

First Baptist Church of Aledo



**FIRST BAPTIST
CHURCH**
ALEDO, ILLINOIS

January Newsletter

Pastor's Corner

“Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God’s will is - His good, pleasing and perfect will.” ~ Romans 12:2

Happy New Year! I don’t usually make new years resolutions, but it is tempting to take the opportunity for a fresh start. Over the past several weeks, I have felt God leading me to preach on the counter-cultural nature of the Christian faith. The theme verse for 2015 will be Romans 12:2. There are many reasons why I think this is so important. One of the first and most obvious reasons is because, so often, there seems to be no real difference between the culture and the church in the way we think and live. For many Christians, faith seems to be a minor thing they have added to their lives, equal to some other hobby they enjoy. In other cases faith is not even as high a priority as their hobbies. How tragic. It’s tragic because there is nothing in this world that has the power to change your life the way your relationship with Jesus Christ can. It’s tragic because so many people are missing out on the peace, joy and fulfillment that comes from walking in the Spirit. It’s tragic

because so many people don’t know what they are missing. The cares of this world have strangled the Word of God before it has had a chance to bear fruit. So, in 2015 we are going to focus on how to be transformed by the renewing of our minds. The joy and peace of knowing and living the will of God is beyond description. This is my prayer for FBC in 2015. One of the major endeavors we will undertake in 2015 towards this end is the Life Action Summit beginning March 21st. This is a high impact-church-wide two-week revival led by a group of gifted and passionate people. This will be counter-cultural because we are asking people to do something almost unthinkable. We are asking you to set aside two weeks of your life to seek the Lord and join us every evening for revival. We are asking many of you to open your homes for two weeks to

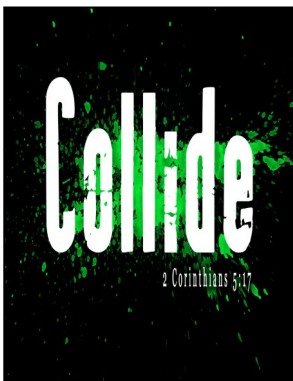
host young men and women who need a place to stay while they serve the Lord at FBC. We are asking some of you to loan a vehicle for their use for those two weeks. Others we are asking to make a meal for the Summit team while they are with us. We are asking for a very counter-cultural movement in 2015. We are asking our church to seek the Lord wholeheartedly, and to serve the Lord sacrificially. Everything about this revival has the potential to radically deepen our faith. I believe we are poised and ready. I’m so excited for what God has in store for 2015!

In Christ,

Pastor Luke

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Junior High Collide will resume meeting every Wednesday at FBC from 6:30-8pm beginning Jan. 7th- High School Collide will resume meeting every Sunday from 6-7:30pm beginning Jan. 11th at FBC.

I can't believe the year is through and we're already halfway through the school year here at Collide! God has certainly been on the move and I hope that you were able to join us for Youth Sunday to hear all of the great stories of what God is doing in the lives of young people here at Collide. I am always blown away by how God works through us to reach young people. I love watching Him work! Sometimes I think about hearing their stories 15-20 years from now and it excites me to think about where they'll be and how they'll be serving the Lord!

We just started our new series in the book of 1st John. We'll spend the next semester digging deep into that book. In February we'll take a quick break for a short series on relationships. Also, mark your calendar for the Collide Agape Dinner, Feb 15th from 6-7:30pm. This will be a great night of testimonies, music and discussing what love really is, according to God's standards. We'll have a nice dinner together, so please dress accordingly, guys in wear a nice pair of slacks and a tie if you have it and ladies wear a modest dress or skirt.

Don't forget to get signed up for Winter Retreat for 6th-8th graders on Jan 16-18th. Early Bird Registration ends Jan 4th. We'll be joining 4 other youth groups for this great event!

We serve a mighty God my friends. Let us worship Him with reverence and awe! Amen!

In Christ's Love, Heather Q.

Upcoming Collide Youth Events!

