FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH ALEDO, ILLINOIS

January Newsletter

First Baptist Church of Aledo

"Do not be deceived, "Bad company corrupts good character."

1 Corínthíans 15:33

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When I was a child I had the bad habit of falling in with the wrong crowd. My friends were usually the rowdiest, most misbehaving bunch of boys in school. All of my best friends, growing up, were boys of low moral character. It never occurred to me that I should even make a choice about who I was friends with, much less whether the friends I had were good or bad influences. Once, when I was in third grade, while I was at Walmart with my mom, I remember asking her if she would buy me some chew. She was pretty shocked, of course, and began asking me why on earth I would think chewing tobacco was okay for a third-grader. I explained that my friend James chewed tobacco, and so did his older sister, and they let me try some, and I liked it. I have no idea where it came from, since it was before the days of the internet, but my parents found an article on the dangers of chewing tobacco, which featured a man missing his lower jaw. Needless to say, I never picked up the habit. Unfortunately, that wouldn't be the last time I was influ-

Pastor's Corner

enced by my friends. Whether we like it or not, we reflect the people we spend the most time with. Thankfully this works to our advantage if we allow it to. I recently heard someone say, forgive me if I can't remember who, that the first miracle of Jesus was to turn water in to wine for the express purpose of revealing that He is in transformation the business. God Himself wants to rub off on us, and make us more like Him. It obviously much deeper goes than that. He is wiling to put His very own Spirit in us, and give us a new nature. But even with the indwelling Holy Spirit, transformation requires that we pay attention to the company we keep. Too often I have seen people who were growing in their faith get derailed by bad company. I'm sure you've seen it too. I'm sure it wasn't intentional. It's a slow drift at first, but before you know it you can't see the shore, and likely have no idea how to get back. Perhaps you don't have

to see the shore. Maybe you just need to get near someone who knows where they are going. What I love about our church is that it's a place where a lot of people know where they are going. We don't do it perfectly any more than any other church, I'm sure, but there is a genuine desire to pursue Christ at First Baptist. In the nine years I've been blessed to be the pastor here, I can say without reservation that I have grown so much because of the great Godly influences of the people I get to be around at First Baptist. We have lots of ministries, classes and things going on here. I know everyone can't do everything, but it will bless your life immeasurably if you'd hang around longer and more often. Trade in some bad company for some good company in 2016.

In Christ, Pastor Luke

Evolution's—Achilles' Heels

Pastor Luke will be teaching a new class, Evolution's Achilles' Heels, on Sunday evenings at 6pm beginning January 3rd. We will be discussing such themes as natural selection, the fossil record, and radio metric dating. The study will expose the fatal flaws of evolutionary thinking. Sign up on Sunday's Connection Card. The study is free.

January Newsletter



Collide resumes for Jr. High and High school students this Wednesday, Jan. 6th from 6:30-8pm. I had one of those...."wow" moments the other day with a student. They have a large family and money is always very tight for them. Their parents work very hard to do the best they can for their family and I asked this young lady about her upcoming Christmas.

Me: So, are you getting excited for Christmas? Girl: Yeah, I am. Me: That's awesome. Will you guys be able to have much of a Christmas this year? Girl: Oh yes, we have everything we need. The one thing that I do want I can't have though. Me: Oh, what is that? Girl: My grandmother passed away last year on Christmas Eve. I wish so badly she was still here (her eyes start to well with tears). I miss her so much.

As I reflect on that moment, I believe this young junior high student has a lot to teach us in a culture consumed by materialism. I was so struck by her statement, "we have everything we need." When I know very well this family struggles financially, yet what they do have is love for one another, and love for Jesus Christ.

In our culture, we lust after the latest and greatest clothes and gadgets, when all the while what God created us for was not to have an abundance of things, but to live in deep and loving relationships.

He created us to know Him first and to live in relationship with Him, then, to live in relationships with others. He gave us family and friends to share life together with. May we remember our happiness or our "Christmas" is not defined by the presents under the tree, instead, let us seek joy in Christmas, first and foremost, through a deep and abiding relationship with Jesus Christ. Then, out of the overflow of that relationship we'll be able to deeply love our families and experience greater joy this Christmas.

I hoped you lived with the same type of attitude as this young junior high girl this Christmas and were thankful, for in Christ, we have everything we need.

Just a heads up, Jan. 2nd we're headed to Peoria for Rock Climbing. Be at the church at 11:15am and bring money for ice cream afterwards. Rock climbing is free for the students. Also, there will be a 5th quarter party here at the church after the boy's home basketball game at MCHS.

