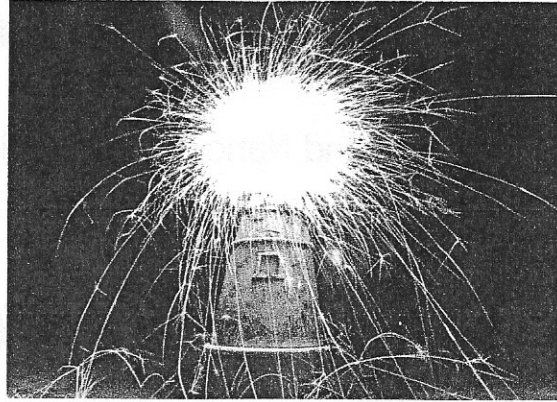


THE BEACON
First Baptist Church - 301 Walker Rd
Dover, DE 19901 - 302-674-1980

JANUARY 2017

HAPPY NEW YEAR!



January

As we begin a new year I realize that we have just shared our 5th Advent and Christmas season together, both as interim and pastor. Each year has been a wonderful, revealing, rewarding, and encouraging time as we have explored the Gifts of Christmas – Hope, Love, Joy and Peace – in very different ways. From first person stories to using our different senses to experience the coming of Jesus and even this year when we deliberately explored those gifts.

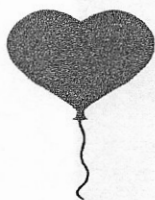
Rebecca and I particularly have a sense of Peace and Hope as we cross from 2016 into the newness and opportunities of 2017. In the last couple of days of last year we finally sold our house in Ohio and are full-fledged residents of Delaware. We know that it will be a while before we can say we are “from” Delaware, but it’s good to be a little more settled. (If anyone needs boxes, let us know – we have a few that are being emptied).

Like you we look ahead to this year as being a ‘clean slate.’ There are so many unknowns as we venture ahead, but that also means that each day is filled with opportunities to minister to others and share our lives and our relationship with Jesus with others. We know that it doesn’t help us to look back and try to re-create things from days gone by when instead we need to be watching carefully for what God is already doing among us. An illustration used before tells us that there is a good reason why the rear-view mirror in a car is SO much smaller than the windshield. The prophet Isaiah tells us (43.18-19) *Do not remember the former things, or consider the things of old. I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?* In this New Year, let’s look to each new thing and the new opportunity it brings for each of us. Even the difficulties or challenges we may face, we can face them together and realize that they bring with them opportunities to strengthen our faith and to be witness for God’s love and grace. Paul tells us in 2 Corinthians 5.17 *So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new!*

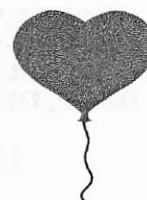
One opportunity may be to step out and make a difference by looking around the community and even your neighborhood to volunteer your time. A special time for volunteering is set aside each year on Martin Luther King Day, this year on Monday, January 16. What can we do together to lift up others?

On Friday, January 20, Inauguration Day, let’s make that a Day of Prayer for our Nation and our Leaders. We will have the church building open for you to come and pray from at least 9-5 that day.

In the Hope and Peace of Christ,



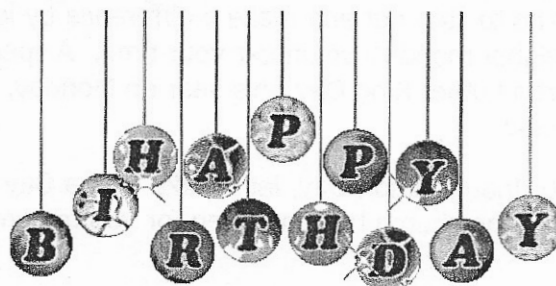
HAPPY ANNIVERSARY



Irv and Nancy Culver 48 years January 12

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

June Hudson	January 2
Bill Myers	January 5
Carlos Ortiz	January 5
Milda Limson	January 6
Lee McCulley	January 8
Wilfred Clark, Sr.	January 8
Debbie Fausey	January 10
Judith Cowan	January 11
Rachel Grunden	January 15
Smith Roberts	January 15
Debbie Beaver	January 19
Dick Smith	January 19
Marivic Navarro	January 20
Damon Curtiss	January 22
Brian Gedney	January 22
Leona Hutchins	January 27
Christine Septer	January 27
Agnes Robinson	January 29
Margaret Wright	January 30





