



First Baptist Church of Wallace, NC

First Family

January 2021



A Word for 2021...

—If you picked one word, one idea to focus on this year, what would it be?

It seems to be one of the newer fads or, perhaps, strategies for goal setting these days. You find a word that sums up where you want to go, what you want to accomplish, who you want to be in the year to come. You keep that word in your mind, in front of your eyes all year. You let it shape your choices, your priorities, your attitudes.

It's a simple approach, and probably a lot more effective than creating a list of "New Year's Resolutions" that we don't remember and that never shape our lives.

When talk about receiving "a word from God," we're usually not talking about a single word. But that's exactly what some Christians do with this new approach—they ask God "what's the word, the concept, the quality You want me to focus on this year, Lord?"

There are a number of churches that do this, too. The leaders ask God to give them a word that will focus the whole church on the di-

rection, the area of growth, the mission challenge they want to tackle.

So, what would be our "word from God?" With people still hurting from the upheaval, the financial strains of COVID shutdowns, with neighbors still fearful of what's ahead, with children still wondering when school will be back to normal, with the political animosity of 2020 still seething, and with the confusion and lostness of our world growing visibly...

...what word might God give us to keep us focused on the opportunities, the needs, His priorities for the year to come?

I'm still working on this, but as I think about the disillusionment, the shattered dreams, the struggles people have endured, the way our "systems" have failed us... it seems clear that people need a radical new beginning. And maybe the approaches we take as a church also need a radically new life.



So what if our word for 2021 was **RESURRECTION**? That's certainly biblical enough isn't it? When Jesus called us to take up the cross and follow Him, he was inviting us to die to self so that we could live for him. When we look at the spiritually dead lives around us, do we see people who just need a fresh coat of paint, or do we see people who need a resurrection? ...people who need to leave that old life in the dust, and begin a whole new life empowered by God, filled with His love and presence!

So what if we joined the fad, and focused on one word that we knew was from God — a word that could focus us as a church, and that would speak to the deepest needs of those around us this coming year?

Let me know what you think!
—Pastor Al

Worship

A New Series for a New Year!

We spent most of 2020 moving through the book of Genesis, digging deep into those amazing stories of God's work in the lives of some very ordinary people. So now we head back to the Gospels... the Gospel of Luke to be specific, and we'll be looking at those powerful stories of Jesus we call "The Parables." In these story-illustrations, Jesus gives us insight into how a relationship with God really works, and how we can experience greater blessing in our lives.

Jesus' parables always contain a surprising twist, so we're calling this series "Surprise Party!" Put on your party hat, dust off your noisemaker, and join us for a celebration of God's surprising love and grace!



December 27

Guest Speaker: Joe Blanchard

January 3

Guest Speaker: Penny Ross

January 10 — Speaker: Al Thompson

"How to Move Forward in 2021" — Hebrews 12:1-3

*Lord's Supper observed this Sunday

Series "Surprise Party" begins...

January 17

You Don't Have to Sweat the Results — Luke 8:4-15

January 24

Love is Blind — Luke 10:25-37

January 31

Success Isn't What You Were Told — Luke 12:35-48

Prayer Requests



Remember in Prayer:

Those in our community whom God has called us to lead to Christ and minister to in His love. Don Baker, B.J. Blackburn, Linda Brinkley, Clayton Brock, Gary Brown, Andrea Casteen, John Dixon, Carol H. Fields, Michael Fields, Amy Smith Johnson, A.C. Kenan, Hill Lanier, Patricia Levitan, Terry Matthews, Rocky Mobley, Carol Noland, Bill Pre-stage, Mike Price, Geraldine Register, Jane Rich, Stratton Rich, Bonnie Robinson, Bertha Mae Rogers, Robert Teachey, Michael Thompson, Stephen Thompson, Dorothy Williams, and all those who are battling coronavirus.

Sympathy to the families of:

Melinda Stampe, Irvin Graham, and Timmy Evans

Thank You:

Dear First Baptist Family,

There are not enough words to convey our love and appreciation to you. You have supported us and loved us faithfully over the last 3 years. You have truly been the "hands and feet of Jesus". Thank you for the prayers, the calls, cards, texts, and many meals you have provided. We could not have made it this far without you. We know that you will keep us lifted in prayer in the days to come.

