

Deacon of the Week:

1st Sunday: Aaron Greene
2nd Sunday: Gayden Swann
3rd Sunday: Bob Smith
4th Sunday: Kelly Coons
5th Sunday: Eric Parker

January Wedding Anniversaries

Ron & Jean Arthur 1
Carl & Darlene Eply 1
Duane & Dena Caldwell 7
Kelly & Teresa Coons 7
Olin & Sandra Gainey 15
Charles & Betty Marston 24

January Birthdays

Bill Faw 1
Megan Gaffigan 1
Terra Wyatt 2
Olin Gainey 5
Amie Greene 6
David Blackwelder..... 7
Toni Freeman 8
Keith McCauley 10
Gayden Swann 10
Danny Whitley 11
Doris Grant 16
Kenny Campbell 17
Brayden Warren 17
Joyce Pugh 18
Bernice McAfee 19
Chuck Walker 19
Sandra Scoles 25
Keith Duncan 26
Darlene Epley 26
Bill Ramsey 27
James Scoles 29
Scott Thomas 31
Savannah Wright 31

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

Old Fort, NC
January 2012
Volume 46, Issue 1

THE VOICE

**JANUARY
EVENTS**

SUNDAY:
9:45 - Bible Study
11 - Worship Service
5 - Youth, Children's Choir
6 - Evening Bible Study, TeamKIDS
7 - Praise Team
MONDAY:
6:15 Handbell Practice
WEDNESDAY:
6 - Adult Bible Study, Youth, RA's, GA's, Acteens, Mission Friends
7 - Adult Choir Practice

Jan 1 - New Years Day
Jan 7 - Game Night 6 pm until
Jan 8 - Deacon Meeting 7 pm
Jan 8 - Youth Council 4 pm
Jan -16 Martin Luther King Day
Jan 22 - Quarterly Conference 6 pm
Jan 29 - Baptist Men's Day
Jan 29 - Baptist Men's Breakfast 8:30 am
Jan 29 - Movie Night "Courageous" 6 pm

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Pastor's Ponderings

I know the New Year is about to begin, but when I read this story written by a mom's personal experience from Christmas, I had to share it with you. I believe it fits any time of year especially around Christmas. The title of the story is "The W in Christmas".

Each December, I vowed to make Christmas a calm and peaceful experience. I had cut back on nonessential obligations - extensive card writing, endless baking, decorating, and even overspending. Yet still, I found myself exhausted, unable to appreciate the precious family moments, and of course, the true meaning of Christmas. My son, Nicholas, was in kindergarten that year. It was an exciting season for a six year old. For weeks, he'd been memorizing songs for his school's "Winter Pageant." I didn't have the heart to tell him I'd be working the night of the production. Unwilling to miss his shining moment, I spoke with his teacher. She assured me there'd be a dress rehearsal the morning of the presentation. All parents unable to attend that evening were welcome to come then. Fortunately, Nicholas seemed happy with the compromise.

So, the morning of the dress rehearsal, I filed in ten minutes early, found a spot on the cafeteria floor and sat down. Around the room, I saw several other parents quietly scampering to their seats. As I waited, the students were led into the room. Each class, accompanied by their teacher, sat cross-legged on the floor. Then, each group, one by one, rose to perform their song. Because the public school system had long stopped referring to the holiday as "Christmas," I didn't expect anything other than fun, commercial entertainment songs of reindeer, Santa Claus, snowflakes, and good cheer. So, when my son's class rose to sing, "Christmas Love," I was slightly taken aback by its bold title.

Nicholas was aglow, as were all of his classmates, adorned in fuzzy mittens, red sweaters, and bright snowcaps upon their heads. Those in the front row- center stage - held up large letters, one by one, to spell out the title of the song. As the class would sing "C is for Christmas," a child would hold up the letter C. Then, "H is for Happy," and on and on, until each child holding up his portion had presented the complete message, "Christmas Love."

The performance was going smoothly, until suddenly, we noticed her; a small, quiet, girl in the front row holding the letter "M" upside down - totally unaware her letter "M" appeared as a "W". The audience of 1st through 6th graders snickered at this little one's mistake. But she had no idea they were laughing at her, so she stood tall, proudly holding her "W". Although many teachers tried to shush the children, the laughter continued until the last letter was raised, and we all saw it together.

A hush came over the audience and eyes began to widen. In that instant, we understood the reason we were there, why we celebrated the holiday in the first place, why even in the chaos, there was a purpose for our festivities. For when the last letter was held high, the message read loud and clear:

"CHRISTWASLOVE"

And He still is.

Pastor Duane

The Voice
First Baptist Church
P.O. Box 10
Old Fort, NC 28762



Thank you to all who helped with the 2011 Operation Christmas Child effort.
 The 2012 Operation Christmas Child for Old Fort First Baptist Church will kick off in January. We will be collecting toys for our shoe boxes in January and February. There will be a collection box in the church foyer.
TOY suggestions: small cars, balls, dolls, stuffed animals, kazoos, harmonicas, yo-yos, jump ropes, small Etch A Sketch, toys that light up or make noise (with extra batteries), Slinky
 If you have any questions or would like to help in some way, please give us a call.

Baptist Men's Day will be observed in our church on January 29. There will be a Men's Breakfast at 8:30 AM for all men and boys of the church for a time of food, devotions, and fellowship. The Worship Service will be led by the men of our church, with several of our men sharing their testimonies. That evening at 6 PM, there will be a showing of the movie "Courageous." The movie is about four men who have to courageously face one of life's toughest challenges: fatherhood. Please invite everyone you know to join us for this event. This could literally be a life changing moment for someone you know and it could be you.



