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**MID-WEEK EVENTS**

Wednesdays, January 4,11,18,25  
3:30 pm FBC Kids Club  
3:30 pm Crossfire Youth  
5 pm Family Dinner  
6 pm Adult Bible Study  
7:15 pm Choir Rehearsal

**CROSSFIRE YOUTH MINISTRIES**

5:30 pm Mondays, M.S. Girls Group  
6:30 pm Tuesdays, H.S. Girls Group  
7 pm Tuesdays, H.S. Guys Group

**MISSION TRIP MEETING**

11:15 am Sunday, January 15

**LEADERSHIP COUNCIL RETREAT**

12:30 pm, Sunday, January 22

**CROSSFIRE WINTER JAM CONCERT**

Saturday, January 28

**BABY DEDICATION SERVICE**

10 am Sunday, January 29

**CHILI COOK-OFF**

11:30 am Sunday, January 29

**FBC MURPHY**  
C o n n e c t . G r o w . G o .  
FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF MURPHYSBORO  
401 NORTH FIFTEENTH STREET  
MURPHYSBORO, ILLINOIS 62966  
WWW.FBCMURPHY.ORG

SHAKER SAMUEL, PASTOR  
KAY REIMAN, EDITOR

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED



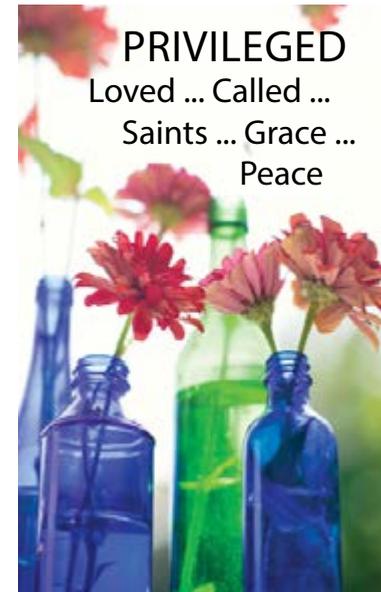
**PRIVILEGES OF A CHRISTIAN**

*"To all in Rome who are loved by God and called to be his holy people: Grace and peace to you from God our Father and from the Lord Jesus Christ."* -Romans 1:7

We are beginning a new year. We have been given a whole new year to fill with all the things which are going to happen to us as individuals, families, church and the community. The most exciting thing is that we don't have to do it alone. God will guide us through. As you read, most of Paul's letters start very positive. In the above verse, Paul is writing to the Roman church and he shares five privileges that belong to all Christians:

1. They are loved by God.
2. They are called.
3. They are saints.
4. They are the recipients of grace.
5. They are the recipients of peace from God the father and from the Lord Jesus Christ.

(1) We are loved by God. There is



nothing more to be said beyond that. God simply loves us because of who HE is and not because of who we are or what HE sees in us. God loves His own. We read in Deuteronomy 7:7-9, *"The Lord did not set his affection on you and choose you because you were more numerous than other peoples, for you were the fewest of all peoples. 8 But it was because the Lord loved you and kept the oath he swore to your ancestors that he brought you out with a mighty hand and redeemed you from the land of slavery, from the power of Pharaoh king of Egypt. 9 Know therefore that the Lord your God is God; he is the faithful God, keeping his covenant of love to a thousand generations of those who love him and keep his commandments."* It says HE is keeping His covenant of love.

We are Christians for one reason only and that is that God has set HIS love upon us.

(continues on page 11)

WANT TO HELP KIDS  
GO TO CAMP?  
COME BE A PART OF THE  
**CHILI COOK-OFF**  
SUNDAY, January 29, 11:30 am



Just bring a pot of Chili made from your favorite recipe ... A panel of judges will taste test, and you could be the new **2017 FBC Chili Champ**

After all the pomp & ceremony ... it will be time to eat great chili! Just make a donation ... any donation which will help send the FBC kids to Summer Camp.

For more information or to participate in the cook-off, please contact Bill or Marci Boudet.

For those non-chili lovers, soup will be available.



(continued from page 1)

(2) The second privilege is that we are called by God. Paul says that Christians are called in Romans 1:7, "To all in Rome who are loved by God and called to be his holy people: Grace and peace to you from God our Father and from the Lord Jesus Christ." All mankind is called to turn from sin and turn to Jesus Christ. God wants us to, gives us the opportunity to follow Him, and does not force us. Secondly, this allows us as a Christian to choose to live and take advantage of all our privileges.

