. Regardless of how you celebrate the New Year, as a society, we look to bring about something positive in our lives. I think that's a noble idea. But, what if we got excited about seeing some spiritual improvements in our lives as much as we do the secular.

Maybe, we can resolve to attend church more regularly. Maybe, we can try to read our Bible more in the new year than we did last year. Or perhaps, we want to be more serious in our relationship with Jesus so our families can see the Holy Spirit living in each of us. I think as Christians we need to be prepared to capitalize on this season. Christmas, Easter and the New Year holidays make it easy to share your love of Christ with others. I think people expect it, so they are not as offended.

For those of us with family members who are not actively attending church somewhere, why not give them a simple invite to join us at First Baptist one Sunday, to start the New Year anew with Jesus in their lives. Having a renewed commitment to him and finding that greater sense of purpose in this life by loving God and loving others is a wonderful resolution to consider. In our church, my hope is that we all begin to think about others first. We are making some changes in the church that will help us remember to love and care for one another. Can we follow what the Scripture says in Philippians 2? *“Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves. Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others.”* Paul knew that by focusing on the needs and interests of others, the Christian could begin to love like God – and how He loves and cares for us.

I challenge you as a church member or friend of the church to let your love of the Lord and others shine forth in your life this new year. When other people are in your presence, do they see Jesus living in you? Do these other people want what you have? If we are loving the Lord the way we should be, then others can't help but see what the Lord is doing in our lives.

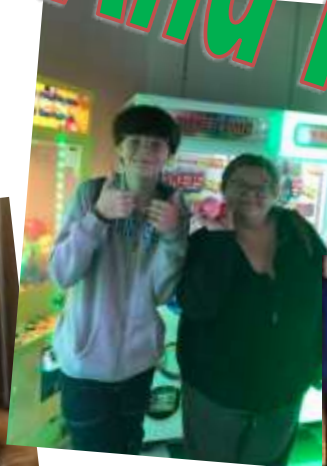
May we all find someone in our family or friend circle who needs to be back in church. May we reach them with honest and sincere love, that says why don't you come to church with me this Sunday. I was reading online that “82 percent of people say they would come to church if a friend invited them. But only 2% of Christians bother to invite someone.” What if our invite was exactly what someone was waiting for? If you invite someone to church, the worst thing that could happen is they say no. The best thing that could happen, is they say sure, let's go. We won't know for sure, unless we ask. When you ask, be sincere. Let them see you have no motivation other than love when asking. If they say no thanks, then you will know that you have done your part. You've planted a seed and the harvest awaits. This reminds me of a wonderful quote from Anne Frank. She wrote, “What a wonderful thought it is, that some of the best days of our lives haven't even happened yet.” May you all be happy and healthy in the new year. May you put Christ in the center of everything. May the best days for us and for the church be ahead in this season or renewal. Welcome 2024!

In His Service,
Pastor Toby

Youth Christmas!



And Fun!



God's Cadets Presents

Christmas



Great Times!



18-35



We Are



GROWING!!



Progressive Dinner



Celebrating Advent



This and That around FBC



For you history buffs, Kathy Hudson and Susan West represented FBC during the Tour of Old Town with a lesson of our beginnings.

The next day, they gave the same information to the church. Many new people were able to hear of our historic beginnings.



Jessica Haynes
Director of Hope House



Seth Noe
Hope Center

Deacon checks were given out in December to different areas of need. The Deacon's Fund was able to reach many thanks to the support of First Baptist people.



Tracy Hall
Glow Movement



Frank Nester
Jackson County
Special Olympics

Celebrating Christmas Eve



with Music



and Light!



Sights and Sounds



Around our Church



Movie Night



Friday January 5 @ 7:00
Free pizza, snacks and movie
Everyone is welcome!



Young adults and more are welcome to travel to Charleston Coliseum and Convention Center for this year's

WINTERJAM '24!

This year it will be Friday, January 26 starting at 7:00. (General Admission Entry is 6:00).

