

JANUARY NEWSLETTER

*Happy
New Year*



First Baptist Church - Fairfield Glade

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www.onhisrock.org



1/11 Anna Faalafua
1/11 Mary Higgins
1/13 John George
1/13 Sherry Kallas
1/13 Jackie LaFerney
1/15 Jim Botbyl
1/15 Karen Campbell
1/15 Wesley Moss

1/15 Bob Zanone
1/19 Tom Reigle
1/20 Janice Greene
1/21 Janice Botbyl
1/21 Blanche Putnam
1/23 Fred McCormack
1/23 Robert Skaggs
1/30 Ben Ogletree

**HAPPY
ANNIVERSARY**

1/1 Dick & Ruth Schroeder
1/16 Ken & Shirley Harrison

1/15 Kent & Stephanie Bergene
1/27 James & Beverly Gillette

THE PASTOR'S TWO BITS

Happy New Year! May God bless you in 2024! And may God bless Fairfield Glade First Baptist Church. When stepping into a new year, I usually like to look back and evaluate the old year; and look forward to set goals for the new.

I am rating 2023 as an 'okay' year for FG FBC.

- Our attendance stabilized from the downturn of the past couple of years. We even saw an increase of about 12% in the second half of the year. We had 28 new members including six by baptism!
- We brought Barry and Elliot on staff (and they've done GREAT!)
- We began the CARE ministry that has already helped meet numerous needs within the congregation.
- We had good revival services in October. It seems that the spirit of the church was... revived. By the way, we've already invited Monty Bounds back for 2024!
- Our Fellowship and Adult leadership teams did a great job planning events to bring us together.
- Although our budget giving has been low, the Building Fund giving was very strong. At the time of this writing, we are nearing our goal of being debt free. I hope that by the time you are reading this, we will be!

I am giving 2023 an 'okay' rating because although we had victories to celebrate, I believe there are some areas that are still waiting to be developed to their full potential.

I hope that 2024 will be a year of **outreach and evangelism**. God stirred a small group in this past year to begin visiting new people in the Glade, but we still have not gained steady and consistent traction with it. Studies show that new church plants far outpace older, existing churches in baptisms and numerical growth. The primary reason is that new churches are excited about 'advertising' themselves to their communities and sharing Jesus more freely. Older churches get complacent about those things. We've gotten complacent about them. My prayer is that we will find the enthusiasm in 2024 to reach into FFG and Cumberland County with the Gospel and with face-to-face invitations to our church.

Neither has there been enthusiasm about **missions**. I am grateful that we voted to increase our Cooperative program to 9.75% to get us ever closer to our 10% goal and I am grateful

that we generously support Lottie Moon, Annie Armstrong, and Golden offerings for missions. But my hope is that we will develop a heart for hands-on, boots-on-the-ground missions efforts. We have opportunities through our IMB, NAMB, and TBMB partners. We could come alongside a church in the Blue Oval city area to help them reach the thousands of new people who will move there for jobs. We could join mission efforts elsewhere in the U.S. through Send Relief. We could train and be ready to go with Disaster Relief. We have international missionaries to support... The list could go on and on. We don't have to try to do it all, but I pray that we would choose something to sink our teeth into that is beyond our 'normal' ministry area.

I also hope that we will find a **unified comfort zone for worship**. We took a survey last June about whether to move to a one-service Sunday morning format. Although the survey showed 75-80% positive feedback, there were about 20% who indicated they might seek a different church should we make such a change. Various reasons were given for that. Since then, our staff has been praying about the matter and researching ways to address some of the concerns voiced through the surveys. I believe we have some solutions. During at least January and February, through our typical winter downturn in attendance, we are going to move to the one-service format. The schedule will be:

9:00 a.m. Sunday School for everyone
10:30 a.m. Combined Worship Service
(including Children's Church)

If this format proves acceptable and unifying, then we can bring it to the church for whether to make it permanent. It will be a test whether we can set aside personal preferences and really seek God's will in what is best for the church as a whole. I pray that 2024 will be a year of a new unified spirit in our church family.

These are just a few of the goals I have for the church in 2024. What is our potential? How can we develop it into reality? ...May God be glorified through FG FBC this year!

-Pastor Doug



GOODIES !!!!!

