



FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

THE TIE

**JANUARY
2020
SPECIAL
EDITION**

**300 West Main St
Laurens, SC 29360
864 984-7500
fbclaurens.org**

MINISTER ON CALL

Dec 30-Jan 5

Rickey Letson 678-230-8341

January 6-12

Adair Rogers 864-923-1631

January 13-19

Carl Tolbert 229-798-0620

January 20-26

Tommy Cox 864-684-7424

Jan 27-Feb 2

Rickey Letson 678-230-8341

THE TIE NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION
First Baptist Church **US Postage Paid**
300 West Main St **Permit No. 70**
Laurens, SC 29360 **Laurens, SC 29360**

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

JANUARY 2020 BIRTHDAYS

- | | | | |
|---|---|---|--|
| 1. Linda Lanford
Kevin Luiz | 8. Lynda Sanders | 15. Tommy Marchman
Linda Yates
Julie Wilkie | 25. Margaret Ellison
Kimberly Martin
Jacob Griffin |
| 2. Rickey Poole | 9. Rusty Cox
Kelly Jones | 16. Buddy Crow
Laura Brown | 26. Bill Ellison
Bob Parris |
| 3. Jeff Owings | 10. Patricia Mahon | 17. Jackie Coggins
Sid Lee | 27. Dave Fowler |
| 4. Don McIntyre | 11. Peter Lindley
Will Henry Rinaca
Bob Sumerel | 18. Nolan Burns
Hatchell Hardy | 28. Loraine Woodson |
| 5. Albert Sharp
Wanda Strawhorn
Kim Roberson
Taylor Culbertson
Wells Croker
Feagin Hardy | 12. Blanche Pulley
Corey Munden | 19. Margaret Crews
Seth Crow | 30. Pat Leopard
Christian Griffin
Lance Putnam |
| 6. Ann Marie Letson
Claudia Monroy | 13. J.C. Byers
Kathy Crotts
Kaley Bridgeman | 20. Eloise Hughes | 31. Ruth Garrett
David Crotts |
| 7. Carroll Thompson
Nathan Lindley | 14. Nell Aiken | 21. Janet Garrett | |
| | 15. Buddy Hudson
Julia Craig
Wayland Sherman | 23. Jimmy Garrett | |
| | | 24. Neal Culbertson | |

JANUARY AT FBC

January 1	Church Offices Closed for New Year's
January 4	Family Promise Training at FBC
January 5	Youth to Swamp Rabbits Hockey
January 8	Wednesday Night Meal & Activities Resume
January 9	Winter Grief Group Starts
January 12	Sunday Night Groups Restart
January 14	Tuesday Men's Groups Resume
January 17-19	Winter Youth Retreat
January 23	FBC Book Group

WORSHIP IN JANUARY AT FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

January 5	<i>Wise Actions for a New Year</i>	Matthew 2:1-12
	<u>Learning from the Life of Joseph</u>	
January 12	<i>When Life Is All About Us</i>	Genesis 37:1-17
January 19	<i>Honesty Spoken Here</i>	Genesis 37:18-36
January 26	<i>Forgotten</i>	Genesis 39:19-40:23

January Opportunity for Children

- January 7 & 8 FBCK students return to school
- January 8 Wednesday night activities restart
- January 14 Music Makers restart
- January 20 No School at FBCK (MLK Jr. Day)

Youth News

- Sunday, January 5: **Swamp Rabbits Hockey Game @ 3:00.** Don't miss one exciting night of watching our Greenville Swamp Rabbits play. Cost of this event will be \$12. Tickets are limited so sign up with Carl ASAP.
- Sunday, January 12: **Parent Informational Meeting @ 4:50** in the Youth Room. All parents are invited to come and discuss the calendar for the rest of the school year and summer. We will also discuss what is planned for D6 Parenting Seminars. Fuge signups and payments will begin. Fuge is expensive and many times it's easier to pay a little at a time.
- January 17-19: **Winter Retreat.** This year's theme will be *Undivided* as we seek to figure out what it means to "Love God with All Our Heart". So many times in life, we find ourselves very busy and find that we give ourselves to so many things that we can only spare a little bit of our hearts to God. Students will be boldly challenged to pursue Christ with a single-minded devotion, while discovering that the only love worth giving God is an undivided one. Cost will be \$100 and please sign up by Wednesday, January 8th.

