

JANUARY 2024 | ISSUE
THE BRIDGE

A FAITH FAMILY NEWSLETTER
FOR FBC FRANKLINTON

What a wonderful celebration of Christmas in 2023! God has moved in a mighty way as we drew closer to the Lord!

Now, as we look forward to what God is going to do in our midst in 2024, I encourage you to renew your commitment to the Lord and church attendance in the new year.

We are thrilled that Dr. Greg Wilton is going to challenge our youth on Wednesday nights. Dr. Wilton is the Dean of Leavell College and a chaplain for the New Orleans Saints.

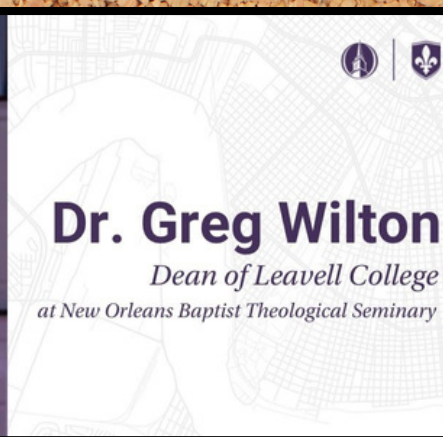
I am going to begin a new series of messages focused on the study of one book of the Bible per Sunday. We will begin with Genesis on January 7, 2024, and work our way through Revelation, God willing.

IN HIM, *Dr. Jake*



FIRST
BAPTIST
CHURCH
Franklinton

Jake Roudkovski,
Transitional Pastor
jaker@nobts.edu



ABOUT DR. GREG WILTON:

DR. GREG WILTON HAS SERVED IN A VARIETY OF CONTEXTS, FROM THE FRENCH QUARTER TO SOUTHEAST ASIA, FROM A SMALL CHURCH PASTOR IN LOUISIANA TO A LARGE CHURCH MISSIONS PASTOR IN TENNESSEE. GREG MINISTERED CROSS-CULTURALLY IN SOUTHEAST ASIA WITH THE INTERNATIONAL MISSIONS BOARD WHILE ALSO TEACHING AT A LOCAL SEMINARY. WITH THE NORTH AMERICAN MISSION BOARD, GREG SERVED AS THE NATIONAL CARE FOR REFUGEES DIRECTOR WHILE ALSO DIRECTING A MINISTRY CENTER IN CLARKSTON, GEORGIA, FOR SEND RELIEF. HE AND HIS WIFE, ABBY, HAVE FOUR CHILDREN.

DR. WILTON WAS BORN IN NEW ORLEANS AND SPENT HIS FIRST 11 YEARS ON THE NOBTS CAMPUS WHILE HIS FATHER STUDIED AT THE SEMINARY AND SERVED ON THE FACULTY. AFTER COMPLETING A BACHELOR'S DEGREE AT SAMFORD UNIVERSITY, DR. WILTON RETURNED TO CAMPUS AS A STUDENT IN 2006. HE EARNED THREE DEGREES FROM NOBTS (THE MASTER OF ARTS IN MISSIOLOGY, THE MASTER OF THEOLOGY, AND THE DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY) DURING DR. WILTON'S TIME AS A STUDENT IN NEW ORLEANS, HE PASTORED TWO DIFFERENT CHURCHES AND SERVED WITH THE SEMINARY'S MISSION LAB PROGRAM.

COME JOIN US ON SUNDAY, JANUARY 7TH, 2024, TO HEAR DR. GREG WILTON PREACH. HE WILL BEGIN AS OUR NEW YOUTH TEACHER ON WEDNESDAY NIGHTS STARTING JANUARY 10TH, 2024. LET'S GIVE HIM A WARM WELCOME AS HE COMES IN TO WORK WITH OUR YOUTH. THE PREACHING TIME WILL BE DETERMINED BASED ON THE NEW ORLEANS SAINTS GAME. SO STAY TUNED FOR THE TIME!

*Draw near
to God, and
He will
draw near
to you.*

- James 4:8



You've probably heard the story of the couple that was driving down the road one day just reminiscing. They were middle-aged and had been married for several years. As they rode and contemplated their years together, the wife asked, "Do you remember when we were young? We used to sit so close riding down the road that you couldn't get anything between us." The husband then looked at her and replied, "Well, honey, I haven't moved."

