

January 2019 Newsletter

Madison Avenue Baptist Church

1703 E. Laurel Street, Goldsboro, NC 27534; 919-734-3761

January Birthdays:

5	Leo Daughtry	21	Betty Holloway
8	Delores Lail	24	Faye Carawan
9	Karen Outland	27	Donnie Frederick
17	Joyce Frederick	28	Sherwood Tyndall
17	Ed Kroboth	28	Ty Frederick
18	Loretta Grant	31	Marsha Compton
21	Doug Tart		

January Calendar of Events:

1 (Mon)	New Year's Day Church Office Closed
2 (Wed)	Covered Dish Supper-6:00pm
6 (Sun)	Church Council-2:00pm
13 (Sun)	Baptist Men and Women's Breakfast-8:00am
15 (Tue)	Deacon's Meeting-7:00pm
23 (Wed)	Quarterly Church Conference-6:30pm
28 (Mon)	Very Special People Meeting-11:30am

Deacon Corner

I. K. Williamson, Diaconate Chair

A big thank you to all the members of our church family who participated in the ministries and events that took place during the Advent Season in our church. I trust that we have all been blessed by those ministries and activities that we were a part of. Our Old Timey Christmas party on the 19th was a special blessing as we watched the children and listened to their sweet voices sing and then watch the children participate in Steve Richardson's presentation of a most unusual but meaningful rendition of the Christmas Story. On behalf of all those who participated in the Old Timey Christmas party, I would like to say a special thank you to Becky Aldrin and Edwin for planning the event and to Elisabeth and the sound booth crew who also helped enhance the success of the evening. The kitchen ladies did an outstanding job preparing and serving the hot dog meal with such efficiency, capping it off with cookies that they provided along with hot chocolate. Thank you, ladies!

Our Christmas Eve Candlelight Communion Services was a very special evening of worship and celebration of the birth of our Lord and Savior. Attendance was reasonably good in spite of the concerns about the time change. I would like to apologize to the church family for the seven o'clock time change, but I was unaware of the concern until it was too late to change the time

back to six o'clock. We will certainly make sure that the six o'clock time is reinstated for our service on December 24, 2019.

Another special thanks to all those who so generously participated in the opportunity to show our appreciation to twelve of our church staff and regular volunteers throughout the church year. Mike Williford, Personnel Committee chair handled the gifts received. We love and appreciate our staff and those who give of their time so unselfishly throughout the year to care for the needs and comforts and enjoyment that we may at times take for granted.

Special Prayer for our Pastor Church Committee: We all must not become discouraged as the Committee continues its most difficult task of seeking out God's person for our pastor. We are among a large number of churches seeking a pastor. Our Committee needs to know and feel the love and prayers of every one of us as the members continue their work. God knows just the person that Madison Avenue needs for its pastor, and we must be patient and diligent with our support, love and prayers. We are thankful for our interim minister, Pastor Randy, during this difficult time. He brings us biblically sound messages every Sunday morning during worship. He is with us all day on Wednesdays to receive any members who need or wish to talk with him, and he uses most Wednesday afternoons visiting the sick and shut-ins. Also, he leads a most meaningful Bible study each Wednesday evening following the fellowship meal. Those who are not participating are missing an excellent opportunity in Bible study.

Seating Change in Morning Worship. As an outgrowth of the seating arrangement for our December 23, 24, and 30 worship services, we would like to suggest that we keep this arrangement for Sunday morning worship with a strong encouragement that we fill in the chair row seating rather than sitting around the tables. We will have approximately six tables set up at the back of the fellowship hall that will be used for the Wednesday evening meals, but we hope that everyone in worship will choose to sit in the row seats for morning worship. We believe that this may enhance a more worship atmosphere by having everyone seated, facing the front. Our four ushers who receive the morning offering will be seated down front as was the practice in the sanctuary, and they will be seated just prior to the beginning of the service after having had prayer with the pastor in the kitchen. Obviously, if all the row seats are taken for morning worship, the table seats will be there for any overflow in attendance. That would be a most welcome thing to happen.

A Thank You Note has been received Susan Edwards, Darlene Mathias and is posted on the bulletin board.

Memorials made during the month of November were in memory of Dick Manley.

A Bit of Madison History

Groundbreaking for the new sanctuary began during morning worship on May 24, 1970. The entire service was geared toward “purpose,” “dedication,” and “groundbreaking.” The service continued on the grounds for the literal groundbreaking following the worship service. Nearly two years were required to complete construction of the new edifice, and special services to dedicate the new sanctuary were held during a series of four services on March 12 through 15, 1972.

Pastor’s Article for January

I love January and New Year's Day because I love new beginnings. It's great to reflect on the past year and rejoice in the successes and to learn from the failures we have had during the year. As Christians, we know that the Lord is the God of second, third, fourth chances. He continues to love us even as we have failed Him or have sinned against Him. Our God is the God of new beginnings.

The Koreans have a curious New Year's custom. Desiring to forget unpleasant things and make a fresh start, each person determines what bad habits he would like to eliminate and what past deeds he wants forgiven. Then he writes the names of these evils on kite and flies it high into the air. When it is almost out of sight, he cuts the string. As the "paper bird" takes a nosedive and disappears from sight, he thinks that all his faults and previous transgressions are forever removed.

Our God is a God of new beginnings. 2 Corinthians 5:17 says, *“Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!”* Now is the time for us individually and as a church to set new directions, to plot new courses, to repent of wrong choices and actions. God forgives and forgets and directs us in the way we should go. Will you walk with Him more closely in 2019? Will you trust Him and obey the leading of His Spirit? Will you be a bold witness for Christ in 2019? *“And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds. Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching”* (Hebrews 10:24-25). God bless you and may we all have a Happy and Godly New Year!

With New Beginnings,
Pastor Randy

Senior Adult News

We look forward to resuming our monthly fellowship of senior adults (Very Special People) on the fourth Monday, January 28. We will be meeting at K&W Cafeteria at 11:30 am. We will discuss plans for the new year, so come prepared with ideas for programs and interesting places to visit. Please sign up on the VSP Bulletin Board.

Thanks to our church family for the Christmas gifts you gave to Elisabeth and me. We greatly appreciate the opportunity to serve with you and we look forward to working with you in the new year.