

Rev. Rob Purdy Pastor First Baptist Church of Seabrook Newsletter December 2023/January 2024

Joanne Wells Editor

# A Message from the Pastor

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!!!

This Newsletter covers both December and January. The end of one year and beginning of the next. A time to look back and a time to look forward.

2023 was quite the ride! We went through some very difficult times, and we enjoyed some really awe-some times! All in all, we were privileged to see God work in our midst. He turned a bleak financial situation completely around. He blessed us with good, solid, growth, not just in numbers but in spiritual depth. Our church was able to send multiple mission trips to Puerto Rico and one to Senegal. The youth had an awesome year! We saw folks come to Christ and we witnessed a ton of baptisms! It was quite the year!

Looking forward, I am excited about 2024. This should be the year that we make progress on the use of the old bank building. I anticipate expanding our Missions programs in both Puerto Rico and Senegal. The possibilities of 2024 are endless!

I was asked a penetrating question a few days ago. The question was, "If we were to start a church from scratch today, what would it look like?" This question caused me to consider what we do as "church" now and why do we do it? Of course, the Word and the Gospel do not change, but the way church is done does change. What would we do differently? What would remain the same?

As I thought about the question above, I realized that we have so much more than most church planters. We have more than just a core of believers. We have sufficient finances. We have space for worship and discipleship. People starting a church from scratch have none of these things. We really need to pray about how we are using the precious assets we already have, our people, our space, and our finances. If it's possible to do better with what God has given us, that's what I want to do!!! How about you?

It's a question about Stewardship we all need to answer. Matthew 25:14-18 reads this way:

"For it will be like a man going on a journey, who called his servants and entrusted to them his property. To one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. He who had received the five talents went at once and traded with them, and he made five talents more. So also he who had the two talents made two talents more. But he who had received the one talent went and dug in the ground and hid his master's money."

At the end of this parable, the poor steward, the one who buried his master's money heard this, "You wicked and slothful servant!". Let's purpose together to be good stewards of all the Lord has given us!

On a personal note – Gerda and I could not be more grateful for the support we are receiving from our church family. We could not get through what we are going through without you! Thank you for all that you've done for us and are doing for us. Thank you for the prayers! God is being glorified by the way you are caring for us!

## December/January Calendar

#### Month-Long Focus Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for International Missions

#### December 03—10

Week of Prayer for Lottie Moon Offering

#### Sunday, December 03

Lord's Supper Services
 1st Week of Advent

### • 1st Week of Advent Saturday, December 09

- Community Outreach 4th Annual Christmas Festival
- Sunday, December 10
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Week of Advent
   Tuesday. December 12

#### Mom's Meet-Up

- Sunday, December 17
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Week of Advent
- Christmas Cantata
   NO Children's Church

#### Thursday, December 21

Men's Prayer Breakfast at Hap's at 8:30 am

## December 20—January 02 Church Office Closed

#### Sunday, December 24

- Children's Church PJ & hot cocoa party
- Cookies & Hot Cocoa Fellowship
- 4th Week of Advent
- Christmas Eve Candle Light Service at 7:00 pm

#### Monday, December 25

## NO Men's Ministry Bible Study Wednesday, December 27

No Evening Services

#### January — Month-Long Children's Church Outreach

#### Sunday, January 01

No Men's Ministry Bible Study

#### January 04— 07

Blast & Cast Men's Ministry—Rockport

#### Sunday, January 7

Lord's Supper Services

#### Monday, January 08

- Men's Ministry Bible Study Resumes
- Hospitality Committee Recruitment & 2024 Planning Meeting at 6:30 pm

