

The Good News Letter

A bimonthly publication of
First Baptist Church Gaston

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Getting a Fresh S.T.A.R.T. in the New Year

We all will be looking at numerous ways to start 2016 differently than 2015. We made resolutions in January 2015 that by February were long forgotten. What makes us think that 2016 will be any different? Rev. Jim Mooney developed the following acrostic that I would like to use as a challenge to each of us for 2016.

Stop Making Excuses – Proverbs 28:13 – A man who refuses to admit his mistakes can never be successful. But if he confesses and forsakes them, he gets another chance. It is so easy to blame people, lack of time, etc. for our failures in 2015. Let's look at our lives and admit to the Lord our failures in 2015. This will allow us to have a fresh start for 2016.

Take an Inventory of Your Life – 2 Corinthians 13:5 – Examine yourselves as to whether you are in the faith. As you read this article, let me ask you, do you really know beyond a shadow of a doubt that you know Christ as your Saviour? If not receive Him today.

Act in Faith – Matthew 9:29 – "According to your faith let it be to you." Will you with me believe God for great things for First Baptist Church of Gaston for 2016?

Refocus – Philippians 3:13 – ...but one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward to those things which are ahead... There are some things we need to forget that took us down in 2015. We need to reach forward because we cannot change the past. But we can let Christ be our guide for 2016.

Trust – 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 shall direct your paths. I am excited about the prospects for each of us in this New Year! What are you willing to trust Him for?

—Pastor Larry



Coming Sunday Nights—Learning From the Hymns

January 10 – ***“HOLY, HOLY, HOLY”*** – This hymn has been sung in churches since the 1800's. What does “holy” mean? Why is “holy” repeated three times? Revelation 4:1-11

January 17 – ***“AMAZING GRACE”*** – One of the most popular hymns of all times. Grace changes lives and empowers us to live beyond fears and troubles. Why is “grace” amazing? How is fear changed by “grace”? Psalm 118:1-14

January 24 – ***“HAVE THINE OWN WAY, LORD”*** - This song was written by a discouraged missionary. It has become an abiding prayer of yielding to the Lord. The writer's words teach us we are clay in the potter's hand. Why is God depicted as a potter? What is the first step in surrendering to the Lord? Psalm 51:1-19

February 7 – ***“IT IS WELL WITH MY SOUL”*** – This hymn was written by a man who experienced great personal loss and was still able to exalt the Lord. This hymn encourages us to praise God whatever our circumstances may be. Can we really say, “It Is Well with My Soul” when the bottom falls out of life? Psalm 42:1-11 (Continued on back cover)

January 2016

A NEW YEAR BRINGS
NEW OPPORTUNITIES FOR SERVICE!

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 Brandi Knight Danny Morrow Pam Spires Office Closed	2 Traci Rish Sally Rogers-Hicks
3 Erika Browning Stephen Dittmar Peggy Willard	4 Jamie Austin Aaron Lewis Christina Dawkins Dickie Moseley ♥James & Patti Edge Deacon Meeting 6:30 PM	5	6 Hope Brock Heather Harmon- Beck Spiritual Warriors Luncheon 11:30 All Mission Groups 7:00 PM	7 Tiffney French Ryan Murtaugh Jo Lynn Phillips	8 Shannon Edwards Wendell Stabler	9 Lynn Barber Jerry Barwick Jacob Cooper
10 Danny Duncan Erin Houghten Bobby Spires Madison Whitaker ♥Terry & Sandra Pound	11 Joe Corder Sandra Poole Amber Whitaker	12 Brittany Burns Sandy Drawdy	13 Clyde Hagood, Jr. Carol Murray Debra Sharpe Prayer Service Youth, GAs, RAs & Mission Friends 7:00 PM	14 Virginia Gantt Clara Thomas Samantha White Jennifer Young	15 Crystal Robinson	16 Dean Gregory
17 ♥Lonnie & Vickie Koon	18 Nick Cross Women On Mission Meeting 6:30	19	20 Davis Austen Kathleen Johnson Carolyn Kendrick Steven Kirkland Sherri Wood Prayer Service/ Conference Youth, GAs, RAs & Mission Friends 7:00 PM	21 Allan Snyder ♥T. W. & Cheryl Reynolds	22 Jeffrey Bryan Winter Emert Jordan Sightler Alison St.Clair	23 Eugene Carson
24 Jason Altman Troy Bivins Christian Brock William Painter	25 Amanda Galloway Marvin Pound, Jr. Harvey Reynolds Megan Sproul	26 Arnold Corne Sandra Jones	27 Thomas Baker Patricia Hayes Peggy Mills Prayer Service Youth, GAs, RAs & Mission Friends 7:00 PM	28	29 Kim Gardner Beverly Gibbs Buddy Harley	30 James Bond Stacy Painter Jared Poole
31 Darlene Conn Marian Fallaw Jake Rish Jim Thomas	<h1>Happy New Year</h1>					

