

The Messenger

First Baptist Church

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Non-Profit Organization

U.S. Postage

Permit #1

Hemingway, SC 29554

Pastor: Larry Zaky

Minister of Music & Ed: Ashley Adams

January 2019

Office Closed

The Church Office will be closed on Monday, December 31st and Tuesday, January 1st due to the observance of the New Year.

Winterfest

Please be in prayer for the youth and the chaperones as they attend **WinterFest** in Lynchburg, VA December 30th – January 1st. Pray that they will draw closer to the Lord, draw closer as a group and for safe travels!

Angel Choir & Mission Groups Resume

Sunday, January 6th at 5:00pm

The children will kick their activities back off! We invite your children to join us for Angel Choir and GA's!

Senior Adults

Tuesday, January 8th at 11:00am

This will be the Senior Adults monthly meeting. Everyone 55 and up is invited to attend!

Business Meeting

Wednesday, January 9th at 7:00pm

If you are a ministry or committee head please have your report ready to present at this meeting.

WMU Groups

Monday, January 14th

The Scripture Search Group will meet at 10:00am in the Parlor and the Current Missions Group will meet in 6:00pm in the Fellowship Hall.

Brotherhood

Monday, January 21st at 7:00pm

This will be the men's monthly meeting. Men and boys of all ages are invited to attend!

M-Fuge Deposit

We are happy to announce that the youth trip to M-Fuge June 17-21, 2019 is FULL! We have 16 youth and 4 chaperones going! The first M-Fuge deposit of \$50 is due on Wednesday, January 23rd.

Please note that their first fundraiser will be at Schoolhouse BBQ in Scranton on Saturday, February 9th.

Baptist Men's Day

Sunday, January 27th at 11:00am

Join us as the men lead us in worship! We'll have more details to you soon!

Summer Missions

Please pray about joining us for one of our **mission trips** next summer! See Larry for more details!

Parammas, Guatemala – June 22-29, 2019

Oak Hill, West Virginia – July 6-11, 2019

Operation Christmas Child

We are beginning our year-long OCC project once again and we are so excited! The goal is to fill 198 boxes again. For the month of January, we will be collecting soap and washcloths. Please place your items in the box with the OCC logo on it!

And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, may have power, together with all the Lord's holy people, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, and to know this love that surpasses knowledge—that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God.

Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen.

Ephesians 3:17b-21

 **Thoughts from Your Pastor**

 *A Note From Ashley* 

Well, it's that time of year again as we look at the beginning of 2019. I know that January and New Year's Day rolls around every year. I often find myself experiencing a certain excitement and expectancy. It may just be the sense of starting over or maybe it's the idea of a new beginning coupled with the prospect of things being better. Somehow the beginning of a new year seems to bring out a kind of renewed hopefulness. Unfortunately, as we all know, that excitement and expectancy usually doesn't last more than a few months at best.

However, as Christians, we have more cause for hope than anyone. Jesus has promised us His presence (Matt.28:20), His peace (John 14:27), His provision (Matt.6:33; Phil.4:19), and His power (Acts 1:8). Therefore, we of all people, ought to look forward to this new year, knowing that our heavenly Father means us good, not evil.

New Year's Day is traditionally a day of making resolutions. These resolutions usually relate to things that will better us in some way. We all have good intentions while making them, but we often fail to follow through. Let me suggest a few things that are far more vital and serious than the usual self-help resolutions we see so much of this time of year. To be quite honest, most of our resolutions are humanly unobtainable if one depends on willpower alone.

Let me suggest some admirable spiritual goals for 2019: (1) develop a passion for lost souls. People need the Lord. Many, many people don't know Christ as their Savior. We have been given a most wonderful, life-saving message. If we don't share it with the world, who will? (2) We need to love and cherish God's Word. We should have a natural or habitual tendency to read and study the Bible. (3) We should progress in our spirituality. We need to be more Christlike as people, to be more Christlike in our actions, and to be more Christlike in our perspectives.

My prayer is that our Holy Father will hear our prayers, allow us to seek His face, and experience His presence and power in our lives this coming year as we have never done so before. May Jesus be more real, more loving, and more personal than ever before in your life in 2019. And may we worship Christ in the fullness that He intended. "So that you will walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, to please Him in all respects, bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God" (Col. 1:10).

Larry



Recently I read a devotion on the *Our Daily Bread* app and the word "acknowledge" leapt off the screen. It's a word I'm well acquainted with especially in light of one of my favorite passages, Proverbs 3:5-6, "Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways *acknowledge* Him, and He will make your paths straight" (emphasis mine). What does this word really mean though? Acknowledge, a verb, means to admit to be real or true; recognize the existence, truth, or fact of; to show or express recognition or realization of; to recognize the authority, validity, or claims of. When we acknowledge before others we are in essence telling the world that we believe in the Person, power and presence of God. We believe He is who He says He is and we have chosen to come under His authority. To acknowledge God in every avenue of our lives is so important because it serves as a testimony to others. Yet, so often we take the credit. We are prone to acknowledge ourselves and all that entails – our gifts, our time, our money, our careers, our family and so on. When we do this we are telling the world that we matter most. We become the purveyors of our own destiny, not Christ. As we dawn on 2019 I challenge you (and myself too!) to find ways to acknowledge God in everything you do. How do we do this? We do this by making a habit of giving Him thanks. "...always giving thanks to God for everything in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ" (Ephesians 5:20). Thank Him for every blessing He has given to you and for always knowing what is best in our lives. When giving thanks becomes a habit you will acknowledge Him more and more in your daily life. You'll come under His authority more, eager to do what He desires of you. The world around you will take notice and wonder what has changed. It becomes the perfect opportunity to tell them about Christ. Happy New Year! <><

Facts & Figures for December

(Does not reflect December 30th)

- Avg. Sunday School.....86
- Avg. Morning Service.....124
- Avg. Discipleship Training...28
- Avg. Evening Service.....96
- Avg. Budget Offering.....\$10,985.64
- Avg. Designations Offering...\$1500.00