

The Witness

Volume XX, Issue II

Newsletter

February 2023

Winter Is Not What It Seems

Winter doesn't seem to produce much. Everything looks dead. Everything seems to just shiver in place. But is this really so?

Underneath, important things are happening. Plants are recharging, though seemingly hidden from sight. Roots are spreading. Life goes on. Life is preparing to burst forth. Soon buds will breakout on the dormant branches. Life is waiting to launch in a fresh way. Flowers then fruit will explode from nowhere.

In many animals, life is growing. Seeds have been planted. Babies are developing within. Preparation for birth is occurring. Soon multiplication will erupt. New lives will soon be everywhere.

In church and individual life, the same can happen. The harshness of life can descend, and for a while life seems stagnant or even dead in this winter. But life is happening. In these dormant times, roots can spread. In the isolation, a deep focus can occur. Perspective gives focus. Foundations for new life can be broadened. Multiplication can be nurtured. And when the time is right, new life can burst out suddenly.

During the quiet times of winter, the distractions of life subside. These are times to nurture the foundations. To renew our life with Christ. To seek to expand our spiritual roots. To evaluate what

new directions are ahead. To prepare for fresh life and vitality.

Whether it is physical winter, or life's winter, let God do a fresh work within us. Let us seek Him anew. Let us let Him expand His influence within us. Let us submit ourselves to Him in a fresh way. Let us quietly be transformed within. Then we can be prepared for the Spring He has awaiting us, the eruption of new life in Him.

Already, it seems, the Lord is laying a fresh foundation within the church. New leaders. New members. New commitments. This year can be exciting as we see a renewed life and multiplication that seems about to erupt. Let's all be part of it.

Pastor Danny

Looking for Ideas for Outreach

What are the most fun, the most useful, the most exciting events you have experienced in your church life? Tell us. We are always looking for new ideas. Or rehashing old ideas.

Some of the characteristics of good outreach events: 1. Would it be something that we could invite those outside the church to attend? The lost? The unchurched Christian? Would it be something that they would want to attend? 2. Would it provide opportunities to share the gospel to the lost? 3. Would it have an appeal to those

outside the church, even if not invited by a church member? If they just saw an advertisement hanging in a window? 4. Is it something that folks within the church would participate in and view as a chance for personal ministry? 5. Would it create valuable fellowship for those within the church? Build relational bonds of those within the church? 6. Would it grow Christians spiritually?

The yearly church event planning is underway. Things like quartets, ol' time singin', ice cream socials, ladies' events, men's events, outside speakers, VBS, game nights, potlucks, and Blitz visitations are just some of the things on the agenda. Why don't you help provide more ideas? Pass your thoughts on to staff and/or Outreach Team members.

Danny

February is here. This is the month that everything is bleak and cold. All the plants have gone dormant and brown. It is easy to get depressed.

Maybe that is why Valentine's Day was established in the middle of February. That always brings about a warmth with love in the air, thinking about the special people that God has placed within your life that love you. The love we can all be thankful for is the amazing love of God through His Son Jesus Christ. As Christians, He is always with us and loves us unconditionally.

Romans 5:8 tells us about this love: "But God commended His love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us". Think about that for just a second. God loved us even when we did not love Him and gave His Son to die for us!!

The bible has so many verses about God's love. Read John chapter 3 and 1 Corinthians chapter 13 for some rich examples.

One update on our Praise Team: Join me in welcoming Sherri Jackson as our permanent piano player. Sherri has been filling in for us since October and done an excellent job.

I want to ask everyone to continue to pray for God's blessing on the people on the Praise Team!

We are truly blessed to have such awesome people to lead us in worship each Sunday morning.

God Bless you all
Bro Steve

If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. If I give away all I have, and if I deliver up my body to be burned, but have not love, I gain nothing.

Love is patient and kind; love does not envy or boast; it is not arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice at wrongdoing, but rejoices with the truth. Love bears all things, be-

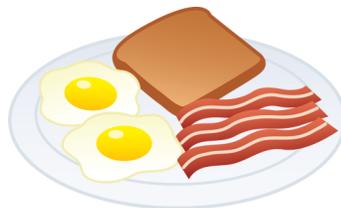
lieves all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never ends. As for prophecies, they will pass away; as for tongues, they will cease; as for knowledge, it will pass away. For we know in part and we prophesy in part, but when the perfect comes, the partial will pass away. When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became a man, I gave up childish ways. For now we see in a mirror dimly, but then face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I have been fully known.

So now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; but the greatest of these is love.

1 Corinthians 13 ESV



Men's Breakfast Occurs Quarterly. The next breakfast will be Saturday, February 4th at 8am. All men are encouraged to attend! This is an uplifting time of faith and fellowship.



Dennis Wagner Appointed as New Youth Pastor

On Sunday, January 29th 2023, the members of FBC Yantis convened during a potluck after the morning worship service to have a question and answer time with Youth Pastor candidate, Dennis Wagner. The members held a vote and Dennis Wagner was confirmed as the new Youth Paster of FBC Yantis.

Look for updates in the coming weeks to the church website and join us in welcoming Dennis and his wife Sam to this fellowship!

At A Glance

December's Gifts:	\$20,816. ⁸²
2022 Gifts So Far:	\$263,224. ⁴⁸
2022 Budget:	\$262,763. ⁰⁰

Your Church Staff...

Pastor: **Bro. Danny Parker**
Cell: 620-397-1753
Email: fbcyantispastor@peoplescom.net

Youth Pastor: **Dennis Wagner**

Worship Leader: **Bro. Steve Couch**

Secretary: **Mrs. Elizabeth Smith**
In the office Mon. - Thurs., 8:30am - 2:30pm

Church Phone: **903-383-2393**
Church Fax: **903-383-2384**
Church Email: **fbcyantispastor@peoplescom.net**
Church Website: **www.fbcyantisp.com**

If cold or flu has kept you from attending, you can watch any services you missed either on the church Facebook page or the church YouTube channel!



<https://www.facebook.com/FBCYantis/>

<https://www.youtube.com/@FBCYantis>

Don't miss mid-week activities at FBC Yantis!

Prayer Meeting on Tuesday mornings, 7am.

Ladies' Bible Study on Tuesday mornings, 9:30 am.

Men's Bible Study on Tuesday evenings, 6:30pm.

Jesus Kids, Wednesdays from 3:30-5:30pm

Youth Service, Wednesdays from 3:30-6:30pm