

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

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



Image Bearer

January 2019

First Baptist Church

3556 N. Portersville Road

Jasper, In. 47546

www.fbjasper.org

Dr. John Duncan, Pastor

pastorjohn61@outlook.com

Sunday Mornings

9:00 a.m. Sunday School

10:15 a.m. Morning Worship

5:00 p.m. Life Groups

Wednesday Evenings

6:30 p.m. Men's & Women's Bible Studies

Children's Ministries



From the Pastor's Pen...



Another year has ended and a new one is just getting started. The beginning of the year is a good time to reflect on how God has been among us. It's easy to see the end of the year as a time of regrets, of unkept promises, and missed opportunities. Instead, I choose to look at the many ways in which God had demonstrated that He has indeed been Emmanuel, "God with us!" Just walk with me through the year 2018 for a brief spell.

In the past year God has manifested His presence in the midst of grief and trials. We have had church families who have lost loved ones in the past year and have felt the love of God embodied in the members of First Baptist Church as we have rallied around them and poured out God's love on those walking through the valley of the shadow of death. We have experienced the comfort and strength of our God as we have faced many illnesses and dealt with various bouts of cancer throughout our church body. In each instance God has manifested His amazing love and His unlimited grace as He has raised up the body of Christ to come alongside each of those families walking through crises and bear their burdens with them.

Yes, God has been very present with us in times of great need. He has even shown up in remarkable ways bringing healing and recovery when the outcome looked very bleak. I rejoice in my God as I reflect on Donna Spellmeyer-Schnell's tumor in February, which the doctor thought was beyond hope and God demonstrated that He is Sovereign even over this. Time and time again God demonstrated that He is, indeed, "with us." We have had numerous church families who have been impacted by cancer diagnoses and yet in each case God has manifested His strength and His comfort to these families. God has raised up the body of Christ here at First Baptist to lift up these families in prayer and embody the love of Christ in ministering to them. Our God is not only "with us," he is amazing!

For many 2018 has been a challenging year of sickness and difficulty. Yet, even in this God has demonstrated that He is "with us." We have several families who have had ongoing health issues throughout the year and while many of them are still dealing with these issues, they feel the ongoing presence of God giving them peace and comfort. We have discovered that even in our pain and difficulties God is present with His mercy and His grace giving us the strength to endure what we are facing. We know that God is working His purpose in our lives for our good and for His glory.

2018 has also been a year in which God had demonstrated that He is "with us" in our ministries. Our Men's and Women's Studies on Wednesday Evenings are flourishing; and lives are being changed as men and women are being conformed more completely into the image of Christ. We experienced the presence of God in our VBS this past year as God used us to minister to many children in our community. We also were reminded that God is Sovereign over all things as we planned the Trunk or Treat in October. The rains came with a vengeance and we were all concerned that our Trunk or Treat would get washed out. However, by moving everything inside the event was a far greater success



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than it would have been if we had gone with our original outdoor plan. God is always right! We were able to minister of over 100 people in our community.

While the past year has been one of new challenges, it has also been one in which God has strengthened us too rise to each challenge. God has richly blessed our church body in 2018. He has added fifteen people to our church, one by baptism and we have seen the jail ministry, led by Kenny Schnell, flourish as they baptized around 20 this year. God continues to use our church body to minister to those who are looking for a new beginning through our Churches Embracing Offenders (CEO) Ministry. We have seen God do some amazing things in the lives of these people.

Now that 2018 is behind us, we must look ahead to the challenges and opportunities that God has in store for us in 2019. Since we have been given ample evidence that God is, indeed, "with us" may we now determine to share with our neighbors, family members, community, co-workers, and fellow students that God is "with us" and that He can give them the hope they so desperately need. May 2019 be the year that JFBC goes on mission for God!

Dr. John Duncan



Leadership Team

Greetings from the FBC Leadership Team.

As we start 2019, we can look back at the previous year and thank God for the many blessings He has provided for us. Just one of the many things I am thankful for is our church - the love, support and unity we have with one another that can only come from our Heavenly Father! Just in the past couple of weeks we approved a financial budget for 2019 with great harmony among our congregation. Sadly, that is not very common in most churches.

Unity within the body should always be the goal as brothers and sisters in Christ. Paul encourages the church in Eph. 4:1-3 - As a prisoner for the Lord, then, I urge you to live a life worthy of the calling you have received. Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love. Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace.

Peter called for unity 1 Pet. 3:8 - Finally, all of you, have unity of mind, sympathy, brotherly love, a tender heart, and a humble mind.

And the psalmist writes in Ps. 133:1 - Behold, how good and pleasant it is when brothers dwell in unity!

Looking forward to the coming year let's continue to make it our goal, with His help, to live for God in UNITY!

Our team members are: Pastor – Dr. John Duncan; Elders – John Dillon, Tom Gruenloh, Todd Jasper, Bruce Reinhart, Bill Whittington; Deacons – Rod Haskins, Eric Jones, Phil Malone, Tim Harris, Eric Herndon, and Phil Hostetler.