2015 Winter Retreat
"FROZEN"
6-8th grade
Jan 16-18th
CAMP WYOMING- WYOMING, IA
Speaker Isaac Terwilliger
Worship Band 4th Point
\$40 by Jan 4th
\$45 after Jan 4th
*Scholarships available
Contact Heather Quiroz at 217-552-5253 with any questions.

Collide Agape Dinner
Sunday, Feb. 15th
6-7:30pm
First Baptist Church Aledo
6-12th grade
Semi-formal event.
Guys in ties and slacks.
Ladies, a modest dress or skirt
Students, please RSVP to the church office
309-582-7812 or Jeff Heather 217-552-5253

2015 WEEKLY INFORMATION CENTER

Date	Nursery	Kids Club Worship	Greeters
Jan. 4	Betty Williams, Susan Potthast & Grace Buttgen	Tina McCaw & Shannon Sedam	Drue & Perry Baugher Gene & Krista Bear
Jan. 11	Betty Williams, Ronda Moffitt & Veronica Moffitt	Shay & Lisa Litwiler	Linus & Cathy Griswold Paul & Cara Svoboda
Jan. 18	Betty Williams, Crystal Clark & Vivian Kopp	Nadine Coulter & Alison Lafever	Lonnie & Cindy Maynard Antia & Halie Parkinson
Jan. 25	Betty Williams, Sharon Moffitt, & Bryce Moffitt	Kelly Higgins & Janet Rind	Dave & Susan Potthast Troy Riddell

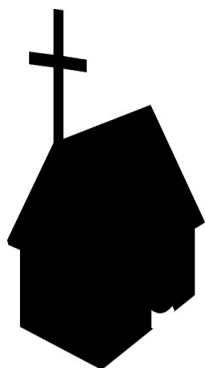
If you are unable to serve the day you are scheduled in the Nursery, please make arrangements in advance to switch with another person on the schedule. Please contact **Ronda Moffitt, Nursery Coordinator, for all concerns on her Cell: (309)371-3021**. Thank you! **Kids Club Worship**—PLEASE come to the Fellowship Hall by **9:45am** so you can help & prep. *Please continue to let me know if you are switching with somebody. I have it set up so there are two adults plus myself helping at a time. Please do not switch with a couple if you are an individual. Thank you so much for your service! ~Mollie. If you need to contact Mollie about Kids Club Worship call -309-371-6962.

Diaconate Member of the Month for January – Laurie Louck
Finance Board Member of the Month for January – Clint Huffstutler
Trustee Member of the Month for January — Aaron Struble

Weekly Attendance & Offering



DATE	11/30/14	12/7/14	12/14/14	12/21/14	12/28/14
8 AM	56	53	58	60	50
10 AM	204	267	223	259	185
TOTAL	260	320	281	319	235



Date	11/30/14	12/7/14	12/14/14	12/21/14	12/28/14
Current Expense	\$5,006.00	\$16,205.55	\$8,229.68	\$6,555.46	\$17,002.10
Building Fund	\$25.00	\$785.00	\$625.00	\$2525.00	\$130.00
Benevolence	\$700.00	\$825.00	\$1,195.00	\$225.00	\$3,104.00
Total	\$5,731.00	\$16,990.55	\$10,049.68	\$9,350.46	\$20,236.10

January News—Kids Club Ministry



Dear Parents: We are so blessed that your family is part of our lives at First Baptist Church. I don't often have the opportunity to share why I do what I do and wanted to start off the New Year by giving you a little glimpse of my testimony so you know where my heart is.

I grew up in a Christian home with parents who loved the Lord. My dad is a pastor and we moved around quite a bit because he had a heart to reach out to struggling churches. I got a front row seat to the ups and downs of ministry and how my parents dealt with it. Their faith was, and still is,

real. They loved God and trusted him always. It never faltered with whatever life brought our way.



When I was nine, I asked Jesus to come into my heart. I did this because my parents had instilled in me a Biblical world-view. Simply put, I believed that what the Bible said about God was true. The Bible says that the only way to God is through his son, Jesus. If you don't have a personal relationship with Jesus, you don't know God and you won't go to heaven. So that's what I did sitting at a bonfire one night just weeks before entering the fourth grade.

