



The Good News Letter

January 2012

A monthly publication of First Baptist Church, Gaston

Vol. 38 Issue 1

New Year's Quotes

Look not back on yesterday
So full of failure and regret;
Look ahead and seek God's way--
All sin confessed you must forget.

—Dennis DeHaan
[RBC Ministries](#)



Resolution One:
I will live for God.
Resolution Two:
If no one else does,
I still will.

—Jonathan Edwards
The Works of Jonathan Edwards



We must bear in mind that mere resolutions to take more time for prayer and to conquer reluctance to pray will not prove lastingly effective unless there is a whole hearted and absolute surrender to the Lord Jesus Christ.

—Anonymous



HAPPY NEW YEAR!!

LOOKING AHEAD TO 2012

Another year has almost passed. Just a few more days and 2011 will be but a time in history. That requires us to look ahead. We often make plans for ourselves at the end of the year, and this year I suppose will be no exception. We plan where we might desire to go on a vacation in the coming year. We plan for ourselves a budget to help save money. We plan on buying certain new items, getting certain bills paid off, etc, etc, etc.

In the midst of our planning, there are some important things we must keep in mind. We must set objectives not only for our physical life, but also for our spiritual life. We must set some realistic goals for ourselves and work to the end of achieving them. Consider the following:

- Read the Bible through in the next 365 days;
- Be in attendance at every meeting of the saints as much as possible;
- Show hospitality on a constant basis;
- Provide more encouragement to brethren than in the past;
- Talk with friends, family members and acquaintances about the good news of God.

These are just a few things that each of us might think of for ourselves. We must however see the necessity for us to grow as a Christian in the year 2012. If we are not a growing Christian, then we are a dying Christian. Therefore, it behooves us that we grow.

Beyond setting personal spiritual goals, the local congregation of the Lord's people ought to set goals for 2012. We must take hold of our purpose and work. Jesus, while on earth, worked continually to the end that He might seek and save that which was lost. We, being the people of God, must commit ourselves to this very task. Following are just a few goals that we might work on and achieve in the coming year:

- Gain the involvement of each and every member in the work of the church;
- Grow as a unit. We must continually encourage one another. We must look out for one another, that Satan may not draw any away.
- Effectively evangelize in the community. We must take our duty seriously and find effective ways to share the gospel with those who are about us;
- Stand for truth. In a world in which gospel truth is side-railed in the interest of the doctrines of men, we must stand firm. Though many brethren in other areas might receive the doctrines of men as commandments, and teach such, we must stand firm and fast on the pure gospel of Christ.

Brethren, let us grow in love, faith, purity, zeal, etc. Let us enter 2012 with clear goals leading towards a successful year in the service of the most high God. First, let us grow as individuals, for we will not grow as a group unless each individual is strengthened. Then, may we commit ourselves fully to the cause of Christ, to the spreading of the truth of God, that souls might be saved.

—Pastor Larry

January Music Notes

What a year we have had as a church family... so many changes... and here we are at 2012.

We have been blessed beyond measure... with people who have come to know Christ... a great growth in our youth department... a beautiful addition to our church with the new youth wing. Our choir has gained some new members and they are precious.

We have new babies... so hopefully our nursery will be filling up soon!

I love to walk through the preschool and children's area and see the classrooms filled to the brim!

We added the Wednesday meal for our children and youth... a special thanks to all our volunteers - you are the best!!! It really has shown the community that we love our kids!!

Every day that we are here is an opportunity to spread the good news of Jesus Christ. We are still here for a purpose and that is to glorify the Son.

Let's make the best of 2012 and serve selflessly to see what God will do if we totally yield to Him!

Happy New Year!

Joyfully Serving,

Sherrell ☺

NEWS FROM OUR SPIRITUAL WARRIORS WITH HELEN KING, DIRECTOR

Spiritual Warriors Luncheon ~ January 4, 2012 ~ 11:30



It is with deep sorrow we report three deaths in the church family.



Mr. Peter Jumper went to be with the Lord November 29, 2011. A memorial service to celebrate the life of Peter was held Friday, December 2 at Gaston First

Baptist with burial in the church cemetery.

