

Pastor's Perspective - Thinking Biblically in 2018

Mark Your Calendar

1.1.18 Happy New Year! Church Office Closed 1.2 Deacon Meeting - 6:30pm 1.3 WNL Classes Begin-6:30-8pm 1.6 Men's Ministry Council-7:30am Women's Ministry Think Tank-9am 1.7 Christian Ed/Outreach Meeting-11:40am Family Skate-2:30-4:30pm Prayerforce Game Night-5:30pm 1.12 Dare To Be Different Marriage Mentor Training-6pm 1.13 Dare To Be Different Marriage Mentor Training-8:30am 1.14 **Trustee Meeting** Family Night at YMCA-5:30pm 1.16 Church Council Meeting-7pm 1.21 FBC Annual Business Meeting-11:40am 1.27 MCI- Joy Food Pantry-9am

"We take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ." 2 Corinthians 10:5b

Taking every thought captive to the obedience of Christ isn't just a quaint Biblical saying, or pretty piece of poetry. It's extremely hard work. Not only do we have to contend with our own wrong thoughts about virtually everything, but we have the constant pressure of our world around us which insists that we compromise. And if that weren't enough, we may even have well-meaning Christians playing devil's advocate. Over the course of my Christian life thinking Biblically has become more and more important to me. As the world around us rushes away from Biblical ideas not merely in regards to morals, but in all ways imaginable, thinking Biblically is more essential than ever. Thinking Biblically gives us a firm foundation when life's circumstances and sinful temptations create chaos around us. It helps us stay in tune with God and becomes a compass and a lighthouse for our lives to keep us from shipwrecking our faith. That is why I have decided to preach through the entire Bible over the next two years. I will take each book of the Bible and focus on one key verse or passage, so as to preach 66 sermons from the 66 books of the Old and New Testaments. My hope is to equip our church to know and understand all of God's Word so we can take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ. Every plan and purpose we may have as a church should be founded on this one crucial element. When we humbly seek God's truth in all matters, and consciously resolve to obey whatever He reveals His will to be, nothing on earth has the power to stop us. Jesus said the gates of hell wouldn't prevail against His church. What's so important about that statement is that gates are defensive, not offensive. What that means is that the church is the offensive actor, and our activity is to rescue as many people as possible from the danger of eternal separation from God. And Lord willing, we will do so. I'm excited for a new year of ministry, and the great things God has in store for our church.

In Christ, Pastor Luke

COLLIDE YOUTH!

Collide Youth Group will be kicking off



2018 for on January 3rd! All kids ages 6th-12th Grades are invited ioin us to on Wednesday evenings from 6:30 -8pm from Jan. 3rd—March 21st. 2018. No need to

pre-register, just show up and join in on the fun! If you have questions about Collide, please contact Collide Volunteer Youth Coordinator, Mike Bowns at bethmike@frontiernet.net or call or text Mike at 309-371-2471.

UPCOMING EVENTS!

Prayerforce Game Night



All those adults and students involved in the Prayerforce ministry are invited to attend Prayerforce Game Night

on Sunday, January 7th from 5:30-7pm in Fellowship Hall. Dinner will be served. Bring your favorite game!

Family Night at the Mercer County YMCA: Sunday, January 14th 5:30-8pm

Everyone is invited to join us at the YMCA in Aledo for a night of family fun and fellowship. The pool will be open 5:30-7pm. Invite your friends and see you there! *Sponsored by the Men's Ministry

UPCOMING EVENTS!

High School Hang Out Schedule for 2018

Feb. 25th-Movie Night at FBC at 6:30pm.

March 25th—Laser Tag- Meet at FBC at 1:30pm. Cost \$10.

**High School hangouts are for all kids grades 9th-12th so bring a friend!

Collide All Night Out Coming in March!

Mark your calendar for Friday, March 2nd at 6pm through Saturday, March 3rd at 6am. We'll enjoy a performance at to Comedy Sportz, eat pizza at Hy-Vee,



visit Youth Hope, watch a movie at the Aledo Opera House and end at the YMCA with some recreation. Cost is <u>\$22</u> but scholarships are available. All

Night Out is for kids grades 6th-12th! Maximum amount of students for this event is 50 so watch and listen for event registration!

