

After the Tapestry of Light program, our guests enjoyed lots of Christmas treats.



THE INTERIM

Volume 76 Issue 1

January 6, 2019

From the Pastor...

Happy New Year! I hope it is a very pleasant and prosperous year for each and every one of our First Baptist families. May God give us all the strength to follow through with our New Year's resolutions. I'm excited about the great things God has ahead for our church as we begin 2019.

This year our congregation is focusing on *Growing Young*. That doesn't mean those of us with a little age on us aren't important. Each and every person is vital to our ministry. What it does mean is that we're making a conscious effort to reach out to younger people as well.

Growing Young is actually an emphasis developed by Fuller Theological Seminary. Researchers there have spent years looking at the best practices of congregations who are reaching younger people. Our church is part of a North Carolina cohort of a dozen select congregations who will work together to develop skills for drawing younger folks into church life.

Before you get too worried about any radical change, let me share with you what *Growing Young* is NOT. It is not about following the latest trend or trying to be the coolest church. It is not about a new worship style or being the most entertaining congregation. Instead of just changing "what we do," *Growing Young* encourages us to change "how we relate."

Growing Young is all about authenticity and relationships – two key elements young people crave and our faith offers. It is about taking our own faith more seriously and being open to sharing our faith more practically. It is about understanding how young people experience life and offering them companionship and guidance in a crazy world.

Over the next few weeks we will be using our Wednesday night time together to discuss the view points of young people today and how we might better relate the gospel to them. I'm especially encouraging our youth and younger adults to be present to share their stories directly. In fact, Justin and our youth will lead several of the evenings.

Here are some of the topics we will explore in *Growing Young*:

January 9, 2019 – Empathize with Today's Young People

- Understanding the challenges of younger folks today
- "Why 25 is the new 15, and 15 is the new 25"

January 16, 2019 – Unlock Keychain Leadership

- Getting younger people more involved
- "How to share power with the right people at the right time"

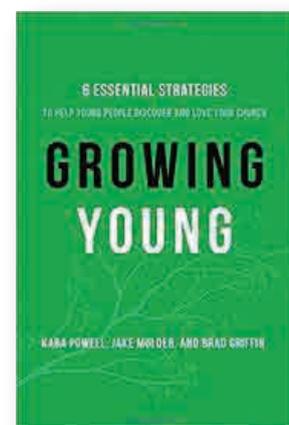
January 23, 2019 – Take Jesus' Message Seriously

- Discipleship is key to every generation
- "What's Young about the Good News"

January 30, 2019 – Fuel a Warm Community

- Fellowship is more than a meal
- "Warm is the New Cool"

...continued on page 3



Schedule

Sunday, January 6

9:00 a.m. Sunday School for all ages
 10:00 a.m. Worship in Sanctuary
 4:00 p.m. Venture Voices
 5:00 p.m. Venture Students

Monday, January 7

9:00 a.m. Prayer in Sanctuary

Tuesday, January 8

10:015 Sewing Group
 6:00 p.m. Precept Bible Study

Wednesday, January 9

9:30 a.m. Precept Bible Study
 2:30 p.m. Wonderful Wednesday After School Program
 5:00 p.m. Family Night Meal
 6:00 p.m. Activities for Children & Students
 6:00 p.m. Adult Bible Study
 7:00 p.m. Sanctuary Choir Practice

Thursday, January 10

1:00 p.m. Clothes Closet

Sunday, January 13

9:00 a.m. Sunday School for all ages
 10:00 a.m. Worship in Sanctuary
 4:00 p.m. Venture Voices
 5:00 p.m. Venture Students

Monday, January 14

9:00 a.m. Prayer in Sanctuary

Tuesday, January 15

10:15 a.m. Sewing Group
 6:00 p.m. Precept Study

Wednesday, January 16

2:30 p.m. Wonderful Wednesday After School Program
 5:00 p.m. Family Night Meal
 6:00 p.m. Activities for Children & Students
 6:00 p.m. Adult Bible Study
 7:00 p.m. Sanctuary Choir Practice

