

The Good News Letter

January/February, 2015

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2015 Failure or Success?

The old year is behind us. Its record is made and cannot be changed. I am sure there is much in it each of us would like to change. If we could do it all over, some things we would do differently, some things we would have left undone, and definitely leave behind some regret. Our church has come a long way in 2014. I think we all are pleased and know that God has blessed us. We have seen God bless the faithfulness of our giving the tithes and offerings to the Lord and seen our every need met. I am sure that each of us are grateful to the Lord for what He has done, and letting us be a part of it. We too, I am sure are thankful and must admit that all our expectations were not completely met. Although we have come far, there still is long way yet to go.

We all must admit that each of us could have done better and every person ought to do better than he/she is doing. We all fall very short of what is God's expectation for us. Although, we are all in the same boat, it is no excuse for any failure, because we are promised that "we can do all things through Jesus Christ, who strengthens us."

Some people make little of resolutions and speak negative of our making them. But we must remember, to end up straight you must start straight and keep straight. Our start is vital to the ending. What athlete has ever won the race by starting with an attitude of conceding to failure in the end? God's will is clearly stated for all Christian men and women to keep on trying, and never give up! Those who continue win; they finish and do so because of their resolve. We need the resolve in 2015 that failure is not an option in the church.

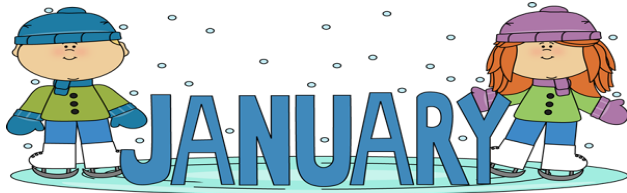
I feel sorry for the man or woman who gives in to failure, or far worse the man who travels this journey with his head down. I like a man who will shake his fist at trouble and keep on. The Christian, however, sets his jaw and declares that God says "we are more than conquerors." (Rom. 8:37) We must admit that we cannot win in our own strength so we make the resolve to allow the Holy Spirit to guide and direct us and accomplish what we could not. Remember it is God's work. We are His servants and He will supply the need.

As a church and individual Christians we need to "set your affections on things above". The word means, "an affection of the mind, a passionate desire." In 2015 we need to:

- Passionately desire heaven, and God in Christ will give it!!!
- Passionately desire God's will be done, and He will grant it.
- Passionately desire to overcome sin, confess it and overcome it.
- Passionately desire to be all that God would want you to be and GOD will accomplish that in your life.
- Passionately desire to see souls saved and God will use you to win the lost.
- Passionately desire to see the church grow, to be used of God to win the lost, grow the Saints of God, and we will grow as God gives the increase.

**May 2015 be First Baptist Church's best year ever!
May it be our best year of growth in our own Christian lives!**

—Pastor Larry



HAPPY NEW YEAR

Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature:
old things are passed away; behold, all things are

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 Brandi Knight Danny Morrow Pam Spires Office Closed	2 Traci Rish Sally Rogers-Hicks	3 Erika Browning Stephen Dittmar Peggy Willard
4 Jamie Austen Aaron Lewis Dickie Moseley ♥James & Patti Edge	5 Deacon Meeting 6:30 PM	6 Hope Brock Heather Harmon-Beck	7 Tiffany French Ryan Murtaugh Jo Lynn Phillips Spiritual Warriors Luncheon 11:30 All Mission Groups Meet 7 PM	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 ♥Ervin & Kathy Corley	12 Brittany Burns Sandy Drawdy	13 Clyde Hagood, Jr. Carol Murray Debra Sharpe	14 Virginia Gantt Clara Thomas Samantha White Jennifer Young Prayer Service/ Mission Groups	15 Crystal Robinson	16 Dean Gregory	17 ♥Lonnie & Vickie Koon
18	19 WOM Meeting 6:30	20 Davis Austen Kathleen Johnson Carolyn Kendrick Sheri Wood	21 Allan Snyder ♥T. W. & Cheryl Reynolds Prayer service/ Mission Groups	22 Jeffrey Bryan Winter Emert Jordan Sightler Alison St. Clair	23 Eugene Carson Youth leave for Chillipepper	24 Jason Aultman Troy Bivens Christian Brock William Painter Youth at Chillipepper
25 Amanda Galloway Marvin Pound, Jr. Harvey Reynolds Youth return from Chillipepper	26 Arnold Corne Sandra Jones	27 Thomas Baker Patricia Hayes Peggy Mills	28 Prayer Service/ Mission Groups	29 Beverly Gibbs	30 James Bond Stacy Painter Jared Poole	31 Darlene Conn Marian Fallaw Jake Rish Jim Thomas

Death Requested

Thank you, Lord, for the New Year and all of the prospects it offers. I pretty well know what you wish for the world, but what do you have in mind for me?

All right, I get it. I need to stop making excuses. I'm good at it, am I not? I'm at least as good as Moses when he tried to get out of going to Egypt to lead his people to the Promised Land. I have dodged serving the homeless or teaching a class at the church. And yes, I have claimed I was too busy to really study the Bible or too old to work with the youth or too strapped to be more generous in my giving.

I could go on but you know full well that I'm in spiritual trouble. I need to get right with you.