February 2016



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 Jessica Dowd John Hayes Ida Alice Redmond Shelby Rollison Deacon Meeting 6:30	2 Jack Easterling Tony Miller John Morrow	3 Cathy Clark Carol Furtick Bucky Jeffcoat David Spires Tresha Ayer Towell Emma Lee Dowd Spiritual Warriors Luncheon 11:30 All Mission Groups 7:00 PM	4 Matthew Barfield Frankie Morey Jewel Sharpe Carla Sightler	5 Candice Whitaker	6 Tyler Moore
7	8 Lucille Goff David Hildebrand Charlie Miles Theodore Skinner, Jr.	9 Kayla Dowd Matthew Frownfelter Lonnie Koon Rickey Vick	10 Chris Goff Brandon Huseby Dustin Lemon Robert Whitaker Prayer Service Youth, GAs, RAs, & Mission Friends 7:00 PM	11 Celeste Haigwood Michale Hart Joyce Lucas Matt Pound	12 Edward Harsey	13 Jackie Hart Dustin Hicks Sandra Pound Megan Rawlinson Mark Snyder ♥Bryan & Carrie Knight Valentine Banquet
14 Ronald Farmer Hope Johnson Anita Nelson Mandy Nelson William Whittington Oliver Willard ♥Allen & Traci Rish	15 Donavan Bennett Belinda Clark Elizabeth Fallaw Pat Finley Shawn King Lauren Rish Landon Stabler Women On Mission Meeting 6:30	16 Kay Joseph Lisa Pound ♥James & Vanessa McIver	17 Alexandra Peake Teddy Skinner ♥Jay & Gloria Sharpe Prayer Service/ Conference Youth, GAs, RAs, & Mission Friends 7:00 PM	18	19 Kelly Beasley Lucy Whitaker Benjamin Young	20 Natalie Bobbitt Cathy Mcilwain Robert Morey Nancy Shuler Valerie Yow
21 Helen King Becky Reynolds	22 ♥Michael & Becky Bryan ♥Dwain & Rhonda Smith	23 Michael Bryan Janet Daniels Mia Henderson Johnny Knowlton Charlie Lee Connie Salyer Casey Whetsell	24 Joey Smith Mike Spradley ♥Jim & Michelle Cox Prayer Service Youth, GAs, RAs, & Mission Friends 7:00 PM	25 David Gooldy Lynda Guy Tasha Mack Michelle Mathers	26 Nolyn Bozard Phillip Spires Amanda White	27 Nicole Kirkland Rebekah Kuempel Louise Spradley
28 Will Reynolds	29 Rodney Moran			<div style="text-align: center;"> <p><i>Valentine Banquet!!</i></p> <p><i>Saturday, February 13</i></p> <p><i>\$10.00 Per Person</i></p> <p><i>Time, Menu & Entertainment to be Announced!</i></p> <p><i>Childcare will be provided.</i></p> </div>		

Music Ministry

Our own MEN OF FAITH will be doing a concert on Sunday night, January 31st at 6:00 PM here at First Baptist Gaston. You will not want to miss this time of worship through music!

Sympathy

Our deepest sympathy goes out to the Mary Jane Spires family. Miss Spires, one of our homebound members, passed away December 7. A private graveside memorial/burial service was held in the First Baptist Gaston cemetery. Miss Spires will be greatly missed.

Spiritual Warriors

Luncheons at 11:30 AM

January 6

&

February 3



Women on Mission

Meetings:

January 18

&

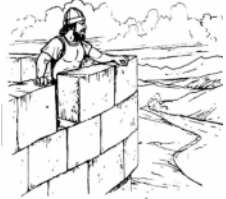
February 15

Watch the bulletins for more details!

Sunday School

The Watchman

Ezekiel 33 is one of my favorite chapters in the Bible. In this passage, God is tasking the prophet Ezekiel to be Israel's spiritual watchman. So what exactly does a watchman do? A watchman's job was pretty simple: stand on a city's wall or tower, keep watch on the surrounding area, and stay alert for the entirety of his shift. If the



watchman saw an enemy or danger approaching he would sound the alarm and the people had the opportunity to seek shelter within the walls of the city. If the watchman failed to sound the alarm or sounded it too late, the people would be exposed to the enemy or danger that approached. If he fell asleep on the job, it could cost him his own life.

How does this apply to Sunday School? Bible study is a time we can come together and learn how to be good watchmen. It isn't enough to just keep watch but we also need to know what we're watching out for. Do we recognize our enemy? More importantly, do we recognize our ally? Are we sounding the alarm when we see danger approaching? The less time we spend in God's Word both daily and together as a church body, the more likely we are to fall asleep on our watch and expose ourselves and the people around us to the enemy's advances.

Let's make a commitment as we begin a new year to be together in Bible study on Sunday mornings. Let's learn together how to become the watchmen that God calls us to be for our families, friends, church, and community!
—Adam Callahan



(Continued from front cover)

February 14 – **“JESUS LOVER OF MY SOUL”** – This hymn's words speak of an intimate relationship with Christ. It reveals Christ as Lover, Protector, and Provider. Do you have an intimate knowledge of Christ's love? Do you rely on His provision? Psalms 18:1-36

February 21 – **“COME, THOU FOUNT”** – This song was written by a man who experienced a dramatic conversion from gang member to preacher. He praises God who seeks us out when we are straying. How can we avoid wandering away from our Savior? Ephesians 1:3-10

Ephesians 5:19 – “Speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord;...”