

First Baptist *News*

a family of faith



We are a little over a week into 2019 and by now, you've made good progress toward fulfilling your resolutions or you have decided that 2020 would be a better year for self-improvement. I did not make a resolution for 2019, but I "intend" to read more and be more focused in "planning my work and working my plan." I know what I want to do and I have set out to do it, but my good intentions were questioned recently in a devotion I read by Richard Rohr. *Human vulnerability*, Rohr wrote, *gives the soul an immense head start on its travels – maybe the only start for any true spiritual journey.* I don't know if Rohr would say my reading and calendaring goals are "spiritual journeys," but I believe they will be beneficial to my life and ministry, so I do count them as spiritual. This said, I hear Rohr saying that rather than beginning the year full of resolve and determination, it is better to open myself to what is and what is to be.

Rohr holds Mary, the mother of Jesus up as a model of vulnerability. In saying "yes" to the angel's message that she would bear a son, she is not resourcing logic or reasoning. She is coming from an openness to what God wants to do through her life. *Mary*, Rohr wrote, *is able to calmly, wonderfully trust that Someone Else is in charge. She asks only one simple, clarifying question – not if, but how – and then she trusts the how even though it would all seem quite unlikely.* Rohr concluded with *even the Beatles recognized her words or wisdom are "Let it Be."*

So what does this have to do with resolutions? I think it means that instead of going to God with a list (however short or long) of goals that, if attained, will make us better people who are of greater value to God, we ought to open ourselves and listen for what God wants for us. It is one thing for us to tell God what we intend to do. It's another thing completely for God to tell us what God would like for us to do. Mary would never have told God that she wanted to be the mother of the Messiah, but God knew she was capable of it.

Continued, see *From the Pastor*, page 2.

January 13, 2019

Deacon ORDINATION and Installation

Preparing for Sunday . . .

"Echo the Blessing"
Matthew 3:13-17

This Sunday we will ordain three deacons. We are proud of Allison Branch, Donna Hardee and Kenneth Sasser and each of our deacons. As Allison, Donna and Kenneth give their faith stories, they will be sharing their versions of what Jesus heard as he came out of the Jordan after being baptized. The voice said *this is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased* (Mt. 3:17). God was proud of Jesus as he began his ministry. Likewise, God is proud of us when we make ourselves available to God's purposes and there is no greater purpose in life than to ***Echo the Blessing*** that all are loved by God.

**Kingdom
NOW** 

From the Pastor, continued from page 1.

I have no aspirations of doing anything in 2019 as great as what Mary did two thousand years ago, but what if I, what if we, listened for what God wants us to be and do? What if we then courageously said “let it be!” I am hopeful for good things in 2019, but it may be that if we will adopt “the Mary mind,” as Rohr calls it, we will see even greater things.

*Peace,
David*

CHILDREN'S CORNER

One of my goals for 2018 was to read more. As an English major and a Divinity student, reading was a HUGE part of my education! And then, after I graduated, I didn't read as much. When reading is a requirement for 8 straight years, it takes a little while to reclaim it as fun again.

Sure, I've read books over the years, but not with much regularity or intention. And even though I didn't reach my specific reading goal for 2018 (as we had some significant life changes last year), I was proud of the fact that I was reading more. It was good for me personally, professionally, and intellectually. Reading is a way to help me listen to new perspectives, consider new ideas, and better empathize with others.

As we begin 2019, I'm again seeking to read more, (yes, Doug, I have specific plans!) but with a twist. I'm making a point to seek out diverse authors – authors from different racial backgrounds, socio-economic backgrounds, and religious backgrounds. If I only read books from people who look like me, live like me, and believe like me, I simply create an echo chamber and miss out on a wealth of perspectives.

In many ways, our society has lost the ability to listen to each other. Intentionally picking up a book written by someone different than me – and thus forcing myself to really listen and learn from them – is a great way to begin to reclaim that ability. And being able to listen to and respect each other is an important part of recognizing the image of God in every person.

Sure, I still have favorite authors that I will seek out. And listening and learning from someone doesn't mean that I will automatically adopt their beliefs. But, it does mean that I will (hopefully) gain insight, understanding, and compassion...and our world could use a lot more compassion these days!

Erin



Vagueness doesn't work. Or to be more specific, it doesn't work for goalsetting. Entering into this new year, I'm sure we all have vague plans to exercise more, excel at our occupation, eat better, spend more time with our families, travel more, keep cleaner houses and nicer yards, get more rest, read more books, do daily devotions, and spend more time in prayer. Good luck!

Specific plans work much better. Planning to read through the gospels a chapter per day will yield better results than a vague notion of reading the Bible more. Beginning each day doing 25 pushups is more likely to create a successful outcome than a vague notion of doing some exercise when the opportunity arises.

Our time here is limited. Time spent hating others or ourselves is a waste. Time spent on God's kingdom is time well spent. Christianity isn't a self-improvement religion, but if we are ignoring our mind, body, or spirit we become less affective in achieving our purpose. Let's encourage each other. Let's forgive each other.

Spending time in prayer, right now, to ask and listen for exactly where your priorities should rest in 2019 would be wise. Then set your goals and follow through. If you fail, try again. With God's help, you've got this!

Doug

Flower Calendar

Contact the church office at 739-4336 or daphnefletcher@fbclumbertonnc.org to place flowers in honor or in memory of a loved one.