You'll hear:

Crowder
Hulvey
Cain
Katy Nicole
Seventh Day Slumber
NewSong
Tour Pastor Zane Black

Historian/Archivists Needed

This year we are beginning a challenge! We would like to have a group who are interested in gathering OLD notes, letters, minutes, pictures and information about our church to archive for the future of FBC.

If you are interested in spending time digging through records, reading about the lives of our past people, finding out about missions work done in years gone by, this is a project for you!

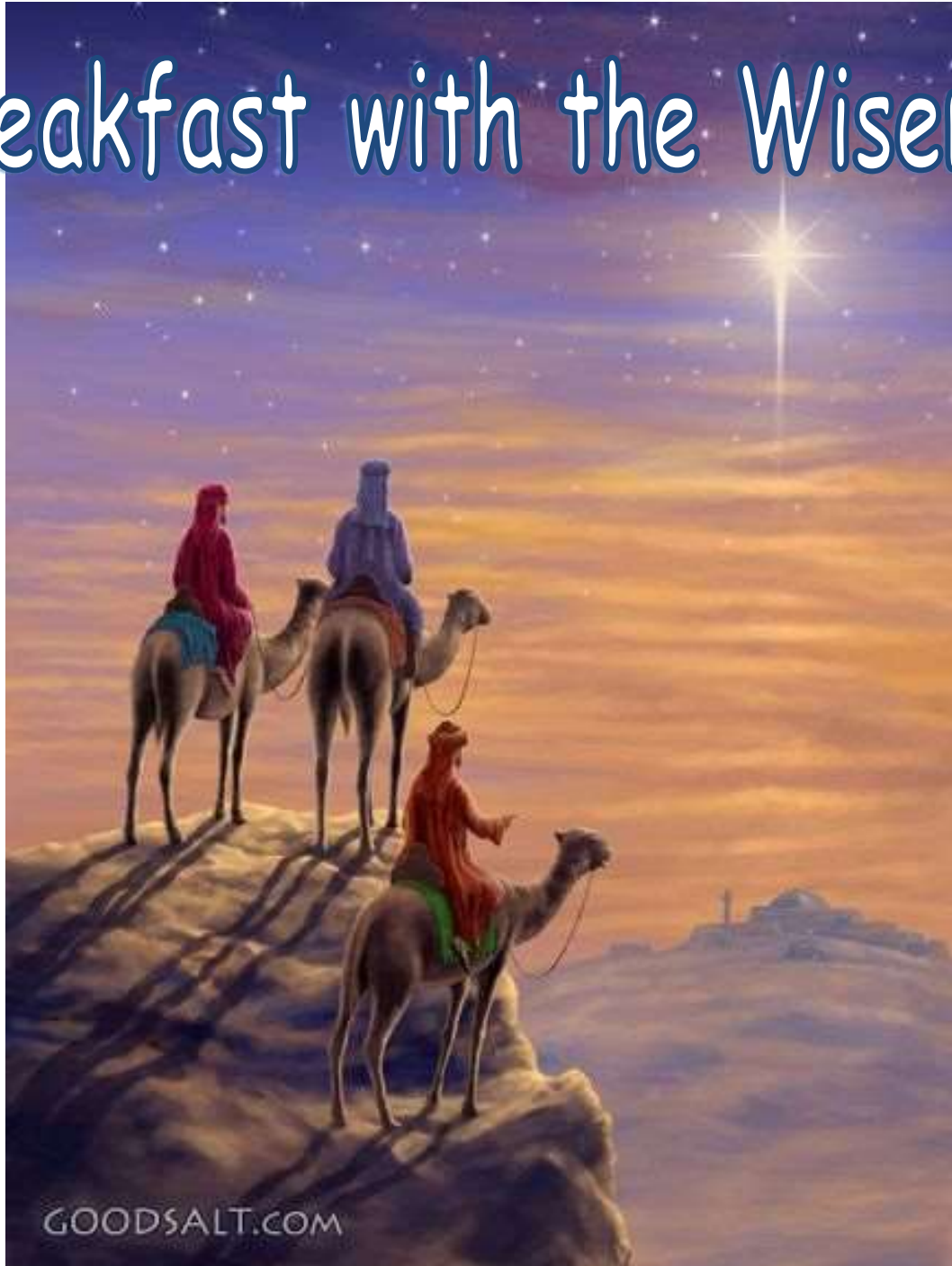
Please contact the office if you are interested. We hope to have 2 or more people who can organize and save our past for the future.