Before School Groups– Meet every week! Monday 7:45am at the HS in Mr. Robertson's room, Tuesday 7:40 am at MCIS in the library, and Wednesdays 7:45am at MCJH in the Chorus room. Homeschool students are invited too!

Volunteer & Giving Information Date Nursery Kids Worship

1/7/18	Ronda Moffitt, Emily Baldwin, Susan Potthast, & Katie Loving	Denise Bowker, Nadine Coulter, Sarah Kellett, Monica & Jacob Dennison, Mollie Dunn, Haley & Josh Johnson
1/14/18	Ronda Moffitt, Dixie Bodeen, Lisa Clawson & Veronica Moffitt	Denise Bowker, Jason, Leslie & Brady Connell, Joyce Thomas, Mollie Dunn & Shannon Sedam
1/21/18	Ronda Moffitt, Rusty, March & Shaylee Smet	Denise Bowker, Steph, Terry & Kassidy Leonard, Tammie Trout, & Todd Baldwin
1/28/18	Ronda & Bryce Moffitt, Sharon Moffitt & Jan Crutcher	Denise Bowker, Felicia Bonynge, Kathy Norton, Maddie & Mollie Dunn, Brian Rind & Jessica Swift

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 **10:00am** 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 – Diane Nelson Trustee of the Month for January — Shay Litwiler

Prayer Team

Jan.7- 8am-Mary Lee Finch, Peggy Johnson & Kurt Diesch–10:15-Tina McCaw, Anita Parkinson & Ron Moffitt Jan 14–8am-Marty South, Jon & Lindsay Ricke-10:15-Jeanne Barber, Robyn Bottens & Laurie Louck Jan 21- Troy & Tish Riddell & Lisa Litwiler

Jan 28-8am-Doug & Diane Hessman & Barb Bryant-10:15am Jason & Shelly Snyder & Vickie Korns

DATE	12/3/17	12/10/17	12/17/17	12/24/17
8 AM	82	96	90	
10:15AM	276	283	267	255
TOTAL	358	379	357	255

Weekly Attendance & Offering

Date	12/3/17	12/10/17	12/17/17	12/24/17
General Fund Giving	\$10,007.00	\$14,488.03	\$8,614.34	\$19,917.30
Designated Giving	\$3,078.00	\$1,610.00	\$564.22	\$5,655.20
Total Giving	\$13,085.00	\$16,098.03	\$9,178.56	\$25,572.50

**Weekly Current Expense offering needed to meet 2018 budget - \$11,281.15

Kids Club Ministry



January Newsletter

Happy 2018! May God bring you and yours a multitude of blessings, peace, healing, and strength this year!

We're kicking off another great session of <u>Kids Club on</u> <u>Wednesdays from 6:30-8pm</u> <u>starting January 3rd</u>! All kids ages 3-5th grade are

starting January 3rd! All kids ages 3-5^m grade are invited to join us on a brand new adventure, "Gospel Project: The Promised Land." Last session, we spent time learning about how God delivered the Hebrews from slavery and gave them a law to help them love and obey him. Because of their disobedience they spent 40 years in the wilderness. This session God's children will enter the Promised Land and continue to discover what it means to love and obey the One True God.

Kids Club is a bundle of fun with each night focusing on the Bible lesson through games, activities, snack, and Bible memory through music. Kids will also be encouraged to bring food for the Mercer County Food Pantries for this session's service project. Visit the tshirt table in January if your child would like a t-shirt. T-shirts are \$10 and sizes are limited so get yours early! We also have classes for the entire family while your kids are in Kids Club. Register for Kids Club & check out the other classes available at www.firstbaptistaledo.com.

