

THE BRIDGE

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YOUTH MINISTRY

The Lord your God is with you
wherever you go. Joshua 1:9

Dear Church,

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year from all of the students! We hope that you and your family have a great holiday season. We also thank you for your generosity with the Christmas Post Office. We have already taken in a good deal of money and will continue to do so for a few more weeks. These funds go in-part to help offset the rising cost of summer camp, as well as to provide resources for the many different activities and projects we hope to do in 2018.

There are several things to note in the weeks ahead. First, there will be no Sunday night or Wednesday night Youth services until the New Year.

We will start back on Jan. 3 and Jan. 7 with regular activities. There will also be a lock-in Dec. 29. Anyone that wants to chaperone that event please let me know. College students are welcome to join!

Also, at least for the months of January and February, we are going to suspend our Youth Social time on Wednesday nights from 7-8 p.m. It is simply too cold, dark, and late for some of our students to be out. After February we will revisit whether or not to continue this activity.

I cannot say enough how thankful I am for the help of the many volunteers we've had this year. From the families that have provided meals, to those who have taught a small group, we could not have such a successful Youth Ministry without their help. I thank you, I appreciate you, and I look forward to another great year of working with you in 2018.

- Clint Walker

THE BRIDGE

JANUARY 2018

a publication of First Baptist Church at the Singing Bridge

What's Inside

- 2 Music Ministry
- Missions Ministry
- Staff
- 3 Calendar
- Volunteers
- 4 Spiritual Formation
- 5 Pastor Bob's page
- 6 Youth Ministry



Inclement Weather

We carefully watch winter weather as it affects Wednesday night activities and driving after dark. If Wednesday night activities need to be cancelled, the decision will be made by noon of that day. An announcement will be posted on Facebook in addition to notifying LEX Channel 18 and our local radio station, 104.9.

If Sunday worship ever needs to be cancelled, you will be alerted in the same manner.

Coming in 2018...

FBC263

A CALL TO DISCIPLESHIP

A Word from our Pastor about FBC263

It has been a joy to work this year with the Spiritual Advisory Team that Cynthia Insko leads. They have spent several hours discussing our theme for 2018:

FBC263

What is **FBC263** and how did we arrive at that title?

Earlier this year the staff read Mark Tidsworth's book, Shift: Three Big Moves for the 21st Century Church, which we discussed in several staff meetings. Of particular importance to us was Tidsworth's insistence that church members understand their identity and purpose as followers of Jesus.

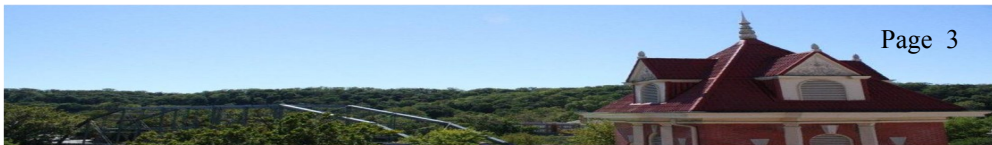
His emphasis on the word **disciple** to describe Jesus' followers especially spoke to us. Let me share an eye-opening statistic Tidsworth included in his book.

In the New Testament, the word **Christian** is found three times. The word **Christianity** is never written. The word **disciple** is repeated **263** times.

Obviously, this led to discussions in staff meeting about why the word disciple was chosen so often by the biblical writers to describe those who followed Jesus. What message were they sending to their readers about what it means to follow Jesus and feed his sheep?

Next year, let's discover that message and the difference it can make in practicing our faith. I'll preach on texts which will shed light on what it means to be a disciple, and the Spiritual Advisory Team will offer small group studies that will help us to delve even further into these texts and topics.

I look forward to beginning this journey with you on January 14.



