

# ***FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH***

***A CHURCH UNITED TO ENJOY GOD'S GRACE AND EXTEND HIS GLORY***



***JANUARY 2018***

***FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH***

***3556 N. PORTERSVILLE RD.***

***JASPER, IN 47546***

***812-634-1906***

***[www.fbjasper.org](http://www.fbjasper.org)***

***DR. JOHN DUNCAN, PASTOR***

***[pastorjohn61@outlook.com](mailto:pastorjohn61@outlook.com)***

***Image Bearer***





## ***FROM THE PASTOR'S PEN:***



I was going over our Vision Statement this past week and reflecting on 2017. We had a really, good year! God has richly blessed us and has dispensed His grace upon us in marvelous ways. Like any year, there were some difficulties. We had some of our church members struggle with life changes, others suffered through illnesses, some lost loved ones, and still others faced some seemingly insurmountable difficulties. Yet, through it all God's grace was poured out in abundance. God worked through our church body to meet the needs of numerous families. We prayed and cried over those going through severe afflictions and watched as God brought healing and restoration and dispensed His love and tenderness through various members of the body who reached out to those in need.

Our Vision Statement states the following: ***A Church united to enjoy God's grace and extend His glory.*** As I reflect on the past year I would have to say that in 2017 we **enjoyed God's grace.** I know that for me, personally, I enjoyed God's grace. In July of this past year my son, Joshua, who was not supposed to survive a brain hemorrhage at the age of 11 months and was told he wouldn't live past 17, and that he would probably not be able to have children due to the chemotherapy he went through in Middle School, became the proud father of Henry Alan Duncan! God is so good! Sandy and I enjoyed God's grace poured out through our church family as we went through a few medical issues ourselves. I can honestly say that I am proud to be the pastor of First Baptist Church. I have witnessed this body pour out the grace of God on fellow church members in need, people in the community, and others hurting throughout our nation. Yes, we have, indeed, enjoyed God's grace.

**FROM THE PASTOR'S PEN CONTINUED:**



Therefore, I believe that the year 2018 must be the year we complete our vision: **extend His glory.** Since we have so enjoyed God's grace, may we make it our priority to **extend His glory.** In 2018 may we look for opportunities to make His Name known. May we tell our story that is really His story. This year our focus is going to be about going outside the walls and into the streets with the Gospel of Jesus. My prayer is that this following question would haunt us throughout 2018: ***If we knew that Jesus would return at the end of 2018 what would we make the priority of our church?*** It would be to extend His glory! We would want to make sure that everyone in Dubois County knew of God's glory. We would want all our relatives to come to faith in Christ Jesus. We would want to make known the Name of Jesus everywhere we went. Now.... the real question: ***If that would be our priority if we knew Jesus would return at the end of 2018, why is it not the priority anyway?*** Church, it's time to extend His glory in 2018.

Dr. John Duncan



# Leadership Team

Greetings from the FBC Leadership Team.

As our pastor continues his sermon series on Ephesians in January, we come to a very important section of the book that gives us instruction on how we as brothers and sisters in Christ should treat each other (and others). Very simply put it is LOVE!

Ephesians 5:1, 2 - Therefore, be imitators of God, as dearly loved children, and walk in love, as Christ also loved us and gave himself for us, a sacrificial and fragrant offering to God. This is theme (command) to love one another is backed up by the apostle John in I John 4:7, 8 - Dear friends, let us love one another, because love is from God, and everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. The one who does not love does not know God, because God is love. And of course, by Jesus in John 13:34, 35 - "I give you a new command: Love one another. Just as I have loved you, you are also to love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another."

Let us show our community who we are this coming year by loving one another and loving those around us in our everyday walk. Who can you love today?

Our team continues to meet every month with Pastor John to pray together for our church and to look over any business we need to discuss.

We remind everyone that we continue with our prayer ministry. We have groups meeting on Sunday morning at 7:30 AM, 8:30 AM, and 9:50 AM in the Cry Room. If you would like you can join us at one of these times to pray for our church.