Want to get more connected in the New Year? Join us on Sunday mornings for Sunday School. We have a variety of classes for the entire family plus a nursery for children two and younger. No need to register, just show up! Check out what classes we have at <u>www.firstbaptistaledo.com</u> or grab the Sunday School list in the church foyer to the left of the office window. Feel free to contact any of our church staff to learn more about which class would be the best fit for you. Sunday School is the perfect opportunity to make friends and go deeper in the Word.

Also, just a reminder that kids ages $3-5^{\text{th}}$ grade are invited to join us downstairs for <u>Kids Worship during</u> <u>the 10:15am Worship Service every Sunday</u>. Check-in is from 10-10:15am downstairs in the Fellowship Hall. Pick-up is immediately following the service. Pre-k-K pick-up is down the hallway; 1st grade & up is in the Collide room adjacent to the Fellowship Hall. ~ Mollie

Upcoming Events

Family Skate Party: Sunday, January 7th from 2:30-4:30pm at the Freedom Roller <u>Rink in Monmouth</u>—Your family & friends are invited! This is a free event and skates are included. We'll provide a snack and the first drink. Bring extra money if you'd like to purchase additional drinks or items from the concession stand. No RSVP needed. We'll see you there!

Family Night at the YMCA: Sunday, January 14th 5:30-8pm at the Aledo YMCA-Everyone is invited to join us at the YMCA in Aledo for a night of family fun and fellowship. The pool will be open 5:30-7pm. Invite your friends and see you there! *Sponsored by the Men's Ministry

Save the Dates

SKG Mom & Me Dessert Night & Tips from Mrs. Modesty: Friday, February 23rd 6:30-8:30pm for moms & their daughters K-8th grade. Registration now open at <u>www.firstbaptistaledo.com</u>





Kids Easter Event: Good Friday, March 30th 9am-Noon for kids ages 3-5th grade

Shipwrecked VBS: June 25th-29th 9am-Noon for kids ages 3-5th grade grads.



GROUP VBS 2018: SHIPWRECKED RESCUED BY JESUIS

Women's Ministry/Marriage Mentor

Women's Ministry Think Tank

Ministry Think Tank Meeting will be January 6th at 9am in the Enon Room.

Women's Wednesday Night Live Study 6:30-8pm– Jan. 3rd-March 21st Ephesians by JD Greear Taught By Sheri Olson at Barb Bryant's Home-302 SW 4th St. Aledo Class is Free to Attend.



Has it ever dawned on you that nothing has ever dawned on God? He knew before

the world began that His people would face hardship, so He gave us His Word. The Book of Ephesians is a survival manual-it equips believers to thrive in a world that hates the message of Jesus Christ. Paul the Apostle writes to encourage believers to live wellwe've been lifted from the graveyard of sin and called to shout the gospel into the darkened world. Pastor and author J.D. Greear walks through the powerful words of Paul. In 9 sessions, J.D. digs into the text of Ephesians verse-byverse and challenges believers to live out the gospel. If the people of your city, of your school, of your family are going to hear the gospel, it's going to be from your mouth. Encounter Ephesians, and get swept up into the story of Jesus. Call the church office to register at 309-582-7812 or e-mail us at fbcaledo2@frontiernet.net. If you are have children, check them in at the church at Kids Club, Collide or in the nursery and then head on over to Barb Bryant's home for the study.

MARRIAGE MENTOR TRAINING COMING TO FBC! DARETOBEDIFFERENT Marriage Mentoring

In partnership with Love & Respect



Provided by Matt Loehr of Dare To Be Different in Partnership with Love And Respect.

Where: First Baptist Church Aledo
When: Friday, Jan. 12th from 6-9pm & Saturday, Jan. 13th From 8:30am-12:30pm
Who: All married couples who are in a healthy marriage relationship and want to consider helping other couples.

Sign Up on Sunday's Connection Card.



Sunday, Jan. 14th 8am & 10:15am Matt Loehr Dare to Be Different Ministry will be providing a message titled "Fix Your Spouse" Join us for this special message.