**We're wanting to be more inviting to
our guests and visitors as well as our
members.**

The Goodie Ministry needs you !!!!

***Please sign up to bring Goodies on Sunday
mornings to share.***



We Need Your Help!!!

Our Nursery/Toddler ministry is in critical need of your help! Could you spare just 1 hour a month to serve in our Nursery/Toddler ministry? How about every other? If we are to be a growing church, we must be a serving church. We need caregivers during our Sunday 9:00AM

and 10:30AM Worship hours. We will fit your volunteering to your schedule! Who can say "NO" to these little ones? This is a plea to both men and women (couples also welcome). Please say "YES"! Contact Cass Lowery (edandcasslowery@gmail.com or 609-364-8016) or the church office to get more information or to volunteer! Just 1 hour every other

Joy (part 2) - The Joy of Christ

But we see him who for a little while was made lower than the angels, namely Jesus, crowned with glory and honor because of the suffering of death, so that by the grace of God he might taste death for everyone. Hebrews 2:9 [ESV]

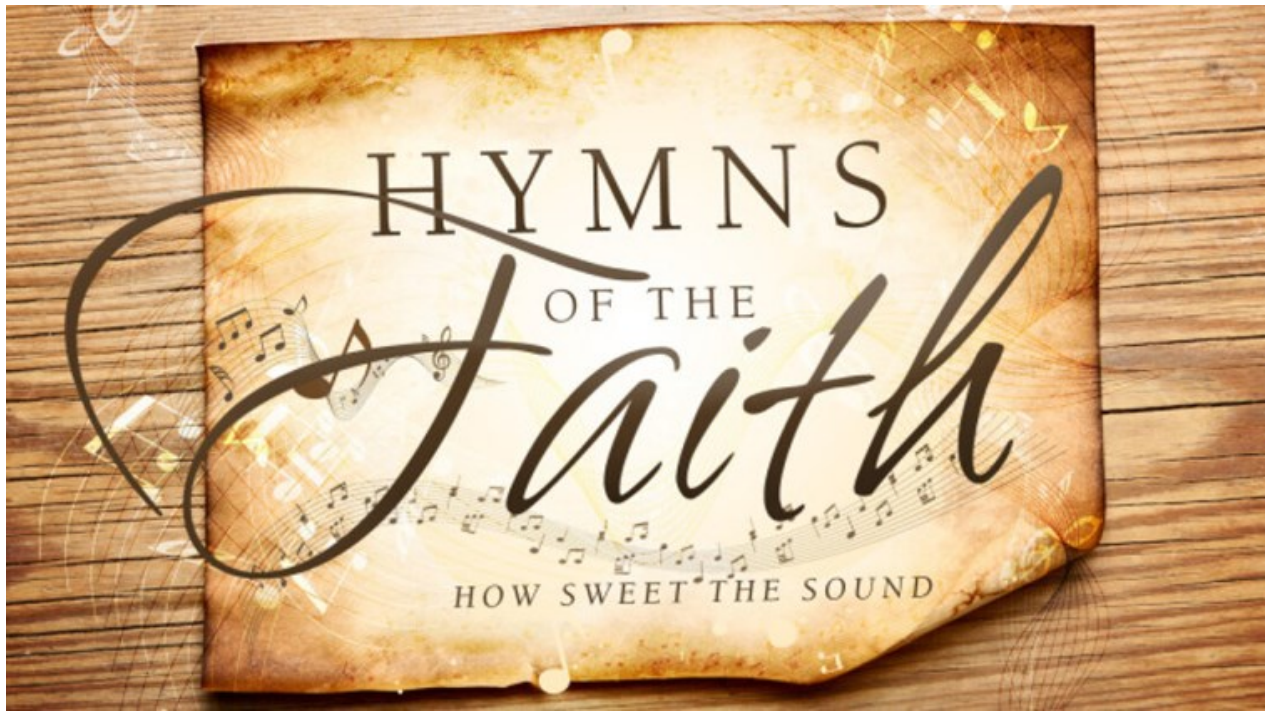
Jesus grew and became strong; He was filled with wisdom, and the grace of God was on Him. Jesus often spoke of joy. He told stories hoping to relate joy to human experiences so that we might understand. He told of a shepherd who was in charge of a hundred sheep. Learning that one was lost, the shepherd left the ninety-nine to find it. When he finally found it, he put the sheep on his shoulders, rejoicing as he returned to the fold. Jesus also told of a woman who had lost one of her silver coins. Frantically, she swept and searched diligently for it. After finding it she rejoiced with her friends. Jesus told a third story about a man with two sons. One son, taking his share of the inheritance his father was to leave him, squandered the wealth and then returned to his father apologetically. The father, however, seeing his son a long way off, felt compassion for him, ran to him, embraced him, and kissed him! After telling these stories, Jesus went on to tell His listeners that there is more rejoicing in Heaven when one sinner repents! Hebrews 11 tells about many in the faith who have gone before us in death. Many of these heroes were tortured for their faith and unswerving commitment to their God. Then, the writer of Hebrews begins the next chapter with these two verses: "Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God."