As we begin a new year, we often contemplate the previous years and wonder how the new year will be. Many of us will think of resolutions and things we'd like to change. In a survey done with over 1,000 adults in various parts of the United States, 90 percent said that they wanted a closer relationship with God. Most of us know that we need to be closer to God, but we lack the resolve to embrace the issue and do something about it. At the beginning of the new year, let's take a look at our walk with God.

This is a great time to pause at the beginning of the year to consider who moved in our relationship with God. Like the husband in the car, we know from His Word that God hasn't moved. He has promised never to leave us or forsake us. Maybe it's the stuff crowding our lives that has robbed us of a close relationship with the Lord. It could be the problems and challenges in our lives that have pulled our focus away from God. Or what about the hard knocks of life, the daily grind of living, and the disappointments in our lives that may have brought some cynicism to our hearts?

Whatever the situation, God loves us and draws us to love Him with all of our heart, soul, mind, and strength. He deserves the first fruits of our lives, not the leftovers. So, how do we navigate the changes necessary to bring intimacy with God back in our walk with Him? A good place to begin is by giving the Lord the first of our day in quiet time with Him, giving Him the first of our week worshipping Him with fellow believers, giving God the first of our resources tithing to His church, and giving to others and the first of our energy and passion serving God and ministering to those in need.

Preparing for a fresh move of God in our lives involves the willingness to change, the desire to be closer to God, and the tenacity to adopt a spiritual plan and stick with it. God will bless our efforts and our new year. We don't need more resolutions. We need more resolve to do what we know we need to do. There's an old hymn that goes, "I am resolved no longer to linger, charmed by the world's delight, things that are higher, things that are nobler, these have allured my sight. I will hasten to Him, hasten so glad and free; Jesus, greatest, highest, I will come to Thee." Let's resolve to move closer to the Lord.

-Bro. Joey

SAM ADULT 55+ LUNCHEON EVENTS

- **JANUARY LUNCHEON** - WE WILL TAKE A LITTLE ROAD TRIP THIS MONTH TO MIKE'S CATFISH FOR OUR LUNCHEON. THE DATE IS FRIDAY, JANUARY 5. THE BUS WILL LEAVE FIRST BAPTIST AT 10:30 A.M. DON'T FORGET TO SIGN UP SO WE CAN ARRANGE TRANSPORTATION. JOIN US FOR THIS FUN TIME OF FELLOWSHIP TOGETHER.
- **FEBRUARY LUNCHEON** - OUR FEBRUARY LUNCHEON WILL BE A POTLUCK EVENT IN THE FBC FAMILY LIFE CENTER ON FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 2, 2024. BRING YOUR FAVORITE SIDE DISH, SALAD, OR DESSERT. THE MEAT, DRINKS, AND ROLLS WILL BE PROVIDED. JASON GARBO WILL BE OUR GUEST, ALONG WITH OUR NEW ACTING DISTRICT ATTORNEY. INVITE A FRIEND TO ENJOY THE FELLOWSHIP WITH US.

NURSING HOME WORSHIP SERVICES

THANKS TO ALL OF YOU WHO JOIN US AT THE NURSING HOME WORSHIP SERVICES. THEY ARE SO APPRECIATIVE OF YOUR COMING. BELOW IS THE SCHEDULE FOR JANUARY:



GOOD SAMARITAN - MONDAY, JANUARY 8 @ 3:00 P.M.
HERITAGE MANOR - MONDAY, JANUARY 22 @ 3:00 P.M.



FBC KIDS MINISTRY

Welcome to the New Year! I hope your Christmas was a blessed one, AND I hope you have that new calendar ready to go! We've got some important dates to discuss, and you will want to go ahead and write them in!

First, during the month of January, beginning *January 10th*, we will be previewing a new midweek curriculum called *Hyfi*. I have numerous friends across the state who have been using it, and they love it. Most of them previously used Team KID and made the transition about a year ago. It is a media-rich resource that teaches the truths of Scripture in a way that helps kids understand their true identity in Christ. Each month, we will learn one of 12 biblical truths through sound content and a clear picture of Jesus and the gospel. We will continue to meet on Wednesdays at 6 p.m. upstairs in the Children's Bldg. for Grades 1-6 and downstairs in the Preschool Dept. in Rm. A. But that's not all that's going on Wednesday evenings! At 5:30 p.m., the Half Notes and Joyful Noise Choirs will continue to meet in their respective areas. Preschoolers will continue learning about God, Jesus, and the Bible through music and movement with Mrs. Toni and Mrs. Anita in Rm. F of the Preschool Dept. First - Sixth Graders will meet with me upstairs in Rm. 310. And even though it's just January, it won't be long till we are working on music for Easter!

