

# BIBLE READING SCHEDULE

5 Day Chronological Bible Reading Program

## Week One: January 3 - 9

- Day 1: Genesis 1-2; Psalm 19; Mark 1
- Day 2: Genesis 3-5; Mark 2
- Day 3: Genesis 6-8; Psalm 104; Mark 3
- Day 4: Genesis 9-11; Mark 4
- Day 5: Genesis 12-15; Psalm 148; Mark 5

## Week Two : January 10 - 16

- Day 1: Genesis 16-18; Mark 6
- Day 2: Genesis 19-20; Psalm 1; Mark 7
- Day 3: Genesis 21-23; Psalm 107; Mark 8
- Day 4: Genesis 24-25; Psalm 4; Mark 9
- Day 5: Genesis 26-27; Mark 10

## Week Three: January 17 - 23

- Day 1: Genesis 16-18; Mark 6
- Day 2: Genesis 19-20; Psalm 1; Mark 7
- Day 3: Genesis 21-23; Psalm 107; Mark 8
- Day 4: Genesis 24-25; Psalm 4; Mark 9
- Day 5: Genesis 26-27; Mark 10

## Week Four: January 24 - 30

- Day 1: Genesis 41-42; Mark 16
- Day 2: Genesis 43-44; Psalm 24; Galatians 1
- Day 3: Genesis 45-46; Psalm 108; Galatians 2
- Day 4: Genesis 47-48; Psalm 25; Galatians 3
- Day 5: Genesis 49-50; Galatians 4

Continued from page 3

- ◆ Landers & Pauline (Stockton) Morrow's home was built with the brick from the old First Baptist Church
- ◆ Louise (Stockton) Waters and her sister Juanita (Stockton) Cogburn attended school at Central. Pauline (Stockton) Morrow (their sister) was a substitute teacher for Frances Fink. All three sisters are longtime church members.

Some Central School teachers include: Louise Durham, Holly Harshman, Ella Graf, Polly Standridge, Willie Morgan, Frances Fink, Julia Thomas, Juanita Martinez, Agnes Gilbert, Thelma Rabb custodians, Mr. Nash and Mr. Thompson

Ms. Linda Gandy said, "One day when I was in 3rd grade, Miss Durham, our principal, came into our classroom and announced, "I am going to baby-sit you for a few minutes while Miss Standridge steps out into the hall to tell her boyfriend goodbye. This is his last stop before he departs for war." Miss Durham had an uncharacteristic smile as she said this. In a few moments, Miss Standridge returned to the classroom and we resumed our studies. This young serviceman returned home after the war and married Miss Standridge. His name was Richard Billingsley."

**Central School was located where FBC Mena now stands. The school served children in grades 1st-8th.**

### Between Two Mountains

*"Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,*

*I will fear no evil..." - Psalm 23:4*

*"... I lift up mine eyes unto the hills, from whence cometh my help."*

*- Psalm 121:1*

In Psalm 23, David speaks of walking in "the valley." But there can be no valley without moun-tains, true? Psalm 23 is the "valley psalm" between two "mountain psalms," Psalm 22 and 24. Psalm 22 deals with the crucifixion of the Messiah. Psalm 24 deals with the coronation of the Messiah and the Second Coming. So, in the valley of Psalm 23, on one side are the blood-drenched slopes of Mount Calvary and on the other are the sunlit peaks of Mount Zion.

Are you down in the valley? Then look to the mountains. Praise Him for dying for you and rejoice in the hope of His coming again! Thank God we can say with David, "...I will lift up mine eyes unto the hills...."

— Adrian Rogers (Love Worth Finding)

Continued from Members' Corner

BCM and Women's Ministry with the Ouachita Baptist Association. I served Baptist Collegiate Ministry (BCM) for 26 years. **Do you have a favorite verse and song or hymn?** *2 Timothy 1:12: For this reason I am not ashamed; for I know whom I have believed and I am convinced the He is able to guard what I have entrusted to Him until that day. Isaiah 43:2--When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and through the rivers they will not overflow you. When you walk through the fire, you will not be scorched, nor will the flame burn you. Isiah 40:31--For those who wait for the Lord will gain new strength, they will mount up with wings like eagles. They will run and not get tired, they will walk and not become weary.* This verse is especially meaningful to me. Steven Curtis Chapman wrote a song using this verse. I was in the midst of having my 4th miscarriage when I heard the words "wait". It didn't matter that I was 37 years old, wanting another baby. God granted that desire a year later when my "Lucky 7" was born. We don't want to wait, but God has a plan and His timing is always perfect. My favorite hymn is *I Know Whom I Have Believed*.

**What is your favorite treat?** Most anything chocolate; dark chocolate is my favorite.

**Do you have any hobbies or interesting facts or things to share?** I love to read. I love spending time with my family. I have 2 beautiful daughters who have given me 4 amazing grandchildren. I am hoping to get back to doing cross-stitch. I've also wanted to go to Haiti for several years, but so far, that door has been closed.

