



# The Beacon

Visit the  
First Baptist Church website at  
<http://www.fbcdover.org>



## Contact Us

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# The First Baptist Church of Dover

301 Walker Rd., Dover, DE 19904

January 2018

## From the Pastor's Desk

Reverend Daniel Taylor



### New Year's Greetings:

Have you ever received that postcard or email or Facebook message from a friend or relative who was blessed to be able to travel to an exciting, scenic location and simply said to you – “Having a wonderful time, wish you were here?” Well, I felt like that on Christmas Eve as we celebrated with a beautiful service that culminated with candlelight that slowly filled the sanctuary with all those in attendance standing in a large circle around that space. Many of you reading this were there, but to those who couldn't be present, we wish you could have joined us. This was my sixth Christmas Eve at the First Baptist Church of Dover and each year it is such a joy to see families together, sometimes 3 or more generations, sharing the blessing of Jesus coming to us.



This year Rebecca shared the Christmas Story of the birth of Jesus with the children and then they placed baby Jesus in the Nativity scene. Yes, a wonderful evening. More than anything we

are filled with hope as we see children learning to know and love Jesus.

As we step into a new year we know it's only a turn of the page and we find ourselves trying to remember to write the proper year on those checks and other forms. Nothing really seems to change – there's no literal closing curtain and a re-opening – even as we look out the window on January 1 everything around us stays the same.

But in the life of our church, there are new opportunities, new events scheduled, and guests who join us each week in worship. With the turn of a page to a new year and with changes that may come I do want to remind you of what we read in Hebrews 13.8 - **Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.**

# 2018

**Peace and Blessings to you all  
as we minister and serve together.**

In Christ,

*Rev. Dan Taylor*

## **Annual Business Meeting**

January 24, 2018, 7:00 PM

Fellowship Hall



The Board of Missions provided us a special opportunity to give this year with the Giving Tree set up in the Narthex. The tree is being decorated with scarves, hats, gloves, mittens, socks and other items to help those who are homeless stay warm in these very cold days of winter. Thank you for your generosity and continue to bring items throughout January as the “decorations” will be taken to Code Purple and we can fill the tree again. (check those after Christmas sales)



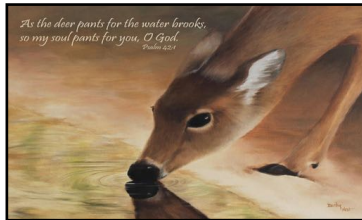


## *“Love God With ALL Our Being”*

In one instance, a member of the church congregation asked a question "What does it mean to love God with all our heart, with all our soul, with all our mind, and with all our strength?" The church member was referring about the answer of Jesus to a teacher of the Law in Mark 12:30 - "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength."

To love God with all our heart means that our desire, affection, and yearning in life must be focused on God. Our heart is the control center of our whole being. The passion to do something comes from the heart. Our desire for God's presence must lead us to worship God in a local church. Our yearning to be intimate with God should lead us to read the Bible. Our affection should also be on things that God wants us to be devoted to.

To love God with all our soul means that our life purpose must be in pursuit of what is heavenly and eternal. Soul is what gives us life. God breathed and we became a living soul. This soul will separate from our physical body and will go to eternity - either in heaven or hell. If we want to spend eternity in heaven, then we must live a heavenly life here on Earth. We must practice our eternity today.



As Psalm 42:1 reminds us, "As the deer pants for streams of water, so my soul pants for you, O God."

To love God with all our mind means that what occupies our mind is God. We become what we think. Proverbs 23:7 affirms the importance of the mind "For as he thinks..., so is he..." By observation, the top 6 things that occupies our mind are 1) Career, work or business 2) Family 3) Opposite sex 4) School 5) Past 6) Dreams, future plans. God wants to be part of the top

things that we have in mind. In fact, God wants us to think about Him when we think of these things. God wants to be part of our career, our family, when looking for our life partner, our school work, our dealings with the past, and our dreams and the future.

To love God with all our strength means that God wants us to spend our energy on things that will benefit people and expand the ministry of the church. Let us not waste our energy on things that are detrimental to life, and on things that hinder people in achieving a meaningful life.

May we love God with all our being!

May God bless us all!

