

Third Baptist Church **COURIER**

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Trust God, Bless Others, Celebrate Grace

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DATE CHANGE!

**DEACON
RETREAT**

JANUARY 19 - 8:30 am



SAVE THE DATE!
If you are 55 or older,
you're invited to join us on
Thursday, January 24
as we head to ... for lunch!

Watch the Courier
to find out where!

We have exciting
information to discuss!

**CHURCH
BUSINESS
MEETING**

Make Plans To Attend
Sunday, January 20 at 6:00 PM



Seniors On The Go!



PASTOR'S PEN

A word from the heart

Rev. Micah Spicer

I grew up attending church with my family. I found Jesus in a church. Moreover, I have encountered some of the nicest people on planet Earth in church. Over the years I developed a deep love and appreciation for the church, her people, and her mission. My love for the church led me on a path to become a pastor. During my pastoral tenure I have become passionate about nurturing the growing the church. This task is not without difficulty. Given current social trends it is not surprising that so many churches are struggling to

keep their doors open. Meanwhile, such struggling churches focus almost all their resources on surviving, thus they lose site of their mission of service and ministry that had once been such a vital role of the church's history. Somewhere along the way, the church has lost its vision.

The arrival of 2019 provides the church a great opportunity to think about her future. What dreams and goals do we have as a church? What is it that God wants from us in the years

ahead? And how are we going to get there? These are the kinds of questions that weren't answered in seminary. Being a visionary leader in the church is not a recommendation; it is a requirement! As the Scripture says, "Where there is no prophetic vision, the people perish." (Proverbs 29:18) We must hone in and commit ourselves to church's future. Pray for your church, her leaders, and that the vision becomes clear. And get ready for a fun and fruitful 2019.

Jan Lampkin, Minister to Children

"Train up a child in the way he should go; even when he is old, he will not depart from it." *Proverbs 2:6*

Happy 2019! It hardly seems possible that another year has passed! If your life is anything like mine it seems like it was on a roller coaster and I wasn't sure it would ever stop. As most know, Christmas is my favorite time of year. The children, the music, the decorations, family, the fellowship, and the renewed spirit of loving each other! It's clear that the past year brought many victories and many challenges. I definitely enjoyed the ride for the most part.

We lost too many special church members last year; some suffered for a while and for some their life ended suddenly, all leaving behind grieving family and friends. I felt a family spirit among us during these trying times as our church came together to lift these families in prayer and love. We are saddened at the loss of Lee

Kincaid who taught children's Sunday School for 25+ years. We all miss Lee and the children miss him terribly. We thank him and Bettie for their loving spirit in sharing with our children for so many years. We will continue to pray for you and your family. We have many families that are dealing with sickness, loneliness, and despair. Let's continue the spirit of love and compassion for them during this New Year.

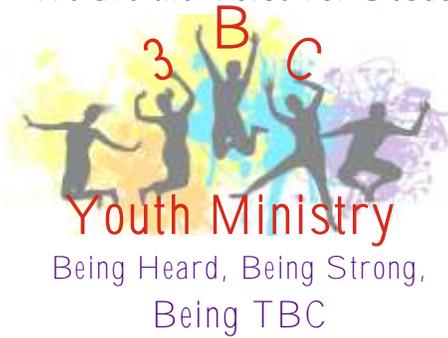
Let's enter the New Year with optimism about what possibilities and potentials that lie ahead! The knowledge and guidance of our Lord will lead us if we will allow. I'm positive there will be many victories and great challenges for TBC in 2019. I hope we can continue to be a family in Christ and share our love as we approach the New Year together!

The children had a very busy and exciting time leading up to the celebration of the birth of Jesus. I am amazed as they did not focus on what gifts they might receive but the joy of being together as a family and celebrating the greatest gift of all, the birth of our Savior. I remember not too many years ago most of our children were not aware of the true meaning of Christmas and had no idea about the Nativity. You have made a difference in lives of our children!

I want to thank every volunteer that assisted with Children's Department during the past year. I hope you were rewarded with the smiles and hugs of our children. They love you very much! You are a huge part of their world!

Please continue to pray for our children and their families as they face the New Year!

