



# New Castle First Baptist Church

February 2019

Greetings Church!

By the time that you are reading this we will have begun our 40 Days of Prayer. My prayer for all of us during this time is that this exercise draws us all closer together and closer to the Lord. As we looked studied January, as we seek the Lord we will find him. He will make his will known to us. And then, if we are faithful and courageous enough to walk in his will, the blessings that result will be beyond anything we could have imagined. So please brothers and sisters, keep praying. Ask the Lord to fill you with his wisdom and strength. Ask him to put within you the desire to only want to walk and live in accordance with his will. And then prepare for everything to change for the better.

As you know, we have had to start our 40 Days a little later than we scheduled due to the treacherous road condition we faced on the 20<sup>th</sup>. Other leaders and I made the difficult decision to cancel services for fear that if we had them, some might put themselves at risk by trying to make it when they really should have stayed home. I confess, I am a little out of sorts as a result of missing our regular worship. Earlier in my walk, if I am honest, it was not challenging at all for me to miss church from time to time. Now, as I write this, I am struggling. I missed our special worship time together this past week. I missed gathering with my brothers and sisters in Christ. I missed the encouragement that I get from each of you. The edification of the saints, the strengthening of our faith that always occurs, when we gather and worship him corporately.

There are many pastors out there that choose to chastise and rebuke people who perhaps don't make it to church as often as they should. I am not one of them. When I say, "I missed you on Sunday," that is not a rebuke with a pretty bow on top. I sincerely mean that I missed you on Sunday. I know that sometimes people miss and it just can't be helped. But sometimes some of us try to find excuses not to attend. Spouse has to work so we stay home. Oldest son has a fever, better stay in this Sunday. It's deer season, it's football season, it's tax season, I have had a really hard week. You get the idea. We can always come up with good reasons to stay home. But what are we really sacrificing by not coming to church?

As the author of Hebrews pointed out, we miss out on the opportunity to be stirred up (inspired) to love and good works. While we are blessed in coming together through fellowship and the inspiration that comes from our church family, God also meets with us through corporate worship in a way that is completely different than how he meets with us during our private time. He helps us to love better. He helps us to serve better. In short God, in conjunction with the church he has called us to, helps us to be the people that he has called us to be. Salt and light, ambassadors of the kingdom of heaven, men, women and children who are in the world but are not of the world.

Also, when we gather together we encourage one another, especially now when the Day (the return of Christ) draws near. The friction between good and evil, light and dark, God and Satan, is growing more and more intense every day. Certainly, many of us may have experienced this and read about this here in the states, but we have it easy in comparison with many of our brothers and sisters in Christ around the world. The Center for the Study of Global Christianity, an academic research center that monitors worldwide demographic trends in Christianity, estimates that between the years 2005 and 2015, 900,000 Christians were martyred — an average of 90,000 Christians each year. And brothers and sisters, it will only get worse before our Savior returns. We need each other. We cannot be who we are called to be by ourselves. Not one of us is called to stand alone against the countless waves of temptation, opposition, hatred or spiritual and physical violence that the world wants to throw against God's beloved. If we are not united with Christ and his Bride (the Church) we will fall in the day of evil. We won't reach those Christ has sent us to reach. And we will never experience the fullness of life that God has for us here on this side of eternity. So please, for the sake of our church, our children and our God, don't neglect to meet together as is the habit of some. Commit yourself and your family to corporate worship. Make it a priority. And God will use that small commitment of yours and mine to change our world and all eternity.

God bless,  
Pastor Kevin

## FEBRUARY MEMORY VERSE

**And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near (ESV).**

**Hebrews 10:24-25**

### ***Circle of Friends***

Meeting the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of every Month  
**February 12th-Our Best, 11:30am**

**Confirm with Peggy McCarty, 845-2581**

### **February Nursery Schedule**

3 Sue Banta & Lynn Adams  
10 Aimee Cline & Ginger Nix  
17 Emily Payton & Ella White  
24 **VOLUNTEERS NEEDED**

**Special Thanks to everyone who serves!!!**

### **February Birthdays**

1 Gene Garrett  
2 Ryan Stewart  
3 Debbie Hargrove  
7 Andrew Nix  
9 Suzanne Banta  
10 Frankie Stewart  
14 Cecil McCarty  
15 Keith Jeffries  
16 Jim Graham  
16 Lilly Jane Powell  
17 Ryan Archer  
19 Dawn Scroggins  
21 Avery Stivers  
23 Derek Jeffries  
25 Jean Kaye Foree  
28 Jaden Conrad

**SAMARITAN'S PURSE CHRISTMAS SHOEBOX MINISTRY**

***NOW COLLECTING:***

**<MILD SOAP> <WASH CLOTHES><FABRIC FOR DRESSES>**

### **FEBRUARY**

Deacons of the Month

JeanKaye Foree 502-845-4947  
or 502-706-0331

Larry Bryant 502-758-0034



### **Wednesday Nights**

**Children's Program at 6:00pm  
Dinner Served**

**Middle School Youth Group  
6:00pm – 7:00pm**

*Please consider hosting the High School Youth in your home on a Sunday evening.*

*If you are interested in hosting, or have any questions, please contact Pastor Kevin or Brandy Neuman. THANK YOU!!*