JANUARY 2021



VOLUME 253

# THE BROADCASTER

A MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF FIRST BAPTIST MENA

## IN THIS ISSUE

Members' Corner  
Bible Reading Schedule  
FBC History Tidbit  
January Calendars



PAGE 1-2

*From the Pastor's Desk*  
Sr. Pastor  
Bro. Russell Threet

PAGE 2

*Growing Deeper*  
Associate Pastor  
of Youth & Children  
Bro. Kevin Williams

PAGE 3

*Music Notes*  
Music Minister  
Bro. Vernon Payne

*We Preach Christ and Him Crucified*

### From the Pastor's Desk

Hello Church,

There are many things that might be said at the beginning of a new year. We often sin in the presumption that we have the fullness of a year ahead to do whatever we may set our heart on. We should perhaps take the posture commanded by James when he said, *Come now, you who say, "Today or tomorrow we will go into such and such a town and spend a year there and trade and make a profit" — yet you do not know what tomorrow will bring. What is your life? For you are a mist that appears for a little time and then vanishes. Instead you ought to say, "If the Lord wills, we will live and do this or that".* (James 4:13-15)

We can never know what lies ahead, but we can know that Christ is the one who controls the future and trust in His providence. The great Charles Spurgeon encapsulated the best way for us to view the coming of a new year when he said: "The New Year is upon us, and we would fain look into it if we could; but even the short

length of 1884 is further than our eyes can carry us. What then? Would we lift the veil? No, it is woven in mercy, and placed before us in love. If this New Year shall be full of unbelief, it will be sure to be dark and dreary. If it be baptized into faith, it will be saturated with benediction. If we will believe our God as he deserves to be believed, our way will run along the still waters, and our rest will be in green pastures. Trusting in the Lord, we shall be prepared for trials, and shall even welcome them as black ships laden with bright treasures. Relying upon the faithful promise, we shall be on the watch for the expected blessing, and walk the sea-beach of confidence, casting wistful glances over the waters of time for the swift ships which bring the favours of the Eternal. Calm dependence upon our God will make us strong for labour, and willing for waiting, submissive to suffering, and superior to circumstances." So, even with pandemics, politics, and personal difficulties all well in

## SANCTITY OF HUMAN LIFE SUNDAY JANUARY 24TH

Special Offering for Fresh Start Pregnancy Resource Center



### Baby Dedication

Please contact the church office if you would like to have your baby dedicated.

Continued on page 2



view we can plant our feet firmly on the rock of Christ and know that the successes or failures of 2021 are best viewed through the lens of faithfulness and dependence on God. Church I am prayerful and excited about what God can and may do in the life of our church this year, but I am more concerned that we, as individuals and as a body, would be more dependent on God than we were last year. That will make for a truly joyful new year.

In Christ,

Bro. Russell

## Thank You to FBC

Dear Church Family, It is a joy and privilege to serve as your church organist. Do you have a favorite hymn you would like to hear? Well, just let me know! And thank you so much for my Christmas bonus. — Linda Gandy

FBC Family, It is with great love and appreciation that we write to you. When we think of you, we do so with great appreciation.

We are grateful for your ministry and the faithful proclamation of the Word. Thank you so much for your love for the mission, the mission of telling others the saving news of Jesus. We are grateful for your partnership. May eternity be different for many because of your Gospel partnership. It is our prayer that not only do we experience the blessing of your giving, but you would experience the joy of generosity. *With Love— The McCourtneys*

*Thank you First Baptist Church for allowing our local Humane Society of the Ouachitas to have our staff and volunteer Christmas Party in the Ninth Street Ministries Building. Fun was had by all! Sincerely, Tina Ball*

*Thank you so much for the use of your facility at Ninth Street. With the Country in chaos, we needed a little Christmas Cheer. -Jane & Bill Meaney*

*To My Church Family, Thank you for all the beautiful cards I received. I didn't send out many so I would like to wish my church family a blessed and healthy 2021. Goodbye 2020! - Betty Owens*

*Church, I want to thank you for loving me as you do and for the generous Christmas bonus. I'm blessed to serve you in the church office and look forward to growing with you in the Lord in 2021. For His glory, Candace*

## Growing Deeper

As we come to the close of what has been a collectively hard and trying year it seems that the promise of a New Year shines with an even brighter glow than in years past. Aside from the albeit, funny posts about 2021, there does seem to be this sense or maybe more a hope that once the clock hits midnight on December 31st, things will start to get better.

Far be it from me to quash optimism, but what if they don't? What if the virus mutation creates a "second wave" of the pandemic? What if with the incoming administration we see rioting and violence resurge? Now, I'm not trying to fear monger by painting word pictures that portray a dark and dreary future. What I am saying is, how will you respond if those or other bad things do happen?

You see, the problem with hoping in a better tomorrow is that, at best, it can't live up to our hopes and at worst, it will bring calamity. In this sense, placing our hope on 2021 (or any other calendar event) to be better is another form of the prosperity gospel. We are attaching our hope on that which cannot sustain it and which is not promised to us.