We are the Voice for Jesus



Micah's sermon on Sunday reminded me of what I've been attempting to do with the Youth. We started with the vision of creating the world in which you want to live, and as our first year ended, we had made several positive steps, even creating a Youth Mission Statement: "We are the voice of Jesus: being heard, being strong, being TBC." We are halfway through the second year, and we continue to make progress. Some of the Youth have created a support

Court Lewis, Youth Minister

group to provide a positive atmosphere and help to anyone in need. We're also in the early stages of working with some local groups to battle bullying in our schools and community. (I'll have more on this in the following weeks/months.) You might not always recognize it, but the Youth really are Trusting God, Blessing Others, and Celebrating Grace.

Since Micah started the ball rolling, I thought I might spend some time with my next few articles running down my top 10 goals/visions for Third. I also challenge you to do the same. As a former manager of a major restaurant, I know the importance of continually looking for ways to improve and provide for the needs of your customers. The church is a lot like a restaurant, but instead of feeding stomachs, we're feeding souls. There is no time

better than the present to build on our momentum of good-will, fellowship, and ministries in order to work towards a vision of Third boldly going into the next several decades.

Number 10 of my goals is to do something with our basement. It's a valuable space that hasn't been used in years. Yes, it needs work (e.g., cleaning, fixing, stopping the leaks,) but the more we ignore it the worse it will get. We have such a wonderful place to worship, and we shouldn't let portions of it go damaged, unused, and rotting. The Youth have been tasked with proposing ways of fixing and using the space. What do you think we should do? How might the space be used to foster our mission and live up to the vision read by Micah on Sunday? We're working on answers, and I hope you will too. See you next Courier with a few more goals / visions.



DAVID ROBERSON

Thanks to everyone for the kind comments on our Christmas music. The Sanctuary Choir and our accompanists did a great job and the Brass Quintet, percussion and flute added a lot. Thanks to Gary Kirtley for his help in organizing and practicing with the instrumental ensemble. I hope the music we provided during Christmas helped you to celebrate the season!

There has been a small change at the church this week. Our old Sanctuary piano (pre-tornado) has been sitting in the foyer for several years. It is a very fine piano and I have been sad to see it out there where it is never played. It is such a fine piano I hated for it to be turned into a piece of furniture! So, this week we moved the piano in the foyer into the atrium where it will be used occasionally. The baby grand that was in the atrium has been moved into the Fireside Room where it will get good use. These two pianos are very fine instruments and the church has invested a great deal of money in them. I hope we can get more enjoyment from them in their current locations.



Joe Bob Pierce

Formations

With the ending of 2018 and the beginning of 2019, we start a new church year, with all of its promise and potential. I am excited about what Third Baptist Church will do in 2019.

I would like to say a brief word of thanks to the Organizational Development Team (which used to be known as the Nominating Committee). The chairman Gary Kirtley and his group worked hard to enlist volunteers to serve on all of the committees and teams of our church organizations.

While I have previously served as moderator for the church, I will be switching to become assistant moderator and Court Lewis will serve as the new moderator. Court is already at work preparing for our next Business Meeting on January 17th. I hope everyone will plan to attend as we begin a new year to TBC. And while you're at it, take a moment to thank Gary and his team for filling all the positions needed for Third Baptist in the new year!

SUNDAY, JANUARY 13
 9:00 AM Atrium Social
 9:30 AM Sunday School
 10:45 AM Morning Worship
 12:00 PM Stewardship Finance Mtg.

MONDAY, JANUARY 14

TUESDAY, JANUARY 15
 5:00 PM KYC Rehearsal

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 16
 5:00 PM Kids/Youth Meal
 5:30 PM Kids/Youth Activities
 6:00 PM Prayer Meeting
 6:00 PM Handbells Rehearsal
 7:00 PM Sanctuary Choir

THURSDAY, JANUARY 17
 4:30 PM Community Meal

SATURDAY, JANUARY 19
 8:30 AM Deacon Retreat
 2:00 PM Game / Gym Reserved

SUNDAY, JANUARY 20
 9:00 AM Atrium Social
 9:30 AM Sunday School
 10:45 AM Morning Worship
 6:00 PM Business Meeting