2019

Jan. 20, 27
Feb. 17, 24
March 10, 17, 24
April 28
May 5, 12, 19, 26
June 2, 16, 23, 30
July 7, 14, 21, 28
Aug. 4, 25
Sept. 1, 8, 15, 22, 29
Oct. 6, 13
Nov. 3, 10, 17

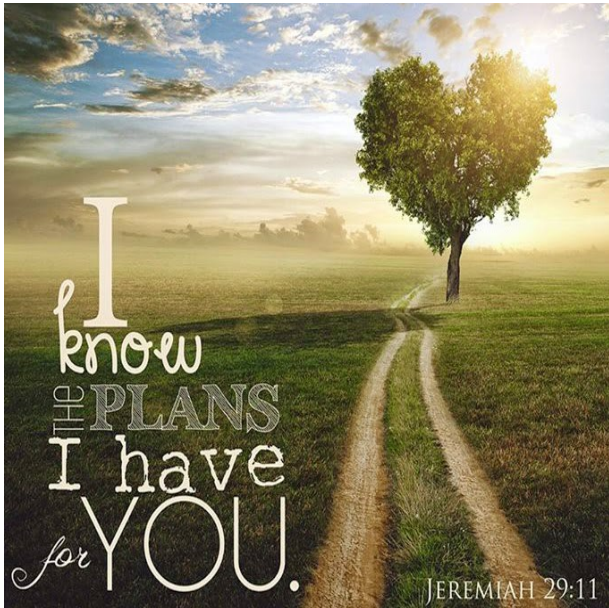


Youth SUMMER Events

Mark your calendar for the Summer Trip Meeting on **Sunday, January 27th** at 4:00 p.m. Parents, if your Youth is interested in any of the summer trips, this meeting is for you!

- Youth Music Retreat—June 2019
- Wilderness Trail — July 2019
- M-Fuge, Louisiana — July 2019

Contact Doug for more information:
739-4336 or
dougredy@fbclumbertonnc.org.



For the Record

Budgeted 2019	\$700,000.00
Weekly Need (2019).....	\$13,461.54
Received January 6, 2019	\$10,036.56
Need to date.....	\$13,461.54
Received to date	\$10,036.56
Over (Under) Budget	(\$3,424.98)

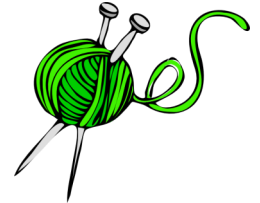
Sunday School Attendance,
January 6, 2019—202



The Senior Adults will go out for lunch to Webster Manor in Mullins, SC on Tuesday, January 15th.

Lunch will be Dutch treat.

Knit Wits will meet Sunday, January 13th at 3:00 pm in the church parlor.



Community Café Volunteers Needed!

Groups are needed to host our Community Café on the 3rd Saturday each month. Host groups provide a meal, devotion and fellowship for Community Café guests.

If your Sunday School Class, Mission Group, etc. would like to host please contact the church office (739-4336 or daphnefletcher@fbclumbertonnc.org).

Join Us

VALENTINE BANQUET

FEBRUARY 9

Ticket sales will begin next week!
\$10 per person (\$5 Senior Adults)

Youth

super bowl PARTY



February 3, 2019 @ 6 p.m.

First Baptist Church of Lumberton, NC
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Lumberton, NC 28358
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2018 Contribution Statements

Please help us cut down on the expense of mailing contribution statements by providing the church office with a valid e-mail address. If your e-mail address has changed, or if we don't currently have yours on file, please contact Daphne Fletcher at daphnefletcher@fbclumberton.nc.org or 739-4336. A paper copy will be printed by request.

Statements will be made available on or before January 31, 2018.



Family Night Supper Menus January 2019

January 16—Red Ticket: Vegetable Soup, Peanut Butter & Jelly Sandwich or Pimento Cheese Sandwich, Salad, Lemon Pie
Blue Ticket: Hot Dogs, Chips, Fruit

January 23—Spaghetti, Green Beans, Toast, Salad, Apple Pie
(Sugar free)

January 30—Red Ticket: Pork Loin, Wild Rice, Grilled Vegetables, Rolls, Salad, Chocolate Cake
Blue Ticket: Pizza, Chips, Fruit

CHURCH STAFF

Contact us at 739-4336 or
daphnefletcher@fbclumbertonnc.org
www.fbclumbertonnc.org

Mrs. Nancy Bass—Financial Coordinator

Rev. Erin Collier—Associate Pastor of Families and Worship

Dr. David Elks—Pastor

Mrs. Daphne Fletcher—Administrative Assistant

Rev. Tim Little—Minister of Music and Facilities

Mrs. Kandace Ramsey—Administrative Assistant

Rev. Doug Reedy—Associate Pastor of Youth, Young Adults and Missions

Coming up. . .

- Jan. 13—Deacon Ordination & Installation
Knit Wits (3 pm)
Worship Committee Meeting (4 pm)
- Jan. 15—Senior Adults Lunch Out to
Mullins, SC
- Jan. 18-21—Youth Ski Trip
- Jan. 19—Community Café hosted by
Asbury UMC
- Jan. 21—Finance & Deacons Meetings
- Jan. 23—Quarterly Church Conference
- Jan. 27—Children's Committee Meeting
Youth Summer Trip Parent Meeting

- Feb. 1—Robeson County Teacher Work Day
- Feb. 1-2—5th & 6th Grade Getaway
- Feb. 4—Baptist Women's Luncheon
- Feb. 9—Valentine Banquet
- Feb. 10—Knit Wits (3 pm)
- Feb. 11—Friends of Jesus Valentine Party
- Feb. 12—Mission Team Meeting (6 pm)
- Feb. 14—Valentine's Day
Fun & Fellowship
- Feb. 16—Community Café hosted by
Sanctuary Choir
- Feb. 17—Children's Sunday

Children's Sunday



February 17, 2019