Peter served as the Media Library Director; always encouraging all to get a book and read for spiritual growth. He especially encouraged parents to read to their small children and to keep good books around that would be of interest to all.



Mr. Joe King, known as our church hugger, went to be with the Lord December 17, 2011. A "Celebration of Joe's Life" was held here at First Baptist Gaston December 20, 2011 with burial in the

church cemetery.

Joe served the Lord in many ways here at the church. He sang in the choir, served as deacon and was the church treasurer. No matter what he was asked to do, he did it as unto the Lord.



Mrs. Sue Dowd, one of our home-bound members, went to be with the Lord December 17, 2011. A "Celebration of Ms. Sue's Life" was held here at First Baptist Gaston, December 21 with burial in the

church cemetery.

Being home-bound for a number of years, the family expressed to the church how much Sue appreciated the Children's Ministry of the church visiting and singing for her.



January starts a new year and we all made resolutions we may or may not keep. Pray about the many mission opportunities that will be brought to our church during the upcoming year.

The WMU would like to thank everyone who participated in the Project Angel Tree/ Adopt-a-Family mission. This was a great success again this year. Additionally, thank you to everyone who contributed to the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering. The church goal is \$7,000; however at present we have not quite reached our goal. Please be in prayer for this missions offering; all funds raised go directly to International Missions for missionaries to spread the Word.

The Adult International Mission Study will be done on **January 11, 2012** and will be led by Pam Spires and the College & Career Class. The entire church is invited to participate for a time of fun, fellowship, and learning about missionaries in London.

Please be in prayer for **Sanctity of Life Sunday, January 15, 2012**. We have to check a few details but we are planning to have a special emphasis that Sunday. We will have an announcement in the bulletin with the details. This month's home meeting will be hosted by Jane Pound & Ruth Barwick in the Fellowship Hall on **Monday, January 16**. We will work on the details for various mission projects in the coming months. There will be reminders in the bulletin.

The Women's Evangelism Conference this year is being hosted by First Baptist Columbia and is for two days. The conference is on **Friday, January 27 & Saturday morning, January 28**. The schedule is as follows:

Friday Night Kick off Session: **7pm - 9pm**, First Baptist Sanctuary (1306 Hampton Street)

Friday Night Late Night Session for COLLEGE students only starts at **9:30pm**

Saturday Morning: **9am-12pm**, First Baptist Sanctuary

CONFERENCE REGISTRATION INFO:

Tickets are \$27 each, includes the whole weekend. ~ Group discounts available: buy 10 tickets, get one FREE

I realize this is different than previous years; however, if you are interested, there will be a sign up sheet in the Welcome Center. If you are a college student there will be a special activity on Friday night after the kick-off session.

In February we will be preparing for Souper Bowl Sunday, WMU Focus week, Children's Ministry Day and wishing everyone a happy Valentine's Day.

As always thank you for your support with all our mission projects and continue to be in prayer as to how you can become involved in missions.

Love in Christ, Cindy Furtick & Margie Rish



International Mission Study

Wednesday, January 11, 2012 ~ 7:00 PM In the Worship Center

Focus: London

A few minutes on a city street is proof of the multicultural feel of London today. Muslim women wearing hijabs, Sikh men wearing turbans, Eastern Europeans, South Asians, North Africans, Somalis, Iranians, and Iraqis mix in a jumble of languages, cultures, and lifestyles. New York Magazine likened London to the New York City of the early 1900s during its great age of immigration.

This city of 8.5 million has become a "multilingual capital" with inhabitants speaking 300 different languages. More than 30 percent of all London school children speak a language other than English at home, and a diversity of religions pervades the city streets. Mosques as well as Hindu and Sikh temples dot the cityscape where once only Christian churches stood.



What does this mean to missionaries serving here? Learn about the London of today at the International Missions Study. Come join us as we see how despite countless barriers, God is working in the lives of Londoners.

