

What goes without being said in this chapter are the many opportunities the Israelites ignored, to repent of their transgressions and fall haplessly in His loving arms. There, in His arms, they would have found grace and forgiveness for the treacherous deeds they had committed against God. But, rather, His people eschewed and resisted the opportunities afforded them by God to avoid His wrath; thus, they all fell under His mighty hand of judgement and suffered greatly.

In spite of those who resist the opportunities afforded them by God to be blessed and enriched; and to those who are fearful of change, and thus, pass up the many opportunities sent their way, there is hope.

In the latter part of Lamentations chapter three, we discover the other side of God's character. Yes, God is a God of wrath; yet, he tempers His wrath with His love, mercy and grace. Notice verses 21-33 (TLB), *Yet there is one ray of hope: ²²His **compassion** never ends. It is only the Lord's **mercies** that have kept us from complete destruction. ²³Great is his **faithfulness**; His **loving-kindness** begins afresh each day. ²⁴My soul claims the Lord as my inheritance; therefore, I will hope in Him. ²⁵The Lord is **wonderfully good** to those who wait for Him, to those who seek for Him. ²⁶It is good both to hope and wait quietly for the salvation of the Lord. ²⁷It is good for a young man to be under discipline, ²⁸for it causes him to sit apart in silence beneath the Lord's demands, ²⁹to lie face downward in the dust; then at last, there is hope for him. ³⁰Let him turn the other cheek to those who strike him and accept their awful insults, ³¹for the Lord will not abandon him forever. ³²Although God gives him grief, yet he will show **compassion** too, according to the greatness of his **loving-kindness**. ³³For He does not enjoy afflicting men and causing sorrow.*

The intent of this newsletter is to encourage those in my audience to take hold of the opportunities offered by God, which are meant to enrich and bless our lives, family and church. Why live another year resisting and ignoring these opportunities when our heavenly Father who is rich in compassion, mercy and love and who is faithful, kind and wonderfully good wants us to live a life of joy and abundance?

With love from above,

Pastor Tim



This month, we are highlighting Linda J. Baker. Linda was born in Oakland, CA in to a family of five in **1865!**

One of the fond memories of her childhood was going to Anderson Springs, in Clear Lake, with family and friends and sleeping outdoors on the back porch under the stars.

Linda was married in the mid sixties and is the mother of two children. While raising her children, Miss Linda work at her dad's candy factory and for the San Lorenzo School District.

Linda first came to our church at the invitation of her neighbor, Elizabeth Dorizo; thank you Liz! Linda also credits her neighbor Liz with sharing the Gospel with her and leading her to the Lord. Linda, remarked "I am grateful to Elizabeth for leading her to the Lord and helping her grow as a Christian."

DECEMBER'S CHRISTMAS MUSICAL

If you missed last week's Christmas Cantata, you won't have the wonderful memories like those of us who attended Church. Oh, what a joy it was to hear the fabulous singing and music. The choir did a fabulous job with Shauna's choice of songs. A terrific job was done by all. Thanks so much, and here's to next year.

WOMAN'S COOKIE EXCHANGE

This year's woman's cookie exchange was held at Diane Varady's house. Upon entering her home, the smell of cookies and brunch permeated the air.

We all had a great time as we sat around the table to enjoy a wonderful meal, on matching china, amongst all the beautiful decorations and the wonderful company.

However, the best part of the day began when we exchanged the homemade cookies, which everyone brought to share with the group.

Pray for Our Men and Women in Uniform

Devon Henesley - Grandson of Jean Johnson
Branch - Navy **Rank** - Chief
Assignment - Japan

Brandon Woolworth - Nephew of Chery Hanna
Branch - Air Force
Assignment - Tucson, Arizona

Megan Hines - USNA - Pastor Tim's Daughter
MIDN - Megan Hines - 2nd year
1 Wilson Rd. P.O. Box 12610
Annapolis, Maryland 21412



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Sunday Services

Sunday School 9:30 am
 Morning Worship 10:45 am

Happy Birthday

Linda Furuyama	1/06
Debbie Machetta	1/10
Barbara Trimble	1/16
Caryl Shaw	1/31



First Southern Baptist Church
Newsletter

Glorifying God ~ Loving One Another ~ Reaching the World

Pastor: Tim Hines

Volume 5 Issue 1



Like most New Year's Newsletters, the introduction demands the author to refer to and reflect on the effects and impact of the previous year. With that being said, I will briefly refer to last year as a blur, as it went by so fast! Moreover, for reflection, God blessed us from His bounty of grace and love; what can I say? We are blessed! How's that for reference and reflection?

When considering what would be an appropriate message for January's Newsletter, I would be remiss not to engage my readers in a message bound by hope and encouragement. Like each new day, a new year brings opportunities across our paths. According to one's disposition, some will gladly embrace every opportunity as a chance to make a positive change in their lives or in the lives of others. Then, there are those who eschew even the smallest opportunity. They would rather revel in self-pity or bask in the comfort and security of their present condition. We cannot forget about those individuals who desire to embrace changes in their lives; yet, their fear of the unknown keeps them bound to their present circumstances. Sadly, this is a way of life for many who allow the daily, monthly and yearly opportunities pass them by without making any effort to improve their situation.

For those who avoid taking advantage of the opportunities that regularly pass us by, you are not alone. You are *not* part of a new phenomenon; rather, you are a member of a quite ancient one. To illustrate my point, let's focus our attention on the Old Testament book of Lamentations, particularly chapter three. The name of this book informs us about its genre or its main theme.

Jeremiah, the prophet of God, is found throughout this book lamenting or mourning over the plight of his people and of himself. In verses 1-20, Jeremiah describes in detail the suffering and despair, of himself and his people. After reading this passage, we discover the source of their suffering was their sin and rebellion. God's patience had been exhausted and judgment had fallen. In most cases, suffering comes upon God's children because of sin and rebellion. Like the ancient Hebrews, who were mostly stubborn and rebellious, we find ourselves in similar situations.