#### Tuesday, January 09

Mom's Meet-Up

Wednesday, January 10

Church Council Calendar Information Due

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#### Thursday, January 18

Men's Prayer Breakfast at Hap's Cajun at 8:30 am

#### Saturday, January 20

February Newsletter Deadline

#### Sunday, January 28

Quarterly Children's Church Meeting & Luncheon

# Weekly Schedule

Sunday **NO Children	's Church 12/17	
8:15 am	Adult Bible Study	1506 Bayport Blvd., (Hwy 146)
9:15 — 9:30 am	1st Adult Coffee Fellowship	1506 Bayport Blvd., (Hwy 146)
	1st Nursery	
9:15 — 10:30 am	Children's Church/Pre-K Church	1506 Bayport Blvd., (Hwy 146)
9:30 — 10:30 am	Berean Adult Fellowship	1506 Bayport Blvd., (Hwy 146)
9:30 — 10:30 am	Women's Sunday School	1506 Bayport Blvd., (Hwy 146)
9:30 — 10:30 am	Youth Bible Study	1506 Bayport Blvd., (Hwy 146)
9:30 — 10:30 am	1st Worship Service	1506 Bayport Blvd., (Hwy 146)
10:45 — 11:00 am	2nd Adult Coffee Fellowship	1506 Bayport Blvd., (Hwy 146)
10:45 am — 12:00 pm	2nd Nursery	1506 Bayport Blvd., (Hwy 146)
	Children's Church/Pre-K Church	
11:00 am — 12:00 pm	2nd Worship Service	1506 Bayport Blvd., (Hwy 146)
Monday **Not Meeting	12/25 & 1/1	
6:30 pm	Men's Bible Study & Dinner Fellowship	1506 Bayport Blvd., (Hwy 146)
Wednesday **No Eveni		
6:30 — 7:30 pm	Youth Discipleship (6th-12th grades)	1506A Bayport Blvd., (Hwy 146)
	Praise, Prayer & Bible Study	
6:30 — 7:30 pm	Nursery	1506 Bayport Blvd., (Hwy 146)





### Church Office will be closed December 20—January 02

#### **Regular Office Hours** Tuesday - Thursday

9:30 AM-1:30 PM

The Church office is open Tuesday through Thursday, from 9:30 am - 1:30 pm. The main office phone number is 281-474-3281. If you call while the office is closed or after hours please leave a message and we will return your call as soon as possible.

### **December 2023 Tellers**

Dec.	03	John and Cheryl Harrison
		Mary Johnson, Kathy Slater and Pat Smartt
		Larry and Laurie Cooper
		Michelle Hazlett and Linda Long
Dec		Volunteers Needed!!

## **January 2024 Tellers**

Jan. 07	John and Cheryl Harrison
Jan. 14	Mary Johnson, Kathy Slater and Pat Smartt
Jan. 21	Larry and Laurie Cooper
Jan. 28	Michelle Hazlett and Pat Smart

# Tithes & Offering

#### A look at the church finances...

General Funds October 2023 Contributions	\$43,026.71	Thank
Building Fund October 2023 Contributions	\$100.00	you for your
Missions Fund October 2023 Contributions	\$4,764.74	faithful giving!



If you have a need for prayer, please call the church office at 281-474-3281 or use our website fbcseabrook.org, scroll to the bottom of the page, and click on the "Prayer Requests" button. We are happy to pray with you!!

**Prayer Requests** 

# Birthdays

December

Alyssa Clark Steve Mewborn Christopher Thomas Katie Feehan Barbara Sue Smith Cody Stewart Pastor Rob Purdy Lori Gregory Eileen Morse Rayma Solis Ronda Cannon Brennon Malone Joyce Fisher-Clark Bob Snow **Douglas Brown** Pat Broussard Lupe Rodriguez Lawrence Wall Zan Sine Mary Kinsey **Bobby Laird** 



William Williams
Robert Weldon Sr.
Steven Balistreri Jr
Mary Johnson
Lisa Jobe
Levi Burrows
Andrea Harrington
Lucile Phelps
Betty Coker
Tommy Miller
Wayne Stewart
Joy Moss
Theresa Smith



# Christmas Blessing 🏴



The Benevolence Department of FBCS will be purchasing gifts for children of families in the community struggling to make ends meet.

Here's where YOU can help... Donate! No \$\$\$ amount is too small or too large!

If you can help, please mark your offering envelope "Christmas Blessing".





# Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for International Missions

Week of Prayer: Dec. 3—10, 2023

Generous giving to the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering makes a massive difference in the world. Men, women, children and entire communities are transformed as a result of this offering. Your gifts enable thousands of missionaries to live among, serve and share the gospel with people who have never heard it until now.

Every December since 1888, the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering has empowered Southern Baptists' international missions work. At the beginning of this giving season, we start with a week of prayer dedicated to international missions.

Please prayerfully consider how you can give to support International missionaries and their ministries.

# Holiday Schedule Changes

Dec. 17

Dec 20—Jan2

Church Office Closed

Sun. Dec. 24

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service at 7pm

Mon. Dec. 25

No Men's Ministry Bible Study

Wed. Dec. 27

No Wednesday Evening Service

Mon. Jan. 01

No Men's Ministry Bible Study



immediately following each worship service

## **FBC Seabrook Youth Fundraiser**

These beautiful 2023 calendars make nice and easy Christmas gifts. They are located in the fover.



All information is available in the fover of the church.

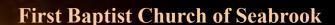
Cajun Meats & Market

# Hap's Men's Monthly Prayer **Breakfast**

Thursday, Dec. 21st & Jan. 18th at 8:30 am

Men will gather at Hap's Cajun Meats & Market, 902 E. Main St., League City, on the third Thursday each month to eat an awesome breakfast and pray together.

Due to limited space there is a need to reserve your spot. Follow Hap's on Facebook and you should be able to make your reservation there or call 281-525-6167.