*Contributed by Romeo Limson*



**Judy Daniels,  
Chairman  
Board of Missions**

Many thanks go to all who have given to the Retired Ministers ad Missionaries offering. As of December 10th \$ 534.00 has been received. Remember that the offering received at the Christmas Eve Service will go to this special offering.

**Our goal for this offering is \$3200.00.**

Thanks also go to those who participated in the Christmas Card project. As of December 10th, \$1110.00 has been received. This offering will be divided among our six special interest missionaries as a Christmas gift for their personal use.



The Giving Tree is being decorated with hats, gloves, scarves and socks. These items will be shared with Code Purple to give to the homeless in our community.

Thank you as we share the love of Christ with others.

# XYZ

*(extra years of zest)*



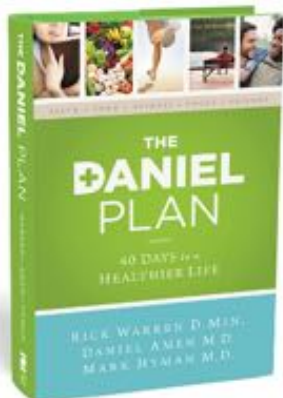
XYZ to meet January 18, 2018 at 11:30 a.m. at the Green Turtle. Everyone who is available during the day is invited to join us for lunch. This is a great way to start the New Year and meet others from the congregation. All are welcome.

# Board of Christian Education



**Beryl Gerhard, Chairman**  
**Board of Christian Education**

The Board of Christian Education will be presenting "The Daniel Plan", beginning in January. It is a 40 day program to a healthy lifestyle, by Rick Warren, Dr. Daniel Amen, and Dr. Mark Hyman, is far more than a diet plan. It is an appetizing approach to achieving a healthier lifestyle, where people are encouraged to get healthier together, by optimizing the 5 key essentials of faith, food, fitness, focus and friends.



Classes will be at church on Saturdays, 10AM to Noon, January 13, 20, 27, and February 10, 17, 24. Please sign up at the Welcome Center.

Michelle Rogers and Suzanne Murr



We really need people who are interested and qualified to help with children's Sunday School and Paul's Place as well as occasional substitute teaching.



## Comments Welcome

Have an idea for a small group lesson? Interested in learning more about a certain topic? The Board of Christian Education welcomes any suggestions for small group study topics, seminars

or programs. Drop your comments in the Christian Education mailbox or at the church office.

# Comfort Shawl Ministry



You are invited to join us for a time of fellowship that includes knitting, crocheting & sewing shawls and blankets for our shut ins and patients at the Kent General Cancer Center. During the past 12 months we have stitched 150 prayer shawls and distributed most of them to date. No experience is necessary and we have a job for everyone. Meetings are held the 3rd Monday of each month and wrap up no later than 3PM. Perhaps you know someone that needs a little extra TLC? If so, please share the name by calling the office at 302-674-1980. To learn more about this ministry and/or to donate your unused yarn and material, contact Glenda Case or Agnes Robinson (on Sundays).

**Meetings are held in the**  
**Davis Fellowship Hall.**

**Bring a friend and Share the LOVE.**



Thank You to the 56 individuals/families who made a financial commitment to the 2018 First Baptist Vision of Ministry. These commitments totaled \$236,116.00, a 22.6% increase over 2017. Let us each give to the Lord generously from a grateful heart for the many blessings we receive daily.

## Here's What's Happening at our Church!



**Wednesday Evening Bible Study and Prayer Time**  
Dinner at 6PM in the Fellowship Hall followed at 7PM by Bible Study & a Children's Program.

## Stuff the Pantry @ First Baptist

Grocery bags are located just outside the sanctuary and include suggested items needed to stock the FBC Food Pantry. Return the bag the next Sunday and place it under the Food Pantry sign in the narthex. This is a mission outreach for our needy residents in the community.



Need a little extra help in monitoring your blood pressure? Check the Sunday Bulletin for screening Sundays and have your pressure checked by one of the FBC nurses. This activity is sponsored by the American Baptists Women's Ministries.



## Sanctuary Flower Arrangements

Would you like to honor someone or celebrate a special occasion by providing the worship service flower arrangements? If so, please contact the church office at 302-674-1980.