In Christ's Love, Heather Q.

Upcoming Collide Youth Events!

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INDOOR ROCK CLIMBING OUTING- Saturday, Jan. 2nd at the Riverplex in Peoria, IL. Meet at the church at 11:15am (make sure to eat lunch before you come). Youth Ministry will pay for you to go rock climbing but please bring money for ice cream afterwards. Please RSVP to Heather by Dec. 31st at <u>collideyouthministry@gmail.com</u> or a text at 217-552-5253.

2016 Mission Trip Registration Forms- Mercer County: Mission Serve - August 4th -



9th. Registration forms can be found at the Connection Center in the lobby. Stay tuned for more mission trip activity details, but we'll be in Mercer County, loving on the widows of our church and experience some great worship from 4th Point along with hearing from a professional speaker throughout the week! We'll end with a trip to Adventureland!

Date	Nursery	Kids Club Worship	Greeters
1/3/16	Betty Williams, Paul Hedrick &	Sarah Kellett & Beth & Cora	Lonnie & Cindy Maynard
	Susan Potthast	Whitenack, & Paul Hedrick	Monica Dennison
1/10/15	Betty Williams, Vivian Kopp, &	Lisa & Shay Litwiler, Tina McCaw,	Bill & Marsha Loving
	Maddie Dunn	Todd Baldwin	Troy Riddell
1/17/16	Betty Williams, Ronda Moffitt, &	Brooke, Joe & Caleb Loving, Den-	Mike & Kathy Sponsler
	Veronica Moffitt	ise Bowker, Jason & Brady Connell	Jeanne Barber
1/24/15	Betty Williams, Sharon Moffitt,	Nadine Coulter & Alison Lafever, Ha-	Linus & Cathy Giswold
	Bryce Moffitt	ley & Josh Johnson, Brian Rind	Rodrigo Quiroz
1/31/16	Betty Williams, Lisa Clawson,	Denise Kelly, Kelly Higgins, Jen	Paul & Kay Hedrick
	Grace Buttgen	Miller, Eli Kelly & Shannon Sedam	Shay Litwiler

2016 WEEKLY INFORMATION CENTER

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.

Finance Board Member of the Month for January — Clint Huffstutler Trustee Member of the Month for January — Aaron Struble

Weekly Attendance & Offering





DATE	11/29/15	12/6/15	12/13/15	12/20/15	12/27/15
8 AM	58	52	61	69	68
10 AM	251	240	258	262	203
TOTAL	309	292	319	331	271
Date	11/29/15	12/6/15	12/13/15	12/20/15	12/27/15
Current Expense	\$5,778.30	\$10,089.38	\$16,067.00	\$12,249.63	\$13,053.75
Building Fund/Mem.	\$380.00	\$1,875.00	\$235.00	\$100.00	\$150.00
Benevolence	\$840.00	\$1,962.80	\$2,265.00	\$1,982.00	\$5,796.45
Total	\$6,998.30	\$13,927.18	18,576.00	\$14,331.63	\$19,000.20

January News-Kids Club Ministry



Root of the Matter Series: A Lying Tongue

Have you ever met a person who you couldn't quite believe? Maybe you've never caught them in a lie before BUT what they say just doesn't sound believable. Or maybe they have a hard time following through and you never know if they're going to do what they say they're going to do. I had a college peer once who was notorious for ALWAYS being 30 minutes late. He was our leader and even though we grew to expect tardiness from him, we couldn't trust him when it came to time. And because we couldn't trust him with time, it was difficult to depend on him for anything important.

A few years later I had a colleague friend who worked with me in campus ministry who was a gross exaggerator. We handed out popcorn at an activities fair one night and probably served about 200 students. The next day I overheard him telling someone we served about 900 students. From that point on I had a hard time not silently questioning his facts when he was talking. I've also noticed that sometimes my own memory gets jumbled up and I've had to learn to come out and just say, "I don't remember," even if it makes me look bad. It's no fun having to rely on someone who you can't trust. Being honest and trustworthy is one of the most important Godly characteristics we can have as parents, spouses, and believers. If others know they can trust us, they can actually hear what we say without silently questioning our integrity. *Psalm 12: 22 says, "The Lord detests lying lips, but he delights in people who are trustworthy."* The definition of "honesty" is the quality or fact of being honest; upright, and fair; truthful, and sincere.