MONDAY, JANUARY 21
 9:30 AM Peer Learning Group
 5:30 PM Gym Reserved

TUESDAY, JANUARY 22
 5:00 PM KYC Rehearsal

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 23
 5:00 PM Kids/Youth Meal
 5:30 PM Kids/Youth Activities
 6:00 PM Prayer Meeting
 6:00 PM Handbells Rehearsal
 7:00 PM Sanctuary Choir

THURSDAY, JANUARY 24
 4:30 PM Community Meal

SYMPATHY

The Church extends its sympathy to the family and friends of
Patsy Stroud, Barbara Hagan, Ben Boswell, and Jane Nave.

MEMORIALS

in memory of Judith Alender

by Robert Harris, Roy & Charlotte Benningfield, Darry & Betty Cain, Sr.
 Adult Fellowship, the Esther Class, Deacon Council.

in memory of Don Bronn

by Robert Harris, Frank & Martha Beller, Jim & Tammy Wilhoite, Jim &
 Debby Smith, Roy & Charlotte Benningfield, the Deacon Council

in memory of Beaudine Brigance

by Jim & Tammy Wilhoite, the Deacon Council.

in memory of Lee Kincaid

by Jim & Tammy Wilhoite, Nancy Gordon, Robert Harris, Harold &
 Claudia Wilson, Bill & Joyce Webb, Roy & Charlotte Benningfield, Grady
 & Carole Harreld, Steve Clark, Mollie Stephen, Sara Tibble, Yvonne
 Bailey, the Deacon Council.

in memory of Jim Gordon by Lou Ann Bowersox, Nancy Gordon and family.

in memory of Ben Boswell by Suzette Austin, Bettie Kincaid, Deacon Council.

in memory of Bill Luttrell by Wilda Luttrell and family

in memory of Jane Nave

by Jean Lampkin, Lou Emma Adkisson, Laura Bronn, Bettie Kincaid, Larry
 & Lisa Catron, the Deacon Council

in memory of Max & Zula Waters by Nancy Waters Moberly.

THANK YOU

Thank you for yet another year of an open door and smiling faces to greet me
 when I show up to work out each day. I've come to appreciate the warmth and
 friendship of so many members and most importantly staff who make it all
 happen. I will always be grateful to your contribution to my health and well
 being!
Sincerely, Larry Beisel

The Blessing Bags were a blessing to many! The team decided to set it up like
 a store for our guests at the Soup Kitchen. Individuals took what they needed and
 it was a huge success! Everyone was so surprised and appreciative! All the
 socks, hats, and gloves were taken and just a very small amount of toiletries that
 were donated in abundance were left. A big thank you to those who donated
 these items! Hopefully, we will do this again in the summer.

OUR RECORDS

	Dec. 2	Dec. 9	Dec. 16	Dec. 23	Dec. 30
S.S. / Worship	112/185	121/174	151/218	98/223	116/178
Total Offering	\$34,448	\$10,115	\$8,589	\$9,697	\$12,216
Capital Fund			\$34	\$15	\$250
Memorials	\$75	\$615	\$395	\$5,025	\$1,115
Support / Child	\$480	\$310	\$525	\$196	\$310
Gifts to God	\$12,922	\$600		\$100	\$610
Missions	\$1,124	\$675	\$869	\$180	\$1,316
Other Funds	\$10,266	\$258	\$100	\$200	\$170
General Fund	\$9,221	\$7,657	\$6,666	\$3,981	\$8,445
Weekly Needs	\$7,715	\$7,715	\$7,715	\$7,715	\$7,715

DEACON INFORMATION

January 13

Ron Williams, Charlie Evans
Hope and Harvest Team
 Ron Williams, Hawes Mercer

January 20

Harold Wilson, Chris Holbrook
Hope and Harvest Team
 Harold Wilson, Cissy Bishop

ATRIUM GREETERS

January 13

Janie Williams, Susan Dewitt

January 20

Alan Camp, Laura Bronn

ATRIUM SOCIAL

January 13 & January 20

The Esther Class, Pairs & Spares