What if Jonah had listened? What if, on first request, Jonah had listened to God and addressed the people of Nineveh concerning their need to repent? He would have avoided stormy ride on a boat, an unplanned dip in the sea and what had to be both an unforgettable and unwanted vacation in the digestive tract of a sea dwelling creature. Additionally, the people of Nineveh may have heard God's message sooner and perhaps a person or two would have been reached in time for them to repent before standing in judgment before their Creator.

On the other hand the men Jonah encountered on his journey on the boat would not have been exposed to what ended up being an extraordinary, perhaps life changing event, and nobody would have witnessed Jonah's inexplicable state following his time spent in the belly of a fish. Almost assuredly the disobedience of Jonah altered the course of history and ended up having an impact both on his message, and the people that message would reach.

The story of Jonah is often invoked to demonstrate God's ability to work through flawed folks, and his patience in the face of our disobedience, but have you ever stopped to consider that it speaks to the nature of the past. It's less important to contemplate what might have been had Jonah initially responded to God's call than it is to understand the grace that was revealed when he ultimately answered the call. As with Jonah, so with us. Where we have been to this point in our lives is insignificant when compared to where we are headed. Each day presents us with a new opportunity to hope, strive and serve. Dwelling on past failures only limits what we can achieve in the future, and with a proper perspective our past can serve as a valuable tool from which to grow as opposed to being an anchor which prohibits our journey to becoming a new creation. In the end Jonah serves to remind that good, bad or indifferent, it's not where we've been that is most important in our walk of faith, but rather where we're willing to go.

Scot Septer



ABWM

LET'S GO CAMPING!

This is the theme for this year's ABWM retreat on February 4th beginning at 9:30 until our activities end.

We plan to have a speaker on Bible Camps for Baptist Children and teens, camping games, crafts and a special camp lunch. We'll learn about this year's regional project.

DON'T FORGET TO HELP TAKE DOWN OUR CHRISTMAS TREES ON JANUARY 14th at 10:00 a.m.

Sue Moore

STILL NEEDED

That tree is dead;
"Take it down", my friend said.
It is old and useless.
Much of its bark is gone away,
All it does is swing and sway.
Life has been rough; hurricanes,
 blizzards, lightening and wind,
Causing the tree to break and to bend.

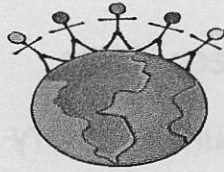
I look at it once again,
High up is a cluster of leaves and twigs,
It's some squirrel family's private digs!
On a branch is a bird's nest,
A little thing, but a place to rest;
A tiny brown hen, and a colorful cock
Someday, perhaps, a little flock;
Below that is a hole,
Drilled by a sharp beak to the home,
A place for a family of flickers to start,
Because insects and worms live in the
 bark,
Deep down in the dark,
Food for a baby,
Or its mother, just maybe.

I see one branch that is stronger than
 the rest;
It has withstood the awful test
Of wind, ice and weather;
Now it holds a nest with a bright blue
 feather.
A good branch to hold a birdhouse,
A heavy sturdy one;
Perhaps home for a finch or a titmouse!

Someday, we shall be like that old tree,
Broken and wrinkled,
But even although worn,
God will continue to say,
"It is for this purpose that you were
 born",
And once again He will show us His
 plan,
To do for Him whatever we can.
There is still more work to be done,
To honor both the Father and Son.

