



January

Contact

First Baptist Church of Sparta, NC

Volume 46, Issue 1



From The Pastors Desk

Happy New Year! Other than falling behind on our giving to the budget last year we had a good year. I hope that this year will prove to be even better. You can go ahead and mark your calendar for our Spring Revival: March 24-26 with speaker, Rick Carter and the singers from Pleasant Grove Baptist Church, Fuquay-Varina, NC.

They have brought their music to us in the past and have agreed to provide a weekend of music. I have it by good authority the Rick is a really good preacher and will do us a good job. So, plan to join us for a weekend of revival!

Our church theme for 2017 is taken from Isaiah 60:1. We need to "Arise...Shine." We

hope to emphasize the need to not only be a disciple, but also to make disciples. Don't be a pew warmer, "Arise... Shine."

One of our church members gave me the following article recently and I want to share it with you. It is called, "MY CHURCH". Enjoy!

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Special Points of Interest

- *Communion:*
January, 8
- *Soup & Sandwich Fundraiser:*
Sunday, January, 15
@ 11:15 am
- *Brotherhood Breakfast:*
Sunday, January 22,
@ 7:45 am
- *Baptist Men's Day:*
Sunday, January 22

My Church

It is composed of people like me. We make it what it is. It will be friendly, if I am friendly. Its pews will be full, if I help fill them. It will do great work, if I work. It will make generous gifts to many causes,

if I bring them. It will be a church of loyalty and love, of fearlessness and faith, and a church with a noble spirit, if I, who make it what it is, am filled with these things. Therefore, with the

help of GOD, I shall dedicate myself to the task of being all the things that I want my church to be! Don't take second best when GOD can give the best.



- 1 Oscar Reeves
- 2 Brandon Atwood
- 3 Katlyn Miller
- 4 Karly Stoker
- 5 Kaye Royall
- 6 Santiago Reales
Denise Wesley
- 7 Madeline Shepherd

- 11 Lorraine Sturgill
Renaé Caldwell
Terry Joines
Matt Foster
- 12 Hope Carpenter
Jacob Simpson
Kathy Trosino
- 13 Joe T. Irwin
Carolyn Caldwell
Ricky Royal
- 16 Jessica Caudill
- 18 Louise Farmer
Nathan Tucker
Chad Simpson
- 19 Ross Richardson

- 22 Laura Epps
- 23 Brad Bedsaul
John McCray
- 29 Laura Bloodworth
Christina Shaw
- 31 Jewell Thompson
Debbie Bare
Steve Cothren
Shannon Epps



January 23, 1999
Faron & Dawn Atwood

*“Resolution One: I will live for God.
Resolution Two: If no one else does,
I still will.”
—Jonathan Edwards*

Lessons From A Snowman

- * It’s okay to wear white well after Labor Day.
- * Simply hanging out in your front yard can be fun.
- * Accessories don’t have to be fancy or expensive.
- * We’re all made mostly of water.
- * You know you’ve “arrived” when a song is written about you.
- * So what if you’re a little bottom-heavy?
- * Don’t get too much sun.
- * Sweating too much can be disastrous!



Notes of Interest

Transportation: If anyone is in need of transportation to church on Sunday Mornings please contact the drivers for the month of January. They are Jim Cox @ 336.657-8942 and Faron Atwood @ 336.372-1503.

Family Night Dinner: The Family Night Meal for the month of January will take place on Sunday, January 15th @ 11:00 am. This will be a fundraiser meal for the Youth. The menu will be soup, sandwich or salad, and dessert.

Business Meeting: there will be a business meeting following the Family Night Dinner / Fundraiser in the month of January.

Bulletin Information: Announcements and



information for the Weekly Church Bulletin needs to be in the church office by each Wednesday afternoon.

Newsletter Information— How will everyone know if you don't tell them. Just like the disciples telling everyone about Jesus, they didn't know about him until they were told. If your group, committee, or organization has information, or opportunities that needs to be published in the newsletter, please have your information written out and ready to publish by the 20th day of the month. You can email the church office with your info at

fbcspartha @skybest.com or there are forms located outside the church office to fill out and place in the box beside the office door. Please consider placing your information in the monthly Contact.

Newsletter Folding Party: Are you interested in helping get the newsletter assembled & ready to mail on **Monday, January 30th @ 9:30 am**? If you would like to volunteer, please contact the church office at 336-372-8446.