Annual Meeting/Changes to Rules & Constitution



Annual Business Meeting First Baptist Church Sunday, January 21st Following the 10:15am Service

The First Baptist Church Annual Meeting will be **Sunday**, **Jan. 21st** following the 10:15am service. **Please have your yearly committee and quarterly reports to the church office by Thursday, January 4th. The **Church Council** meets on **Tuesday**, **Jan. 16th** at 7pm.

<u>Contribution & Constitutional Changes</u> –The Church Council has made changes to the Standing Rules regarding Contributions and Designated Giving at FBC. There is also a proposed change to the Constitution which we will vote on during the Annual Business Meeting on Jan. 21st. See the changes below.

Constitutional Changes – Draft 10/24/2017

Section VI.5 Treasurer and Assistant Treasurer Remove: Reference to elected position Add: Presenting Financial reports to council

A Treasurer and Assistant Treasurer shall be members in good standing and be elected at the annual election of lay officers for a term of three years. The Treasurer and Assistant Treasurer may be elected to consecutive terms. The Treasurer shall hold and disburse all money contributed for current expenses, missions and benevolent purposes of the Church, and keep itemized account of such disbursements. The Treasurer shall present an itemized report of receipts and disbursements showing the actual financial conditions of the Church to the Church Council for approval and presentation to the church at business meetings. He or she shall present all financial records to be audited when requested by the audit committee or other authorized auditing authority. The Assistant Treasurer shall work closely with the Treasurer and perform all duties of the Treasurer when required. The Treasurer and Assistant Treasurer shall not be a member of such committee. The Treasurer and Assistant Treasurer may be dismissed from office for dereliction of duty.

Service VI.6 Financial Secretary and Assistant Financial Secretary Remove: restriction concerning consecutive terms ...may be elected for consecutive terms.

Standing Rules Changes – Draft – 10/24/17

New Article: Article VIII Contributions and Designated Giving

- **a.** Categories for Designated Giving shall be determined by the Finance Board with assistance of the Treasurer and submitted to the Church Council for approval.
- b. Designations for Giving shall become part of the Church Budget.
- **c.** Financial Gifts specifically designated which do not meet with approved categories shall be returned to the gifter.
- **d.** Memorial Gifts shall be accepted and held/and or distributed according to the approved designations. Memorial Gifts received with special designation which do not fall within the parameters of the approved Designations shall be returned to the gifter.
- e. Nothing in this Article shall impede or restrict the Church Council from amending Designation categories for the purpose of conducting church business within the calendar year. Such changes affecting the budget shall be reported to the Church body at the next regularly scheduled business meeting.

Wednesday Night Live! Winter/Spring classes for adults and children! Wednesday Nights Jan. 3rd-March 21st from 6:30-8pm Call the church office TODAY to register—309-582-7812





The Gospel Project—The Church on Mission-A study of the book of Acts- Taught By Kevin Ricke at their home 1100 S. College Ave., Aledo-Class is Free to Attend— features 13 Bible study sessions and easy-to-follow talking points for group time with an emphasis to respond in mission. This session's study is *The Church on Mission*, covering *The Spirit Who Empowers* (Acts) and *The God Who Sends* (Acts).

Women's Study—J.D. Greear study on Ephesians—Taught By Sheri Olson at Barb Bryant's Home-302 SW 4th St. Aledo-Class is Free to Attend. *Has it ever dawned on you that nothing has ever dawned on God*? He knew before the world began that His people would face hardship, so He gave us His Word. The Book of Ephesians is a survival manual—it equips believers to thrive in a world that hates the message of Jesus Christ. Paul the Apostle writes to encourage believers to live well we've been lifted from the graveyard of sin and called to shout the gospel into the darkened world. Pastor and author J.D. Greear walks through the powerful words of



Paul. In 9 sessions, J.D. digs into the text of Ephesians verse-by-verse and challenges believers to live out the gospel. If the people of your city, of your school, of your family are going to hear the gospel, it's going to be from your mouth. Encounter Ephesians, and get swept up into the story of Jesus.