## Service of Healing Prayer

For those who seek healing from God, held in the Chapel immediately following the worship service.

Those who choose, may request anointing by the pastor or deacons during this prayer time.



## Prayer Chain

If you have a request for the chain, please call Elaine Jarrell at the church office - 302-674-1980. It will then be passed on to both the phone and email chains.



**Stop by the  
Welcome Center for  
the answers.**



If you are interested in directing or just volunteering for a particular event, please contact us. We have a lot of talented people throughout our church that can help in various aspects of our events from planning, publicity, purchasing, set-up and leading. Contact Mike Metzger at 302-674-1980.

**We welcome your involvement!**

## ATTENTION

**Read all about it!  
Don't forget the  
deadline for  
newsletter  
submissions is the  
15th of each month.**



Please email your articles to Debbie at  
[debbie\\_geiser@verizon.net](mailto:debbie_geiser@verizon.net)



Your ABWM has been busy through the month of December! On December 1<sup>st</sup>, we set up the Christmas trees. Then on December 13<sup>th</sup>, the Board met to collect the hygiene kits for Puerto Rico and choose a theme for our Annual Retreat on February 3<sup>rd</sup>.

Our ladies put together 36 Hygiene Kits that will be sent to help those suffering from the hurricanes in Puerto Rico. Many thanks go to those ladies who participated.



Our annual retreat, entitled Amazing Africa, will be held, weather permitting, February 3<sup>rd</sup> from 9:30 until lunch is finished. We're planning several speakers who will talk about Africa's past, present, and future. Since all our fund raising money will go to help train and provide classrooms for mid-wives, we felt all ladies might enjoy

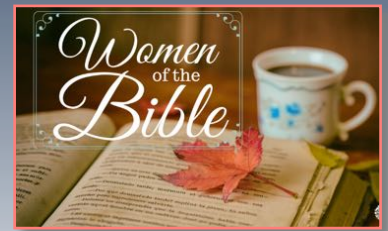


finding out why these items are necessary. Our games, devotional and crafts will have an African theme.

**Sign-ups and more details will be available soon.**

## Women's Bible Study Group

Leader: Suzanne Murr



Meetings are every Thursday at 2PM with an indepth study of Women of the Bible. All women are invited to attend. (Location: Rennie's Classroom). Next meeting, Jan. 4th, 2018.

### Susan Harding Circle

January 9th,  
11:00 AM

Covered dish at home of  
Joyce Buckley  
Susan is a missionary  
to Alaska.



Leader: Norma Jean

### Ann Clemmer Circle

January 11th, 1:00 PM

Ann is a missionary to Eastern  
Congo & South Sudan  
Leader: Lois Glading



### Joyce Reed Circle

January 6th, 11:30 PM

Joyce is a missionary to  
IberoAmerica and  
the Caribbean

Leader: Margaret Steinhoff

### Bonar/Niles Circle

January 9th, 11:00 AM

Elaine Jarrell's home

Katherine is a missionary to the  
Democratic Republic  
of the Congo

Leader: Agnes Robinson





As we all know, the New Year comes with the traditional new year's resolutions. Go on a diet, stop smoking, eat less sugar, etc. - all items that are good for our body.

As Paul wrote to the church in Corinth in *1 Corinthians 6:19-20*, "Do you not know that your bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own; you were bought at a price. Therefore honor God with your bodies". We are to honor God with our whole body, not just the physical portion. So why are the normal resolutions good for the physical, because we are made up of the body (physical), mind and soul. So, what can we do for the mind and soul?



This year, make a great resolution – commit to reading your Bible everyday! Pick a time that you can be alone to be with God as He speaks to you through His Word. Would you give up 10-15 minutes everyday to have a better relationship with your Heavenly Father? Sometimes we don't think we know when he is talking to us. *John 10:4*, Jesus teaches, "When he has brought out all his own, he goes on ahead of them, and his sheep follow him because they know his voice." So, how can you know Jesus' voice, read His word. As you know your family's voice, Jesus wants you to be part of His family.

There are many Bible reading plans. In almost every Bible, there is a guide. You may have a Bible app on your phone that you can follow. If you are looking for your first, or a new type, you can look at <https://www.biblegateway.com/reading-plans/>.

