

from front cover

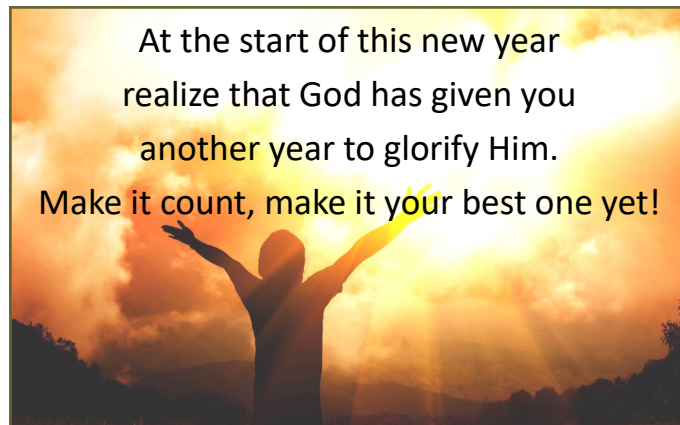
Note: Paul mentions “**thanksgiving**” six times in his Colossian letter. Whatever we do in the name of Christ ought to be joined with thanksgiving.

Since we are united with Christ through the indwelling Holy Spirit, we have all the resources we need for holy living in the coming “New Year.” But we must be spiritually motivated. Why? Because we have experienced the grace of Christ, we must live for Him, honor Him, and glorify Him!

Prayer for the New Year: Pray together with Fran and me; Dear God, thank You for new beginnings. What an incredible time this is with a fresh year’s potential stretched out before us. We want to be found faithful in this New Year in each and every opportunity You bring to us at FBC. In the name of Jesus, Amen.

Have a joyful and blessed New Year.

Pastor Jim & Fran



First Baptist Church
201 South Main St.
Benton, IL 62812
618-438-7661

January 2025

The Herald

CHRIST IS ALL, AND IN ALL

“And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him” (Colossians 3:17).

The first step to a new beginning with Christ is “**focusing on His wants and plans for our lives.**” Once we align our path with His, the sky is the limit. Seek God as we make plans in this “**New Year**” and look to Him as we move forward with all new beginnings.



As Christians, we bear the name of Christ. The word *Christian* is found only three times in the entire New Testament (Acts 11:26; 26:28; 1 Peter 4:16). The name was originally given as a term of contempt, but gradually it became a name of honor. The name of Christ, then, means *identification*: we belong to Christ.

But His name also means *authority*. It is in the name of Jesus Christ that we have the authority to pray (John 14:13-14; 16:23-26). Because Jesus Christ is God, and He has died for us, we have authority in His name.

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ANNUAL MEETING SET



The FBC Annual Meeting is Wednesday, **January 15**, at **5:00 P.M.** We will elect boards and officers, approve the 2025 church budget, and hear about 2024 highlights in our church. A pizza dinner will be provided by the Trustee Board. All in the congregation are invited.



BOARD OF TRUSTEES UPDATE

Ken Whittington, chairman

- ❖ The church experienced several issues with the elevator stopping between floors. Elevated Facility Services worked on the problem; cost was \$1,544 for trouble shooting and temporary repairs.
- ❖ \$954 was transferred from the Mundell Trust to the General Fund.
- ❖ A CD was renewed at Edward Jones for 6 months in the amount of \$8,000 at 4.35%.
- ❖ The Trustees will host the FBC Annual Meeting on January 15 and provide pizza. Elections for church officers and board members will also be held. Contact Ken Bolen if you are interested in serving.
- ❖ David Perkins resigned as Church Treasurer at the end of 2024. We extend our gratitude to David for his excellent service.



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 |



THIS MONTH

Jan. 1		Church office closed
Jan. 3	10:00 A.M.	Ministry at Heritage Woods
Jan. 14	9:00 A.M.	Board of Trustees Meeting
Jan. 15	5:00 P.M.	FBC Annual Meeting
Jan. 17	10:00 A.M.	Ministry at Helia Healthcare
Jan. 22	4:00 P.M.	Board of Deacons Meeting
Jan. 30	9:00 A.M.	Brown Bag Packing

WEEKLY

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

RENEW YOUR SPIRIT

A new year brings new opportunities to grow in faith and to give of ourselves. Consider these ideas . . .

- ⇒ Participate in the Wednesday morning Bible Study. We meet at 10 A.M. in the Fellowship Hall.
- ⇒ Join the FBC Nursing Home Ministry as we take the Good News to facility residents on the first and third Fridays of each month at 10 A.M.
- ⇒ Attend Sing 'n Share the third Wednesday of the month to grow in fellowship with other members of our congregation.
- ⇒ Help pack Brown Bags once a month at 9 A.M. The packing is usually done on Thursdays and dates will be in the church bulletin.
- ⇒ Support the Food Pantry by volunteering your time or by donating the food item listed in the bulletin and *The Herald*.



FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

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 Annette Campbell, Administrative Assistant