Teaching our kids to be trustworthy and honest really begins with us, the parents. How can we expect our kids to be honest and upright if they hear us being dishonest? How can we expect them to follow-through if we don't? Here are some ways we can be trustworthy and teach our kids the same: 1) Let your yes be yes and your no be no. If you don't think you can follow-through with something don't say yes. If you say yes, you want others to know they can count on your word. Furthermore, hold your kids to that standard. If they agree to take the trash out before lunch and they don't, there should be a consequence for not being honest. 2) Keep your commitments even when it's hard. If you tell someone you're going to watch their kids Friday night, don't back out on them Friday afternoon because you're having a bad day. If your kids see that you're following through, they will know you're serious about them following through. If your kids make a commitment, they need to keep it so that others can trust their integrity. 3) Lying and sneakiness (yes, even little white lies or small exaggerations) should be addressed consistently. I tell my girls that messing up isn't easy but you don't want people to think you're a liar, too. So, if you make a mistake, be honest about it with your kids and others. And expect the same from your kiddos. Being honest goes a long way and it shows God that we want to honor him with our lives. Remember, when we call ourselves children of God, our integrity is attached to God. We want others to see him through us not in spite of us. Have a wonderful New Year!!

~ Mollie

~Upcoming Events~

Jan.3rd- Kids Worship is changing back to having kids ages 3-4th grade sit with their families until they are dismissed after offertory. *If your children attend Sunday School, please pick them up no later than 10:05 so that Sunday School teachers can go to worship service. Thanks!



Family Skate Date: Sunday, January 3rd from 2:30-4:30pm- The whole church is invited to join us at the Monmouth Skating Rink for fun & fellowship! This is a free event & friends are welcome. No RSVP is required. Refreshments will be provided.



Women's Ministry

<u>Women's Ministry Think Tank</u> – Saturday, Jan. 2nd at 9am in the Enon Room.

Women's Mentorship 2016 Program - We will be starting the 2016 Mentorship Program in January. There were not enough women to warrant holding a bi-weekly meeting so we are focusing on the informal mentorships again this year. We have 8 pairings of women (and probably a few that we are unaware of) who meet on a regular basis for mentoring. If you are interested in having a mentor from January through next August, there is still time to join us. Just complete the profile form, which you can find on the Women's Ministry table in the church foyer and return it to Sheri Olson or Cindy Maynard. You may suggest a woman that you wish to have as a mentor or we can help match you to someone. God continues to show us the benefits to life lived authentically and in community with other believers. He is using our mentors to help mold and strengthen the women of FBC for His glory.



Thank you for the scholarship money, it has proven to be very useful at Augustana. Adam Huffstuler

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What a blessing to belong to God's family at First Baptist. You are truly great. The prayers, visits, food, cards, memorials and flowers helped us through a difficult time. Seth you're the greatest - you're visits and service were so comforting. Pastor Luke thank you for being with us at Aledo Hospital and Illini when we were told Dave would need hospice. Betty and her hospitality committee did a great job, lunch was great.

God was with us through this whole time, many years of Dave's illness. We go to keep him home and family was with him to the very end. We ask God to continue to bless us as we move forward. Thanks to each of you and may God's blessing be with you. Family of Dave Duncan—Janice, Phil, Marjie & Jim, Peggy & Steve, Kalie & Alex & families

What's Coming Up!

Deacon meeting— Tuesday, Jan. 5th at 7pm in the Enon Room.



<u>**Trustee meeting**</u>— Sunday, Jan. 10th following the 10:15am service.

Winter Session of Wednesday Night Live Classes Begin — Wednesday, Jan. 6th from 6:30-8pm.

<u>Church Council Meeting</u> — Tuesday, Jan. 12th at 7pm.

<u>FBC Annual Business Meeting</u> — Sunday, Jan. 17th following the 10:15am service. All FBC members encouraged to attend.

Coming in January!—Beginning Sunday, Jan. 3rd we will have a



new time for our 10am service. In an effort to provide more time for Sunday School, the 10am service will be

moved to **10:15am**. The 8am service will remain the same and Sunday School will remain the same at 9am.

January Annual FBC Business Meeting

The First Baptist Church Annual Meeting will be Sunday, **Jan. 17th** following the 10:15am service. **Please have your committee and quarterly reports to the church office by Sunday, January 3rd as the Church Council meets on Tuesday, Jan. 12th at 7pm.

