

from front cover

God knows how we feel and how we fear, and He is adequate to meet our every need. We can never obey God in our own strength, but we can always trust Him to provide the strength we need. (Philippians 4:13)

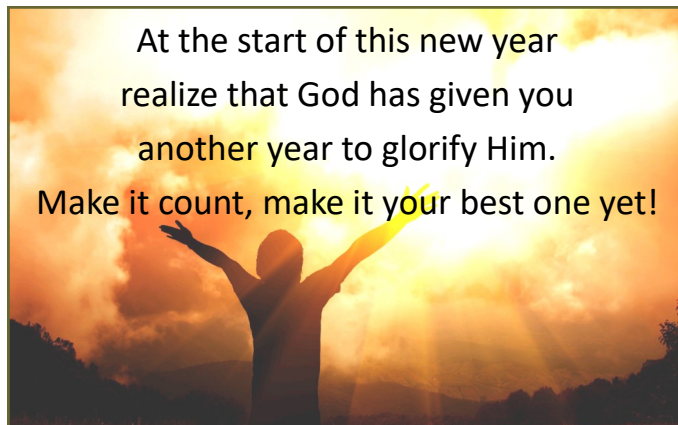
If we trust ourselves, we will faint and fall, but if we wait on the Lord by faith, we will receive strength for the journey. The word *renew* means “to exchange”—we exchange our weakness for His power. (2 Corinthians 12:1-10).

In this **New Year**, as we wait before Him, God enables us to soar when there is a crisis, to run when the challenges are many, and to walk faithfully in the day-by-day demands of life.

We number our years, not our days; but all of us have to live a day at a time, and we do not know how many days we have left. A successful life is composed of successful days that honor the Lord. How will you begin the **New Year**? Let the hope, peace, joy, and the love of this **Advent season** guide each of us into this year of the “**School of Life.**”

Peace and blessings,

*Pastor Jim & Fran*



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January 2024

# The Herald

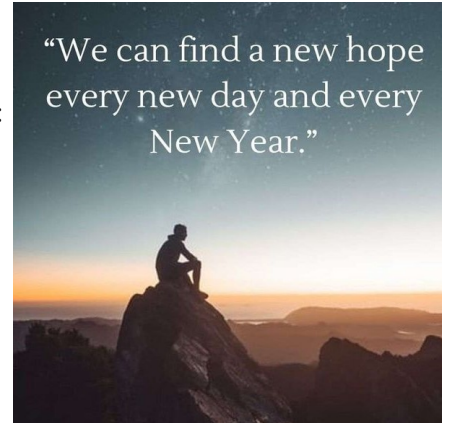
## LIFE IS OUR SCHOOL

As we move forward into a **New Year**, life will continue to be important and puzzling until the return of our Savior: Eternal God and frail humans, a holy God and sinful man, life and death, and the meaning of life in a confused and difficult world.

Psalm 90:12 says this, “*Teach us to number our days aright, that we may gain a heart of wisdom.*” In the school of life we need to learn two important lessons: life is brief and passes swiftly, so we need to make the most of it; and life is difficult and at times seems futile, but this is the only way to mature. Were there no sin in the world, there would be no suffering and death; but people **made of dust** defy the God of the universe. “For dust you are and to dust you will return” (Genesis 3:19). The “school of life” is preparation for an eternity with God, and without Him, we cannot learn our lessons or pass our tests.

Listen to what Isaiah 40:31 says, “*But those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not faint.*”

*continued inside*





## ANNUAL MEETING SET

The FBC Annual Meeting is Wednesday, **Jan. 24**, at **5:00 P.M.** We will elect boards and officers, approve the 2024 church budget, and hear about 2023 highlights in our church. All in the congregation are asked to attend.



## WHY MAKE BIBLE STUDY A PRIORITY?

Whether we realize it or not, we all search for meaning beyond ourselves. In the Word, we find our ultimate meaning in a Person, not a concept. Our goal in studying is to come closer and closer to the meaning God intends us to receive, and ultimately closer to him. Scripture is the breath of God carrying the weight of who he is with its message, which means the more we interact with it, the more we personally engage with the Spirit himself. When we refuse to open God's Word, it is not just a rejection of a material book, it is a rejection of a relationship with God himself.

With a New Year comes new opportunity . . . Take the opportunity to grow deeper in your faith by attending our weekly Bible Study. We'll start on February 7 at 4 P.M.

## BOARD OF TRUSTEES UPDATE

Ken Whittington, chairman

- ❖ Plaster in the Conference Room has fallen. The Trustees will work toward installing a drop ceiling like those in the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor classrooms.
- ❖ The digital sign has some problems. Leon Sanders and John Aiken will work with the sign company to resolve the matter.
- ❖ The south door has some issues. Leon Sanders and John Aiken will investigate and find a solution.
- ❖ The Trustees recommended the reappointment of Brad Berrong and Ken Whittington for another term.

## THIS MONTH

Jan. 1		Church office closed
Jan. 3	9:30 A.M.	Ladies' Coffee at The Buzz
Jan. 4	9:00 A.M.	Brown Bag Packing
Jan. 5	9:00 A.M.	Ministry at Heritage Woods
Jan. 9	9:00 A.M.	Board of Trustees Meeting
Jan. 17	4:00 P.M. 5:00 P.M.	Sing 'n Share Board of Deacons Meeting
Jan. 19	10:00 A.M.	Ministry at Helia Healthcare
Jan. 24	5:00 P.M.	FBC Annual Meeting

## WEEKLY

Sun.	9:30 A.M. 10:30 A.M.	Sunday School Worship Service
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## BRIEF NOTES

- ❖ Thanks to all who supported the special offerings during December.
- ❖ Giving statements for 2023 will be mailed out in January.
- ❖ Our new defibrillator has arrived and will be installed soon. Thanks to all who financially contributed to this need.



**Jan. Offering**  
**Green Beans**

## JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

- |    |                 |    |                  |
|----|-----------------|----|------------------|
| 2  | Dorothy Camden  | 18 | Pat Towle        |
|    | Ken Whittington | 22 | Mary Bolen       |
| 5  | Jim Lynch       |    | Elizabeth Gulley |
| 8  | Brad Berrong    | 31 | Sue Willard      |
| 17 | Mary Snelgrove  |    | Edward Willard   |



## FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

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### Staff

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Annette Campbell, Administrative Assistant  
Danny Joplin, Maintenance/Custodian