Nell von Arx, 4/14/2016

BOARD OF MISSIONS



THANK YOU to all who participated in this year's Christmas Card Project. Because of your generous donations, each of our six Special Interest Missionaries received a check for \$265.00 from First Baptist for their personal use, not ministry needs. This year's recipients were:

Rev. Yamina Apolinaris, Corporacion Milagros del Amor,
Caguas, Puerto Rico

Rev. Paul Sandusky, Rankin Christian Center, Braddock, PA

Rev. Rick Bunker, Philadelphia Park, Bensalem, PA

Rev. Vital and Ketly Pierre, Dominican Republic

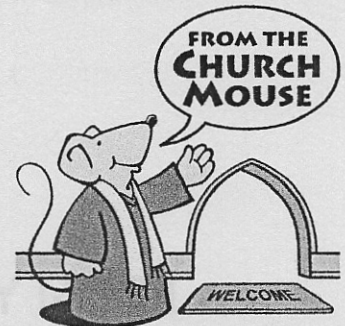
Revs. David and Joyce Reed, Iberoamerica and the Caribbean

Rev. Ray Schellinger and Dr. Adalia Gutierrez Lee, Iberoamerica and the Caribbean

A special "thank you" also to Janie Imm for chairing this project, to Kerra Watson for designing this year's First Baptist Christmas card, and to Judy Cahall for printing and mailing the cards.

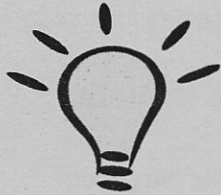
Lois Glading, Chair

I was so excited the other day at the Christmas Tea. I hid under the table where people were getting their food and I got to eat everything that dropped on the floor. I ate too much but it was yummy! Then the best thing happened, the children sang and they were sooooo good. I was busy watching them when I almost got stepped on. Luckily, I jumped right onto a man's shoe and was able to run away quickly. I don't think he saw me because he didn't scream. That is the first Christmas Tea I have ever been to - we sang, laughed and listened to a story. I can't wait until next December so I can be there again. Maybe next time they will let me be in the program.



BOARD OF TRUSTEES

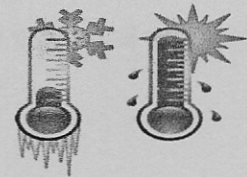
LIGHTING



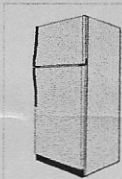
We have replaced and will continue to replace some outdoor and indoor lighting bulbs to energy efficient LED bulbs. We have replaced light fixtures around the property and will continue to do so as needed.

AC/HEAT UNITS

We have replaced thermostats on the ac/heat units in some of the classrooms, in the finance office, and in Judy's office. We will continue to replace others as needed.



KITCHEN



We have replaced the broken refrigerator in the kitchen.

Judy Cowan, Secretary



A New Year's Announcement

Good Morning and welcome to Flight 2017. We are prepared to take off into the New Year. Please make sure your Attitude and Blessings are secured and locked in an upright position.

All self-destructive devices should be turned off at this time. All negativity, hurt and discouragement should be put away. Should we lose Attitude under pressure during this flight, reach up and pull down a prayer. Prayers will automatically be activated by Faith. Once your Faith is activated, you can assist other passengers.

There will BE NO BAGGAGE allowed on this flight. The Captain has cleared us for take-off. Destination A new year full of GREATNESS WITH GOD ! ALL ABOARD!

Thank you

I WANT YOU TO KNOW THAT YOIUR MANY CARDS AND NOTES AND PRAYERS WHILE I WAS RECENTLY HOSPITALIZED WERE MUCH APRECIATED.

It was a pleasant surprise to receive so many cards and notes from my friends at the First Baptist Church including Pastor Dan and Rebecca, who took the time to visit me on Sunday. It was also nice of Clement Chang to bring a bouquet of flowers when he came to the hospital to visit me and his sister who was also on the same floor as I was. Unfortunately I was unable to visit with her because we were so much under close supervision and alarms so we couldn't get out of bed...WITHOUT AN ESCORT.

Also I want to again thank Debbie Beaver for the lovely lap blanket she crocheted for me. I will find it very useful during the winter months.

I HAVE REVISED MY opinion of Kent General Hospital. I couldn't have had more congenial nurses or doctors who seemed to care about my wellbeing or better care. I highly recommend it as someplace to go when you have a physical problem.

Again, thanks for your thoughtfulness and prayers. It was truly appreciated.

Sincerely,
Jan Holliday

Dear FBC Family,

Again many many thanks for the cards and prayers sent our way at the death of my father, Daniel Sherman. With your help and of course, the Lord's we are making it through this difficult time. The deaths of our parents within two months have truly made this a tough holiday season. Your continued prayers give us strength.