It is time once again for our youth to register for summer camp. Centrifuge, which is scheduled for July 11 – 15, will be held once again at the Lifeway Conference Center in Ridgecrest. Each youth who plans to attend needs to have a \$50 deposit paid by January 29 in order to reserve a spot. We have tentatively registered for the last slots available for that week this summer, but we can only keep them if the deposits are in on time. Rush of Fools will be there once again to lead in worship and Landon Dowden will be the camp pastor for the week. All youth who have finished 7th grade through those who just graduated 12th grade may attend. If you are willing to sponsor a youth who cannot afford to go, please see Duane. The total cost for each camper to pay will be \$140 for the week. The remaining \$90, after the deposit, will be collected over spring and summer in three payments. Those dates will be forthcoming. We hope to have a record number of youth going with us this year.

Youth events have been a little sparser as winter has come upon us, but our youth are still very active. Christmas activities really have shown our youth groups true colors. While they enjoyed a Christmas party together, what they enjoyed most was ministry. On December 14, they went Christmas caroling to some of our shut-ins. When we returned they weren't satisfied. They wanted to do more. So the next Wednesday, they went for two hours instead on one. While they were trying to be a blessing to others, they were the ones to receive the blessing. Not only have they led in Christmas caroling, but they have also been a part of our worship services as they have participated in the Hanging of the Green service and helped the Praise Team singing a special for Christmas. As one of our shut-ins said in reference to our youth, "The future of First Baptist Church is bright." If you are not involved with our youth, please join the future. You will not regret it.



The Youth Council's meeting time has been changed in January to 4 PM. All those on the council are encouraged to attend as we have some exciting events to plan for our youth.



Our next church quarterly conference is January 22 at 6 PM.

HERE WE GROW...DECEMBER

Avg. Worship Attendance... Avg. 81 General Fund....\$3,551
 Avg. SS Attendance... Avg. 60 Maint/Bldg Fund.....\$225



Homebound: Marjorie McEntire, Hugh Guffey, Mary McEntire, Exam Haney, George Early, Grady & Mildred McCauley, Bob Bishop, Charles & Betty Marston
Nursing Home: Carolyn Miller, Marvin McEntire, Bernice McAfee, Ronnie Harmon

The Senior Adults would like to thank those in (whatever the name of Liz Lowery's class is) class for the wonderful lunch prepared for us Dec. 18. The lunch was delicious, the decorations were beautiful, and the youth did a fantastic job waiting tables. Thanks a bundle to everyone!



A contribution was given in memory of Betty Hripto & Bill Woods by Rhonard & Jeanette MacRae.

Dear First Baptist,
 Thank you so much for the school supplies you sent us. We will be delivering these to children living in the wal-fields of western Pennsylvania. The children, the teachers, & parents appreciate your concern. Many of the families we work with have great physical needs. But their greatest need is to know Jesus. Thank you for sharing the love of Christ with them. Your missionaries, Dewey & Kathie Aiken

Thanks to the Homebound Committee for preparing and delivering the Christmas fruit baskets.

The family of Angelene Baker Knupp acknowledges with deep appreciation your kind expression of sympathy. Just to let you know your love & support during this difficult time is appreciated. The beautiful flowers you sent were a comfort. On behalf of my family, we thank you! Steve & Sheryl Knupp

Just One Request

Dear Master for this coming year
 Just one request I bring:
 I do not pray for happiness,
 Or any earthly thing—
 I do not ask to understand
 The way Thou leadest me,
 But this I ask: Teach me to do
 The thing that pleaseth Thee.

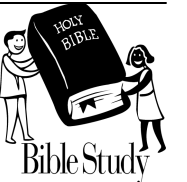
I want to know Thy guiding voice,
 To walk with Thee each day.
 Dear Master make me swift to hear
 And ready to obey.
 And thus the year I now begin
 A happy year will be—
 If I am seeking just to do
 The thing that pleaseth Thee.

--Unknown Author

My fervent prayer for US, not just me, is that WE blend together more and more. We have a calling to spread His word. I use my gifts as I can. Are you? What's your New Year's Resolve????



We have already begun the 2012 January Bible Study, which takes place on Sunday evenings at 6 PM. The January Bible Study for 2012 is based on the Book of Ecclesiastes which will raise the most challenging questions we face in life in a very realistic way; remind us what life is really like when we choose the pattern of this world rather than what God has to give; help us develop an everyday theology, showing us how to shape a Christian worldview in light of the challenges of secularism; serve as a guide for us as we seek to learn how to engage culture in an effective way; and enable us to see afresh our need for the gospel of Jesus Christ.



Just a reminder that our website has copies of our newsletters, calendars, and bulletins. There are also pages for information about our missions, ministries, youth, other activities.

Don't forget about Katherine's Closet which is a Prom Dress Ministry begun by Hayley Duncan. If you have an old prom dress hanging in your closet that you will probably never wear again, contact Hayley and donate your dress to Katherine's Closet so a girl in our county who can't afford a prom dress can have one to go to her prom.



Thank you to all who gave to the 2011 Lottie Moon Christmas Offering. Our goal was \$2011, and we surpassed that goal by the end of the 3rd Sunday in December. Although we have surpassed our goal and 2011 is over, it is never too late to support our missionaries who are carrying the gospel to the ends of the earth. We can be His heart, His voice, and His hands to the nations.