Thursday, January 17

1:00 p.m. Clothes Closet

HAPPY NEW YEAR

2019

Church Staff Directory

Dr. Nelson Granade.....Senior Minister
 Mr. James Martin.....Minister of Music & Worship
 Ms. Melissa Wilson.....Minister of Children & Families
 Dr. Larry Gregg.....Minister of Christian Education & Administration
 Rev. Justin Cox.....Minister to Students
 Mr. Eddie Wiseman.....Accompanist / Music Assistant

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FLC Activities Schedule

Monday, January 7

9:00 a.m. Pickleball
 11:45 a.m. Linedancers

Tuesday, January 8

7:00 p.m. Men's Basketball

Wednesday, January 9

8:00 a.m. Pickleball
 2:30 p.m. Wonderful Wednesday After-School Program
 5:00 p.m. Family Night Meal
 6:00 p.m. Activities for Children & Students
 6:00 p.m. Adult Bible Study
 7:00 p.m. Sanctuary Choir Practice

Thursday, January 10

9:00 a.m. Pickleball
 1:00 p.m. Clothes Closet
 7:00 p.m. Senior Men's Basketball

Friday, January 11

11:45 a.m. Linedancers

Monday, January 14

9:00 a.m. Pickleball
 11:45 a.m. Linedancers

Tuesday, January 15

7:00 p.m. Men's Basketball

Wednesday, January 16

8:00 a.m. Pickleball
 2:30 p.m. Wonderful Wednesday After-School Program
 5:00 p.m. Family Night Meal
 6:00 p.m. Activities for Children & Students
 6:00 p.m. Adult Bible Study
 7:00 p.m. Sanctuary Choir Practice

Thursday, January 17

9:00 a.m. Pickleball
 1:00 p.m. Clothes Closet
 7:00 p.m. Senior Men's Basketball

Friday, January 18

11:45 a.m. Linedancers

Spiritual Statistics

Weeks of December 23 & 30, 2018

	12/23	12/30
Church in Bible Study	117.	134
Church in Worship.	208.	203
Christmas Eve Service.		256

Financial Statistics

	December	Year-to-Date
Giving Goal	158,165.00	296,999.00
Budget Receipts	156,904.00	254,718.00
Needed to Meet Goal	1,261.00	42,281.00
Alms	816.00	1,947.00
Designated	18,652.00	42,363.00

From the Pastor...

(continued from page 1)

February 6, 2019 – Prioritize Young People (and Families) Everywhere

- People go where they know they are welcome and wanted
- “From Rhetoric to Reality”

February 13, 2019 – Be the Best Neighbors

- Jesus unquestionably linked faith and caring for neighbor
- “Loving and Shaping Your World”

February 20, 2019 – Creating a Plan for Change

- What are we doing right?
- What can we do better?

February 27, 2019 – Implementing our Plan

- Where to from here?
- What will you do?

The most important thing about *Growing Young* will be our attitude. Jesus became flesh that he might show us the way to salvation. To reach younger people we can't just invite them to be a part of our world, we must understand and enter their world as well. *Growing Young* is an exciting possibility for the future of First Baptist Church!



A Prayer for the New Year

(Written by Billy Graham for the Saturday Evening Post in 2008)

Our Father and our God, as we stand at the beginning of this new year we confess our need of Your presence and Your guidance as we face the future.

We each have our hopes and expectations for the year that is ahead of us—but You alone know what it holds for us, and only You can give us the strength and the wisdom we will need to meet its challenges. So help us to humbly put our hands into Your hand, and to trust You and to seek Your will for our lives during this coming year.

In the midst of life's uncertainties in the days ahead, assure us of the certainty of Your unchanging love.

In the midst of life's inevitable disappointments and heartaches, help us to turn to You for the stability and comfort we will need. In the midst of life's temptations and the pull of our stubborn self-will, help us not to lose our way but to have the courage to do what is right in Your sight, regardless of the cost.

And in the midst of our daily preoccupations and pursuits, open our eyes to the sorrows and injustices of our hurting world, and help us to respond with compassion and sacrifice to those who are friendless and in need. May our constant prayer be that of the ancient Psalmist: “Teach me, O Lord, to follow your decrees; then I will keep them to the end” (Psalm 119:33).