Who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross!?" How could there be any joy in the suffering caused by the betrayal of his friends? How could there be any joy in the suffering caused by the mocking, false testimonies, and beatings of the religious leaders? How could there be any joy in the suffering caused by the beating of his body, the whippings to his back and front-side, the nails being driven through His hands and feet, the crown of thorns being forced on His head, the spear being thrust into His side, and, finally, death through suffocation? How can there be any joy? There would be joy because Jesus knew that once this temporary suffering was done a new life could finally be offered to all mankind. There would be joy because Jesus knew that His father would find His sacrifice acceptable. There would be joy because Jesus knew that death would once and for all time be defeated. There would be joy because Jesus knew that all people would be given the chance of reconciliation with Him and His father. There would be joy because Jesus knew that His work on the cross would restore the fellowship between God and man, the way the fellowship was intended to be before the first sin. There would be joy because Jesus knew He would be exalted as King of kings and Lord of lords. There would be joy because Jesus knew he would be returning to His father to claim His rightful place at His father's side. You see, Jesus was looking beyond the cross to the joy in which He was about to enter. This was the joy of Christ, and He makes that joy available to those who place their trust in Him!

Let's revel in the joy bestowed upon us through the giving of the Christ Child and the eventual payment for our sins, not to mention all the other gifts lavished on us by our Heavenly Father through Christ Jesus our Lord!

-Pastor Elliot

Commit your works to the LORD, And your plans will be established. Proverbs 16:3



Do You Like Hymn Sings?

Have you been loving the Southern Gospel concerts but missing 5th Sunday Hymn Sings? Well, here's your chance to get those vocal cords tuned up and enjoy an "old fashioned" hymn sing!

When: Friday, January 26

Time: 6:00PM - Followed by Cookies & Coffee

Where: Fairfield Glade First Baptist Church



Stewardship Moment – We Did It!

It looks like we will have our mortgage paid off before the Jan 25th payment! It is absolutely amazing to see how this church came together to meet our goal. Thank you, Jesus!

Also, I hope each of you is enjoying the new LED sign. If anyone is interested in being on the team to maintain the sign contents, please contact Bill Foley at billfoleyretired@comcast.net.

Now is the time to consider how you break up your tithe. With the mortgage getting paid off, you can now assign more money to the General Fund. Keep in mind that we are maintaining the Building Fund open and will use any money collected to do repairs, etc.

The focus in 2024 is to grow the church and to reach our General Fund goal. Please be in prayer as to how you can help us achieve those goals. God is Great (and you all are wonderful)! Our Team is looking forward to celebrating with the church this accomplishment!

God Bless!

Stewardship/Finance Team



Quarterly Business Meeting

January 22 @ 6:00pm

Ending 2023.....

During December, the 3x3's enjoyed a wonderful Christmas get together to close out 2023 and there was a great Cookie Exchange.

The Christmas Get Together was hosted by Phil and Mary Smith. Here's some photos and hope you can join us in 2024:



And then to continue the momentum from our Women's Retreat and to encourage building relationships with other Christian women in our fellowship, a team of women sponsored a Cookie Exchange. After a devotional by Kelly, the women had fun together building Gingerbread houses, playing games, having refreshments, and, of course, exchanging cookies! What a great time together.



Women....more women's get togethers are being planned. Stay tuned!

Save the Date!!!!



For Sure in '24

What Date??? **Saturday, March 9**

You are invited to a "Tea For Sure in '24".