During my Jr. High years, I was faced with a dilemma that I didn't verbally share with anyone. Was I going to believe what my parents taught me about God? Was he real? I couldn't see him. I couldn't feel him. And furthermore the culture around me resisted what I was being taught to be true. It wasn't until I was 15 when, through the grace of God, the battle within me was resolved. Yes! I was going to

have faith and believe that God was real. Otherwise, what's the point of this life? If God was as big, powerful, and loving as the Bible says he was, then he could give me purpose, protection, and direction that nobody else could give me. So, there it is in a nutshell; the beginning of my surrendered life to God. I have to say I AM SO GLAD THAT I DID because I would have really messed it up!

I want you and your family to know what it means to love God with your whole life. That means you seek God's will out for everything through his Word, the Bible. We live in a culture that wants to toss out the Creator God's instruction manual on its ear like we know more than God. **Did you know that by the time a person turns 13 years old their world view is already in place?** Yikes! **The spiritual formation that happens between the age of 5 and 12 is life changing! They either believe that God is real and that the Bible is true or they don't.** If they don't, the likelihood that they will accept it as truth later is slim.

All parents are invited to join Pastor Luke & myself for a six-week (Jan. 7-Feb. 11) Spiritual Parenting class. We will engage in **real** conversations about what it means to live a surrendered life to Jesus and how we model that for our kids. Honestly, it doesn't even matter where you're at in your faith. Maybe you don't know what you believe. That's great! Sign-up! What's the point of church if we can't explore our faith together? Call the church office at 582-7812 to sign-up. Our hope is that parents will sign-up together. It's \$5 per person and the class is during Kids Club so no worries about childcare. Please don't hesitate to call me or Pastor Luke personally to talk about your questions. We'd love to talk to you. Happy New Year and we hope to see you soon! Love, Mollie



Kids Club - Ready to Kickoff for 2015! For kids ages 3 years through 5th grade on Wednesdays from 6:30-8pm. There is no cost for Kids Club! Please visit Kids Corner in the foyer for more info about our kids programs. The Winter session will begin on **Jan. 7th** and run through **March 18th, 2015.**



Family Skate Party

The whole church is invited to this free event on Sunday, Jan. 4th from 2:30-4:30pm at the Monmouth skating rink – 405 North 11th, Monmouth, IL. Please bring a snack to share and invite a friend! The first drink is free but additional drinks will cost .50-2.00. No Need to sign up, just show up. See you there! Please contact Mollie at 371-6962 if you have any questions.

Thank You!

The Diesch, Mohammadi and Norwick families would like to express our thanks for the support from our Church family and friends during our time of grief after the passing of Kurt's father. Your prayers, cards, texts, calls, and

visits were all greatly appreciated and were a wonderful expression of the love Christ has given us to share.

* * *

Thank you to all who contributed to the Thanksgiving Boxes given out at the Joy Food Pantry on Nov 22nd. We distributed all 21 boxes from a collaborated effort with First Baptist Church of Joy. The need is great and the recipients were very grateful. Thanks again for your contributions." The Mercer County Initiative

* * *

Thank you for the scholarship money! I really appreciated it. I will use the money for my books at college. God Bless! Sincerely, Jesse Snyder

* * *

Thank you for the scholarship money! It will help pay for my tuition! Sincerely, Zeke Snyder

* * *

I am bless to attend a church that is so giving. Thank you. Sincerely, Logan Snyder

* * *

Dear First Baptist Church Family, Thank you so much for the scholarship money! It helped pay for books. I greatly appreciate all the support and prayers. I am so blessed to have such a loving and generous church family. Blessings, Kate Baugher