We pray for our nation and its leaders during these difficult times, and for all those who are seeking to bring peace and justice to our dangerous and troubled world. We pray especially for Your protection on all those who serve in our armed forces, and we thank You for their commitment to defend our freedoms, even at the cost of their own lives. Be with their families also, and assure them of Your love and concern for them.

Bring our divided nation together, and give us a greater vision of what You would have us to be. Your Word reminds us that “Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord” (Psalm 33:12).

As we look back over this past year we thank You for Your goodness to us—far beyond what we have deserved. May we never presume on Your past goodness or forget all Your mercies to us, but may they instead lead us to repentance, and to a new commitment to make You the foundation and center of our lives this year.

And so, our Father, we thank You for the promise and hope of this new year, and we look forward to it with expectancy and faith. This I ask in the name of our Lord and Savior, who by His death and resurrection has given us hope both for this world and the world to come.

Amen.



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Announcements

Precept Bible Study Begins January 8 & 9

"Revelation Part 2, Unveiling the Book of Revelation (Chapters 4-22)" will begin Tuesday, January 8, 6:00-8:00 p.m., and Wednesday, January 9, 9:30-11:30 a.m. You may sign up at the Welcome Center now. If you have always wanted to understand Revelation, now is your time. The class discussion and video make understanding it much easier; plus, by doing the homework, you will learn to discover Bible truth for yourself. If you did not take Revelation Part 1, no worries! We will do a review of chapters 1-3 to bring you up to speed. Please join us for this revelation of future events.

Senior Adult Luncheon

Thursday, January 17, 2018

Program: 11:00 a.m. & Lunch: 12:00 p.m.

The first program of the new year will feature musicians Clay Lunsford and Matthew Weaver. We have had them before and you know that you will be in for a special treat if you attend. Sign up by calling the church office at 704-873-7231 no later than 12:00 p.m. on Monday, January 14. You may also sign up in your Sunday School class on January 13 or when you receive a call from our volunteers. Cost of the meal is \$6.00.

Habitat for Humanity Day Saturday, January 12, 2019

Habitat for Humanity has asked our church for volunteers on January 12 to do punch list work and cleaning at 1115 Partnership Way. The work day will begin at 7:45 a.m. There will be a short safety talk and then tasks will be assigned. We should have everything accomplished at 12:00 or 1:00 p.m. If you would like to volunteer, please call David Potter at 704-657-7227.

Senior Adult Trip

Rescheduled for Tuesday, January 29, 2019

We have some extra tickets to the Wohlfahrt Haus Dinner Theatre to see a hilarious musical comedy entitled NUNSENSE AMEN!! Please see Loy Devine or Gale Hall or call Gale at 704-873-4029 to reserve a seat.

CBF Misson Bites

Bite 111: What church is really about

"We recently had an opportunity to visit an international church that meets just a few subway stops away from our neighborhood. We thought it would be good to sing songs and hear a sermon in English.

While it was nice to meet other Westerners, and our daughter Juniper definitely enjoyed English Sunday school, we really missed our Chinese brothers and sisters that we normally meet with each Sunday.

Even though our Chinese fellowship is in another language (which is certainly a challenge), we really feel that we can worship and grow in our faith with our Chinese church family.

Church is about more than singing and hearing sermons. It is about the beloved community of believers coming together to share the love and transformation of God in our lives and the world. We are thankful to have the opportunity to witness God's love through our Chinese fellowship.

We are so glad that after a year of being here, we have such close bonds with our Chinese church. We are amazed at how it feels like returning home to be back with our Chinese brothers and sisters each Sunday."

- Brittney and Casey Ramirez, field personnel serving in Chengdu, China

Bite: 112: Who is this Jesus?

"Who is this Jesus?" Ahmet asked us curiously last Christmas. An honest, open question about our joy because of Christ's birth.

Ahmet had escaped the war in Syria, and he and his family are living in a foreign land. The love of Jesus for children, and our joy and celebration of Jesus' birth, had aroused his curiosity.

We love, love, love to answer this question, especially in this land where Christianity is discouraged. Our outreach and relief work with Syrian refugees has allowed us to share real hope with them.

Suffer the little children, and forbid them not to come unto me; for of such is the kingdom of heaven. Matthew 19:14

- CBF field personnel serving in the Middle East