Church Calendar will be on this page

Happy Birthday
Dylane Riddell
Laryssa Russell
Emmerson Sproston
Janice Duncan
Christopher Hedrick
Leonard Williams
Bill Bewley
Linus Griswold
Bob Kopp
Denise Kelly
Jesse Korns
Tish Riddell
Rich Ruggles
Jacque Bruns
Dave Cooper
Mike Sponsler
Beth Sproston
Gene Thompson
Clay Huffstutler
Jeanne Barber
Linda Bell
Francis Banks
Keith Moreland
Lindsay Schweninger
Trinity Norwick
Payton Ruggles
Ellie Vipond
Richard Franks
Colin Miller
Cindy Maynard
Lynda Castor
Lonnie Maynard
Jarod Dale

January 6 January 7 January 8 January 9 January 11 January 13 January 14 January 14 January 19 January 20 January 21 January 21

January 1 January 4 January 5

January 27

January 26

January 28 January 30

Jank Kyou

I want to thank you all for the lovely Christmas plate of fruit and to Sherry Huffstutler for her many acts of kindness. Sincerely, Marge Goding

Dear Pastor Seth & Deníse, We had a delícíous Thanksgíving meal. Thank you so much. I hope you contínue thís program. Sarah Brainard

Thank you so much for the wonderful Thanksgiving dinner. ~ Bettie Monts

Happy Anniversary

Steve & Diane Nelson

John & Denise Kelly



I would like to take this opportunity to thank each and every one of you for all you do to help me! A special thanks goes to my newsletter crew (Betty, Marty, Sharon, Larry & Patsy) who come in each month to help fold the newsletter. I also want to thank Krista, Gene, Jeanne and Betty for folding the Sunday bulletins each week. Also, thank you all for the Christmas bonus. I appreciate it very much. Have a wonderful new year! Sincerely, Pam Ricke

New Wednesday Night Live Classes Begin Jan. 6th, 2016—Each Wednesday from 6:30-8pm—All Studies are FREE! <u>Financial Peace University—THIS CLASS IS FULL!</u>



Dave Ramsey's Financial Peace University is beginning a new session January 6th at FBC! During the class you will find out how to: Make a budget that you will understand and actually use, Get out of debt and stay that way. Communicate with your spouse about finances, Invest with confidence, and change your financial future. It is all presented in a fun and entertaining way. If you have questions please see class leaders, Seth & Denise Bowker or call the church at 582-7812. Sorry, this class is full!

The Gospel Project "The Story Begins: -Small Group Home Study

The Gospel Project for adults takes men and women on a chronological, Christ-centered journey through the storyline of Scripture. Each week, participants will encounter God's plan of redemption in Scripture through study of Bible narrative, the essential doctrines of the faith, and the call to join in God's mission locally and around the world. Sign up and we will assign you to a small group of 10-14 people in a church family's home. Study begins Jan. 6th and runs each Wednesday from 6:30-8pm till March 16th, 2016. Sign up on today's Connection Card.



The Armor of God – Women's Study - Taught by Jeanne Barber. All day, every day, an invisible war rages around you — unseen, unheard, yet felt throughout every aspect of your life. A devoted, devilish enemy seeks to wreak havoc on everything that matters to you: your heart, your mind, your marriage, your children, your relationships, your resilience, your dreams, your destiny. But his battle plan depends on catching you unaware and unarmed. If you're tired of being pushed around and caught with your guard down, this study is for you. The Enemy always fails miserably when he meets a woman dressed for the occasion. **The Armor of God**, more than merely a biblical description of the believer's inventory, is an action plan for putting it on and developing a personalized strategy to secure victory.

Revelation—Women's Study—Wednesday evenings ***Beginning, <u>Jan. 20th, 2016</u> from 6:30-8pm—Facilitators Renee Diesch & Sheri Olson

We will be using Kay Arthur's book and inductive study method, as well as other reference materials, to work our way through the book of Revelation. We intend to move very slowly in order to do a through study of this very important book of the Bible. As a result, we have no end date in mind for this study, and we expect that it will take many months to complete. This class will require home study time in addition to our class time. We want to understand God's word as best we can in the light of the rest of scripture and the world we live in. A good understanding of Old Testament prophecies will be helpful in this study. Although Revelation can be difficult of understand, we believe that understanding God's word comes through God's Holy Spirit and therefore new and old believer alike have the capacity to learn and understand what God has written in this last book of the Bible.



Studies For the Children & Youth!

Kids Club for all kids ages 3 years old through 5th Grade- We offer a high-energy, fun-filled, Christcentered program where kids worship, serve, learn, and play together. Kid's Club kicks off for the Winter/Spring session on January 6th. We meet from 6:30-8pm each Wednesday night. All kids ages 3 years old-5th grade are invited. Nursery is provided for infants-2 years olds for parents who attend a Wednesday Night Bible Study. If you haven't already registered, please pick up a form at Kids Club corner in the lobby.