* * *

Dear Pastor Luke, Mission Board, & Church Family, I am overwhelmed by your generosity! Your financial support of my medical mission trip to the Dominican Republic was an answer to prayer. I had no doubt in my mind that the Lord was calling me to go on this trip and as I was praying about it, the Lord gave me a peace as I talked to Him about how I would pay for it. Thank you for your obedience to our great God! Thank you for supporting me in my faith! Your gift expresses to me that you trust me with the Gospel and that my faith in the Lord is evident to you. As of now, I am fully funded but we still need \$4,000 for medical supplies. I do not ask you for more than you have already given but I do ask that you pray for others to have the same generosity that you possess. Thanks again! Love always through Christ, Blair Baugher

* * *

So many kind words, cards, memorials and hugs were shown to our family. We greatly appreciate it. The family of Dorothy Sponsler

What's Coming Up!



NEW Wednesday Night Live Classes Begin January 7th! Join us every Wednesday from 6:30-8pm through March. 18th. See Page 9 for class details.

Christian Ed Lunch – Jan. 11th following the 10am service in the Enon Room.

Deacons will meet on Tuesday, Jan. 6th at 7pm.

Trustees will meet on Jan 11th following the 10am service.

Food Panty Volunteers Needed – First Baptist is responsible for providing volunteers for



the following dates at the Mercer County Food Pantry: Jan. 27 & 30, March 24 & 27, June 9 & 12, & Nov. 17 & 20th. The Pantry

hours are Tuesdays: 5:30-7:30pm and Fridays 8am to noon. If you would like to help volunteer, call the church at 582-7812 and we'll get you plugged in to one of the available days.



January Annual FBC Business Meeting

The First Baptist Church Annual Meeting will be Sunday, **Jan. 18th** following the 10am service. **Please have your committee and quarterly reports to the church office by Monday, January 5th as the **Church Council** meets on **Tuesday, Jan. 13th** at 7pm.

Church Calendar will be on this page

Happy Birthday

Dylane Riddell	January 1
Kenny Crutcher	January 3
Laryssa Russell	January 4
Emmerson Sproston	January 5
Janice Duncan	January 6
Christopher Hedrick	
Leonard Williams	
Bill Bewley	January 7
Linus Griswold	
Bob Kopp	January 8
	January 9
Denise Kelly	January 11
Jesse Korns	January 13
Tish Riddell	
Rich Ruggles	January 14
Jacque Bruns	
Dave Cooper	January 19
Mike Sponsler	January 20
Beth Sproston	January 21
Gene Thompson	
Clay Huffstutler	
Jeanne Barber	
Linda Bell	January 24
Francis Banks	January 25
Keith Moreland	January 26
Lindsay Schweninger	
Trinity Norwick	
Payton Ruggles	
Ellie Vipond	
Richard Franks	January 27
Colin Miller	
Cindy Maynard	January 28
Lynda Castor	January 30
Lonnie Maynard	
Jarod Dale	

Happy Anniversary

Steve & Diane Nelson

John & Denise Kelly



Thanks from the 180 Zone!

I don't believe that words can even express how grateful and blessed the residents were by your kindness and generosity. Please share this email with everyone that was involved. From the bottom of our hearts we thank all of you.

God changes lives by using His people. I want to share just one way you made a huge impact on one of the women. She has not seen her children for quite a long time. We have been praying that God would provide a way for her daughter to be able to come this weekend. However, her daughter does not have the finances to pay for gas as she is 3 hours away. Last night, Becky, received a gift card from Wal-Mart. She is giving it to her daughter so she can purchase gas to come and see her! My heart fills with joy when I watch the Lord use his "sheep" to enlarge his

flock. :)

You touched many lives last night with your outpouring of love. I believe this is what Christmas is all about. Jesus truly is the reason for the season. May God bless each and every one of you. Pam McCutcheon, Assistant Women's House Supervisor, The 180 Zone



Women's Ministry

Women's Ministry Think Tank, Saturday, Jan. 3rd at 9am in the Enon Room.

Ladies Mentorship Launch – Jan. 4th at 2pm for Mentors and Mentees.

