

A Message From Your Pastor January 2019

2019 Motto = "**Abide & Abound**"

Happy New Year! We've made another trip around the sun and God has blessed us to see a new year. Along with helpful feedback (and prayers) from our deacons and church ministerial staff I am excited to present to you the 4 church goals which will help us "abide & abound" in 2019.

1) Facilities Goal: Building/Facilities Expansion (*John 15:16*)

During 2019 we are going to engage in a marketing and financial pledge campaign for our facilities expansion called "Build To Last" based off of the command of Jesus in John 15:16 for his disciples to "*bear fruit that lasts.*" This effort will allow us to continue to build momentum and excitement for the project while keeping the congregation better informed. We anticipate some major developments and steps forward in our facilities expansion this year.

2) Missions & Ministry Goal: Personal Evangelism "Who's your one?" (*Acts 1:8*)

This goal is designed to get everyone in our congregation engaging in personal evangelism in 2019, because Jesus said in Acts 1:8 that each of his disciples would be a witness for him! We will regularly ask each other throughout 2019—Who's your one? What have you done lately to reach your "one"? Each of us is to have at least one person that we are regularly praying for and actively engaging for Christ. Part of this goal will be quarterly community meals hosted in homes of our church members for the purpose of inviting unchurched neighbors and prospective members. Pastor Chris will preach an evangelism sermon series and we will have an evangelism training Sunday led by Rev. Marty Dupree (Feb. 24th 2018). Putting this goal in action will involve three critical steps from every person connected to NCBC: **Step 1) Invite Someone To Church, Step 2) Witness To Someone By Sharing Your Story, Step 3) Share the Gospel Story (Creation, Fall, Rescue, Restoration) and lead someone in the prayer of salvation.**

3) Spiritual Discipline Goal: Church Wide Bible Reading Plan (*Psalms 119:105*)

Psalms 119:105 says that God's word is like a lamp to our feet and a light to our path. If the Bible holds that much power and application for our daily living, why are so many Christians failing to read their Bible? Our spiritual discipline goal for 2019 is for all of us to get back into the discipline of daily devotional reading from the Bible. In order to do this, we will engage in a Bible reading plan together as a church family which will allow us to cover the entire New Testament in 2019. You can find the plan or download to your phone at <http://bible.com/r/3RR> You can also find each day's reading listed on the church calendar which is inserted in each month's newsletter.

As you read your Bible each day, you are encouraged to keep a journal and make notes in answer to these questions:

- 1) *What does this scripture teach me about God?*
- 2) *How does this scripture speak to me (my family) about my/our walk with Christ?*
- 3) *What is the Holy Spirit saying through this scripture to NCBC?*

Throughout our worship services in 2019, intentional effort will be given to educate our congregation about the particular book of the Bible that is preached from each Sunday, as well as how to read and understand scripture. We will also have two Bible Trivia nights scheduled in 2019 which will invite our Sunday School classes to face off in a test of their Bible knowledge.

4) Miscellaneous Goal: Baptist History & Heritage Appreciation. (1 Peter 2:9)

For this final goal, we will be exploring a little more of our Baptist roots. In order to know where we are going, it is essential to know of our identity by studying those who came before us and forged our faith. We will have a spring sermon series on Baptist Hero's and a fall lecture series on Baptist History & Heritage.

I hope you are looking forward to these goals as much as I am! Please put these somewhere you can easily see them—remembering to pray and believe God for amazing things in 2019!

Happy New Year,

Pastor Chris