Supporting a Grieving Person

“You have taken account of my wanderings; Put my tears in Your bottle. Are they not in Your book?”
Psalm 56:8 NASV

Almost everyone worries about what to say to people who are grieving. But knowing how to listen with compassion is much more important:

- **There is no right or wrong way to grieve.** Everyone grieves differently, so avoid telling the bereaved what they “should” be feeling or doing. Let the grieving person know that it is okay to cry in front of you, to get angry, or to break down. Don’t try to reason with them over how they should or should not feel. The bereaved should feel free to express their feelings, without fear of judgment, argument, or criticism.
- **Grief may involve extreme emotions and behaviors.** Feelings of guilt, anger, despair, and fear are common. A grieving person may yell to the heavens, obsess about the death, lash out at loved ones, or cry for hours on end. The bereaved need reassurance that what they are feeling is normal. Don’t judge them or take their grief reactions personally.
- **Let the bereaved talk about how their loved one died.** People who are grieving may need to tell the story over and over again, sometimes in minute detail. Be patient. Repeating the story is a way of processing and accepting the death. With each retelling, the pain lessens.
- **Be willing to sit in silence.** Don’t press if the grieving person doesn’t feel like talking. You can offer comfort and support with your silent presence. If you can’t think of something to say, just offer eye contact, a squeeze of the hand, or a reassuring hug.
- **There is no set timetable for grieving.** For many people, recovery after bereavement takes 18 to 24 months, but for others, the grieving process may be longer or shorter. Don’t pressure the bereaved to move on or make them feel like they’ve been grieving too long. This can actually slow their healing.

You may not always know what to say or do, but don’t let discomfort prevent you from reaching out to someone who is grieving. Now, more than ever, your support is needed. You don’t need to have answers or give advice. The most important thing you can do for a grieving person is to simply be there. Your support and caring presence will help them cope with the pain and begin to heal.

GRIEFSHARE meets at 5 PM Sundays

Jesus on Leadership: Becoming A Servant Leader
Coming in February ~ Sign-up in Welcome Center

DISCIPLESHIP CHALLENGE ~ READ THE BIBLE THROUGH in 2012!

Skip the resolutions that are never life changing and resolve to read the entire Bible. Jesus said, “If you continue in my word, you are truly my disciples, and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free.”

Read the Bible for the sake of learning, not simply to accomplish your next reading. Pray a short prayer to God before you begin, asking the Holy Spirit to give you wisdom and understanding as you read!

You can receive the daily scripture assignments in your e-mail, on your phone or even straight from the Bible you hold in your hands!! Find tips on accomplishing your goal and Reading Guides on the **Discipleship page** of the church website: firstbaptistgaston.org or on the table in our Welcome Center.



NEW MERCIES

Everyone seems to have at least one resolution that seems impossible to keep. And that can become very discouraging.

The prophet Jeremiah, who had his own reasons to feel down, wrote, “The steadfast love of the LORD never ceases, His mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness” (Lamentations 3:22-23, NRSV).

God refuses to give up on us. When we lose hope, when we fail and fall short, His mercy never runs out. Tomorrow is full of promise and our Lord’s unceasing love.



How do you picture Jesus? Helen Steiner Rice retells the story of a man who believes that Christ will visit him on Christmas Eve and so he prepares his house and himself to welcome Christ. As the hours go by, the man loses hope that Christ will come. Three people do come to his house and each one is in need of comfort and help. The good man helps each of them by giving them food, shelter and the assistance they need. But he is still disappointed that Christ did not come. Perhaps he forgot the verse that tells us that when we help each other we are doing as Jesus taught us and it is then that we see and know Jesus. "I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink"Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food, or thirsty and gave you something to drink?' Truly, I tell you, just as you did it to the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me." Matthew 25:35, 37 and 40.

I worked with a man for a number of years who was viewed as different from most people. He had left mill work and attended college. He obtained not only an undergraduate degree but also an advanced degree. We never knew all of the personal issues that affected his life but there were times when he told endless stories and made odd comments. Even though he had very little in material possessions he served the poor and needy where he could. As a result of his efforts, our workplace now has a project to provide canvas and cloth bags to Harvest Hope so that people do not have to carry their groceries in flimsy plastic bags. Unfortunately, when he died he was alone in his apartment and he was not found for several days. He served Jesus with the time and abilities he had and tried to enlist the help of those who probably had more to give in some ways than he did. Where will we see Jesus and how will we serve him each day?