Thank you for your prayers for us and our church.

In Him,

FBC Leadership Team



Men's Ministry

Our men continue meeting every Wednesday evening for our Men's Bible Study. We are presently studying **Act Like Men** by James MacDonald. We are being challenged to rise up to the high calling of being godly men that make a difference in their home, their church, and their world. We invite all men to join us each Wednesday evening at 6:30 in the Fellowship Hall. We are averaging about 20 men each night.

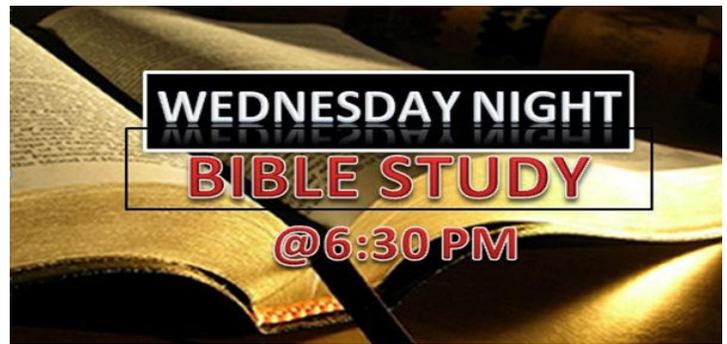
We also meet on the first Saturday of each month at 9:00 am for our Men's Breakfast. All men are encouraged to attend for a great time of food, fellowship, and inspiration. Last month we were privileged to hear Dr. Rick Hillard from the Indiana State Convention of Baptists come and share with us about Disaster Relief. After the meeting we discussed the possibility of hosting a training session in 2019 so that we can get the credentials necessary to be a part of the Disaster Relief Team of the Southern Baptist Convention. There will be more information concerning this opportunity coming soon.

Women's Ministry

Our women are meeting every Wednesday evening for our Women's Bible Study. We are presently going through the study: **Just Open the Door** by Jen Schmidt. We are learning about Christian hospitality and how we can live this out on a daily basis and thus demonstrate the love of Christ. All women are invited to come and join us each Wednesday evening at 6:30 for a great time of fellowship and study. You will build relationships that will last a life time and discover support among the women of the church that you did not dream you could find. Make plans to join us now.

Lottie Moon Christmas Offering

The Lottie Moon Christmas offering total for the month of December was, \$2,675.00. Thank you for your generous financial gifts and prayers for our missionaries this Christmas season.





Just Older Youth with Joyful Hearts

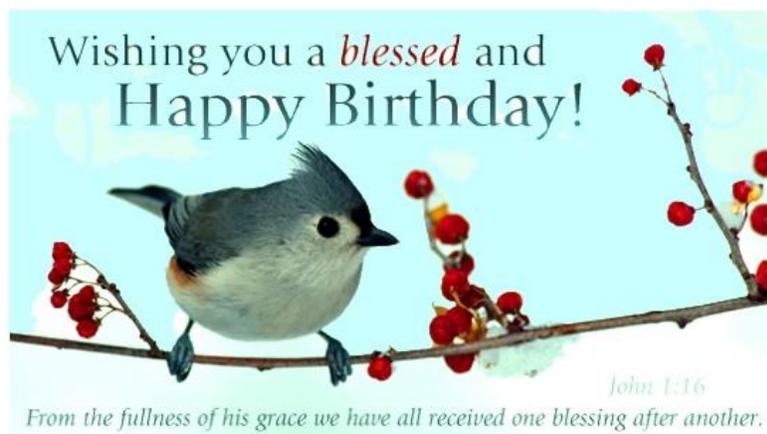
The JOY Group met for their monthly luncheon on Thursday, December 20th. They had a great time of fellowship, a season of prayer for the many who are sick and could not attend, as well as a great spread of food that left everyone full and satisfied. The JOY Group meets every third Thursday at 11:00 am in the Fellowship Hall for their monthly luncheon. If you are 55 or over, come and join us for a great time that will bring joy to your heart and put a spring in your step.



January Birthday's

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

*Your First Baptist Church Family
would like to wish each of you a
Happy Birthday!*



January 2019

Sunday

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday



1
Happy New Year!

2

3

4

5
Men's
Breakfast
9:00 am

6
Sunday School
9:00 a.m.
Morning Worship
10:15 a.m.

7

8

9
Bible Studies
Children's
Ministries
6:30 p.m.

10

11

12

13
Sunday School
9:00 a.m.
Morning Worship
10:15 a.m.

14

15

16
Bible Studies
Children's
Ministries
6:30 p.m.

17
J.O.Y. Group
Lunch
11:00 a.m.

18

19

20
Sunday School
9:00 a.m.
Morning Worship
10:15 a.m.

21

22

23
Bible Studies
Children's
Ministries
6:30 p.m.

24

25

26

27
Sunday School
9:00 a.m.
Morning Worship
10:15 a.m.

28

29

30
Bible Studies
Children's
Ministries
6:30 p.m.

31

