

the messenger

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH NORFOLK · NE

JANUARY 2017

A Life Worth Giving

Over the Christmas break my wife Kayla and I are going on a vacation together. The boys will be staying with grandparents in Kansas and we are taking a belated, but much needed, 10 day trip to celebrate our 10 year anniversary.

(Our 10th was actually on July 29th of this past summer). When Kayla and I got married more than 10 years ago now, I was already serving in ministry. I had been serving for over a year as a part-time Youth Pastor and as we ventured into married life ministry was already a part of our lives.

I have been blessed during my time in ministry to have mentors, professors, pastors and teachers impart wisdom to me in regards to the utmost importance of maintaining a vibrant marriage and family life in the midst of ministry. Little snippets of wisdom have packed a powerful impact in my life as I have heard people share with me things like this; "Your family is your first ministry. If you don't love and care for them well, you will never be able to love and care for your church family well." Others have said "The Caleb, you already have a bride; her name is Kayla." Little nuggets of wisdom such as these have grown a desire to work to maintain proper balance in regards to ministry and marriage, and for that I am grateful.

continued on page 2

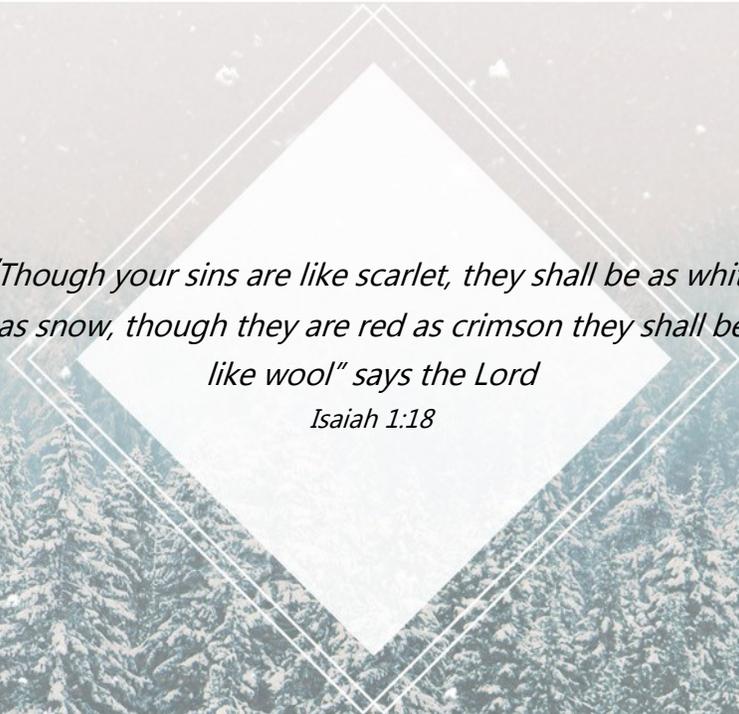
Church Events

- Jan 2 Church Office Closed
- Jan 4 Annual Reports Due
No Awana nor Youth
- Jan 9 CE Board
- Jan 10 Deacons
Missions
- Jan 11 Awana & Youth
- Jan 17 Deaconesses
Trustees
- Jan 18 Awana & Youth
- Jan 22 Annual Business
Meeting/pot-luck lunch
- Jan 24 Advisory Board
- Jan 25 Awana & Youth

continued from page 1

During this past fall I have been reading through 1 and 2 Timothy for my devotional reading and as I read this verse it resonated deeply within me as Kayla and I have saved and prepared for our time together on our trip. "But if anyone does not provide for his relatives, and especially for members of his household, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever." 1 Timothy 5.8. These powerful words from Paul are for Timothy, a young man in ministry. Likely very much like me. But while I believe these words are for me, I also believe that they are for every person who is a follower of Jesus.