The pastor has completed the classroom training with our new Deacon Candidates and we will be ordaining these men as Deacons at a later date. Please continue praying for these men and their families as they prepare to take on this new ministry. Our new Deacon candidates are: Phil Malone, Tim Harris, Eric Herndon, and Phil Hostetler.

Again, our team members are: Pastor - Dr. John Duncan; Elders - John Dillon, Tom Gruenloh, Todd Jasper, Bruce Reinhart, Bill Whittington; Deacons - Rod Haskins, Eric Jones. Thank you for your prayers for us and our church.

In Him,

FBC Leadership Team

## *Wednesday Night Bible Studies:*

### *Women's Ministry:*

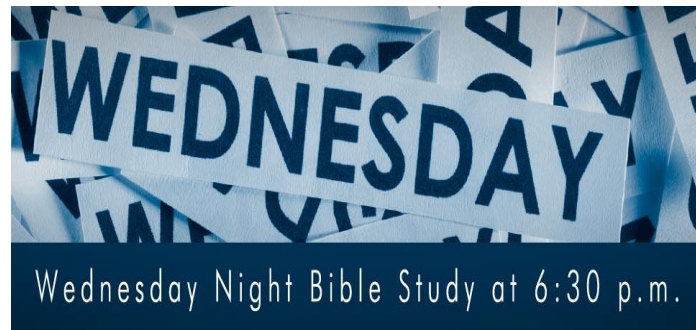
The women are continuing their study of **The Armor of God** by Priscilla Shirer in Room 203. They are having a great time learning that God prepares us for spiritual warfare and has given us everything we need to be victorious in the battle and to stand firm in His Word. We invite all women to join us as we continue feasting on the Word and growing in knowledge and truth.

The Women's Ministry is hosting a **Card-Making Ministry** on the second Tuesday of each month. The first one will be held at the church on January 9<sup>th</sup> @ 6:00 pm. Each lady is asked to bring their favorite finger-food as we share together in fellowship. The ladies will learn how to make cards to send to members who are sick, prospective members, cards for encouragement and various other types of cards. Come and join us in this exciting ministry where we can put our own special touch on the cards we send to communicate to one another how much we love and care for them.

### *Men's Ministry*

The men continue meeting on Wednesday Evenings in the Fellowship Hall studying, **The Apostle's Creed** by Matt Chandler. We are really enjoying our time together as we search out Scripture to see the foundation for this Creed as set forth in God's Word. We invite all men to come and join us in this enriching study. You will be truly blessed by the fellowship, conversation, and insight of the various men gathered around the table to chew on God's Word.

We will also be having our monthly Men's Breakfast on Saturday, January 6<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 am in the Fellowship Hall. We will be having pancakes, eggs, bacon, coffee, juice, and milk. Come and join us for a great time of fellowship and devotion as we share what God is doing in our lives and turn to God's Word for encouragement.



### *Lottie Moon Christmas Offering:*

The Lottie Moon Christmas Offering total was \$1,720.00. Your support of missionaries through prayer and financial giving was greatly appreciated. Thank you for your generosity. The Church goal is \$2,500.00, the offering will continue to be collected through January. Please continue to give generously.

# *Just Older Youth with Joyful Hearts*

## *J.O.Y. Group*

The JOY Group met for their monthly luncheon on Thursday, December 21<sup>st</sup>. We were blessed by the wonderful variety of food and deserts that were shared by the group. After enjoying a wonderful meal, we had a Christmas Devotion led by Dr. John Duncan and shared some of our thoughts about Christmas. I cannot overemphasize how special these gatherings are for the church body. This group of Seniors has been meeting for many years. They have grown very close to one another. They share one another's burdens...they laugh together, and they cry together. When I am blessed with the opportunity to spend time with this group I am reminded of the early church and their sweet fellowship that took place in the homes of believers. I imagine the conversations that took place in those early meetings are very similar to the ones that take place when our JOY Group gathers. They love one another and rejoice when they get to see one another. They share how God is enriching their lives and they pray together and rejoice in the blessings that God is bringing through the church body.