Sincerely,
Gene and Sue Moore

I am sincerely grateful to you my church family for your outreach to us through the loss of my mother Ruby Whitney. Many kindnesses were extended in the way of prayers, hugs and smiles, food, Gideon Bibles, cards, visits and phone calls. All providing comfort at this difficult time.

With His Love,
Chris Septer

Dear Friends at First Baptist,

Thank you for the generous gift I received this Christmas. Your cards and greetings, food items, cookies and candy were enjoyed and appreciated. Also, I want to thank you for your prayers for Bill, me and our family as we have faced the challenges of his surgery and illness. Having such supportive friends is truly a blessing!

Sincerely,
Judy Cahall

I would like to thank you for the unexpected yet amazing gift I received Christmas Eve. I am so truly blessed to be working for you all. I wish you good health and great happiness this coming year.

God Bless,
Ramona

DID YOU KNOW?

Why were all the baby strawberries crying?

Because their mommy was in a jam.

Why did the sea monster eat five ships that were carrying potatoes?

No one can eat just one potato ship.

What does a ghost call his mother and father?

His trans-parents.

Where do steers go to dance?

The meat ball.

Where should you never take a dog?

To the flea market.

What do you call a cat that falls into a trash can?

Kitty litter.

Why did the farmer name his pig "Ink?"

Because he kept running out of the pen.

What do you call 100 rabbits jumping backward?

A receding hare line.

What did the teddy bear say when he was offered dessert?

No thanks, I'm stuffed.

What do you call a scared tyrannosaurus?

A nervous rex.

Why did the chicken cross the playground?

To get to the other side.

Why don't seagulls hang out at the bay?

Then they'd be bagels.

What do you call an owl with a sore throat?

A bird that doesn't give a hoot.

Why do fish have such huge phone bills?

Because when they get on the line, they can't get off.

How many skunks does it take to stink up a room?

A phew.

How do you fix a broken pizza?

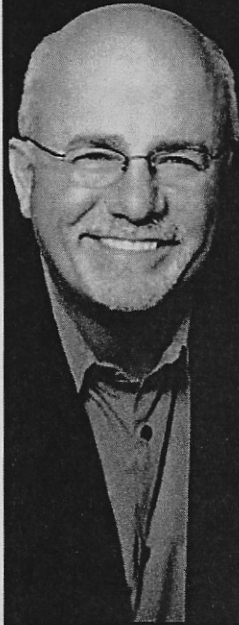
With tomato paste.

What did the grape say when he got squished?

Nothing, he just let out a little wine.

Why did the cookie go to the hospital?

Because he was feeling crummy.



DAVE RAMSEY'S

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Learn God's ways of handling money with Dave Ramsey's *Financial Peace University!* The average turnaround is \$8,000 in just the first three months!

Will be held at the First Baptist Church of Dover

301 Walker Road, Dover

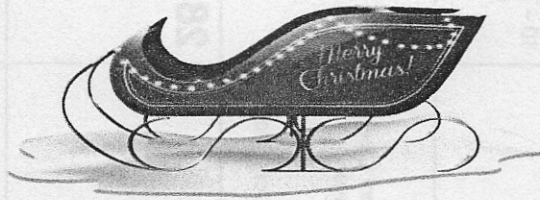
Nine Saturdays beginning at 10:00 AM to 12:00 Noon in the Fellowship Hall
January 7, 14, 21, 28, February 11, 18, 25, March 4, 11, 2017