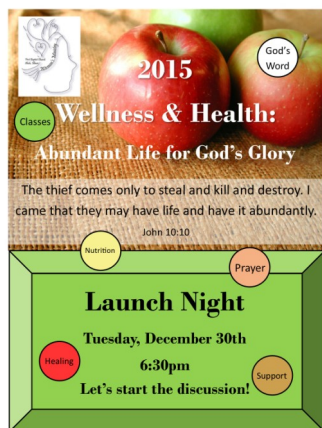
Ladies Meet & Mingle—Friday, Jan. 23rd at 6:30pm at Janice Klink's home—1216—13th St. Viola. *Big 3 story, yellow Victorian home.*

You are invited to attend the National Hearts at Home Conference, Normal, IL *Hearts at Home* is a non-denominational Christian based organization for women who desire to become better educated and equipped for the profession of motherhood. The conference offers workshops on motherhood, womanhood, wifehood, small groups, teens, preteens, spiritual health, etc. Their website is

www.hearts-at-home.org. The annual National Conference is held in **March 13th and 14th** in Normal, Illinois. We ask that you pay the church up to \$100 towards the costs of the registration fees and the hotel room (*whatever you can afford*). You will also have approximately \$40 of out of pocket costs for meals, parking, and gas. We will be gone from Thursday afternoon thru Saturday evening; this is the "Conference Plus" registration (although you may attend just one day if you wish). If you are interested in attending please sign up at the table in the foyer. Registration forms can be picked up at the church or you can print one



from the Hearts at Home web site. Complete the registration forms and turn them in to Sarah Brown by **February 8th**. There will be an informational meeting immediately following the 10am Worship Service on **Sunday, January 4th** in the Enon Room. You may also contact Sarah Brown directly if you have any questions.



Wellness & Health Launch Night - Tues, Dec. 30th 6:30pm (**Journeying Together: A Path Toward Health and Healing by God's Design** (leader – Heather Q.) **Tuesdays at 6:30pm beginning Jan 6th**. This is a 6 week class. Child care not provided unless you request it.



Have you heard? Life Action Ministries will be at First Baptist Church Aledo - March 21st-April 5th, 2015!

We will need housing, food, and vehicles for 25 young adults during the Summit. Please prayerfully consider how the Lord might lead you to support the Summit with these needs.

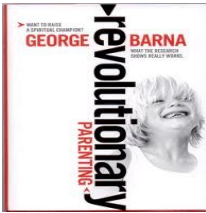
Watch and listen for all the Revival details!

Wednesday Night Live Classes

Jan. 7th—March 18th—6:30-8:00pm

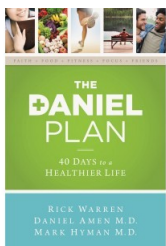
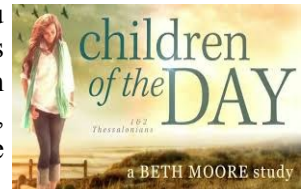
Cost of all WNL adult classes in 2015 is \$5

Call the church office at 582-7812 to sign up today! Adult classes are as follows:



Spiritual Parenting—Taught by Pastor Luke & Mollie—It's your deepest wish for your child: a vibrant faith-filled life. Yet the day-to-day challenges of parenting can feel so overwhelming. How can you be sure you're doing the right things to shape your child's heart, mind and spirit? There is no one-size-fits-all instruction manual to follow, but we will explore some of the pieces of the puzzle toward spiritual parenting. Through this class, parents will become equipped to be the spiritual parents raising spiritual children that we all desire to be.

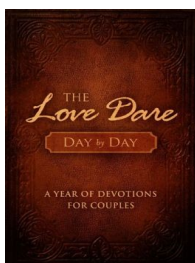
Women's Study-Beth Moore—Children of the Day 1st & 2nd Thessalonians Is family life a challenge? Is work driving you crazy? Do you know God has a purpose for your life, but you can't figure out what it is? Know that your circumstances are not coincidental. And God's timing is impeccable. Join Beth Moore on the Thessalonian shores as she walks you through the truth of each verse of 1 and 2 Thessalonians. In this study, you'll face crises, afflictions, relationships, doubts, concerns, and fears. Find encouragement for living the Christian life now and hope for when Christ returns.