JANUARY

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1 OFFICE CLOSED	2	3 5:00 pm Family Night Activities 6:00 pm Clinic & Clothes Closet 6:15 pm Prayer Meeting and Handbells 7:00 pm Sanctuary Choir	4 6:30 pm Deacon's Meeting	5	6
7 9:45 am Bible Study 10:50 am Worship Service Deacon Ordination	8 6:00 pm Global Women	9	10 5:00 pm Family Night Activities 6:00 pm Clinic & Clothes Closet 6:15 pm Prayer Meeting and Handbells 7:00 pm Sanctuary Choir	11 6 pm Finance Team Meeting	12	13
14 9:45 am Bible Study 10:50 am Worship Service 5:00 pm MLK Community Service @ The Grand	15 OFFICE CLOSED	16	17 5:00 pm Family Night Activities 6:00 pm Clothes Closet 6:15 pm Prayer Meeting and Handbells 7:00 pm Sanctuary Choir	18	19	20 8:00 am Clinic
21 9:45 am Bible Study 10:50 am Worship Service 12:00 pm Youth & Children Volunteer Lunch 4:00 pm Financial Peace University; Book Study	22 9:30 am Soup Kitchen	23 Noon—Book Study	24 5:00 pm Family Night Activities 6:00 pm Clinic & Clothes Closet 6:15 pm Business Meeting 7:00 pm Sanctuary Choir	25	26	27
28 9:45 am Bible Study 10:50 am Worship Service 3:00 pm Real Faith 4:00 pm Financial Peace University; Book Study	29	30 Noon—Book Study	31 5:00 pm Family Night Activities 6:00 pm Clothes Closet 6:15 pm Prayer Meeting and Handbells 7:00 pm Sanctuary Choir			

SUNDAY MORNING GREETERS

NURSERY

Jan 07 Beverly Lovan
Jan 14 Laura Hendrix
Jan 21 Pam Manning
Jan 28 Linda Gaby

DOWNSTAIRS

Jan 07 Mark & Mason Little
Jan 14 Herald Bolling
Jan 21 Susan Hopkins
Jan 28 Laura Branham

FRONT DOOR

Jan 07 Ralph Divine
Jan 14 Jennifer Lewis-Bass
Jan 21 Linda Divine
Jan 28 Jennifer Lewis-Bass

WORSHIP HOUR

Jan 07 Bob & Helen Tipton
Jan 14 Bill Dawkins
Jan 21 Stephen Bass
Jan 28 Don Hines

DEACON OF THE WEEK

Jan 07 Clay Mason
Jan 14 Laura Columbia
Jan 21 Vicky Mitchell
Jan 28 Dan Shouse

CHILDREN'S WORSHIP HELPERS

INFANTS & TODDLERS

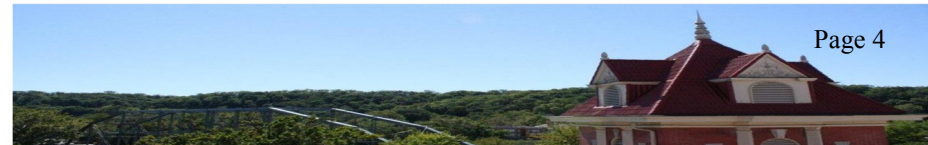
Jan 07 Mayes
Jan 14 Frost
Jan 21 Hope Mitchell
Jan 28 Holly Harrel

3 YR OLDS - K

Jan 07 Jenny Luscher, Elaine Allen
Jan 14 Jenny Luscher, Sarah Whitworth
Jan 21 Jenny Luscher, Emilee McCann
Jan 28 Elaine Allen

1ST- 3RD GRADE

Jan 07 Sarah Glenn Insko
Jan 14 Joretta Crowe
Jan 21 Glenn Thomas
Jan 28 Vicky Mitchell



Looking back at 2017, I want to thank all of the children, their families and volunteers for making our ministry at FBC possible. It's wonderful to work alongside you all investing in the discipleship of our children. **Thanks especially to Janice Jackson** for volunteering with children where needed and for doing much behind the scenes to support this ministry. I am very grateful!

~ Cynthia



A STUDY OF PSALMS AND DISCIPLESHIP

Begin a study of Psalms and discipleship for the New Year! We will use Eugene Peterson's book, A Long Obedience in the Same Direction: Discipleship in an Instant Society. Choose one of two groups to attend. Dwight Lovan will facilitate a group on Tuesdays at noon, beginning January 23. Erica Galyon will facilitate a group on Sundays, 4:00 - 5:30 beginning January 21. Sign up on the bulletin board or by emailing Cynthia Insko. Books, \$10 each, will be distributed before the first meeting.



SPREAD THE WORD: T-SHIRTS FOR FBC263

Let's spread the word and invite others to visit FBC in 2018. FBC263 long sleeved navy t-shirts will be available for you to order beginning January 14 - January 28. Price is \$13 per shirt and is available in adult and child sizes. A link to order and purchase will be available on Facebook and our website. Orders will also be taken in person between Bible study and worship on January 14, 21, and 28.