Sincerely,

The family of Melinda Stampe



Chancel Choir Rehearsals

January 6, 13, 20, 27, 2021 @ 6:15 -

We are so fortunate to have many fine singers in our Chancel choir! But that doesn't mean we wouldn't love to have even more! We have a wonderful time singing and laughing together, but the best part in getting to lead others to worship Jesus at the 11:00 services on Sunday mornings. If you are someone who prefers the worship style of the 9:00 service but also love singing in the choir, no worries! Our Chancel choir starts the 11:00 service so they are done in the first few minutes of the service. As the following hymn begins, the choir members slip out. Early service attenders usually slip away for home and the 11:00 folks slip out into the congregation to join in the rest of the service. We so appreciate all our early service folks who participate in the choir and make it possible for us to enjoy this special part of the service each week.



SonShine Choir Rehearsal

Tuesday, January 19 @ 10:30 in the choir room -

Our SonShine Choir is a great group of senior singers who love Jesus and leading others to worship Him. We rehearse once a month at 10:30 am in the choir room. Since our voices in this choir are older, we usually keep rehearsals short, about 30-45 minutes. However, we enjoy each other's company so much that we have decided to head out to lunch together after our rehearsals. You know you want to be part of that! Keep an eye on the announcement slides in the 11:00 service, the newsletters, and the bulletin's calendar for the rehearsal announcements. Don't miss out on worship leadership and the fun to be had with this wonderful group of people!

Thank You

I also want to thank some great people who helped make our Christmas program a great success. I so appreciate Susan Bradshaw and Lindsay Blanchard for their hard work in helping to enlist and assign parts to the children and youth who participated in our live Nativity. Many of you know that corralling young children can be challenging and they did a fantastic job. I want to thank Donna Marshburn for getting the costumes together and organized, then helping the children to dress and prepare for the program. I very much appreciate the hard work Greg Moore and Jessica Higgins did in the sound booth to make us sound so good! Much of the program wouldn't have happened without their behind the scenes work.

As some of you might have heard, Greg is looking to retire this January from his duties in the sound booth for the 11:00 services. He has faithfully served in that capacity for many years now and we can't express our thanks enough. His is one of those jobs that you might not notice, unless it isn't done! Then we **all** notice. So thank you, Greg, for all those years of behind the scenes work you have done. We love you and wish you well as you retire.

Senior Adults



January - sometimes it can be a real let down after all the busyness of the Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays. The weather is colder, the days are short,

and it can really be a little depressing! So grab a friend and bring them with you to our next Senior Adult Ministries lunch on Tuesday, January 12. We'll have a terrific lunch together and then who knows??? I'm still trying to process Christmas services! But I can guarantee you that we will have a good time together, regardless of what we do besides eat! I pray that each of you will have an amazing and wonderful Christmas season. And I'm praying that 2021 will look vastly different from 2020!

Wallace Students



Wallace Students capped off their 2020 year with their Annual Christmas Party on December 7. In a year that affected everyone at FBCW, Wallace Students continue to press forward. From 6th grade to 12th grade, we have a diverse group that warmly welcomes all incoming visitors. The FBCW staff would like to thank all that have been involved this year in helping to keep our students active and continuously pursuing the Lord. Please continue to pray for this group's future leader. He or she will be truly blessed to have this group of students. Happy New Year Wallace Family!

Sunday Sermons

Sunday Sermons

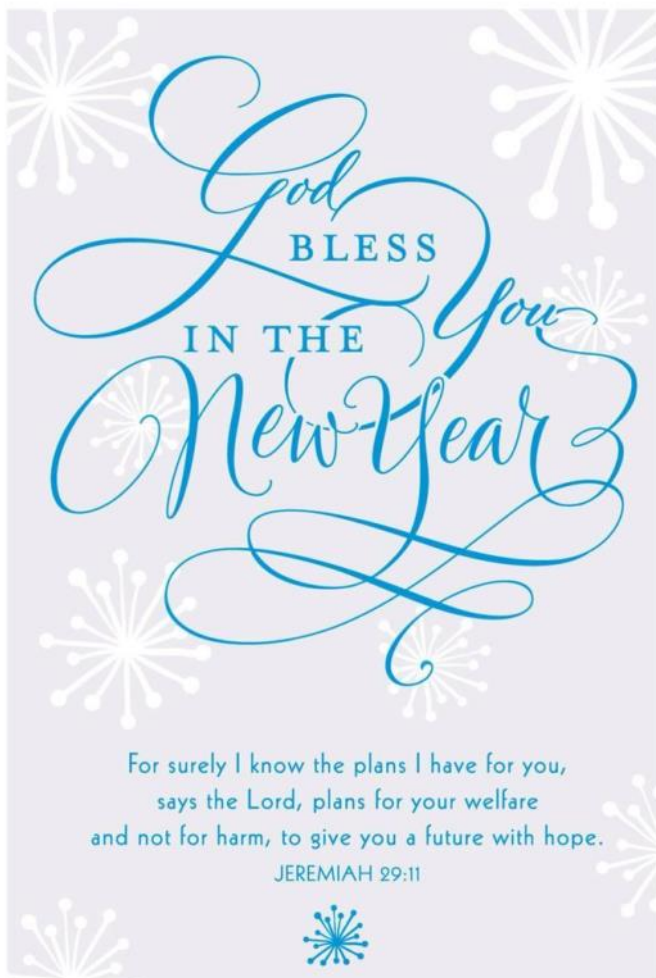
First Baptist Church Sunday Sermons are broadcast