2020 ADULT STUDIES

Beginning Wednesday, January 8, 2020

The Rest of the Joseph Story: In Worship in January & February, we will be focusing on the life of Joseph as found in Genesis. On Wednesday nights we'll continue the story with many of the other Joseph passages which we will not study in worship. Join us from 6-6:50pm in Bobo Hall. Rickey will lead.

The Miracles of Jesus: This 10-week study will focus on take a closer look at some of the miracles of Jesus and the significance that they still hold for our lives today. Tommy Cox will lead this study each week at 6:00pm in the Conference Room.

Beginning Sunday, January 12, 2020

Love Over Fear: Join us for a small group book discussion on Sunday nights of Dan White's work *Love Over Fear* which helps us to understand how to love others who are unlike us despite our reservations. David Corley, Philip Dean, John Topping and Rickey Letson will lead the discussion. Books are \$10 each and will be available in the class.

Men's Group 2020 Restart!

Our Men's Groups will resume on Sunday, January 12. Our next book will be *Going Deep: Becoming a Person of Influence* by Gordan MacDonald. Our groups will meet on Sundays at 6:00pm in the Fireside Room (beginning January 12), Tuesdays at 7:00am in the Conference Room and 12:00pm at Martha Franks in the Conference Room (beginning January 14). The new year offers a new opportunity to get involved with our men's studies, so make plans now to join us

January Book Group - Gilead

Join us Thursday evening, January 23rd at 7pm for a discussion of Marilynne Robinson's *Gilead* which won the 2004 Pulitzer Prize for fiction. The story follows an aging Congregational Minister in 1950s Iowa as he tells his families' story from the Civil War to the present. Purchase your own copy, enjoy the read and join us on the 23rd.

December 20, 2019

First Baptist Church Family,

As 2019 comes to a close, we wanted to update you on the progress of our Capital Campaign from both a project and financial standpoint.

As it relates to the work being done, we fully expect that Phase II, which includes children's, adult and music classrooms will be completed by the early part of January. Unless something unforeseen happens, we plan to open the space and fully use all of the rooms in Phase II on the first Sunday in February, 2020.

In terms of the financial side of the Capital Campaign, let us begin by thanking you as a congregation for your faithful giving and commitment to the pledges that we all made in 2018. We are almost two years into the official giving cycle for the campaign and to date we have received \$1.35 million of the \$1.9 million in pledges that were made. This puts us right on track and we feel confident that as we near the spring of 2021 when the campaign ends that we will reach our goal. Having said that, we have arrived at a point at which our expenditures for the campaign have now outpaced our receipts.

As we close out the Phase II work, we will make the final payments by using money in reserves that we will loan to ourselves. The positive here is that we will be able to finish the work without taking out any type of a loan. Likewise, it is also a very positive thing to note that the money that we will borrow from reserves can be used without any real effect on programs or ministries. Throughout 2020, as contributions to the Capital Campaign continue to come in, and as we all fulfill our pledges, we will pay ourselves back and fully restore all borrowed funds.

This reality has led our Financial leaders, Campaign Steering Committee and our Deacons to make a very sound decision as it relates to the last phase of work which is the remodeling of Easterby Chapel. At the end of Phase II, we will pause the Capital Campaign work. This will give us time to pay all remaining bills, to restore reserve accounts from which we borrowed and to allow the final Capital Campaign pledges to be fulfilled. Our hope is that as these things happen, we will eventually be able to resume the work and finish our overall master plan by renovating Easterby Chapel. By pausing at this time, however, we believe that we can prepare for this final phase in the most cautious, prudent and financially responsible way possible.

As we did with Phase I, we want to celebrate the completion of Phase II and to invite you to tour the space. On Sunday, February 9, we will have lunch in the FLC after worship. Along with the meal, the rooms in Phase II will be open for you to walk through and see the work that has been completed. We encourage you to go ahead and mark your calendars and plan to stay after church that day for this special time together.

I hope you join us in celebrating the amazing things we have been able to accomplish in the life of our church this year. The significant renovations and improvements that have been made through your generosity have us very well positioned for the days ahead. We are thankful to God to be able to serve alongside of each of you through the life of our church.


Rickey Letson
Senior Minister


Jeff Thompson
Chair, Fellowship of Deacons