Lambs and Sheep Women's Bible Study

Happy New Year, ladies. If you have not joined the "**Lambs & Sheep**" weekly Bible Study, we hope you will consider it. About 15 of us meet each Tuesday at 10AM in our Fellowship Hall. After a cup of coffee with a tasty snack, we take time to "catch up" with one another, before beginning our Bible Study from 10:30 until 11:30.

We are currently studying the book of Revelation. We have just gotten into the Book and

it is a perfect time for you to gather with us. If you have questions call Sylvia Jackson at [336-359-8316](tel:336-359-8316) or talk with some of those who already attend.

We are taking a short break this month. "**Lambs & Sheep**" will resume on **Tuesday, February 7, 2017 at 10 AM**. Please come!

Bible Quiz

In Matthew 13, to what does Jesus compare the kingdom of heaven?

- A. A farmer sowing seed
- B. A mustard seed
- C. Yeast
- D. Hidden treasure
- E. A merchant who finds a pearl
- F. A fishing net
- G. All of the above



Answer: G (See Matthew 13:24-51.)

Youth News

It's hard to believe that we have already finished another year. It has been a great year, and we have several new youth in the youth group. We want to thank everyone for all their support and prayers throughout the year. We look forward to many activities this upcoming year, and continuing our outreach ministries that we have started lately. Also we will be working toward a

youth Sunday soon. As we go through the Christmas season, and a New Year, please keep our youth in your prayers. We have several that need extra support from anywhere they can get it. They are the future, and we need to help shape them into the adults we want them to be. Thank



Sundays @ 4:00 pm
Wednesdays @ 6:00 pm

you again. Please keep us in your prayers that we lead the way that our youth need to be led. There will not be a youth meeting on Sunday, January 1, and Wednesday, January 4th.

Mitchell Reedy

"Lord, I lay before you everything that concerns me today. Free me to rest in your embrace. Amen."

Mission Opportunities

We are embarking on a new year and reflecting on the past one, please let this be a reminder that the work of our missionaries is more important than it has ever been. Many Christians are losing their lives over their belief and many are having to leave their homes and flee, as we sit very comfortably in our own surroundings. We are fortunate that our church chooses to include in the budget mission work all over the globe. It is only through our tithes and offerings that

we can support the very mission that Jesus mandated that we should be about doing. Maybe you cannot go into the foreign fields but there is much to do right in our own area. Let us take time to reflect this next year on what we can do to bring others into the Kingdom and "GO YE THEREFORE".



Missions Coordinator:
Eva Rice

Choir Notes

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year from the Adult Choir, The Ding-a-Lings, and The Children's Choir! As we enter into this new year, let us all give glory to God. We can do this through "true obedience, deep roots in God's word, building up others, combating sin, preserving in faith, finding joy—all these things bring glory to God and the realization of our own purpose in God's creation. In a sense every song sung is a song for God. But hymns and spiritual songs that directly acknowledge and praise God, glorify him best and most. Singing has such a unique way of aligning our heart, soul, mind, and strength together to focus entirely and

completely on God. In an age of distraction, singing grabs the attention of all our senses and focuses us on God as few things except prayer and preaching can. God likes the sound of our songs and the good things that come of them.

This is why the music will continue even when we depart from this earth."

In the Book of Revelation, the Apostle John offers a wonderful glimpse of eternity with a great multitude of people from every tribe, peoples, and languages sing-

ing before God and the Lamb: "Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the lamb."

(Revelation 7:9-10)



Choir Rehearsals

Hand Bell Choir

Monday's @ 5:30 pm

Children's Choir

Monday's @ 6:30 pm

Adult Choir

Wednesday's @ 6:30 pm

Will you be among that multitude, that no one can number, singing

the song of the Lamb, singing his praises? I hope we all will. Sing now. Sing forever. Singing matters. And it matters that we do it together. Amen. (Quoted from Tom Olsen)



"Arise, shine; for thy light is come, and the glory of the LORD is risen upon thee."

Isaiah 60:1

Are You Serving as a Volunteer or One Called of God?

by: [Kenny Lamm](#)

I often hear leaders talk about having problem with the commitment of those on their team—everything from being on time to being prepared. I firmly believe that a person’s commitment is strongly connected to the person’s sense of calling to that particular ministry. Rory Noland, in his book, [The Heart of the Artist](#), (Zondervan) discusses the difference between those who volunteer out of obligation to serve in the church and those who feel called by God to serve. Noland says “there is a deeper level of commitment, joy, and reward with those who know their calling is from God.” He then lists differences between volunteers and those called of God.