every Sunday on our local radio station KIX-FM 100.5 at 11:00 a.m. (Previous week's message).

710 AM & 100.5 FM



www.1005kixfm.com



For surely I know the plans I have for you,
says the Lord, plans for your welfare
and not for harm, to give you a future with hope.
JEREMIAH 29:11

Easy Tithe

EasyTithe Instructions:

- No Check Book
- No Cash
- On Vacation
- Have a Smartphone
- No Worries

Go to our website at www.wallacefirstbaptist.org and scroll down to the Online Giving Button and click. From here you can setup your account by an-

swering just a few simple questions. Once your account is created you can setup recurring donations and never worry about writing a check again. There is also the option to make a one time donation as a guest without having to create an account.

You can also download the EasyTithe app from the app store on your smartphone. Again just a few simple questions and you are ready to start giving online. Access your account anytime for a summary of your donations. You will still receive annual statements from the office.

- Give Anytime
- Give Anywhere
- Setup Recurring Donations
- Review Past Donations
- Fast - Simple - Secure

Together, we can make a difference

Support Group

Helping SELF: Helping to Support and Encourage Lost Families

Purpose: to support and encourage families dealing with drug or alcohol addiction.

This is not a 12 Step program or a how to group. We simply want to let families dealing with addiction know that they are not alone. Are you feeling lost and alone? Are you feeling isolated? Do you feel like “no one can possibly understand”?



We have been and still are experiencing these very feelings. We are stepping forward to share our experiences, vent to each other, and pray for one another and our families. We can learn together what enabling and co-dependency are and how to avoid those behaviors.

We are willing to laugh with you, cry with you, encourage you, support you, pray with you and help you find your way out of isolation. You are NOT alone.

Our next meeting is at First Baptist Church in Wallace on **January 13, 2020 at 7:00 p.m.** Park in the back and follow the signs.

Future meeting times and dates to be determined and announced as we find out when we are needed. If you have a different time or day, call 910-284-7101.



Just for Laughs:

Jokes that make a Pastor groan...

A preacher came to the breakfast table with a cut on his cheek. His wife asked, “What happened to your cheek?”

The preacher said, “I was concentrating on my sermon, and cut my face.”

His wife said, “Maybe you should concentrate on your shaving and cut your sermon instead.”

A certain pastor typically preached up to two hours. One Sunday he was going strong when one of the regular attenders got up and left. A while later, the man came back in and sat down.

At the end of the service, the pastor asked him, “Where did you go in the middle of my sermon?”

The man replied, “I went to get a haircut.”

The pastor asked, “Why didn’t you get one before you came?”

The man replied, “Before I came, I didn’t need one.”

A woman stopped the pastor after worship to say, “Pastor, I’m so glad my husband can watch your sermons on the computer. They mean more to him than ever before now that he’s losing his mind.”



Feb. Newsletter Submission Deadline: January 15, 2021

Please email articles to
office.fbcw@gmail.com

Please make articles brief !

Our Response to the COVID Crisis

Churches have responded in a wide variety of ways to the COVID virus, and I thought it would be helpful for our church family to understand what we have done and are doing in response to this virus.

Initial Response: Our first response, when the Corona Virus threat was first described, was to shut down our in-person activities completely. At that point, we knew very little about what the health effects of the virus were, who was most vulnerable, whether our hospitals could handle the number of people who might need medical care, and what personal efforts did and did not help. The health officials told us that we needed to “flatten the curve”—which means they expected people would get the virus, but they wanted to slow how quickly it spread.