REEL FAITH: THE ULTIMATE GIFT

Join us Sunday, January 28, 3:00 - 5:30 pm, as we watch *The Ultimate Gift*. All are invited to view and enjoy free popcorn, drinks and discussion facilitated by Dwight Lovan. Movie summary: Jason Stevens (Drew Fuller) lives a life of wealth and privilege. When his grandfather (James Garner) dies, Jason expects to receive a hefty inheritance. Instead, however, Jason must set out on a journey of self-discovery to earn the true gift his grandfather meant for him to have. Along the way, Jason befriends a dying girl (Abigail Breslin) and her mother (Ali Hillis) and learns what is really important in life.



DAVE RAMSEY'S FINANCIAL PEACE UNIVERSITY

Dave Ramsey's Financial Peace University Workshop will be offered at First Baptist beginning January 21. This 9 week session will run each week from 4:00 - 5:30 pm. In order to register, you must turn in to the office the following items: your name, an accurate email address, and your registration fee (checks made out to FBC). PLEASE NOTE: If you are a member of FBC's congregation or an FBC Sunday School member, your registration fee is \$75. All other community members wishing to attend the workshops at FBC must pay the full price of \$129. You will not be registered until payment is received.



GLOBAL WOMEN

The next Global Women meeting is Monday, January 8, 6:00 - 7:30 pm in fellowship hall. We will hear from our Mission Frankfort Clinic director, Dana Nickles about the work of this important ministry. If you have not previously attended Global Women, join us in 2018!

If you would like to bring salad or sandwiches to share, contact Cynthia Insko.

CHILDREN AND YOUTH VOLUNTEER LUNCH AND TRAINING

Our church has adopted an updated Emergency Operating guideline. In the new year, we will begin training everyone in the new guidelines, starting with those who volunteer with our young people. It is vital we are all trained and informed. If you are a volunteer in our youth or children's ministry, please mark your calendar for January 21 and plan to stay after worship for training and lunch.



The word THANKFUL is not enough to say about the last 10 years I have been with First Baptist. All of the staff, members and others who I have had the pleasure of working with have been so kind to me. I have been blessed immensely to have worked for such a wonderful and caring church. I will miss all of the kind people who have made my employment a joy for all the years I have been here. I pray for wonderful and exciting things to happen in the future for First Baptist.

- Janice Jackson

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
 201 St. Clair
 Frankfort, KY 40601
 Office: 502.227.4528
 Fax: 502.227.4520
 www.fbcfrankfort.org
 E-mail: info@fbcfrankfort.org

Dr. Robert F. Browning
 Pastor
 rbrowning@fbcfrankfort.org

Rev. Richard Summers
 Minister of Music & Administration
 rsommers@fbcfrankfort.org

Dr. Keith Felton
 Minister of Missions
 kfelton@fbcfrankfort.org

Rev. Cynthia Williams Insko
 Minister of Children
 & Spiritual Formation
 cynthia.insko@gmail.com

Rev. Clint Walker
 Youth Minister
 cwalker@fbcfrankfort.org

Jenny Luscher
 Children's Ministry Associate
 jlusch@gmail.com

Kara Johnson
 Office Manager
 kjohnson@fbcfrankfort.org

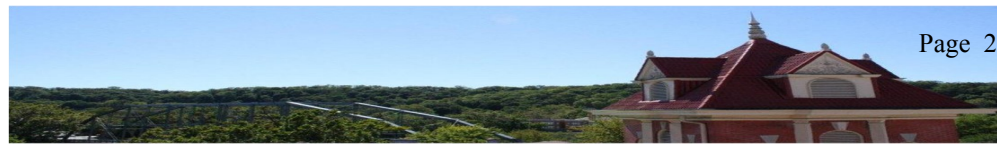
Linda McKinley
 Organist

Lois Summers
 Pianist

Timmy Campbell
 Preschool Director

Anthony Hager
 Building Superintendent

Michael Quincy
 Assistant Custodian



Though this is the January 2018 edition of the Bridge, it is written and mailed in December of 2017.

So before turning our attention to a New Year allow me to wish for you your most blessed Christmas to date! I pray it will be filled with awe as you contemplate Immanuel, God with us! I hope it is filled with wonder as you visualize the events of that first Christmas with angels, shepherds, animals, young parents, and of course, God veiled in the flesh of an infant! I also hope it is filled with music, for I believe as you contemplate such things music will swell up in your soul as carols come to mind proclaiming the Holy birth! Merry Christmas! May each of us continue the work of Christmas in our daily lives.

Blessed New Year! Doesn't have the same ring as Happy New Year, but my prayer for you is to be blessed and to bless others. In doing so, I believe you will find an inner happiness and great peace!