What Time??? **2PM**

Where??? **Fellowship Hall**

Who's Invited??? **YOU - MEN & WOMEN; Married and Singles**

Have you ever been to a Tea?
Well, here's your chance. Come
see what's it's all about and

enjoy wonderful refreshments. (And for those of you who really do not like tea, we'll even have coffee and water.)

And then as a special treat: the afternoon will be topped off with singing by Danny Funderburk, one of the most distinctive voices in all of Gospel music. ** Think about "hosting" a table this year.

More details and signups will begin in February.

Remember, EVERYONE MUST SIGNUP and get a ticket

So come join the Fellowship and Fun on Saturday, March 9!



Piece Corp - Quilters

Tuesday's @ 9:00am - Starts Jan 16



***Soothing
Souls***

***Every 4th Tuesday
@ 1:00 pm***



It's Time!!!

**Yes, it's time to sign up for 3x3
Dinner Groups.**

**Watch for signups to begin in
the church lobby.**

**Groups will be assigned by the
beginning of March for
March, April and May.**

Each quarter you will be assigned a "new" 3x3 group for the next quarter.

**December will be a Christmas Get Together with everyone
participating together.**

Lots of fun and fellowship and very little work for any one couple.

**This fellowship is open to everyone – married couple, dating couples,
and even singles.**

**If you are single, just find another single to be the
other half of your team!**

**Be sure to sign up in our church lobby before, between or after
one of our Worship Services in January and February.**

**If you are one of our "snowbirds," please may contact Cass Lowery
(edandcasslowery@gmail.com or 609-364-8016) call the church office and
someone will get back to you.**

***So what's stopping you. Give it a try. You'll have lots of fun and
fellowship and actually get to know one another!***

Intercessors Prayer Group

You are invited to attend

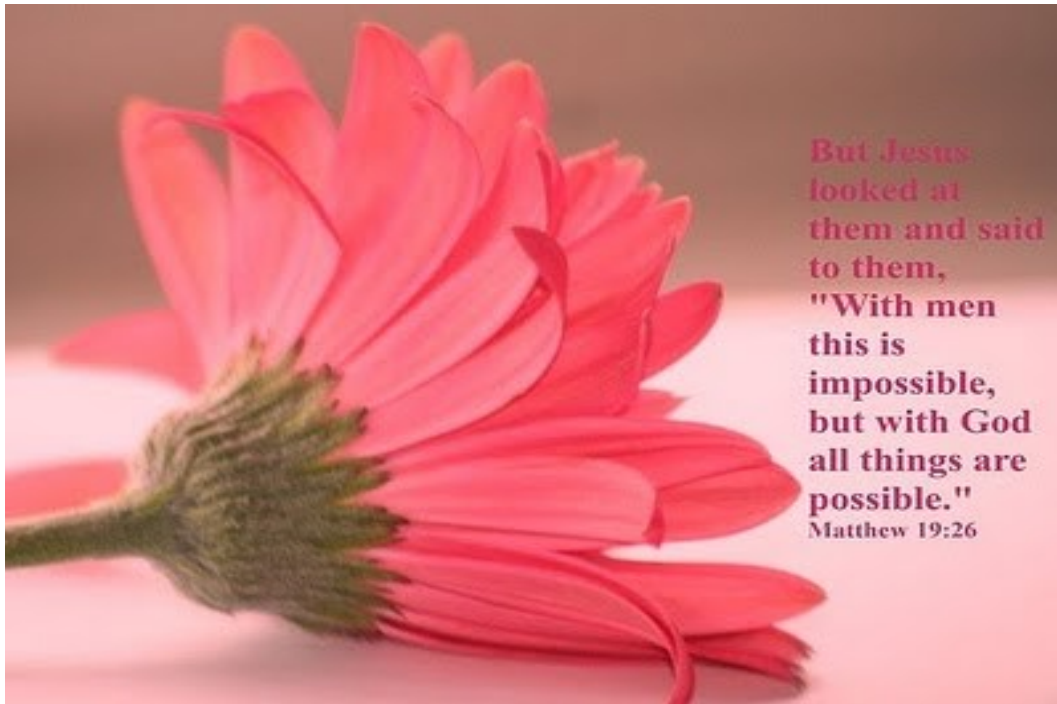
In Room 120

Wednesday's at 9:00am

Mrs. Janice Botbyl has answered the call to facilitate the

Intercessors Prayer Group

There is a Prayer Box available on the credenza at the main entrance of the church where you may place your prayer request.