WHAT NOT TO TAKE INTO THE NEW YEAR

- **Self-help books** — Trust in God first; don't turn to Him as a last resort. (See Proverbs 3:5-6.)
- **Tape measure** — Consider only God's standards; don't compare yourself to other people. (See Luke 18:9-14.)
- **Rearview mirror** — Don't live in the past. You'll miss out on what God is doing in your life now. (See Philippians 3:12-14.)
- **Gavel** — Instead of judging others, pray for them, help them and team with them. (See Luke 6:37-38.)
- **Life vest** — Don't be overly cautious spiritually. Peter experienced Jesus in a real way because he dared to step out of the boat. (See Matthew 14:22-33.)
- **Garage-door opener** — We think we're networked but often isolate ourselves from our neighbors. God intended for us to live in community with one another. (See Hebrews 10:23-25.)
- **Handcuffs** — Don't offer excuses about why you can't help out. God can do amazing things through — and despite — us. Just follow him, with no excuses. (See Mark 6:35-44.)

—Gregg McCaslin

WITHOUT FAIL

I was once young and now I am old, but not once have I been witness to God's failure to supply my need when first I had given for the furtherance of his work. He has never failed in his promise, so I cannot fail in my service to him.

—William Carey



A NEW YEAR'S BLESSING

May God make your year a happy one!
 Not by shielding you from all sorrow and pain,
 But by strengthening you to bear it as it comes;
 Not by making your path easy,
 But by making you sturdy to travel any path;
 Not by taking hardships from you,
 But by taking fear from your heart;
 Not by granting you unbroken sunshine,
 But by keeping your face bright, even in the shadows;
 Not by making your life always pleasant,
 But by showing you when people and their causes
 need you most, and by making you anxious to be there
 to help.
 God's love, peace, hope and joy to you for the year ahead.

—Author unknown

Study Theme for January

Going Right in a Culture Gone Wrong

January 1 – **Thriving in a Fast-Food Culture** – Proverbs 23:20-21; Daniel 1:8-20; Romans 13:11-14. We are called to align ourselves with Christ. This involves but is not limited to avoiding things that harm us physically and practicing a healthy lifestyle. This lesson can help you follow biblical standards for taking care of your body as a means to honor Christ.

January 8 – **Seeking Purity in a Sensual Culture** – Ephesians 5:1-21. We live pure lives as we imitate God and walk in His love, light, and wisdom. This lesson can help you (1) identify ways ungodly messages have influenced you and (2) cultivate and maintain a lifestyle of purity.

January 15 – **Caring in an Expendable Culture** – Psalm 139:1-24. God values life and so should we. This lesson can help you show respect for others by seeing people as inherently valuable, just as God does, and by treating all people according to the truth that they are inherently valuable.


January 22 – **Loving in a Divided Culture** – Acts 10: 1-48. Because God doesn't show favoritism, we shouldn't either. This lesson can help you identify your prejudices and look for ways to overcome them.

January 29- **Giving in a Greedy Culture** – Deuteronomy 15:7-11; 24:10-22. As believers, we have an obligation to meet the needs of people our culture prefers to ignore. This lesson challenges you to become more personally involved in helping people in need around you.

The New Year 2012 is upon us. The 2011 resolutions that were made, some kept, many broken and most forgotten. Let's all begin this year by making a commitment to be involved in Bible Study throughout the year. The most consistent and reliable Bible Study experience can be found each Sunday morning at 9:45. Sunday after Sunday you will learn biblical truths, that you can apply to you life on a daily basis. Unlike a trendy, short term resolution, the word of God does not go out of style or become outdated.

Care enough to invite someone to Sunday School


KIDS





A caring disciple


In Acts 9, Peter tells of a woman who lived in Joppa. She performed good works and helped the poor. Solve the puzzle below to reveal this disciple's two names.


Instructions: Cross out the letters that spell each object and write the remaining letter on the blank.



