

the messenger

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH NORFOLK.NE
FEBRUARY 2017

A Successful Church

As we buy chips, dips, popcorn and pop in preparation for Super Bowl Sunday, it can certainly be an exciting time for sports fans. Even if our favorite team didn't

make the playoffs or to the big game, the Super Bowl still takes the cake as the single biggest and most popular sporting event of the year for Americans. It's ratings soar past those of other major sporting events in our country as people gather and tune in to witness who will be crowned the NFL Champions.

Certainly, this achievement is the highest and most visible sign of success for a NFL team, but how do we as a church judge success? We have no Super Bowl, playoff system or standard measurement for success, so how do we know when we are doing the right thing, on the right path, doing and being the church well?

Many churches and church people either consciously or subconsciously judge a church's success by the ABC's; Attendance-Buildings-Cash. If attendance goes up, if we have a nice building and if we have cash in the bank, God is blessing and the church is being successful. But, do those three criteria really accurately judge our success or lack-there-of as a church?

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Church Events

- Feb 5 Young Adult Super Bowl
5 pm @ Linds'
- Feb 12-March 5 Sunday's
Feb Family Fest 4-6 pm
- Feb 12 Children's Festival 1-4
@ Sunset Mall
- Feb 14 Deacons/Missions
- Feb 15 Awana Grand Prix
- Feb 18 Open House for Kay
Cooper's 80th Birthday (in
Omaha)
- Feb 21 Deaconesses/Trustees
- Feb 28 Advisory Board

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As we look through the New Testament, specifically the life and ministry of Jesus and the unfolding of the first century church, it has become apparent to me that to truly judge a church's success level we must ask two simple questions.

- First, how well are we doing at following the Great Commandments? (Matthew 22)
- Second, how well are we doing at carrying out the Great Commission? (Matthew 28)

If we aren't loving God and others, and going into all the world to make disciples of all nations, we are probably not a successful church. Even if attendance increases, we continue to keep a nice building and the cash flow is in the black, it would all be for naught. Movie theaters, universities and colleges and grocery stores can use the ABC's to judge their success, but as a church we have a higher calling. We have different goals, different values and a different mission. If together, we can strive to **Love God, Love Others** and **Make Disciples**, then I think we are well on our way to being and becoming a successful church.

*As long as the earth remains, there will be planting and harvest,
cold and heat, summer and winter, day and night.*

Genesis 8:22



NORFOLK COMMUNITY FOOD PANTRY

FBC will be serving at the Food Pantry from March 16-31st. Sign up will begin mid-February. We'll also be holding a food drive to collect items to donate to the pantry. So start looking for those sales.

Suggested items include:

canned meats

peanut butter

canned fruits

other items are welcomed

Deliver to the church beginning March 1st.

Unsung Servant



I do not know if I have ever been a part of church family that had so many folks who had a heart for kids. In my nearly 16 months here it has simply been amazing and humbling to witness how many people care for and desire the children in our church and community to know and experience the love of Jesus. Part of this group of wonderful people is our Unsung Servant for the month of February. This Unsung Servant constantly and consistently gives of her time, talent, resources, creativity and love to the children of our church. This person helps lead our Sparkies on Wednesday nights at Awana, they faithfully teach Sunday School to our children, they wrote and directed our children's Christmas Puppet Nativity and also our VBS Musical.

In case you have not yet guessed, our Unsung Servant for the month is Alice Pracht. If you know Alice at all, there's no doubt that she has a deep love for the Lord, for this church family and for kids. In addition to her love for our kiddos, Alice chairs our Christian Education Board, plays multiple instruments on one of our worship teams and does a myriad of other unseen things for our church family. If you see Alice 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. Alice, from a grateful church family, thank you for serving!

FEBRUARY FUN FEST IS HERE!

February Fun Fest will kick off on February 12th and continue for the next three Sundays through March 5th from 4:00-6:00 at the church building.

All leaders have worked hard to prepare great learning and fellowship for all. Classes will run from 4:00-5:30 with a fellowship time to follow. To make sure that each group completes all their projects, please try to be on time so classes can start right at 4:00.

Each night during fellowship, we encourage you to bring a themed snack to share. Please see the schedule below.

February 12th Snack Mixes, popcorn, Carmel corn, Chex mix, Valentine color items such as red, purple, white snacks, Jell-o Jigglers. Pinterest has a ton of fun ideas for snack mixes, check it out

February 19th Vegetable Tray, Fruit Tray, Meat, Cheese, Crackers, Dips, Chips

February 26 Finger Sandwiches Ideas - Ham spread sandwiches, egg salad sandwiches, buffalo chicken tortilla roll-ups, Tuna Sandwiches, cucumber salad sandwiches

March 5 Snacks will be provided by the Cooking and Crafts Class

Please think outside the box as you plan your snacks to bring each week.

January Church Boards

- **DEACONS** Discussed next steps for 2021; followed up on Communion to shut-ins; discussed church members attending Iron Sharpens Iron Conference in February
- **CE BOARD** Kathi W. is stepping down as commander of Awana, we are looking into someone to take up that role. If interested please talk to Pastor Caleb or CE Board. Plans made for Camp promotion/discussed beginning a Children's church/Children's Festival at the Mall on Feb 12th/planned Spaghetti Dinner for Camp awareness for March 26th/ making plans for Easter/discussed Sunday School/planned rest of year
- **MISSIONS** Discussed Food Pantry. FBC will serve March 16-31. Sign up will begin mid-Feb. Will be collecting food to be donated beginning first Sunday in March. Checking in January is \$1,162.10; short-term mission trip savings is \$982.41. Moved to give \$250 to Norfolk Food Pantry.
- **TRUSTEES** Looking into replacing lights inside & outside. Door in fellowship hall needs fixing. Interviewed for Nursery attendant. Finances running as normal. Thank you to Roberto & John B. for cleaning carpet through out church during holiday break. New vacuum purchased. Approved several building usages for coming year. Set up Trustee contact for each month in 2017.
- **DEACONESSES** Treasurer's balance is \$786.87. Nursery attendant interviews took place. Nursery volunteers job description posted, volunteers names will be posted in bulletin & newsletter. Deaconesses continue to contact women of the church. Birthday cards & get well cards sent.

Nursery Volunteers for February

Feb 5	Eric Luber
Feb 12	Turena Bauer
Feb 19	KateLyn Gillming
Feb 26	Kayla Lind

A Little of This and That...

YOUNG ADULT SUPER BOWL PARTY Feb 5th, begins at 5 pm @ Pastor Caleb & Kayla's

CHILDREN'S FESTIVAL @ Mall Feb 12th from 1-4 pm

80TH BIRTHDAY OPEN HOUSE for Kay Cooper from 1-4 pm at her home in Omaha (4901 S. 153rd St #214, Omaha 68137)

NORFOLK COMMUNITY FOOD PANTRY FBC will serve food from March 16-31 (9:30-11:30 am). Sign up will begin in February. A food drive will begin the first of March. Suggested items: peanut butter, canned meats & canned fruits, etc.

AWANA GRAND PRIX Feb 15th with pizza party for the kids.