Steve Struble's Class—**Experiencing God**—**Held at FBC**—Written by Henry Blackaby, Richard Blackaby, and Claude King, the Experiencing God Bible Study is based on the Experiencing God book, which has sold millions of copies worldwide. Through examination of biblical and contemporary illustrations, participants will understand and apply seven realities of experiencing God. Churches will be helped to better function as the body of Christ, as members understand how to experience God as a church.



Kids Club is a high-energy, fun-filled, Christ-centered program where kids worship, serve, learn, and play together. All kids ages 3 years old through 5th grades are invited. A nursery is also provided for infants through 2 years old. For the teens, we offer Collide Youth Group. Kids grades 6th – 12th will enjoy snacks, fun games and most importantly they will learn what it means to know God personally through Jesus Christ. All classes and programs are open to the community so even if you don't attend church at First Baptist you are welcome to join our classes which are all FREE to attend. To register, please call the church office at 309-582-7812.



Kids and Youth Programs

There will also be Kids Club for kids ages 3 years old through 5th grade and Collide for grades 6th-12th as well as a nursery. All classes and programs are free!

- Kids Club for ages 3 years old through 5th grade.
 - Collide Youth Group- 6th-12th grade.

Missions/Thank Yous

LA Dream Center FBC April 2018 Mission Trip



DREAMCENTER

The deadline to sign up for the adult mission trip in April to the L.A. Dream Center is Sunday, Jan. 28th. The trip is April 9-14th. For more details or to sign up please see Jenny Dixon. Don't miss out on this great opportunity to serve others.

In other mission news, our missionary Rigoberto in El Salvador has been sharing many exciting updates. Our support has helped reach countless



the of his country and

people of his country and helped them build a new shelter for a church mission. He thanks everyone for their continued support. Here are a few photos of the new shelter.





To our Loving church family, Thank you so much for the prayers and the outpouring of immense love by all of First Baptist Family with the birth of Magdalene. We are grateful for all the gifts, meals and blessings that have been lavished on us. We are thrilled to raise her in a body of believers that truly are the hands and feet of Jesus.

Thanks again for all the Church did and has done with her arrival. Love Shay, Lisa, Tyce, Grace and Maggie

Thanks so much for the plate of fruit and goodies. It was much appreciated.

Marilyn Zielke

I enjoyed the goodies and I would like to wish you all a very Merry Christmas.

> As Ever, Darlene Dodson

Birthday		Anniversary
Dylane Riddell	January 1	v
Laryssa Russell	January 4	
Emmerson Sproston	January 5	
Dennis Dixon	2	
Jack Ruska		
Janice Duncan	January 6	
Christopher Hedrick	2	
Leonard Williams		
Linus Griswold	January 7	
Bob Kopp	January 8	
	January 9	Steve & Diane Nelson
Denise Kelly	January 11	
Brooke Loving	January 12	
Jesse Korns	January 13	
Tish Riddell		
Rich Ruggles	January 14	Jon & Lindsay Ricke
Jacque Bruns		
Dave Cooper	January 19	John & Denise Kelly
Mike Sponsler	January 20	
Beth Sproston	January 21	
Gene Thompson		
Clay Huffstutler		
Jeanne Barber		
Linda Bell	January 24	
Francis Banks	January 25	Real and the second second
Keith Moreland	January 26	
Lindsay Schweninger		TO TO TO TO
Trinity Norwick		
Payton Ruggles		
Richard Franks	January 27	
Colin Miller	1 2 0	
Cindy Maynard	January 28	January
Shay Litwiler	1 20	2917091 y
Lynda Castor January 30		-
Lonnie Maynard		
Jarod Dale		
Lisa Litwiler		

The church family is invited to Bob Kopp's Birthday Celebration



In honor of Robert Kopp's 90th birthday, there will be an Open House Saturday, January 13th from 1pm-3pm at Aledo Fire Station. A light lunch will be served. No presents requested. Happy 90th Birthday Bob!