In what ever plan you use, use it, daily. But, not only read it, contemplate/meditate over it, pray on it in your daily prayers. Include the Wednesday prayer list with your daily time which you can pick it up on Wednesday

evening prayer and Bible study time, or in the narthex across from the Welcome Center. **Make it a priority.** If you able to do this first thing on the morning so His word can guide you for the remainder of the day.

Let 2018 be the year that you get closer to God through His word!

Contributed by,  
Mike Metzger




## Birthdays

Mable	Morrison	01/01
June	Hudson	01/02
Bill	Myers	01/05
Carlos	Ortiz	01/05
Milda	Limson	01/06
Lee	McCulley	01/08
Wilfred	Clark, Sr.	01/10
Debbie	Fausey	01/10
Judith	Cowan	01/11
Rachel	Grunden	01/15
Smith	Roberts	01/15
Debbie	Beaver	01/19
Dick	Smith	01/19
Marivic	Navarro	01/20
Damon	Curtiss	01/22
Brian	Gedney	01/22
Leona	Hutchins	01/27
Christine	Septer	01/27
Agnes	Robinson	01/29
Margaret	Wright	01/30

## Anniversaries

Irv & Nancy Culver	48 yrs.	1/12
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# Here's what's happening in January

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2 10:00 Niles/Bonar Circle  7:00 Visitation Teams	3 <b>9:00-200 Community Bible Study</b> 6:00 Fellowship Dinner 7:00 Bible Study & Prayer Time - Adults & Children	4 2:00 Women's Bible Study (Renne's Classroom)  7:00 Narcotics Anon 7:00 Sanctuary Choir	5	6 8:00 Children's Choice - Fellowship Hall 11:30 Joyce Reed Circle
7 9:10 Prayer 9:30 Sunday School 11:00 Worship  7:00 Chrysalis	8  7:00 Deacon's 7:00 Visitation Teams	9 10:00 Susan Harding Circle  7:30 Narcotics Anon	10 <b>9:00-200 Community Bible Study</b>  6:00 Fellowship Dinner 7:00 Bible Study & Prayer Time - Adults & Children	11 1:30 Ann Climmer Circle (Fellowship Hall) 2:00 Women's Bible Study (Rennie's SS Classroom)  7:00 Narcotics Anon 7:00 Sanctuary Choir	12	13 9:00 Coordinating Committee 10:00 Daniel Plan 10:00 Children's Choice - Fellowship Hall <b>10:00 Take down Chrismon Trees</b>
14 9:10 Prayer 9:30 Sunday School 11:00 Worship 12:00 Blood Pressure Screening  7:00 Chrysalis	15 <b>February Newsletter Articles Due</b>   7:00 Visitation Teams	16  7:30 Narcotics Anon	17 <b>9:00-200 Community Bible Study</b> 10:00 ABWM Board Meeting  6:00 Fellowship Dinner 7:00 Bible Study & Prayer Time - Adults & Children	18  7:00 Narcotics Anon 7:00 Sanctuary Choir	19  5:00 MS Support Group	20  10:00 Daniel Plan
21 9:10 Prayer 9:30 Sunday School 11:00 Worship 12:30 Service of Healing Prayer  7:00 Chrysalis	22 1:00 Comfort Shawl Ministry  7:00 Visitation Teams	23  4:30 Missions  7:30 Narcotics Anon	24 <b>9:00-200 Community Bible Study</b>  6:00 Fellowship Dinner 7:00 Bible Study & Prayer Time - Adults & Children	25 11:30 XYZ  7:00 Narcotics Anon 7:00 Sanctuary Choir	26	27 10:00 Daniel Plan
28 9:10 Prayer 9:30 Sunday School 11:00 Worship  7:00 Chrysalis	29  7:00 Visitation Teams	30  7:30 Narcotics Anon	31 <b>9:00-200 Community Bible Study</b>  6:00 Fellowship Dinner 7:00 Bible Study & Prayer Time - Adults & Children			

## Survey Question

### How would you prefer to receive your newsletter?

In vivid color on the website (<http://www.fbcdover.org>) or black & white in the mail.

To respond, one may contact the office (302-674-1980)  
if the preference is by mail.

Please be sure we have your current email address.