

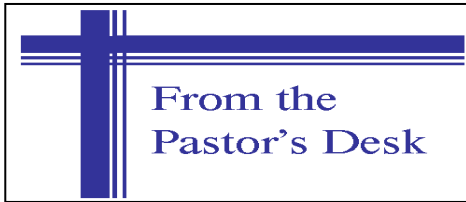


# THE MESSENGER

Discover A Place to Call Home

DECEMBER 2018

Volume 1, Issue 78



I find sharing what is on my heart (what I am thinking, feeling and contemplating doing) difficult mainly because while something may be important to me (thus, my “heart”), it may not be to you.

One of the things “on my heart” is the Church. And not just Jan Lee Baptist Church, but the Church in general, and in America and the west specifically. The Church in Africa, Asia, and South America is alive, vibrant and growing, yet in Europe, the church is almost dead. Are we headed there in America? And if it is, does it matter? And not just because I am a pastor, but because I am a member of the “Body of Christ” and if the “Body” dies, does a part of me die?

For almost 30 years I have been carrying around a little book called “New Life for Your Church – A Renewal Handbook for Pastors” by Doyle Young. Dr. Young was a young church history professor at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary and had an impact on me as a pastor, a churchman, and a Christian. What I appreciated about him was he was dealing with some of the same questions I was, in regard to the church and didn’t give pat answers to those questions. Some he asked and didn’t even answer.

I do not believe it is in print anymore, but over the coming months, I want to share some of the things he shared in his book in a section called

“Principles that Shape Church Life.”

*If we dare to call ourselves and our churches “Christian” then a fundamental principle must*

*be that, whatever it cost or how we feel about our situation, we will be obedient to Christ.*

*In the evangelical tradition we have emphasized this, the commitment side of Christianity. most of our worship services culminate in the invitation to commitment. Our smug criticism of other denominations (rather than being theological) is usually “that those people aren’t really committed.” In our circles, the medieval monastics have been replaced as the models of commitment and devotion by missionaries: “Those people are really serious.”*

*I suppose it is a good thing that we so often mention and evaluate commitment (though Robert Webber warns us against church services becoming a celebration of our commitment rather than of Christ). I do sometimes grow weary of being harangued almost weekly to be more committed, though on the other hand I sometimes need to hear it.*

*But regardless of feelings about it, obedience to Christ is both the beginning and the bottom line of Christian life. It is not optional, and there are no sabbaticals granted. If we are to follow Christ, then we must deny ourselves, take up our cross daily, and follow him (Luke 9:23). Jesus said that we are his friends if we do what he commands (John 15:14).*

*This is basically a matter of attitude or intention. We determined that - come what may - we will be obedient to the Lord.*

*In the city where I work there is a university, Texas Christian University. in the early 1980s, a new head football coach, Jim Wacker, took over*

*the football program. A Christian man with a vibrant personality, he revitalized the program at TCU within a couple of years. From being the Southwest Conference doormat, TCU became a contender for the conference championship. Then, at the beginning of the 1985 season, Coach Wacker learned that several starters on his team, including a Heisman Trophy candidate running back, had been illegally recruited and had accepted money to come to TCU. Wacker himself called in the NCAA investigators and put the players off the team. In the next two seasons, TCU again became the doormat of the conference. The great comeback was lost. The momentum TCU had achieved was gone. Coach Wacker was asked at a civic club luncheon if it had been a very difficult decision to reveal the illegalities in calling the NCAA. He replied, “No, it was not a difficult decision. I made that decision years ago.” He had years before decided that his athletic programs were run according to the rules, even if it were difficult.*

*This is what the church, what your (JLBC) church must decide. We must be obedient to Christ, period. We cannot debate being obedient in light of every new situation. We cannot calculate how it will hurt our congregation, then decide about obedience. The first principle must already be set: we will be obedient to Christ. If this is not firmly established, set in concrete, then we can forget all the rest.*

*(D. Young, “New Life for Your Church – A Renewal Guide for Pastors” Baker Book House, Grand Rapids, MI, 1989, pp. 58-59)*

~Pastor Mark



Thank you all for supporting the Angel Tree for Evergreen Residents. Also, we are looking for volunteers for a Spring Community Service Project. In the past, we have done minor repairs on homes, yard work, or minor paint jobs for individuals who were unable to do it themselves. A date has not yet been set, but if you are interested in volunteering or have ideas on ways to help, please contact Steve & Ida Jones.

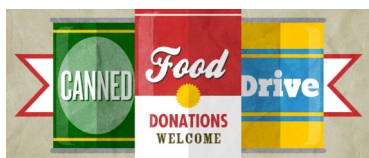
Thank you,  
Steve & Ida



**Rathgeber House Report**

Thank you, Married Couples Class for the delicious Thanksgiving meal for Rathgeber. The guests staying there always appreciate home cooked food.

Thank you,  
Fran Koch



We collected 45 pounds of food for Grace Ministries in November. We will be collecting Cornbread Mix & 1 pound bags of pinto beans for the month of December.