1. Volunteers see their involvement at church as community service, but people called of God see it as ministry.
2. Volunteers whine about what it’s going to cost to serve, but people called are committed to serving.
3. Volunteers shrink back from resolving relational conflict, but people called of God seek to resolve relational conflict for the

sake of unity in the church.

4. Volunteers look upon rehearsal / practice / meetings as another commitment they’re obligated to fulfill, but people called of God look forward to rehearsal / practice / meetings as another opportunity to be used by God.
5. Volunteers do no outside practicing or preparation, but people who are called of God come ready to serve or perform and are prepared as possible.
6. Volunteers are not open to constructive criticism; they get defensive about it. But people called of God are grateful for feedback because they want to be the best they can be.
7. Volunteers feel threatened by the talent of others, but people called of God praise Him for distributing gifts and talents as He chooses.
8. Volunteers want to quit at the first sign of adversity or discouragement, but people called of God dig in and persevere.
9. Volunteers find their

main source of fulfillment in their talents and abilities, but people called of God know that being used of God is the most fulfilling thing you can do with your life.

10. Volunteers can’t handle being put in situations in which they’re going to be stretched, but people called of God respond to God’s call with humble dependence on Him.

“It is with Christians as with burning coals. If these are scattered apart, one after the other, they are easily extinguished. But, when collected together, the fire of one preserves that of the other, and the glowing coals often ignite others that lie near.”
—August Francke

Take some time and focus on these characteristics. Which ones are characteristic of your life? Which ones define your approach to your role in ministry? Now answer this question: “Are you called or a volunteer?”

CALL ON HIS NAME



Deacons Minutes

Mike Rowe called the meeting to order and opened the meeting with prayer. John McCray gave the devotion.

The minutes from our November 14th meeting were reviewed, a motion to approve was made and seconded. The motion passed unanimously. The financial report for **November 2016** was reviewed. Expenses over income continues to lag by \$18,300. This is an improvement from the October report. There was a

motion made to approve the financial report and seconded. The motion carried.

Old Business:

Heat Pumps have been installed.

Status of Automatic door opener for downstairs lobby still in limbo due to parts on back order.

Bathrooms remodeling: One quote received, attempting to get additional quotes.



Deacons Meeting
January 9th, 2017
@ 7:00 pm

New Business:

Reviewed Deacon Family ministry assignments and took appropriate actions. Discussion of families and prayer concerns. Updated prayer list, John McCray lead in

prayer.

Storage of Singing Christmas Tree will be provided by Cathy Shore.



Baptist Men's Day

Attention Men: Baptist Men's Day has been set for Sunday, January 22. The day will begin with a brotherhood breakfast @ 7:45 am. We will have a guest speaker during the 10:00 am Worship Service as well. There will also be a men's choir so plan to meet in the choir room at 9:30 am to practice. All men are encouraged to participate.

Cowardice asks the question:

Is it safe?

Expediency asks the question:

Is it politic?

Vanity asks the question:

Is it popular?

But conscience asks the question:

Is it right?

And there comes a time when one must take a position that is neither safe, nor politic, nor popular — but one must take it simply because it is right.

—Martin Luther King Jr.



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 Email: fbc_sparta@skybest.com

We're on the Web at
spartafirstbaptist.com

Arise.... Shine

Sunday School Attendance In December, 2016	
Date	Attendance
4	101
11	99
18	88
25	N/A
Sunday School Enrollment 119	
Average Attendance 96	

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Contact Monthly Newsletter



Return Service Requested

Committees and Services For January

Nursery Schedule

Joan Cox (336.657.8942) or
 Carla Collins (336.657.8016)

- 1 Brandon & Monica Keener
- 8 Barbara Murphy, Emily Cobb, & Zelma Shepherd
- 15 David & LeAnn Gambill
- 22 Robin Bugielski & Barbara A. Church
- 29 Shanna Warford, Brenda Taylor

Ushers

Brad Gambill
 JD Brooks

Van Drivers

Jim Cox @ 336.657.8942
 Faron Atwood @
 336.372.1503

Family Night

Dinner
 Youth

Heat & Air
Controller

Brotherhood Breakfast

Gerald Leftwich
 Bob Patrick
 Warren Taylor
 Mike Rowe
 Jim Cox