For the Youth—Collide for Kids grades 6th—12th - Collide kicks off for the Winter/Spring session on January 6th. We meet from 6:30-8pm each Wednesday night. Through the power of the Holy Spirit we seek to love teenagers and point them to Jesus Christ. We're not so much of a youth group as we are a youth family. We love to see teenagers lives change through the life changing message of the gospel. We can't wait for your teen to become a part of our community! What to expect at Collide? - Expect to have fun! Have lots of great snacks, plays some fun games and most importantly learn about what it means to know God personally through Jesus Christ. We highly value outreach and love seeing students come from all walks of life, even if you don't have a church home you are welcome at Collide.

A Note from Pastor Seth



The Greek word for testimony comes from a judicial term meaning "To bear witness, testify, evidence." I wonder if the world would look at us and see God. By our actions and deeds do we show others evidence that God exist. Do you think your friends and family would say "You love Jesus?"

I was recently at a wedding and sat at a table with a wonderful family (besides one named Jason =-) I was asked many questions about the ministry. One lady continued with question after question until her brother said, are you done interrogating the man. She then revealed that she was a Pastor's wife. Then it hit me she was testing my testimony and she was looking for evidence of Christ in me.

We are surrounded by Christian Brothers and Sisters that walk into our Church or our lives and inside they are screaming for help and support. They have been wounded by the world or choices they have made that led to sin. We say that the Church is the place to come for healing and help but we need to be truthful about our past. People will not relate to us until we can share that we have also been wounded and we too have sinned. The difference is in WHO we are taking our sins and wounds to to be healed. Christ wants to use us and our stories to help others. Are you willing? People are coming into your life and needing to know your story, your testimony, your pain, your sorrow and your struggle. I have heard six or seven testimonies in the last three weeks from Church members. The joy of hearing a testimony is that it bears witness to God's healing power and strength in one's life. Now imagine a Church Body that each member shares readily and quickly what they were before Christ, how Christ changed them and how Christ is dealing with them today. This would be us giving evidence or us giving our testimony to a world that is desperate for what we have "Christ in us the hope of glory!" Let us look for those that are wounded and hurting and take them to the great Healer and Savior our Lord Jesus Christ.

Think of God standing in a court room and presenting 'exhibit **A'** as evidence. God is trying to present you and me as evidence to a lost world that He can save. I then think what a disgrace to God when the evidence He wants to present is missing. I say that it's missing because you and I are ashamed of our past and where God brought us out from. We must stand up and say "For I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God that brings salvation to everyone who believes..." Romans 1:16 The hard evidence of the Gospel is not found in your words and eloquent explanations but in the evidence of the life you're living. We are God's evidence.

~Seth

Chili Cook Off coming January 31st!! Does your Chili have what it takes to win?



Youth Mission Trip Fundraiser Jan. 31st after the 10:15am service in Fellowship Hall

This year the youth will be raising money for our very own local mission trip. We'll be serving our very own community and will have lots of projects to do. Please come and support our students by giving a donation, enjoying a delicious bowl of chili and casting your vote for your favorite chili.

To enter your prized chili recipe shoot Heather a message at collideyouthministry@gmail.com

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

Heather, Will & baby Camden Cooper, Family of Frank Claeys, Family of Judy Loving, Family of Patty Banks, Kim Witt, Wanda Blair, Family of William H. Hofmann, Family of Jim McCormick, Willow Yager, Penny Tapia, Family of Ethel Welch, Lauryn Russell, Ronald Taylor, Chad Peterson, Carol Smock, Connie Freeman, Alec Bowen, Vern Fuller, Jo Kernan, Rick Lantau, Lisa Hammill & family, Kim Goddell, Janet Rind, Adam Maynard, Kayshia Rowe & baby Gracelynn, Melody & Jerry, Juan & Ani Quiroz, Paul Wonders, Doris Dewey, Ed Nesbitt, Carol Schaefer, Ellen Hedger, Jack Ruska, Emily Blaser, Chris LeClere & Baby Merrick, Vickie Korns, Roger & Janet Mueller, Jail Ministry, Amber Smock, Jim Earl, Jennifer Franks, Shelly Upson, Carolyn Hanson, Roger Andress, Tim Snyder & David Adams

NURSING HOME

Aldus Gridley & Ron Rhine

MISSIONARIES & MILITARY

Alex & Jess Etheridge, Jim Earl, Danika Higgins, & Rigoberto Cruz Spender Zielke, Austin Weir, Tyler Mattson, Matt VanderHeyden, Caleb VanderHeyden, Kyle Mandle, Charles Schultz, Christopher Schultz & Terry Schaefer

OTHER CONCERNS

The church & all decisions