

the Messenger

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH NORFOLK.NE

JANUARY 2018

To Read or Not To Read...

When I was a kid I wasn't a fan of reading. The more pictures a book had the more I enjoyed it because the less reading I would have to do. This dislike of reading continued into high school. As I ventured into English classes that had required reading for book reports, I would simply chose not to do them and take zero's on those assignments. Put very simply, I did not like to read.

Looking back, I can see that part of my issue was that I read slowly. My reading comprehension was good, but it felt like it would take forever for me to read a page or two. When it takes an hour to read ten pages, it was difficult to invest the time and energy into making a habit of it. So I didn't.

But as I continued into college and eventually graduate school, choosing not to read and taking zero's on assignments was no longer an option. I was not going to school to get a grade, but I was going to learn. To learn about the Lord, about theology, about ministry and church history and so I had to read. While there were many days and nights where I simply couldn't read all that was assigned, I eventually started to enjoy reading. Yes, I was still slow, slower than most, but the more I read, the more I realized how powerful a tool it is. It was through reading that the Lord really opened up a whole new world of learning, wisdom and truth to me.

Maybe your relationship with reading is similar to mine, and you are not a fan. Maybe you love reading and have always enjoyed it.

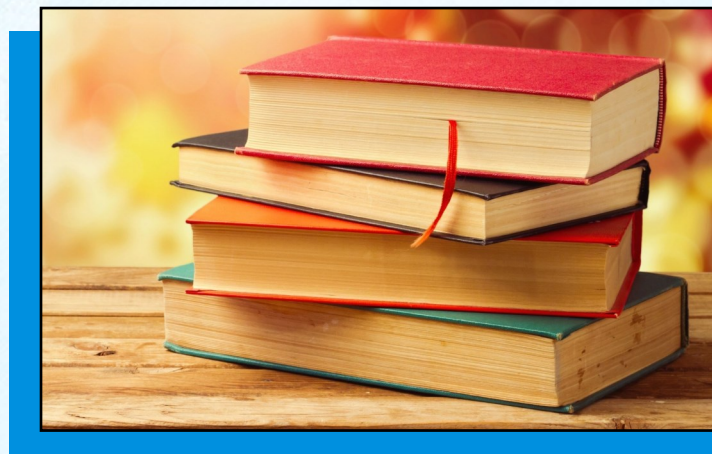
Church Events

- Jan 1st Office Closed
- Jan 3rd No Awana/Elevate
- Jan 9th Deacons/Missions
- Jan 10th Awana/Elevate
- Jan 16th Deaconesses Trustees
- Jan 17th Awana/Elevate
- Jan 21st Annual Business Meeting/Pot-luck
- Jan 24th Awana/Elevate
- Jan 31st Awana/Elevate

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To Read or Not To Read...

But wherever you are when it comes to reading, I want to encourage you to go on a journey with me during 2018. During this new year, I want to invite you to make it a goal to read one book each month. For some of you, this will be easy, and for others of you like me, this will be a stretch. In each subsequent newsletter in 2018, I will include a snippet of what I am learning through a book I am reading and my hope would be that throughout this new year you would take some time to share with me a little bit of what you are learning through your own reading. God has continued to work in my own life, to grow and mature me in faith through the gift of reading, so may God do the same for each of us in 2018!



Annual Business Meeting

January 21st

11:45 am

Pot-luck & Business Meeting



Thank You

A BIG thank you to everyone who helped with Operation Christmas Child.

THANK YOU for the Christmas checks. We really appreciate them & you - Kelly, Roberto and Anna

Dear FBC Family,

Thank you so much for your incredibly generous Christmas gift to our family! Since day one, you have all graciously and generously blessed us in so many ways and you continue to each and every year. We are so grateful for your love and care of us and we thank God for each of you!

Caleb, Kayla, Hudson and Warner

AWANA

This year's Awana has seen several changes, all for the good. There is a new commander, Jay Wolff, who took over from retiring Kathi Witherspoon.

Jay grew up with Awana. He has a great love for kids and its importance in helping shape young lives. Under Jay's encouragement some new helpers have signed up and been faithful in coming each week.