A Word From Pastor Seth

Job 2: 11b-13—They made an appointment together to come to show him sympathy and comfort him. ¹² And when they saw him from a dis-



tance, they did not recognize him. And they raised their voices and wept, and they tore their robes and sprinkled dust on their

heads toward heaven. ¹³ And they sat with him on the ground seven days and seven nights, and no one spoke a word to him, for they saw that his suffering was very great.

In understanding the story of Job and knowing that Job's friends started with the right heart and attitude for Job. Chapter two shows a picture of this friends who had sympathy and comfort to share with Job. They came in and suffered with him. Later the wheels fell off and when they opened their mouth and tried to give advice.

Reading through grief materials I came across the following advice:

Frequently family members and friends wonder what they can do for the patient who is too weak to leave the bed. The best thing we can do for anyone is to be present. Presence is being available to the other person physically and emotionally. One can be present holding a hand at the bedside or sitting in a chair across the room. When their emotional pain is intense, your presence, not words, may bring the most comfort. Rarely do people remember spoken words. They remember your presence--simply you being there.

This is just what Job's friends did, they became available, for Job to decide when to talk about the pain or even to speak. Compassion simply means to come and suffer with. God is the Father of all Compassion and He came into this world and suffered in every point we suffer yet without sin. Allow the Lord to produce this authentic compassion for those around you. ~Seth

Other Meetings & Events

Christian Ed/Outreach Meeting Sunday, January 7th following the 10:15am service.

Offering Envelopes -2018 Offering Envelopes are in the lobby for pick



up. If there isn't a box with your name on it and you wish to use the envelope system for giving, there are unassigned boxes available.

Please record the box number on the sheet provided.



Everyone is invited to join us at the Y in Aledo for a night of family fun and fellowship. The pool will be open 5:30-7pm. Invite your friends and see you there!

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH 800 NE 6th Avenue Aledo, IL 61231

Phone: 309-582-7812 Fax: 309-582-2064 Email: fbcaledo2@frontiernet.net www.firstbaptistaledo.com NON-PROFIT ORG PRE-SORTED STANDARD U.S. Postage Paid PERMIT NO. 102

PRAYER AND CONCERNS—IF YOU ARE IN NEED OF PRAYER CHAIN PLEASE CALL: THE CHURCH OFFICE AT 309-582-7812

HEALTH & WELL BEING

Family of Donnie Kenney, Les Banks, Rhonda Newton, Family of Christiana Marie Bogart, Nicole and Chrisopher Bogart, Family of Larry Johnson, Chris Hedger & Danyell David and family, Austin Loving, Dennis Sabel, Family of Helen Slater, Tracy Randolph, Evan House, Glenn Feldman, Kim Carlson, Jessica Ruh, Rod Lyttle and family, Trisha Hammond, Family of Gordon Pape, Family of Loraine Pickrel, Tricia & Rory Conway, Marshall Easley, Nancy McClay, Patty Smith, Veronica Moffitt, Jacee Columbia, Lin McClay, Tony VanderSnick, Family of Angie Green, Connie Freeman, Lance, Bridget & Jared Wedekind, Travis Mitchell, Kelsey DeSplinter, Ruth Ann Young, Linda Hamilton, Elden Cirks, Allison Adams, Lisa Hammill, Noah Houston, Kathy Carlson, Bob & Myrna Sell, Bill McKinley, Steve Bowns, Kris Salmon, Gavin Swafford, Calvin Frye, Sheryl Robertson, Doris & Marc Dewey, Pastor Mark Harris, Lisa McWhorter, Marilyn Hessman, Francie Jane Easley, Barbara McPhinney, Henry Leichty & Lauryn Russell

NURSING HOME

Bill McKinley, Marge Goding, Betty Weeks & Bob Sell

MISSIONARIES & MILITARY

Danika Higgins & Rigoberto Cruz

Brad Olson, Holly Mattson, Joe Elliott, Spencer Zielke, Jon Szalonek, Christopher Schultz, Eric Nelson, Tyler Mattson, Kyle Mandle, Charles Schultz, Terry Schaefer, Matt VanderHeyden & Tara Helmick

OTHER CONCERNS

The church & all decisions