12/27/23

# **Men's Monday Night Ministry Bible Study & Dinner Fellowship**

**Meets Every Monday** 

In person at 6:30 pm, Live Stream begins at 7:00 pm Holiday Break, NOT meeting 12/25 & 01/01

M E N S • M I N I S T R I E S

Rockport Event ~ January 4—7, 2024

# **Hospitality Committee Planning** and New Recruitment Meeting

Monday, January 8, 2024 at 6:30 pm

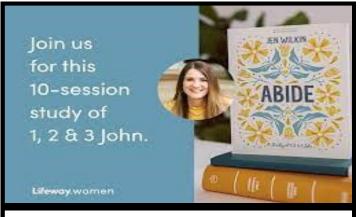
Everyone is invited to join this fun committee and help plan fellowships and activities for the year. We are always looking for new and fresh ideas. ROCK INSPIRAIN If you have questions or suggestions please contact Mandy Stilwell at mandy\_stilwell@comcast.net.





INFORMATION DEADLINE Wednesday, January 10, 2024

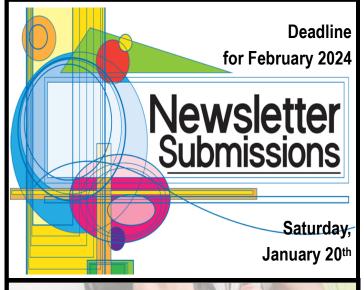
The Church Council will be planning for the months of February, March and April. It is imperative that the servant leaders, administrative staff and all Ministry leads, Committee Leads and Directors take the time to plan for these months. Please email fbcseabrook@yahoo.com.



**FBC Seabrook Women's Ministry Fall/Winter Bible Study Resumes** 

> Sunday's at 5:00 pm Thursday's at 10:30 am

Part Two ~ January 14 through February 22



**Quarterly Children's Ministry** Teachers/Volunteers **Meeting & Luncheon** 

Sunday, January 28, 2024

Immediately following 2nd service



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	stmas Offering for In f Prayer: December 3				1	2
9:30 & 11:00 am Lord's Supper Services	6:30 PM Men's Monday Night Bible Study & Dinner Fellowship	5	6 6:30-7:30 PM Adult Praise, Prayer & Bible Study, Youth Bible Study and Kid's Club	7	Christmas Festival	9 1:00 – 4:00 PM 4 <sup>th</sup> Annual Christmas Festival
10	6:30 PM Men's Monday Night Bible Study & Dinner Fellowship	10:00 am Mom's Meet-Up	6:30-7:30 PM Adult Praise, Prayer & Bible Study, Youth Bible Study and Kid's Club	14	15	16
17 9:30 & 11:00 am Christmas Cantata NO Children's Church	6:30 PM Men's Monday Night Bible Study & Dinner Fellowship	19	6:30-7:30 PM Adult Praise, Prayer & Bible Study, Youth Bible Study and Kid's Club	8:30 AM Men's Prayer Breakfast Meeting at Hap's Cajun	22	23
9:30 & 11:00 am Children's Church Christmas Parties 7:00 PM Christmas Eve Candlelight Service	NO Men's Ministry Meeting	26	27 No Evening Services	28 De	29 Church Office Closed cember 20 thru January	2
31						

		<b>l</b> Jan	uary 2	024		
Sunday	Monday <b>1</b>	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday C	Saturday
	NO Men's Ministry Meeting	2	6:30-7:30 PM Adult Praise, Prayer & Bible Study, Youth Bible Study and Kid's Club	4	5 Blast & Cast ~ Rockport ~ J	anuary 4—7
9:30 & 11:00 am Lord's Supper Services	6:30 PM Hospitality Meeting Men's Monday Night Bible Study & Dinner Fellowship	9 10:00 am Mom's Meet-Up Church Council Information Deadline	6:30-7:30 PM Adult Praise, Prayer & Bible Study, Youth Bible Study and Kid's Club	11	12	13
5:00 pm Women's Ministry Bible Study	6:30 PM Men's Monday Night Bible Study & Dinner Fellowship	16	6:30-7:30 PM Adult Praise, Prayer & Bible Study, Youth Bible Study and Kid's Club	18 8:30 AM Men's Prayer Breakfast Meeting 10:30 am Women's Bible Study	19	20 Deadline
5:00 pm Women's Ministry Bible Study	6:30 PM Men's Monday Night Bible Study & Dinner Fellowship	23	6:30-7:30 PM Adult Praise, Prayer & Bible Study, Youth Bible Study and Kid's Club	25 10:30 am Women's Ministry Bible Study	26	27
NOON NOON Children's Church Volunteer Mtg. 5:00 pm Women's Bible Study	6:30 PM Men's Monday Night Bible Study & Dinner Fellowship	30	6:30-7:30 PM Adult Praise, Prayer & Bible Study, Youth Bible Study and Kid's Club			