 _ adcltne _



 _ rohmtae _


 _ srgbape _


 _ rbieda _



 _ pehtshred _



 _ rdhaenlca _



 _ fadoo _


Her name in Greek


 _ pdeesh _


 _ dchilnero _


 _ drove _


 _ acehtr _


 _ sarcos _

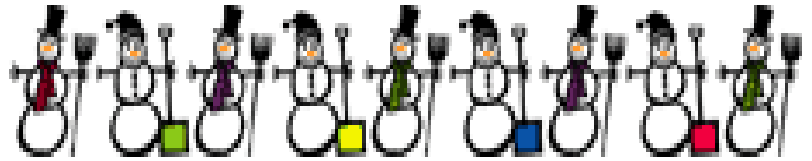

 _ nusoaatim _

KIDS

Answers: Tabitha, Dorcas

JANUARY

2012



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Brandi Knight Frank Settle Pam Spires New Years Day	2 Traci Rish Sally Rogers-Hicks Office Closed	3 Erika Browning Stephen Dittmar	4 Jamie Austen Christiana Dawkins Aaron Lewis Dickie Moseley ♥James & Patti Edge Spiritual Warriors Luncheon 11:30	5	6 Hope Brock Heather Harmon-Beck	7 Tiffany French Ryan Murtaugh Jo Lynn Phillips
8 Shannon Edwards Wendell Stabler Raymond Wilson	9 Lynn Barber Jerry Barwick	10 Danny Duncan Erin Houghten Bobby Spires Madison Whitaker ♥Terry & Sandra Pound	11 Joe Corder Sandra Poole Amber Whitaker International Mission Study	12 Brittany Burns Sandy Drawdy	13 Clyde Hagood, Jr. Carol Murray Debra Sharpe	14 Virginia Gantt Clara Thomas Samantha White Jennifer Young
15 Crystal Robinson Sanctity of Life Sunday	16 Dean Gregory WMU Meeting Fellowship Hall	17	18 Church Conference New Articles Due	19	20 David Austen Kathleen Johnson Carolyn Kendrick Steven Kirkland Sherri Wood	21 Julia Fanning Allan Snyder Keith Spires ♥T. W. & Cheryl Reynolds
22 Jeffrey Bryan Winter Emert Jordan Sightler Alison St.Clair	23 Eugene Carson	24 Jason Aultman Troy Bivins Christian Brock William Painter	25 Amanda Galloway Marvin Pound, Jr. Harvey Reynolds	26 Arnold Corne Sandra Jones	27 Thomas Baker Patricia Hayes Peggy Mills Women's Evangelism Conference	28
29 Kim Gardner Beverly Gibbs Buddy Harley 5th Sunday Singing 6PM	30 James Bond Stacy Painter Jared Poole	31 Darlene Conn Marian Fallaw Jake Rish Jim Thomas Deacon Meeting	<h1>HAPPY NEW YEAR</h1>			

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Weekly Schedule

Sunday
 09:45am.....Sunday School
 11:00am.....Worship
 11:00am..Children's Worship
 05:00pm.....Adult Choir
 05:00pm.....Discipleship
 06:00pm.....Worship
Monday
 3:00pm....Ladies' & Men's
 Prayer Time
Wednesday
 6:00 PM...Joyful Noise, Jr &
 Youth Choir practice
 06:45.....Youth
 7:00pm...Prayer Service
 7:00pm....GA, RA &
 Mission Friends

Monthly Meetings:
 1st Wednesday all mission
 groups meet 7:00PM
 3rd Wednesday Conference/
 Prayer Service 7:00PM
 3rd Monday Women on
 Mission Home Meeting 6:15
 Last Tuesday of Month
 Deacons Meeting
 Check bulletins & website for
 additional activities.

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF GASTON WELCOMES YOU!!
"THE CARING PLACE"

We are here to minister to you and your loved ones and to help strengthen your faith in the LORD JESUS CHRIST. If you are not currently attending a church, we invite you to join us. See our weekly schedule to the left of page.



In the book of Judges, a cycle is repeated many times: The Israelites do "what is evil in the sight of the Lord," God hands them over to an enemy nation, they cry out to the Lord and he appoints a judge, or political/military leader, for them. Under the judge's leadership, the Israelites conquer their adversary and prosper — until they start doing "what is evil in the sight of the Lord" all over again.

Who was not one of these judges?

- (A) Deborah (B) Ehud (C) Esau
- (D) Shamgar

Answer: C (See Judges 3-5)



"I'd like to buy you a pony, Teddy,
 but I don't get to keep the offering."