(3) The third privilege that belongs to us is we are called saints. "Saints" does not mean that we reached a certain level of holiness and therefore worthy of special treatment. In the Bible, being a saint always means separated by God to God and to HIS work. This is what Paul said of himself in Romans 1:1, "set apart for the gospel of God."

We are loved by God, called by God, then set apart to HIM to live for HIM and work for HIM in this world. The ones who do not know CHRIST should be able to see the difference in our lifestyle.

(4) The fourth privilege is that we are the recipients of God's GRACE. Paul emphasizes

that our father and Jesus Christ gave us the Grace. In Ephesians 2:8, "For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—" we see it as a gift.

(5) The gift privilege that belongs to us is that we are again the recipients of the Peace of God. Paul says in Romans 5:1, "Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ." This is a marvellous privilege of the Gospel, that we have peace with God. This peace eludes the ones who do not know Jesus Christ.

Paul shares these five privileges belonging only to Christians. And I do believe it belongs to each member of First Baptist. So let us claim them in 2017. God will be honored and glorified in and through us.

God bless,  
Pastor Shaker



"I made a New Year's resolution to eat broccoli. If I can't stand it, I'll give it up for Lent."

**OUR CHURCH FINANCES  
FOR NOVEMBER 2016:**

|              | <u>This Month</u> | <u>To Date</u> |
|--------------|-------------------|----------------|
| Needed       | \$ 30,443.01      | \$ 338,950.28  |
| Given        | \$ 32,171.35      | \$ 330,889.67  |
| Over (Under) | \$ 1,728.34       | \$ (8,060.61)  |

## WORDS OF APPRECIATION TO THE CHURCH FAMILY

Thanks to all at FBC who helped us in 2015-2016 in any way especially Joan Mifflin, Loran Carpenter, Helen and Buddy Payne for all their help. They are very much appreciated as my Deacon Care Team members. They have served us communion, brought gifts of food and thanks to everyone who have helped with the delicious food and the delightful Christmas pages of candies, cookies and canned goodies. Especially we thank you all for your prayers. Merry Christmas to you all and Happy New Year.

Bill & Viola Fox  
\*\*\*

Thank you to my church family for your many acts of kindness. Your visits, cards, and care packages are so thoughtful and meaningful. God bless.

Marie Schumaker  
\*\*\*

Thank you so much for the memorial donation to the Elks Children's Care Corp. for Mike. It really means a lot.

Lynn Porter

The family of John Carvell and I want to thank all of First Baptist for the flower arrangement, thoughts and prayers that have been given for John. We thank Pastor Shaker for his visits with him. John had a special fondness for Shaker from the beginning when he first came to First Baptist. This congregation has always made John feel a part of them. The ladies who provided the food and labor for the funeral dinner did a great job. We really appreciated them.

\*\*\*

Thank you for feeding our football team! Your generosity is very much appreciated by all of our players and coaches.

Sincerely  
Gary Carter,  
Head Football Coach MHS  
\*\*\*

We wish to thank you for your kind expressions of sympathy in the death of Clif's brother. Your prayers, cards, tender words and the beautiful white rose mean so much. May God bless you.

Clif & Judy Penrod

## BABY/CHILD DEDICATION SUNDAY BEING PLANNED

A special service is being planned for **Sunday, January 29th**, during the morning worship at **10:00 am**. Several families have indicated that they would like to have their children and babies dedicated. They wish to make the commitment to teach and instruct their children in the teachings of Jesus Christ. Praise God!! This will be a wonderful service filled with joyous celebration.

If you would like to have your child or children dedicated, please contact Pastor Shaker so you and your family can be included in the celebration.

## LET JOHN KNOW YOU MISS HIM

Every Sunday, seeing John Brannon's vacant seat in the choir reminds us how much we miss him...we are John's family and this past year has been very challenging for him. Please, please, send John messages of encouragement, prayers and kindness to help him continue his battle to a full recovery. Mail your cards and letters to: John Brannon, c/o Saline Care Center, 120 S. Land St., Harrisburg, IL 62946. Thank you.



Parent-Child  
Dedication



# Saturday, January 28th

## COST: \$20 + PINNER

### LEAVE CHURCH AT NOON ... BACK AROUND MIDNIGHT CONCERT IS IN ST. LOUIS...REGISTER BY WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 25TH

### GOT QUESTIONS, TEXT OR CALL JESSE AT 713-7505

Thank You for 10 Years

TRAINER TEACHER  
preacher  
encourager  
leader  
example

## A SPECIAL GIFT FOR PASTOR & NICOLETTE

March 2017 will mark the **10th anniversary** of Pastor Shaker, Nicolette, and Hannah joining our family of faith. In honor of this milestone, FBC, as a gift, will be sending Pastor and Nicolette to the Holy Lands (March 21-31, 2017). In November, an announcement was made to the congregation asking for their help. Everyone was generous but the goal is still a little short. Your gift will make this trip possible and it will also be a wonderful way to say thank you for their ten years of leadership and service.