To do so, I have to ask a favor. **I want to ask you for death. No, not the death of me, but the death of my excuses.** When I tell you I can't do what you want me to do, then give me a guilty conscience and make me restless until I repent and recant of my excuses. May all of my excuses perish permanently so that I am totally surrendered to you. In Christ's name. Amen.

—Charles Ferrell, The Newsletter Newsletter 2007



Valentine Banquet
 February 14th at 6:30 PM in the Fellowship Hall.
 Cost is ten dollars per person.
 More information will follow in bulletins.



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Jessica Dowd John Hayes Ida Alice Redmond Shelby Rollison	2 Jack Easterling John Morrow Deacon Meeting 6:30 PM	3 Cathy Clark Peggy Donaldson Carol Furtick Bucky Jeffcoat Davis Spires Tresha Ayer Emma Lee Dowd	4 Matthew Barfield Jewel Sharpe Carla Sightler Spiritual Warriors Luncheon 11:30 All Mission Groups Meet 7 PM	5 Candace Whitaker Collegiate Retreat	6 Tyler Moore Collegiate Retreat	7 Collegiate Retreat
8 Lucille Goff David Hildebrand Charlie Miles Theodore Skinner, Jr	9 Kayla Dowd Matthew Frownfelter Rickey Vick	10 Chris Goff Brandon Huseby	11 Celeste Haigwood Michael Hart Joyce Lucas Matt Pound Prayer Service/ Mission Groups	12 Edward Harsey	13 Jackie Hart Dustin Hicks Sandra Pound Megan Rawlinson Mark Snyder ♥Bryan & Carrie Knight	14 Ronald Farmer Hope Johnson Anita Nelson Mandy Nelson William Whittington Oliver Willard ♥Allen & Traci Rish Valentine Banquet
15 Donavan Bennett Belinda Clark Pat Finley Lauren Rish Landon Stabler	16 Kay Joseph Lisa Pound WOM Meeting 6:30 PM	17 Alexandra Peake Teddy Skinner ♥Jay & Gloria Sharpe	18 Prayer Service/ Mission Groups	19 Kelly Beasley Lucy Whitaker Benjamin Young	20 Natalie Bobbitt Cathy McIlwain 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	25 David Gooldy Lynda Guy Tasha Mack Michelle Mathers Prayer Service/ Mission Groups	26 Nolyn Bozard Phillip Spires Amanda White	27 Nicole Kirkland Rebekah Kuempel Louise Spradley	28 Mary Pound Will Reynolds Rodney Moran

Genuine Love

It's February and we celebrate LOVE—or do we? In 1 Corinthians 13:1-8 we see what real love (charity) does and does not do. We can have voices likened into angels, the gift of prophecy, knowledge, faith to remove mountains and have not love—all is worthless. We can feed the poor and even offer our bodies to be burned and have no love—still worthless. True love is patient, kind, not proud, behaves its self, looks out for the well being of others and not just self. True love is slow to anger, thinks on good, loves truth and hates evil. Love also has great hope and endurance. Many things will fail, but true love is everlasting. We must ask ourselves—if our love was put to the test, would it be genuine or empty and worthless?

Youth/College News

The youth will be going to two different weekend retreats. Chillipepper is a winter youth conference in Pigeon Forge with dynamic speakers and Christian artists. This will be on Friday, January 23rd - Sunday, January 25th and will be for youth grades 7-10. The 11 & 12 grades, along with the collegiate ministry group, will be attending Converge at Ridgecrest Conference Center. This is a winter collegiate retreat held at the Southern Baptist Conference Center at Ridgecrest outside of Asheville, NC. It's a time of building up college attending, and college bound, Christians for not only a stronger walk in Christ but as active witnesses on their campuses and around the world. Converge is Friday, February 6th - Sunday, February 8th.

Spiritual Warriors Luncheons at 11:30 AM

Wednesday, January 7

and

Wednesday, February 4



WOM ACTIVITIES

January 19, 2015 Home Meeting

Fellowship Hall at 6:30

Jenny Knight Poole will be speaking and preparing our food for us. What a treat!! We will need a headcount, so please let Ruth Barwick know if you plan to attend.

February 16, 2015 WOM Home Meeting at 6:30

Location to be announced—most likely the Fellowship Hall.

WMU Focus Week is February 9-15.

THANK YOU

During my musical ministry, I have encountered many fond memories and learning experiences. These past five months have been no exception as your Interim Worship Leader. Your generous support, cooperation, and encouraging words have sustained me and helped in my spiritual journey. The Worship Choir has been faithful and sung their hearts out in leading worship. Thank you, First Baptist, Pastor, and Accompanists for giving me the opportunity to return to my roots and lead the hymns. I value your friendship. May this congregation continue to serve and praise the Lord.

Much Appreciation,

—Gib Rogers



GIB ROGERS...

We would like to thank Gib for the months of service he has given to our church family. His love for the Lord and music are apparent. He brought us some new music and reminded us of some great old hymns. And got the whole church family involved in Christmas program. So we thought it appropriate to do...

An Ode To Gib

We know a man named Gib

Who surely knows how to ad lib

He can stir up the choir

And light their fire..

And tickle the ivories - no fib!

Gib, thank you for all that you did for our church family, we will miss you and hope you come back to visit us every chance you get!