Kathi may have retired from being Commander but she wasn't interested in sitting at home on Awana nights. Instead she has spearheaded a wonderful addition to Awana, a weekly meal for Clubbers and their families. Sheila Stuthman, Alisha Rumans, Skeet Starr and CeCe Holland are part of the team preparing great meals each week. Even our Elevate youth have been enjoying these meals.

Awana is for kids 4 years old through 6th grade. Elevate (youth) is for kids 7th grade through 12th. They meet from 6:30-8:00 pm each Wednesday through April.

Church Boards

DEACON BOARD

- Discussed the order of the church service for Christmas Eve
- Discussed preliminary plans for Usher/Security team
- Discussed ways to better reach the unchurched in our area
- Reviewed our REACH assignments for the month
- Communion to shut-in list reviewed and updated

DEACONESSES BOARD

- Treasurer's report: \$832.24
- New budget provides for hospitality
- Thank you to those who helped with Lottie's birthday and gift wrapping table @ The Abbey
- New women to join the Board; thanks to Barb Ellis & Sheila Stuthman for work
- Provided food for a family attending Awana
- Visits & phone calls discussed

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION BOARD

- Children's Church is going well
- Awana is going well too
- Senior Lunch went very well, over 15 attended
- Christmas program was held Dec 17th
- CE Board will be changed to Children & Family Ministry Team, new leaders: Julie Clark & Sandy Hawk
- Thanks to Alice Pracht for serving as leader of the CE Board over the past decade

MISSION BOARD

- Retired Ministers & Missionaries Offering being received in December
- \$1,359.52 was sent to ABC/NE; \$200 sent to Hurricane Relief
- Discussed possible gifts to Puerto Rico

TRUSTEE BOARD

- Finalized church budget for 2018; to be presented at Annual Business Meeting
- Two new men to join the Trustee Board

TREASURER REPORT

- Substantial gifts during the Harvest Offering and mortgage is now under \$300,000



Unsung Servant

The Unsung Servant for the month of January is the definition of a quiet servant. She certainly knows her way around a farm and kitchen, many of her talents, gifts and contributions come in the form of edible delights. When this Unsung Servant is not at the church building or her own farm serving, she can often be found volunteering her time at the community Food Pantry.

In case you have yet to guess who it is, our Unsung Servant for the month of January is Sheila Stuthman. Sheila is a longtime member of First Baptist and has been a long time servant as well. Most recently Sheila has faithfully served for the last four years as a Deaconess and has served in a variety of capacities through that board. Also this year, Sheila has been instrumental in helping cook and prepare the new Wednesday Night meal for Awana kids, parents and youth group. Sheila is no stranger to hard work and certainly works diligently for the Lord and this church family in a variety of ways. If you see Sheila anytime soon, make sure to encourage her and thank her for all of the hard work she does for the Lord and our church family. Sheila, from a grateful church family, thank you for serving!

January 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 Church Office Closed Happy New Year	2	3 NO Awana/Elevate	4	5	6
7 9 am Sun School 10:30 am Worship 7 pm Latino Worship	8 Deadline Annual Reports 6:30 Bible Study 7 pm REACH	9 6 pm Deacons 7 pm Missions	10 6:00 pm Meal 6:30 pm Awana 6:30 pm Elevate	11	12	13
14 9 am Sun School 10:30 am Worship 7 pm Latino Worship	15 6:30 Bible Study 7 pm REACH	16 1 pm Women's Connection 6:15 pm Deaconesses 6:30 pm Trustees	17 6:00 pm Meal 6:30 pm Awana 6:30 pm Elevate	18	19	20
21 9 am Sun School 10:30 am Worship Noon Pot-luck/Business Mtg 7 pm Latino Worship	22 6:30 Bible Study 7 pm REACH	23	24 6:00 pm Meal 6:30 pm Awana 6:30 pm Elevate	25	26	27
28 9 am Sun School 10:30 am Worship 7 pm Latino Worship	29 6:30 Bible Study 7 pm REACH	30	31 6:00 pm Meal 6:30 pm Awana 6:30 pm Elevate			