## DISCOVERING CHURCH MEMBERSHIP

Have you accepted Christ as your Savior and would like to be baptized? Do you want to learn more about the FBC family of faith? Do you know who the Baptists are or what it means to be a Baptist? If so, this is the class for you. If you are interested in being a part of this study group, please contact Pastor Shaker. Taking this class does not obligate you in any way.

## A NOTE FROM THE STRATEGIC PLANNING AND ACTION TEAM

*"Commit to the Lord whatever you do, and he will establish your plans."*

*Proverbs 16:3*

God is doing some amazing things here at FBC. As we move into 2017, let's keep focusing on Him and His leading of our church.

For the past couple years the Strategic Planning and Action Team has been meeting, praying, and gathering information and ideas from the church family about where God is taking the church. This next year we feel that God is leading us in some exciting directions.

As we continue to meet, we keep asking these questions:

What direction is God taking us?

What are the needs of our community?

How do we help our church family develop a closer relationship with Jesus?

Our goal is to create a long-term plan. We have and will continue to spend many hours praying and discussing what direction we feel that God is leading us in. We desire our church family to CONNECT with Jesus, GROW in their relationship with one another, and GO to our neighborhood, nation, and world to tell others about God's unending love.

In 2017, please join us in praying for God's will to be revealed to our church. We will be updating you throughout the year as plans and decisions are made, as well as asking for your input. Thank you for being faithful to God and to His church.

-Strategic Planning and Action Team

## RETREAT FOR THE LEADERSHIP COUNCIL IS SCHEDULED

All members of the 2017 Leadership Council are asked to attend the annual retreat on **Sunday, January 22nd** at **11:30 pm**. Lunch will be provided and the meeting will begin immediately following the meal.

If you cannot attend, please contact Pastor Shaker or Vicki Ardrey.

## 2016 BRINGS GROWTH

2016 has been a truly blessed year for the FBC family of faith.

On September 18th, three young ladies: **Lilli Robinson, Taylor Clemmons** and **Hannah Cole**, accepted Christ as their Savior and were baptized.

November 6th was a wonderful Sunday of celebration when sixteen individuals joined the FBC family of faith by baptism, letters and statements of faith.

**Trent Moore, Brady Doerr, Rylee Raines, Olivia Pfeaster, Avery Guthman, and Kylie Martin** were baptized during the morning worship service. **Danny Pullis, Carson Pullis, Logan Doerr, Connor Doerr and George Kuhlman** joined the church family by letter and **Dalton Rose, Steve and Lola Wilkerson, Russel and Nita Barringer** joined by statement of faith.

It has been an amazing and blessed year to watch how God is working in the lives of all these individuals. God bless each and everyone. God is good! God is good all the time!!

Please pray for all our new members and may they continue to seek God's direction in their spiritual walk.

## NOVEMBER LEADERSHIP COUNCIL MINUTES

Review of Leadership Council Covenant and Levels of Consensus: Members given copies of the Leadership Council Covenant and Levels of Consensus. Members voice his/her individual level of consensus for major decisions.

November 27 Trimester Business Meeting Agenda: New Council members and officers will be voted on. The 2017 Budget cannot be presented until it is determined how to proceed regarding the new Labor Law. The information will be presented to the congregation of members for discussion. A later, special business meeting will be held to vote on the 2017 budget.

Outreach and Evangelism: Pasta with Santa will be on December 7.

Missions: The church cookbooks are finally ready to be sold to raise money for the orphan's ministry. The Jamaica mission trip will be commencing July 21, 2017. The Trivia Night fundraiser brought in \$760.

Children's Discipleship: The children will be participating in a living nativity for the Hanging of the Greens service on November 27. There will be a Christmas party for the children on December 21.

Youth Discipleship: Teens will be serving at the Christmas banquet to earn tips for summer camp. Youth will be having a New Year's Eve party 12/31-1/1. The high school and college students are considering a trip to the Passion conference in 2017.

Finance and Stewardship: The 2017 budget is still on hold pending the Labor Law salary decision. The donations have already reached \$6500 for Shaker's anniversary Israel trip. It was decided by consensus that we should give \$100 to each staff member for Christmas (adding Jeff Wright this year).