First off, we must be reminded that the world we are living in is broken and will continue in it's downward spiral toward deeper and darker depravation. 2 Timothy chapter 3 points to us this truth saying in it's first couple of verses, "But understand this, that in the last days there will come times of difficulty. For people will be lovers of self, lovers of money, proud, arrogant, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy..." Further, the book of Revelation makes it clear that things will get a lot worse before they get better.

Secondly, Jesus Himself tells us that if we chose to follow Him we will encounter persecution and trials.

As Bro. Russell mentioned in his recent sermon on Mark 10:35-45, specifically in relation to verse 38 where Jesus says, "You do not know what you are asking. Are you able to drink the cup that I drink, or to be baptized with the baptism with which I am baptized?" The reality is that those who walk closest to our Lord are those who experience the greatest cost for their faithful living. It is foolish thinking that we would expect to be able to live with even moderate boldness for Christ in this world and not face some push back.

So if these truths stand before us from Scripture, are we to become pessimists? Is that the call I am making? No! Not at all! We have greater reason for hope and joy than any other! But the difference is that out hope is not misplaced on this coming year being better than the last. It's not placed on the shaky foundation of the circumstances that await us. Instead our hope is fixed upon the unchanging truth that Jesus Christ is the propitiation for sin and has redeemed us and reconciled us back to God! Because of this truth we can stand firm as God's children and can go through any struggle or trial knowing that none of them can separate us from the love of our God. And further, it is the confidence that we can have as we go through sufferings that it will produce in us, as children of God, endurance to run the race, and this endurance will produce the character of Christ in us and that gives us hope that one day we will be made like Him and we will know Him fully.

So happy New Year and may His purposes in us be fulfilled this year for His glory!

Your Fellow Servant,

Bro. Kevin



## FBC Mena History Tidbit Facts of Central School

- ◆ Erected 1904
- ◆ Addition added 1922
- ◆ Mena High School destroyed by fire in 1940—Central School and Mena High School shared the Central School campus with MHS attending 7 a.m. until Noon and Central students from Noon until 5 p.m.
- ◆ Miss Louise Durham, principal, taught for 42 years

## Music Notes

I appreciate all who came to the Christmas musical service presented by our handbells, instrumental ensemble, and worship choir. A big "thank you" to all those in our music program who worked hard to be able to present the program that we entitled, "Welcome to Our World". The choir sang three songs from a musical with that title.

The lyrics of two of the songs from the musical touched me deeply. The theme song, entitled, "Welcome to Our World", included the following lyrics:

*Bring your peace into our violence, bid our hungry souls be filled. Word now breaking heaven's silence, welcome to our world. Fragile finger sent to heal us, tender brow prepared for thorn, Tiny heart whose blood will save us, unto us is born, unto us is born. So wrap our injured flesh around You, breathe our air and walk our sod. Rob our sin and make us holy, perfect Son of God, perfect Son of God. Welcome to our world.*

The second song is entitled, "There Is a Place." Lyrics include the following:

*There is a place, hidden within, needing forgiveness, heavy with sin; Needing the touch of all that You are. Welcome, Lord Jesus, into my heart.*

- ◆ In 1955 the school board voted to name the new elementary school for Miss Louise Durham who retired in 1949
- ◆ Ruth (Sanders) Wimberly, a Central student, played a processional for the students as they marched in to during the 1920's. Later, Ms. Wimberly served as an organist for the First Christian Church for over 40 years.
- ◆ Linda (Borders) Gandy and both of her parents, Charles and Opal (Williams) Borders were students at Central for their entire elementary years.
- ◆ Richard Martin is among others in our congregation who attended Central school.
- ◆ Miss Agnes Gilbert married Murray Johnson and they were members at FBC for many years. Agnes served as President of Women's Missionary Union & Choir Director. *Continued on page 4*

## Members' Corner



## Sherry Baker

Joined FBC Mena on April 9, 1995

**Where were you born and where did you grow up?** Jonesboro, AR

**Who makes up your family?** Betsy 32, Carrie 29, Bailey 13, Bevin 6, Arnold 21 months & Charlotte "Charlie" almost 3 months. Charlie and I met in 1978 and were married a year later. We were married 6 days shy of our 40th anniversary.

**When were you saved?** I realized at age 7 I was a sinner but didn't make a public decision until I was 8. I remember the night, the invitation song, and the pastor's prayer but don't remember praying to receive forgiveness. Through the years, I struggled with if I were a Christian or not. I would talk to different pastors and they would always take me back to that Wednesday night when I was 8. In 1993, I went to a lady's retreat and prayed to get it straight and in the right order of confession and then baptism. Brother Gene Stacks was amazed I was making that decision but still baptized me. Satan still wants to cause doubts, but I know that I know that I am a child of the true King!

**Tell us about your education and occupation?** I have a BSE & MSE from ASU, Ed. S from U of A and taught 37 years at Rich Mountain. I saw a lot of changes during that time. The only job I ever had — graduated on Friday, came to Mena on Sunday, began work 8/15/77 next day Elvis died, my mom's birthday.

**What areas have you served in ministry?** I've worked with GA's when my girls were involved, VBS, mission trips with

*Continued on page 4*

Blessed to serve,

Bro. Vernon