Initially, we moved all of our worship and Bible study activities to online, phone, and mail. We “beefed up” our broadcast equipment and capabilities... which was hard because the electronics needed were hard to find when the demand skyrocketed.

Improved Treatment: As time went on, the medical community learned who was most vulnerable to COVID, and to whom it posed almost no risk at all. They fine-tuned their responses, learning what treatments were most effective to restore people’s health. And we got to the place that the virus survival rate was, according to the CDC, 99.9+% for people 70 years old or less.

Consequences of the Shutdowns: We’ve also been paying attention to the serious secondary consequences of various responses to the virus. We have seen suicides increase dramatically because of the mental health impact of isolating people. Drug overdose deaths have risen dramatically, too.

We have seen the huge negative effects on so many children’s education and well-being from the shutdown of schools. In our area, huge numbers of children are receiving no education because they are home alone as parents work, and have no internet access. Of course, allowing children to have unsupervised internet access all day isn’t a good thing, either.

So many small business owners have had to close down their family’s source of income due to restrictions, or seen their income painfully reduced. Layoffs have left many family’s with no health coverage. And many people have had other medical tests and procedures postponed as we focused COVID, with serious health consequences for them.

Our Church’s Precautions: With thanks to our Properties Committee, we have installed air purifiers in our Fellowship hall HVAC system. Sammy Marshburn has sprayed our buildings’ surfaces with an anti-viral treatment repeatedly. And we have kept a supply of hand sanitizer and face masks available (in addition to the many hand-washing stations in our restrooms). So, as our understanding of COVID has increased, and the dangers decreased, we have eased back into normal activities.

Honoring Your Choice: We know that many of our folks are choosing to self-isolate, and we support that choice completely. But many of our folks have chosen to be out and active, knowing the reduced threat the virus poses, so we have also returned to a normal schedule of activities for those participants. And we are still working on improving the reliability and quality of our broadcasting, so that those who are home can still be a part of what’s going on at First Baptist Church.

We have had some of our members test positive for the virus, and the symptoms have been as mild as a temporary loss of taste to flu-like symptoms and respiratory congestion. But there is no evidence that they contracted it at church, and they have all recovered completely.

In summary, we have done our best to respond according to the facts and data, and not according to mere fear and hysteria. The news media gets their viewers by keeping people scared to death, but a careful study of the facts and numbers show that COVID, while serious, is not as dangerous as first thought, especially when someone has no other serious health issues. And a fearful over-reaction can also be harmful to people’s mental and physical health.

Mainly, we have also chosen to treat our members like thoughtful, intelligent adults who can decide for themselves whether to engage or pull back, depending on their own comfort level and risk category. And we have tried to stay connected, no matter what choice people have made.

We chose the “middle road” of cautious re-engagement. Other churches and church leaders have taken different approaches, and I respect their reasoning and their choice. This has been a time when every choice we make has risk and it seems like there is no clear “right choice.” There has certainly been no choice that everyone can agree on!

But we, as your church staff, are extremely thankful for the understanding and support of our church family as we navigate these days together!

We’re praying for you and for a much calmer and safer 2021. Happy New Year!!

Volunteers

January Volunteers

9:00 a.m. Life Café Worship Nursery
 1/3-Lindsey Blanchard, Emma Blanchard
 1/10-Deb Lloyd, Hope Rich
 1/17-Lindsey Blanchard, Robin Stone
 1/24-Hope Rich, Debbie Williams
 1/31-Lindsey Blanchard

10:00 a.m. Sunday Life Groups Nursery
 1/3-Lindsey Blanchard
 1/10-Lindsey Blanchard
 1/17-Lindsey Blanchard
 1/24-Rhonda & Kinsey Cave, Samantha Tucker
 1/31-Lindsey Blanchard

10:00 a.m. 3 & 4 Year Olds
 Donna Marshburn

10:00 a.m. Wallace Kids
 1/3 & 1/10-Crystal Stallings &
 Amie Eakins-Cavanaugh
 1/17 & 1/24-Doug & Deb Lloyd
 1/31-



11:00 a.m. Worship Nursery:
 1/3-Samantha Tucker, 1/10-Deb Lloyd
 1/17-Gail Cavanaugh, 1/24-Sharon Hall
 1/31-Janet & Alvin Bryan