The Daniel Plan-Open to everyone-Taught by Gina Young & Sheri Olson

- This groundbreaking program will equip you with practical tools and resources to bring health into every area of your life. What makes it different from other wellness programs is that *The Daniel Plan* was built with “love” as the motivation. It’s a reflection of God’s love for us. It’s a story of abundance, not deprivation. A step by step approach that helps you make small changes that lead to big results. Your journey is one of progress, never perfection. *The Daniel Plan* is framed around The Essentials: Faith, Food, Fitness, Focus and Friends – life areas that all work together to restore and sustain your long-term health. Faith is the foundation with God as the

source of the power and the energy behind all transformational change. As you follow *The Daniel Plan*, you will discover that you have a part to play in getting healthier, but God will energize your efforts. We have learned that doing The Daniel Plan in community, with a group of friends is the “secret sauce.” People who do the program together lose 50% more weight! More info can be found at their website. <http://danielplan.com/>

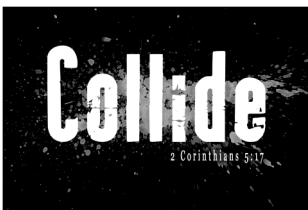


Couples Study-The Love Dare—Taught by Perry & Drue Baugher

- Love is a choice. A daily choice. *The Love Dare Day by Day* is a daily reminder of how it’s done -- and done well -- taking the source material's original experience to the next level. With 52 weekly dares, this one-year devotional invites you to go deeper into the scriptural principles of *The Love Dare* and is meant to enrich your relationship with God and your spouse through a daily time of reading, prayer, and action.

Here's what's happening for the Kids and Youth during Wednesday Night Live!

Kids Club is for kids ages 3 years through 5th grade on Wednesdays from 6:30-8pm. Please visit Kids Corner in the foyer for more info about our kids programs. The Winter session will begin on Jan. 7th and run through March 18th, 2015. There is no cost for your children to attend Kids Club.



Collide Youth Group 2015 resumes on Wednesday, Jan. 7th for 6th-8th grade. Collide meets every Wednesday during Wednesday Night Live! Grab your friends and come join the fun! High School Collide meets on Sunday nights from 6-7:30pm. Questions, see Heather Q. There is no cost to attend Collide.

First Baptist Church of Aledo

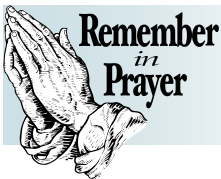
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PRAYER AND CONCERNS—IF YOU ARE IN NEED OF PRAYER CHAIN
PLEASE CALL:

PASTOR LUKE @ 309-371-6964 or Cindy Maynard @ 582-2098



HEALTH & WELL BEING

Prayer Concerns - Jayne Fitzsimmons, Marjie Earl, Family of Allen Gustafson, Nancy Ruml, Ryan Hunt, Deb Bruning, Vickie Korn, Family of Patty Fuller, Darlene Johnson, Darryl Kelly, Bud & Carol Schaefer, Barb Loving, Derald Jones, Deb Ridgeway, Dawn Ridgeway, Connor Sutton, Karen Walker, Ann Eddleman, Herb Nelson, Jean Ball, Connie Vail, Peg Cox, Cari Parchert, Caryl Leslie, Jennifer Franks, Dee Shea, Krista Bear, Shelly Upson, Sherrie McCarty-Cloyd, Brenda Leng, Connie Armstrong, Lori Strom, Kate Hermanson, Kenny Crutcher & Carolyn Hanson

NURSING HOME

Virginia Sirotnak, Aldus Gridley & Ron Rhine

MISSIONARIES & MILITARY

Alex & Jess Etheridge & Jim Earl
Austin Weir, Tyler Mattson, Matthew VanderHeyden, Caleb VanderHeyden, Kyle Mandle,
Charles Schultz & Terry Schaefer

OTHER CONCERNS

The church & all decisions