God's desire is never that we neglect or forget our family because of our duties, responsibilities or obligations that come as we serve our church family. God's desire is that our ministry start at home and flow out of our homes into the life of the church. Whether your family is you and your pet, you and your spouse, you and your kids or you and your grandkids, we must not only seek to provide for their needs physically, but more importantly, care for their spiritual well being. As we begin this new year together, may we desire to heed Paul's words, and care well for our families, whatever they look like, and in doing so, be a witness to the world in what it looks like to be a follower of Jesus.



"Though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow, though they are red as crimson they shall be like wool" says the Lord
Isaiah 1:18



JANUARY 22

Plan to come to our next pot-luck lunch following worship. The annual Business meeting will follow the meal and all are welcome to stay. This is a great time to discuss where we've been this past year and where we'd like to be going. Everyone is encouraged to come!

WHERE WE CAME FROM...

...WHERE WE ARE GOING



Unsung Servant

Nearly every Sunday during worship if you end up with a bulletin in your hand chances are good that it might have come from the faithful hands of this unsung servant. Our unsung servant for the month of January faithfully serves as an usher during our worship services, serves on the Mission Board, teaches a Sunday School class and does many other small and large tasks which bless our church family. Not only does this individual serve and bless our church but he also is active in the Lion's club and other areas of our community as well.

Frank Tucker is a longtime member of FBC Norfolk and is our Unsung Servant for the month of January. Frank has served in many positions and areas during his time with our church family and anyone who knows Frank, knows that he is a hard and diligent worker and servant. If you see Frank anytime soon, make sure to encourage him and thank him for all of the hard work he does for the Lord and our church family.

Frank, from a grateful church family, thank you for serving!

Church Boards

- **AWANA** In December the AWANA kids have enjoyed celebrating their hard work. The Sparks Club and T&T Clubs have incentives for attendance, learning verses and bringing friends. In December, the Sparks Club had a party and the T&T Club went shopping at the AWANA Store. Linda Meikle shops year round for items that she thinks the kids would enjoy. Thank you, Linda! Some kids were purchasing Christmas gifts for their families with their AWANA bucks. This year the Christmas Program was a puppet play and that was held on Dec. 21st during the AWANA Club night because of weather concerns. Thanks leaders for your faithfulness as each week you attend with enthusiasm and love for the kids.
Commander Kathi

- **CE BOARD** Discussed future of AWANA as the Witherspoon's plan to retire from it. Discussed the puppet nativity. Won't be participating in Children's Festival this February. Everyone is encouraged to participate in the Family Fun Fest on Sunday evenings. Discussed beginning to have a children's church.

- **MISSIONS** The Retired Ministers and Missionaries Offering will be collected during the month of Dec. Discussed need to sponsor a table for Rescue Mission next Nov. Moved to send designated monies to Operation Christmas Child.
- **TRUSTEES** Discussed budget for 2017, ongoing projects, recommendations to fill Trustee vacancies, new nursery care workers.
- **DEACONESSES** Searching for a nursery care provider. Signing up nursery volunteers to assist attendant during worship service. Contacted women of the church through cards, calls and visits.



Constitution Focus Groups

As a result of the listening session that was held as we continue to form and launch Vision 2021, we heard many people express a desire to update and revise FBC's Constitution and By-Laws. In a first step to make this a reality, three Constitution Focus Groups were held in order to allow our members an opportunity to share and express their ideas and desires for things that they would like to see addressed in a revision.

During all three sessions there were a number of ideas and thoughts shared along with healthy discussion as to how those things would help enhance our ability to minister and be a light for the Gospel in our community and beyond. There was great unity in all three discussions for this revision to make it easier to incorporate new people into the life and ministry of the church and we all agreed that the Constitution should be a document that helps us do ministry well, and not something that hinders

growth and change in the future.

In order to make these changes, we are seeking 2-4 church members to serve as volunteers who will work together to create and propose revisions to the Constitution and By-Laws which address the concerns shared during the Focus Groups. The hope is that the group will begin meeting in January and will work quickly to put together proposed revisions so that the church body can review, offer input and eventually vote on their approval. These are exciting times for our church family! May we be faithful to God's call on our church family as we seek to be a light for the Kingdom of God in Norfolk and beyond.