Tellers: Gail Cavanaugh & Ann English

Ushers: Friendship Bible Life Group

Church Staff

First Baptist Church of Wallace

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www.WallaceFirstBaptist.org

Dr. Alan Thompson
 Senior Pastor
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 Minister of Music and Senior Adult Ministry
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Rev. J. T. Hopkins
 Interim Student Ministry Coordinator
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Rev. Arledge Castles
 Associate Pastor of Deaf Ministry
 Email: arledge.castles@gmail.com

Mrs. Kim Longenbach, Administrative Assistant
 Email: office.fbcw@gmail.com/910-285-2534

Mrs. LaRue Faircloth, Organist/Choir Accompanist

On the Record

Attendance

Life Groups

11-22	11-29	12-6	12-13
55	55	65	72

Worship

11-22	11-29	12-6	12-13
110	110	125	141

Budget and Receipts

2020 Budget \$433,490.00

Offering Receipts To Date 12-15-2020 **\$400,215.68**

January Birthdays

- 1 Roena Faircloth
Jill Lefler
- 2 Kendall Cave
- 3 Linda Rich
Emilie Richardson
- 4 Kristy Bryan
Shelby Kilpatrick
Carole Norris
Mary Jo Robinson
Ashley Bradshaw
- 5 Reba Stone
- 6 Eric Sloan
Rebecca Judge
- 8 Jacob Hargrove
- 10 Greg Moore
Anita Cavanaugh
Mary Lila Blackburn



- 11 Doug Jones
- 12 Kenneth Fountain
- 12 Skylar Register
- 14 Louise Woods
- 15 Doris Ann Farrior
Jaxie Caverder
- 17 Kimi Brock
Glonda Futral
Jackson Stampe
- 18 Jane Rich
Nancy Giordano
- 20 Ester Pate
- 23 Jayne McLean
Will Rivenbark
- 27 Theresa Elias
Joey Williams



Church Office



Mon.-Thurs.: 8:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.
 (Closed for Lunch: 12:00-1:00 p.m.)

Fri.: 8:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.



First Baptist Events

January 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 OFFICE CLOSED Happy New Year!	2
3 9:00 am-Life Café 10:00 am-WallaceKids 10:00 am-Life Groups 10:35 am-Chancel Choir 11:00 am-Worship 6:00 pm-Wallace Students	4 6:00 pm-CrossFit 6:30 pm-Scouts, R203	5 2:00 pm-Staff Meeting 5:45 pm-Worship Band 6:30 pm-Scouts, R203 6:30 pm-Mission Cmte.	6 10:00 am-Home Room, FH 10:30 am-Community Bible Study @ Pizza Corner 6:15 pm-Chancel Choir	7	8	9
10 The Lord's Supper 9:00 am-Life Café 10:00 am-WallaceKids 10:00 am-Life Groups 10:35 am-Chancel Choir 11:00 am-Worship 12:15 pm-Deacon's Mtg. 6:00 pm-Wallace Students	11 10:30 am-WMU III, R303 6:00 pm-CrossFit 6:30 pm-Scouts, R203	12 11:30 SAM Lunch 2:00 pm-Staff Meeting 5:45 pm-Worship Band 6:30 pm-Stewardship 6:30 pm-Scouts, R203	13 10:00 am-Home Room, FH 10:30 am-Community Bible Study @ Pizza Corner 6:15 pm-Chancel Choir 7:00 pm-Helping Self, R303	14	15 Newsletter Deadline	16
17 9:00 am-Life Café 10:00 am-WallaceKids 10:00 am-Life Groups 10:35 am-Chancel Choir 11:00 am-Worship 6:00 pm-Wallace Students	18 Martin Luther King, Jr. Day 6:00 pm-CrossFit 6:30 pm-Scouts, R203	19 10:30 am-SonShine Choir & Lunch Out 2:00 pm-Staff Meeting 5:45 pm-Worship Band 6:30 pm-Scouts, R203	20 10:00 am-Home Room, FH 10:30 am-Community Bible Study @ Pizza Corner 6:15 pm-Chancel Choir	21	22	23
24 Regular Activities 31 Regular Activities	25 6:00 pm-CrossFit 6:30 pm-Scouts, R203	26 2:00 pm-Staff Meeting 5:45 pm-Worship Band 6:30 pm-Scouts, R203	27 10:00 am-Home Room, FH 10:30 am-Community Bible Study @ Pizza Corner 6:15 pm-Chancel Choir	28	29	30