Building and Grounds: A list of repairs needed should be distributed to the congregation to solicit volunteers who might have the skills to help. The cost of adding two additional security cameras is approximately \$800. It was decided by consensus that a camera should be installed in the elevator at a cost of \$533 to be spent from the Building Fund. The youth house needs a flood light outside.

Special Events: The Christmas banquet will be on December 4.

2017 Council, Officer and Deacon Nominations: Moderator: Vicki Ardrey, Treasurer: Helen Payne, Clerk: Gina Hunziker  
Leadership Council: Sheila Echols, Cathy Porter, Ed Miller, Chuck Grammer, Melinda Guthman, Deacons: Bob and Marsha Heiple. Vacant: One Leadership Council 2-year term. New members will be invited to attend the December Council Meeting.

Pastor's Report: FBC is hosting a 3 on 3 basketball tournament in March (9 a.m.-3 p.m. for 5-8 year-olds). The Kelly family is organizing our kids' participation. We are still deciding where to hold the tournament. The four-week prayer initiative for our church neighbors will result in a distribution of cranberry sauce and other inserts gift-bagged and delivered on 11/21. The next baby dedication will be on January 29, 2017. The next Baptism service is scheduled for February 25, 2017. The Community Churches Spring Festival will be in May.

The next Leadership Council meeting will be December 20 at 6:30 p.m.

The next Trimester Business meeting will be November 27, immediately following the morning worship.



**January 1**  
Kathie Grob & Carmella Schuman

**January 8**  
Kathie Grob & Katie Tolbert

**January 15**  
Kathie Grob & Savannah Schuman

**January 22**  
Kathie Grob & Mayah Kelley

**January 29**  
Kathie Grob & Carmella Schumann

Unable to help? Please contact  
Kathie Grob at 924-7017.

**COFFEE HOUR HOSTS**

**January 1**  
Rhett & Angla Barke

**January 8**  
Paul & Sheila Echols

**January 15**  
Clif & Judy Penrod

**January 22**  
Dale Blaise Family

**January 29**  
Vic & Patty Koenig

If you are unable to help, please  
contact the church office.



**MEALS ON WHEELS**

**January 23-27**

**Monday**  
Lou Polsgrove & Mary Leady  
Gayle Gillmore

**Tuesday**  
Christina Smith & Frank Aldridge  
Lou Polsgrove & Mary Leady

**Wednesday**  
Candy Watt & Alice Berry  
Mark & Darlene Pautler

**Thursday**  
Jane Beese & Alice Berry  
Lou Polsgrove & Mary Leady

**Friday**  
Jane Beese & Alice Berry  
Lou Polsgrove & Mary Leady



*January*

POST THIS ON YOUR  
REFRIGERATOR!

**VOLUNTEERS**

Thanks to our many

**GREETERS**

**January 1**  
Paul & Sheila Echols

**January 8**  
Buddy & Helen Payne

**January 15**  
Van & Angie Robinson

**January 22**  
Marsha Heiple & Joan Mifflin

**January 29**  
Tony & Cindy Stamm

If you are unable to help, please  
contact Cindy Stamm at 319-0781.

**WELCOME CENTER**

**January 1**  
Ed & Terri Miller

**January 8**  
Murl Johnson

**January 15**  
Judy Raines

**January 22**  
Matt & Elaine Hardwig

**January 29**  
Scott & Tina Evans

**HAPPY JANUARY BIRTHDAYS!**

- |    |                 |    |                   |
|----|-----------------|----|-------------------|
| 1  | Nancy Edgar     | 24 | Mandy Herring     |
| 2  | Gene Ebersohl   | 25 | Brent Woosley     |
| 3  | Wilma Brewer    | 26 | Carolyn Ewbank    |
| 3  | Kathy Doerr     | 28 | Pam Lipe          |
| 3  | Jo Graeff       | 29 | Debbie Penrod     |
| 4  | James Carlock   | 30 | Harper Waddington |
| 4  | Chuck Grammer   | 31 | Patsy Roberts     |
| 8  | Dick Kiel       | 31 | Gina Hunziker     |
| 8  | J. J. Pieron    |    |                   |
| 9  | Betty Allard    |    |                   |
| 9  | Taylor Clemmons |    |                   |
| 13 | Lorayne Puttman |    |                   |
| 16 | Kelley Rose     |    |                   |
| 19 | Avery Guthman   |    |                   |
| 20 | Cody Brashear   |    |                   |
| 21 | Brad Sims       |    |                   |