We hope to have a committee willing to meet and get started this January.



Come to

Breakfast with the Wisemen



Sunday January 7 at 9:30 a.m.

Everyone is WELCOME

New officer installation held



New officer installation was held on December 31 for those who take office January 1. Please keep our church and those in positions through out in prayer as they serve the Lord and FBC during the coming year.



Ending with Prayer

FBC and the community were once again given the opportunity to end the year of 2023 with prayer.

Lights were low and soft Christmas music played to those who wished to come in and quietly talk to the Lord.

Focus on Sunday School:



Be Assured

Did you ever think about how strong God is? Can anything grab us from Him once we belong to Him?

I love Romans 8:38-39. It very definitely, without any doubts, tells what can't separate us from God.

- Death can't
- Life can't
- Angels can't
- Places can't
- Powers of any kind can't
- Current things can't
- Future things can't
- Nothing high can
- Nothing low can
- No creature on earth can

Wow! That covers everything - earthly, spiritually and timewise!

Become one with the Lord in Christ Jesus this year and nothing can separate you from His love.

*It's amazing what you can learn in
Sunday School!
9:30 a.m.*

January Birthdays



- Ryley Thompson 1/6**
Blake Bennett 1/7
Matt King 1/11
Jennifer Wagoner 1/14
Deb Lyons 1/14
Belinda Rader 1/16
Pam Balsler 1/17
Lisa Hoke 1/19
Jaz Morgan 1/21
Destiny Thomas 1/24

**If your birthday is missing,
please let Susan know.**

Bible Book of the Month

Romans



January Calendar

- Jan 1 Happy New Year!
 Jan 4 Deaconess Meeting
 Jan 5 Movie Night
 Jan 7 Breakfast with the Wisemen
 Jan 8 BOCE; Trustee Meetings
 Jan 9 Men's Fellowship
 Jan 10 Annual Reports Due
 Jan 14 Sanctity of Life
 Jan 16 Financial Committee Meeting
 Jan 17 Annual Business Meeting
 Jan 18 CIRCLE
 Jan 23 Deacons Meeting
 Jan 26 Trip to Winterjam Christian Concert

* Game Day every Thursday 1:00-3:00 (not on holidays)

CommUnity Kitchen

- Jan 6 Burt Lyons**
Jan 13 Talia & Grace
Jan 20 NEED VOLUNTEER
Jan 27 Sherry Walker

CHURCH PRAYER CALENDAR

Prayer for our fellow members is an important part of our relationship with the Lord and helps us to grow closer as a church family. Each day during this month there is a different individual or family that you are asked to include in your prayers.



January 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 Jason & Leigh Ann Kerns, Mason, Logan	2 Matt & Kristi King, Landon, Nat	3 Steve & Rachelle Laing, Colt	4 Randy & Sami Lawson, Jocelyn Trey	5 Debbie Legg	6 Pam & Wayne Legg, Josh
7 Tom & Susan Lookabaugh	8 Burt & Deb Lyons	9 Philip Lyons	10 Greg & Rhonda Lyons, Cameron, Kyler	11 Peg Lyons	12 Tara Mackerley, Lucas	13 Talia Martinez
14 Richard & Phyllis Massey	15 Robert McCauley	16 Brad & Donna McCoy	17 Charlotte McCoy	18 Nancy McCoy	19 Fred & Robin McGoskey	20 Adam McGoskey, Taylor
21 Seth & Lauren McGoskey, Tyler, Hadley, Kian, Cole	22 Teresa McKown	23 Cassandra McKown	24 Carolyn Mellinger	25 Don & Phyllis Michael	26 Daryl & Roberta Miller	27 Ben & Christie Mize
28 Joshua Mize	29 David & Mary Jo Moore, Hunter	30 Jon & Jane Moore	31 Eugene & Jessica Morgan, Jaz, Aid- en			