But Jesus
looked at
them and said
to them,
"With men
this is
impossible,
but with God
all things are
possible."
Matthew 19:26

THIRTIETH ANNIVERSARY, EXPANDED EDITION

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30 DAYS TO UNDERSTANDING



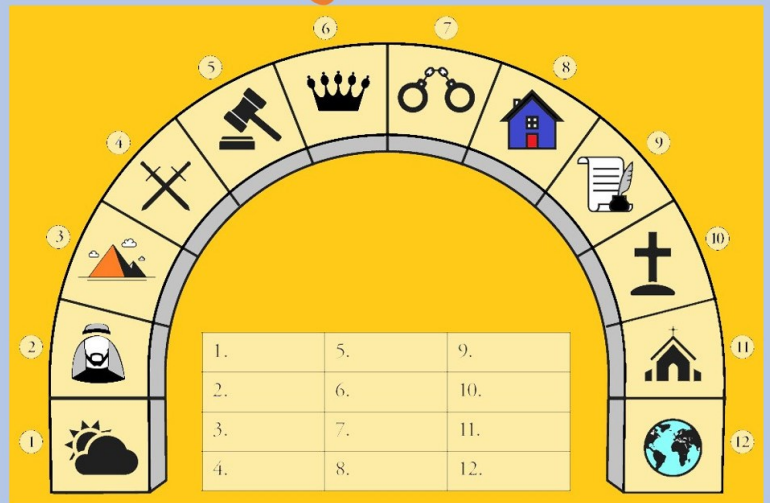
THE BIBLE

UNLOCK THE SCRIPTURES
IN 15 MINUTES A DAY

MAX ANDERS

New Discipleship Class

Beginning January 7th



Sunday Evenings @ 6:00pm



American
Red Cross

BLOOD DONORS NEEDED NOW!

JANUARY 5

**9:00AM TO
3:00PM**

**FELLOWSHIP
HALL**

Be Still And Know That I Am God

Women's Bible Study

Study: The Book of Revelation

Tuesday - 1:00pm - Conference Room

Teacher: Nina Prigodich





Bill & Brenda Foley - Teachers

26- Week - Bible Study Series

The ABC's of Discipleship

Wednesday Night @ 5:15 pm

***Starting January 3, 2024**

Conference Room



January 20th

Saturday @ 8:00am

First Baptist Church - Golf League



No Golf Schedule for January and February



NEEDED: Your smile and a helping hand to greet all persons and hand out bulletins as they enter on Sunday mornings.

Also direct anyone needing to know where a specific Sunday School class or the Nursery is.

If you'd like to join the First Impressions Team please contact Deb Carlson 931.210.9998 or email: tenndlc@gmail.com

Are You Ready for Fun Times in 2024 with Your Church Family???

Your Adult Leadership Team has been hard at work selecting some fun activities for you, our church family in 2024.

Here's what's planned for 2024:

Hymn Sing (for non-Snowbirds) - January 26, 6-7:30, cookies and coffee following

Tea for Sure in '24 - Saturday, March 9. Music by Dany Funderburk.

Lavender Farm & Sgt York's Homestead – End of June to mid-July

Minor League Baseball – During the summer months – either Tennessee Smokies or Chattanooga Lookouts

Biblical Time Dinner Theater – In the Fall in Pigeon Forge

Look for more information and signups as we get nearer to each event!





Upcoming Events

January - Monday's - Men's Bible Study @ 9:00am

January - Tuesday's - Women's Bible Study @ 1:00pm

January - Friday's - Women's Bible Study @ 10:00am

January - Wednesday's - Intercessor's Prayer Group @ 9:00am

January 5 - Red Cross Blood Drive @ 9:00am-3:00pm

January 11 - Memory Loss Support Group @ 11:00am

January 14 - The Lord's Supper @ 10:30am

January 18 - M&M Luncheon @ 11:00am

January 20 - Men's Breakfast @ 8:00am

January 22 - Quarterly Business Meeting @ 6:00pm

January 26 - Hymn Sing @ 6:00pm-7:30pm