***Please note that there are no Wednesday night activities on Wednesday, January 3rd.**

Now, let's look further into the future! As I am writing this, it is a cold and rainy day. But the warm days of summer will be here before we know it. Summer means two things – *VBS and CentriKid!* Put down that pencil and grab a Sharpie to mark these dates down –you aren't going to want to miss these at all!

- Kelly McElveen 

- **Vacation Bible School: Monday, June 3rd – Friday, June 7th, from 8:30 a.m. until 12 noon.** I have a limited amount of space, so my enthusiasm for VBS will have to wait till next month. But be prepared – **I LOVE VBS!**
- **CentriKid: Monday, July 15th – Friday, July 19th** at Louisiana Christian University, Pineville. **Cost: \$365 (A deposit of \$100 is due Tuesday, February 6th).** I have 35 spots reserved for kids currently in 3rd – 6th grades and chaperones. Let's plan to be wowed at CentriKid's 2024 amusement park-themed camp, Wow Factor, focusing on the great gifts God has given us. Cost includes all camp fees, a team color OMC shirt, and a fun "Camp Prep" the day prior to camp. We plan to have at least one fundraiser to help offset the expense of camp. See me to sign up, or you can email me at fbc.kids@fbcfranklinton.org.

"See what great love the Father has given us that we should be called God's children – and we are!"
–1 John 3:1a

IMPORTANT INFO



January Wee Worship Volunteers:

- **7th: Mike Phelps**
- **14th: Kristi Crain**
- **21st: Haley Milton**
- **28th: Kelly McElveen**

We ♥ our Volunteers

thank you

Last, but certainly not least, join me in wishing a **VERY Happy January Birthday** to these FBC Kids & Leaders:

- 7th: Mason K.
- 7th: Scarlett L.
- 9th: Mila S.
- 15th: Mr. Scott
- 16th: Annie Mae W.
- 18th: Ashton C.



Committee

Training Class/Meeting

January 14, 2024

4:45 p.m.

Meet in the Family Life Center

Sunday School

Teacher Meeting

January 21, 2024

4:45 p.m.

Meet in the Family Life Center



FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

franklinton

(985) 839-3427 OFFICE

SERVICE TIMES

Sundays

Worship Services

8:15 a.m., 10:45 a.m. & 6:00 p.m.

Bible Study

9:30 a.m.

Choir Practice

4:30 p.m.

Wednesdays

Wednesday Night Supper

5:00 p.m.

Half Notes/Joyful Noise

Preschool & Children

Choir Practice

5:30 p.m.

Preschool, Children,

Youth Activities

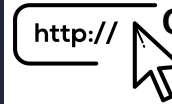
6:00 p.m.

Ladies Bible Study

6:00 p.m.

Prayer Meeting

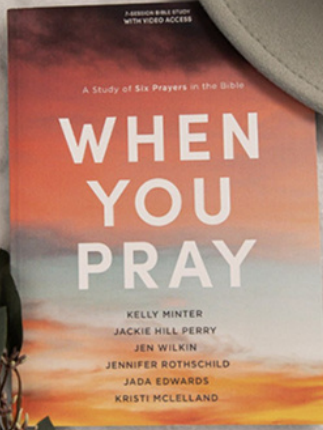
6:00 p.m.



<http://>

CHECK OUT OUR
WEBSITE AT

WWW.FBCFRANKLINTON.ORG



STARTING:
JANUARY
28TH, 2024

AT 4:30 P.M.

MEETING
IN THE
SISTERS
SUNDAY
SCHOOL
CLASS

JOIN US FOR THIS
7-SESSION STUDY
OF SIX PRAYERS
IN THE BIBLE.

January Wednesday Night Suppers

3- NO SUPPER
HAPPY NEW YEAR

10 - GROUP C
SPAGHETTI & MEATBALLS

17- GROUP D
COUNTRY FRIED STEAK

24 - GROUP E
JAMBALAYA

31- GROUP A
HAMBURGERS



FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

950 SELF STREET

FRANKLINTON, LA 70438

PRSR STD
NONPROFIT
ORGANIZATION
US POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT NO. 27