I hope and pray that if you are 55 and over and have not taken the step to come and fellowship with us that you will join us in January. We will have our Luncheon on Thursday, January 18<sup>th</sup> @ 11:00 in the church fellowship hall. If you are looking to connect or feeling alone, come and join us and you will discover a group of men and women who love God and love one another...you will never be alone again. God bless.

Dr. John Duncan



## LIFE GROUPS COMING IN JANUARY

We will be starting Life Groups on Sunday, January 7<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 pm at the church. There will be two different courses offered. Each course will have six sessions in the Winter. We will meet for three sessions concurrently then we will break off and join with the church body in a Night of Prayer on January 28<sup>th</sup> in the Sanctuary. We will then resume our courses with three sessions from February 4<sup>th</sup> – February 18<sup>th</sup>. This will complete our Winter Life Groups and we will once again join with the church body for a Night of Prayer on February 25<sup>th</sup> in the Sanctuary.



One of the courses being offered is **The Biblical Portrait of Marriage** led by John Dillon in the Fellowship Hall. In this course, couples will discover six partnership principles and six problem-solving strategies to strengthen their marriages. The first six sessions (Winter Session) cover the partnership aspect of marriage. The roles and responsibilities of husbands, wives, and couples. The second six (Spring Session) tackle marriage's toughest problems: in-laws, money, sex, romance, communication, and loyalty.

The other course being offered is **Unseen, But Certain: The Spiritual Reality of Angels, Satan, Demons, Hell, and Heaven**. In this course, Dr. Danny Akin, President of Southeastern Theological Seminary leads a Video Driven study of this exciting topic. When it comes to spiritual realities that we cannot see or touch, we need truthful, reliable answers. Opinions and feelings may excite and entertain us, but ultimately, they leave us confused and bewildered. In **Unseen, But Certain**, Dr. Danny Akin allows the Bible to speak clearly and authoritatively, bringing enlightenment to some of life's most complex and commonly asked questions.

Look for the sign-up list for these upcoming courses and join us as we grow together in Christ. We need everyone to sign up as soon as possible so that we know how many workbooks to order for the two courses.



Parents, bring your children as you attend LIFE GROUP and let them spend time in our new JESUS, ARTS, & MUSIC time on Sunday evenings @ 5:00 pm. We are also looking for volunteers to help out as we work with the children on a musical during the first three-week session (January 7-21). We will then have another three-week session (February 4-18) in which we may be working with crafts. If you would like to help, please contact Pam Gruenloh or Pastor John.

In order to help us plan better, please sign up your children. JAM will be for children kindergarten through 5<sup>th</sup> grade. We will also have a Preschool class for younger children. If you would like to help in the Preschool Class, please contact Pastor John.





## *January Birthday's*

*7 Bill Mangold      12 Joyce Colman*  
*16 Neil Rose        21 Haley Kippenbrock*  
*23 Sharon Busick    24 Rhonda Russell*

*Your family at First Baptist Church*  
*would like to wish you a very,*  
***Happy Birthday!***



*Birthday Blessings*



# January 2018



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 Happy New Year!	2	3 6:30 p.m. Family Night Bible Studies	4	5	6 9:00 a.m. Men's Breakfast
7 Sunday School 9:00 a.m. Morning Service 10:15 a.m. Life Groups 5:00 p.m.	8	9	10 6:30 p.m. Family Night Bible Studies	11	12	13
14 Sunday School 9:00 a.m. Morning Service 10:15 a.m. Life Groups 5:00 p.m.	15	16	17 6:30 p.m. Family Night Bible Studies	18 11:00 a.m. J.O.Y. Group Meeting	19	20
21 Sunday School 9:00 a.m. Morning Service 10:15 a.m. Life Groups 5:00 p.m.	22	23	24 6:30 p.m. Family Night Bible Studies	25	26	27
28 Sunday School 9:00 a.m. Morning Service 10:15 a.m. Life Groups 5:00 p.m.	29	30	31 6:30 p.m. Family Night Bible Studies		Please join us in our Sunday Morning Prayer Ministry. Groups are meeting in the Cry Room to pray at: 7:30 am, 8:30 am, and 9:50 am.	