

The Witness

Volume XXII, Issue I

Newsletter

January 2024

It's Gone!

2023 is gone. It doesn't matter what intentions were for the year – time had no mercy – time has expired. Time did not vary, it marched ahead relentlessly.

Every year I am more amazed at how quickly time seems to pass by. When I was still living at home (in the dark ages), the school year went by sooooo slooooooowly. I couldn't wait for it to end. But time went on. In college and my early career time moved a bit faster. I can still remember the Big 25 and how I felt my childhood had flashed by. I couldn't believe I was already so old (yeh, sounds funny now). Then came the Big 30, the Big 40, the Big you get my drift. Now, time seems to rush ahead, unconcerned with my feelings. Don't you wish we could slow it down again? But we can't.

As the famous soap opera stated it so accurately, "as sands in the hour glass, so are the days of our lives." I'm sure some of you remember this (not judging) Or perhaps using a more appropriate source, scripture aptly states, "What is your life like? For you are a puff of smoke that appears for a short time and then vanishes." Life is short. Life is fragile. Time speeds ahead. The only time that we have control of is now. No guarantees of tomorrow. And ultimately the tomorrows just fly by, until we get to the end.

The end and beginning of a year are sobering times. Perhaps at no other time are we faced with such a stark reality. Time ends. So what do we do? Get depressed? Fill our minds with regret? No!! Let's get a new start. Let's invest our seconds. Let's decide what is important. Let's discern what is critical. Let's get an eternal perspective. Let's make life decisions now. Let's ensure that what we spend our time on is invested wisely.

And what better moment to align our lives spiritually than now?! For Christians, the scripture warns, "knowing the time, that now it is high time to awake out of sleep; for now our salvation is nearer than when we first believed." What better moment to focus on living for Christ than now?! Let's not wait, but let's start making every moment count spiritually. Time is moving on.

Pastor Danny

January Outreach

January is an important month for First Baptist Church. Our intent is to focus once again on true outreach. We want to make this month a time to focus on families of our Wednesday Program children/youth. Who says we can't reach them? Let's see what the Lord can do!

- First of all, let's pray. We will once again be hosting cottage prayer meetings. The major focus will be on praying for the families of the Wednesday Program children/youth. Join with us in as many of these times as possible. We have seen some radical results from our previous prayer time. Let's invite Christ once again to do some remarkable things in lives. If you would like to host a prayer time, let me know.
- Then let's engage. Our desire is that every church family will make at least one contact with one of these families to show appreciation to them. Letters. Calls. Visits.
- Then let's invite. Let's invite a family to visit. The month of prayer will conclude with Larry Jordan preaching on Sunday, February 4. We will call that day, "Friend and Family Day". It would be a great time to invite one of these families. Let's pray that the Lord would bring revival to our hearts and that a host of visitors will attend on that day.

In addition, on Sunday, January 14 we will have a missionary to Cambodia speak (Victor Hartsfield). Victor and his wife have been on the field for a long time. We have known them for over 30 years.

In January, the Outreach Team will meet and populate a 2024 calendar with events for the year. If you have ideas, share them with one of the team or pastoral staff.

Let's make 2024 a time a time of growth and renewal.

Pastor Danny

Music Newsletter

What an exciting month we have had in December. Each Sunday we started the services with a Christmas carol to get us in the spirit. We also had some awesome special music by Donnie Attaway playing a Christmas Song Medley, then we heard Alexia and her Mom Cristina Bowers singing "Mary Did You Know". Our church is blessed with some very talented folks who love to sing for the Lord.

The Christmas Eve Candlelight Service was very special as we heard Bro Danny read about the Advent candles, we sang Christmas carols, and partook in the Lord's Supper.

FBCY Sr Adult Cooking Video

The FBCY Cooking video on December 7th was an absolute hoot!! Bob Tapley gave us his recipe for his famous Peanut Butter Pie along with some funny tips. Carolyn Bryant showed us how to make her delicious Microwave Peanut Brittle with some more funny stories of her past experiences make the brittle. Pat Couch made Cake Mix Cookies and Marty Smith made a delicious Frozen Fruit Salad. The audience of around 20 people then enjoyed a lunch of Chicken and Dumplings and samples of the recipes. What a fun time!!

The next Cooking Video will be Thursday January 18th in the Fellowship Hall. There will be several featured cooks sharing recipes for the new year. Be sure and watch on our new Facebook page facebook.com/fbcy1870 or on our YouTube channel or come be part of the live audience and enjoy samples of all the tasty goodies!

Thanks
Bro Steve

Youth Ministry- December and January

Hey y'all! In December, we were able to spend some extra time with our students, as we were celebrating Christmas. With that, we were able to point them to the birth of Jesus being the reason for the season. As we had our last few of weeks of Wednesday night services for the year, we were able to have more openness and receptivity with the teens than we've had since I've been here.

Looking forward to the new year, there are plenty of exciting things and ways to be involved. For the month of January, we are placing a greater level of emphasis on praying for and connecting with parents of our students. We are planning to have more cottage prayer meetings to bring them before God, culminating in a "Day of Renewal" with Larry Jordan in early February. With this, we'd love for everyone to be involved, as their parents need Jesus just as much as the students do.

Also in January, we're kicking off the new year with a lock-in. This will be an event with great spiritual emphasis. Our theming is coming from 2 Corinthians 5:17, "Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!" With this we will be having Dalton coming in as our speaker, as well as a band from Central Baptist in Sulphur Springs. This could be a huge event in the spiritual lives of our students, so we have two main ways to get involved. First, we could use volunteers. Some roles here would range from simply chaperoning all the way to helping to prepare a meal. Second and most importantly, we'd like to cover this event in prayer. I'll have lists of the names of students that are signed up for the event, and I ask that we all prayer specifically for these students.

Lastly, as I am coming to the end of my first year here at First Baptist, I'd like to thank everyone for your support and for being so welcoming. Sam, Adah, and I feel so loved and at home here!

Bro. Dennis Wagner



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At-A-Glance:

November's Gifts: \$19,778.⁰⁰
2023 Gifts So Far: \$236,928.⁶⁸
2023 Budget: \$279,287.⁰⁰

Your Church

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