Thank you,  
Steve & Ida Jones



**ADULT CHOIR PRACTICE  
SUNDAY, DEC 2ND AT 4PM**



**FAMILY BUSINESS MEETING  
DECEMBER 12TH AT 7PM  
JLBC FELLOWSHIP HALL**



**DINNER & AUCTION  
DECEMBER 15TH AT 5:30 PM  
OUR 2018 GOAL IS \$2500**

**IF POSSIBLE, PLEASE BRING ANY DONATED AUCTION ITEMS TO THE CHURCH OFFICE PRIOR TO DECEMBER 13TH. SIGN UP SHEET FOR THE DINNER IS IN THE CHURCH FOYER. WE WILL BE SERVING OLIVE GARDEN SOUP, SALAD, & BREADSTICKS. THE COST IS \$7 PER ADULT AND \$4 PER CHILD.**



**DEACONS' MEETING  
DECEMBER 16TH AT 4PM**



**TEAM KIDS CHOIR PERFORMANCE  
DECEMBER 2ND AT 6PM  
THERE WILL BE A CAKE & PUNCH RECEPTION AFTERWARDS IN THE FELLOWSHIP HALL.**

**ADULT CHOIR PERFORMANCE  
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 9TH AT 6PM**



**OFFICES WILL BE CLOSED ON DEC 24 & 25. PASTOR MARK WILL WORK VARIED HOURS ON DEC 26 & 27.**



**MEETING MINUTES**

JLBC Family Business Meeting was held on November 14th. It was brought up that there are Blessing Boxes stationed throughout the town for nonperishable food. It is a take what you need, leave what you can opportunity to share with those less fortunate. The Prayer Team invites everyone to join them at 8:45am on the first Sunday of each month to pray together. The Security Team met to discuss ways to prepare for an active shooter situation. There will be a CRASE Class held on January 16th at 6pm for all church members. New choral risers were purchased for the children's program. The goal for the 2018 Lottie Moon offering is \$2500.



**Ushers for December  
Jaron Hopkins, Brad Adcock,  
Josh Dulek, & T. E. Amos**

**PASTOR & DEACONS**

Please feel free to call any of us at any time.

- |                 |          |
|-----------------|----------|
| Mark Simons     | 569-3534 |
| Rick Griffin    | 569-4460 |
| Bill Lindenborn | 781-2504 |
| Marvin Maherg   | 569-4702 |
| Robert Ritter   | 569-4084 |

**MARK SIMONS – PASTOR**

[jlbcburk@gmail.com](mailto:jlbcburk@gmail.com)  
[www.jlbcburk.com](http://www.jlbcburk.com)

Office hours: 8:30 AM – 3:30 PM  
Monday – Thursday  
Located on Kramer Rd across from Burkburnett High School

# DECEMBER 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2  BAPTISM SERVICES 11 AM CHILDREN'S CHOIR 6PM	3	4  LADIES PRAYER & BLANKET GROUP 1 PM	5  PRAYER 5:00 PM MEAL 5:30 PM WORSHIP 6:00 PM	6  7:30 PM	7	8
9  BAPTISM SERVICES 11 AM ADULT CHOIR 6PM	10	11  LADIES PRAYER & BLANKET GROUP 1 PM	12  PRAYER 5 PM MEAL 5:30 PM CLASS 6 PM BUS. MEETING 7PM	13	14	15  DINNER & AUCTION 5:30 PM JLBC FELLOWSHIP HALL
16  DEACONS' MEETING 4PM	17	18  LADIES PRAYER & BLANKET GROUP 1 PM	19 NO WEDNESDAY NIGHT SERVICES	20  NEWSLETTER ARTICLES DUE	21	22
23  LORD'S SUPPER 6 PM	24  OFFICES CLOSED	25  OFFICES CLOSED	26 OFFICES CLOSED & NO WEDNESDAY NIGHT SERVICES	27 OFFICES CLOSED	28	29
30 	31					

### November 2018 Sunday School Attendance Record

Nov 4	65
Nov 11	47
Nov 18	53
Nov 25	58

*Average Attendance: 56*

*Average based on 4 Sundays*

### November 2018 Financial Report

Tithes	\$11,878.13
Estimated monthly budget needs for 2018 - 2019	\$14,562.12
Designated	\$20,725.00



### December 2018 Deacon of the Week

Dec 3-9	Rick Griffin
Dec 10-16	Bill Lindenborn
Dec 17-23	Marvin Maherg
Dec 24-30	Robert Ritter
Dec 31- Jan 6	Rick Griffin

### Prayer Chain

If you have an e-mail address and desire to be on the prayer chain, please call the church office with your email information.

**Questions? Call Jennifer @ 569-1211**

We're on the web!

[www.jlbcburk.com](http://www.jlbcburk.com)

### Jan Lee Baptist Church

SUNDAY SCHOOL	9:30 AM
MORNING SERVICE	11:00 AM
ADULT CHOIR PRACTICE	5:00 PM

#### MIDWEEK RENEWAL SERVICE

PRAYER	5:00 PM
MEAL	5:30 PM
ADULT BIBLE STUDY	6:00 PM
YOUTH FELLOWSHIP	6:00 PM



Jan Lee Baptist Church  
1004 Jan Lee Drive  
Burkburnett, TX 76354

Mark Simons, Pastor  
Jennifer Naas, Ministry Assistant  
Email: [jlbcburk@gmail.com](mailto:jlbcburk@gmail.com)  
Website: [www.jlbcburk.com](http://www.jlbcburk.com)