To Register go to: daveramsey.com/findaclass

Please contact Rebecca Taylor at (740)-334-9996
if you have further questions or if childcare is needed.

~~~~~

**IT'S NOT TOO LATE** – TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THIS OPPORTUNITY  
OR ENCOURAGE SOMEONE ELSE WHO NEEDS TO LEARN HOW TO  
HANDLE GOD'S RESOURCES THAT HAVE BEEN ENTRUSTED TO US.  
(MAYBE YOU CAN PAY THEIR WAY.)



***Put the Sleigh Away***

***Santa put his sleigh away;  
They flew December's heavens.***

***The new year is upon us.  
Embrace each blessed day  
Thanking God for sunrise  
Each morning as we pray.***

***Let's thank Him for the challenges  
That help to make us grow.  
They show He truly loves us --  
And, Jesus told us so.***

***January and December  
Are very far apart.  
Put Santa Claus's sleigh away;  
Keep Jesus in the heart.***

***Rennie Quible***

# January 2017

| Sunday                                                                                                                      | Monday                                                                     | Tuesday                                                                                     | Wednesday                                                                                                                    | Thursday                                                                                                               | Friday                                                                     | Saturday                                                                       |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>1</b> <b>New Year's Day</b><br>9:10 Prayer<br>9:30 Sunday School<br>11:00 Worship                                        | <b>2</b><br>CHURCH OFFICE<br>CLOSED                                        | <b>3</b><br><br>7:00 Visitation Teams<br>7:30 Narcotics Anon.                               | <b>4</b><br>ANNUAL REPORTS DUE<br>1:00 Nominating Comm<br><br>6:00 Dinner<br>6:30 Children's Time<br>7:00 Bible Study/Prayer | <b>5</b><br>11 -XYZ<br>2 - Clemmer Circle<br>2 - Women's Bible Study<br><br>7 - Narcotics Anon.<br>7 - Sanctuary Choir | <b>6</b>                                                                   | <b>7</b><br>8 - Children's Choice<br>9 - Coordinating Comm<br>10 - Reed Circle |
| <b>8</b><br>9:10 Prayer<br>9:30 Sunday School<br>11:00 Worship<br>12:00 Blood Pressure<br>Screening                         | <b>9</b><br><br>7:00 Visitation Teams                                      | <b>10</b><br>10 - Bonar/Niles Circle<br>10 - Harding Circle<br><br>7:30 Narcotics Anon.     | <b>11</b><br><br>6:00 Dinner<br>6:30 Children's Time<br>7:00 Bible Study/Prayer                                              | <b>12</b><br><br>2 - Women's Bible Study<br><br>7 - Narcotics Anon.<br>7 - Sanctuary Choir                             | <b>13</b>                                                                  | <b>14</b><br>8 - Children's Choice<br><br>10 - Take down<br>Chrismon Trees     |
| <b>15</b><br>9:10 Prayer<br>9:30 Sunday School<br>11:00 Worship<br>12:15 Healing Prayer<br>5:00 Trustees<br>7:00 Chrystalis | <b>16</b> <b>M L King Day</b><br><br>7:00 Deacons<br>7:00 Visitation Teams | <b>17</b><br>1:00 Sisters of R.U.T.H.<br>4:30 Board of Missions<br><br>7:30 Narcotics Anon. | <b>18</b><br><br>6:00 Dinner<br>6:30 Children's Time<br>7:00 Bible Study/Prayer                                              | <b>19</b><br><br>2 - Women's Bible Study<br><br>7 - Narcotics Anon.<br>7 - Sanctuary Choir                             | <b>20</b><br>9-5 Sanctuary Open<br>for Prayer<br><br>5:30 MS Support Group | <b>21</b>                                                                      |
| <b>22</b><br>9:10 Prayer<br>9:30 Sunday School<br>11:00 Worship<br><br>7:00 Chrystalis                                      | <b>23</b><br><br>5:30 Quilt Guild<br>7:00 Visitation Teams                 | <b>24</b><br>9:00 Quilt Guild<br><br>6:30 Christian Education<br>7:30 Narcotics Anon.       | <b>25</b><br><br>6:00 Dinner<br>7:00 Annual Business<br>Meeting                                                              | <b>26</b><br><br>2 - Women's Bible Study<br><br>7 - Narcotics Anon.<br>7 - Sanctuary Choir                             | <b>27</b>                                                                  | <b>28</b>                                                                      |
| <b>29</b><br>9:10 Prayer<br>9:30 Sunday School<br>11:00 Worship<br><br>6:00 Hymn Sing<br>7:00 Chrystalis                    | <b>30</b><br><br>7:00 Visitation Teams                                     | <b>31</b><br><br>7:30 Narcotics Anon.                                                       |                                                                                                                              |                                                                                                                        |                                                                            |                                                                                |