I have a large desk calendar. Every month I tear off a page to reveal the next month. It is where I write down appoint-

ments and reminders. Each month I see a blank page, but by the end of the month it is a scribbled mess of notes and appointments. With the turning of the calendar this month we have a whole year of blank pages! What will it hold? Of what will we look back on in December next year and smile? Of what will we look back on and cry? What new adventure will we have embarked on? Well I can't even guess the first two, but I can give you some ideas on the third. How about joining a music ministry team and sharing and developing your talents? How about volunteering in the clinic or clothes closet? There are adventures awaiting for you in your church. These adventures will not only help others, they will also change your life. Why not make 2018 the year you begin a new ministry? I hope to see you!

Janice Jackson has been a faithful servant for over ten years in our office as Office Manager. She is retiring December 31. I am thankful for all she has done and hope you will join me in expressing to her our deepest thanks! She has ministered well! As she retires, we welcome Kara Johnson as our new Office Manager. Please welcome her warmly!



On December 5, the Board of **EMMA QUIRE MISSION CENTER** met and made some important decisions. Many of you know our roof at the center is in need of replacing. We are excited to announce that a new metal roof will be in place in the near future – hopefully before any severe winter weather hits. The money has been raised and a local construction crew has offered to install the roof for free. We also approved the launch of a **NEW WEBSITE** for the EQMC – www.emmaquiremc.org – There will be many benefits to having our own site. We will have a way to donate online and information on how churches can set up a mission trip to be a part of the work in Owsley County. Vanessa Garland (EQMC Director) reported that **35 teams from 13 different states** served through the center in 2017. Join us in praising God for continuing to bless the transformative work of the EQMC.

I want to say **THANK YOU** to all who have been involved in our **CHRISTMAS TOY STORE**. At the halfway mark, we already had served almost as many as we did all of last year! In 2016, we helped over 340 children and with two more Wednesdays left, we have served over 320!! Thank you for donating. God is doing amazing things through you.

As a Pastor in Texas for ten years, I had the benefit of having two of the finest Office Managers a minister could imagine. I know the value of a competent person in this position. For the past two years, I've had the privilege of serving alongside our FBC Office Manager, **JANICE JACKSON**. She is more than competent. She is extraordinary. Even though I've only been here for two of her ten years, I realize just how special she is. **Janice, you will be missed and we are extremely grateful for your service to FBC and ultimately to our Lord.**

- Keith Felton



Merry Christmas!

I hope you and your family have a wonderful time as you gather on Christmas Day to celebrate the birth of our Savior. Make the most of your festivities by focusing upon people, not things, and by making everyone feel special. Express your appreciation to those sitting around your table or beautifully decorated tree and let them know how important they are to you.

Ask them to join you in thanking God for the gifts of abundant and eternal life through Christ our Lord. Let God know how grateful you are for faith, family and friends. Ask God to guide you as you seek to reflect His heart in all you do and serve Him with all you have throughout the Christmas season and into the New Year.

Decorations

I want to thank everyone who has had a part in decorating our building for the holidays. Everywhere I go throughout our facility, I see the results of your careful planning and creativity. These decorations have brought a smile to my face and warmed my heart. Thanks for doing this, not only for me, but for all our members and guests.

Janice Jackson

I speak for all of us in thanking Janice for ten years of faithful service as our Administrative Assistant. She has served us well, often going above and beyond the call of duty. May God bless Janice and Seldon as they transition to different schedules and activities.

Stewardship

Thank you for supporting our ministries to people by being faithful stewards. Your generosity means so much to me.

Throughout the entire year, we have reached out to neighbors near and far who were struggling to survive, and working together we have made hope visible in a variety of ways. Untold numbers of people have received medical attention, clothes, food, shelter, transportation, Christmas toys and encouragement as a result of the compassion and generosity of our faith community. Many, including our own members, have benefited from what they have learned through Bible and book studies.

I don't know a church in Central Kentucky whose impact on its community is greater. Our priority is people, meeting their spiritual, physical, mental and emotional needs. We love God by serving others, which is what Jesus did. How grateful I am to be the pastor of a church that understands this.

Help us to finish strong financially as we close out this year so we can serve more people, especially in the bitter cold weeks ahead. Many will look to us for assistance. We must not turn them away and let them down.

Don't forget our website now makes it possible for you to give on-line. Mention this to family members and friends who wish to support our ministries, especially those who live out of town, and ask them to make a donation in honor or memory of someone.

Thank you for your friendship and faithfulness. Worshiping and serving God alongside each one of you is a joy and honor. Jackie and I speak often of your dedication and wonderful, warm spirits. May the time you spend with family and friends in the final days of this year be everything you hope they will be and draw you even closer to God.

Merry Christmas!

Bob

