



First Baptist Church of Sunny Side

FOCUSING ON CHRIST

www.firstbaptistsunnyside.com

December 2018

770.227.7164

As we close out the year, the month of December offers us a chance to help young families make Christmas special for their children. As of this letter we have 8 children who are on our Angel Tree. Please prayerfully consider how God would have you participate in this ministry. If you do not wish to go purchase a gift you can make a donation to the Children's Christmas fund and an Angel shopper will go for you.

For those of us who have been Southern Baptist for a few years, we are all familiar with the Lottie Moon Christmas Fund. All monies received will go to support missionaries throughout the world. It is my prayer that our church will raise \$1,000 for Lottie Moon. Again, please pray as to how God would have you respond to this opportunity. The Lottie Moon mail box will be up and running. You can drop off your Christmas cards to fellow church members here at the church and give the postage you save to Lottie Moon.

I am pleased to announce that our church is debt free. Fifteen years ago this month we voted to purchase the 25 acres of land that surrounded our church property. We closed in April of 2004 and have been faithful to make our monthly payments and have been able to payoff the note early. That's the good news. The not so good news is that we will need to continue our faithful giving to the building fund in order to pay for costly repairs that need to be addressed. God has been good and you have been faithful, and I am confident we will be able to replace HVAC, repair plumbing and resurface the parking lot in the near future.

And while maintaining the building is necessary, it really is not very exciting or life changing. Two things that God has laid on my heart are: we are still evaluating the opportunity to make a difference in people's lives with a homeless ministry. Please continue to pray for God's guidance. The other opportunity is what I call Biblical Life Coaching. More information will be coming in the near future.

God Bless, Joel

Do you know a local family that we can help this Christmas? Will you be willing to purchase a gift or donate funds? See Joel for more information.



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LOTTIE MOON
CHRISTMAS
OFFERING®

FBCSS Goal: \$1,000

Deacon Ministry:

If you have a need and would like to speak with one of our deacons.

The deacon of the month for December is Danny Pettus.

You may reach him at 678-572-8479.

Church Mailing Address: P.O. Box 69 Sunny Side, GA 30284 Church Office: 770-227-7164
E-mail: office@firstbaptistsunnyside.com Check out our website: www.firstbaptistsunnyside.com



A Note from Denise

Have you ever been at a place in your life where you are reminded of a spiritual truth, but it just didn't bring you the comfort that you thought it would? I have been there. It was while I was helping take care of my mom as her dementia worsened. I had been staying with her Monday through Thursday for about a year, and I was physically, emotionally, and spiritually drained. I had purchased a new bible study and was excited to have something uplifting to read whenever I could find time amidst the chaos at mom's house.

One day, I had a few quiet moments, and I decided to read lesson one in the bible study. The first lesson was about facing difficulties in life. (I thought to myself... 'How appropriate.') It said that the trials that we face make us stronger. (I get that.) Then it said that the difficulties in a person's life were to prepare them for the next more difficult trial that was ahead. (Wait... What?!) All I could think of was my life going from bad to worse. And then, my worry gene kicked in. My brain started imagining all the horrible things that could happen and be worse than what I was facing now. I found myself becoming distraught and anxious. So I closed the bible study and didn't make it past page one.

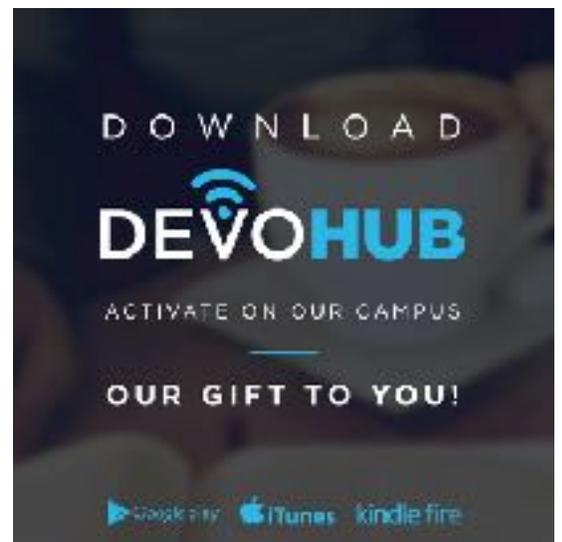
Instead of finding encouragement, I was left feeling depressed and worried. And on top of those emotions, it bothered me that I had such a negative reaction to the spiritual truth in the lesson. Something was missing, and I couldn't figure out what it was. All of this weighed heavy on my heart for a while.

I think it was about 6 months later that I was listening to a preacher on one of the Christian radio stations. He was discussing the trials of life and discouragement and how hard it is to deal with difficulties and disappointments. He said that the most difficult times in his life had been followed by some of the greatest blessings from God. When I heard him say that, my spirit suddenly lifted. That's more like what I wanted my heart to believe each day.....That no matter how difficult life gets, there's always hope. And there it was....the thing that I had been missing and longing for....Hope. In the past months, I had been anticipating something bad. Hope is anticipating something good. And life without it is futile. I think that's why Christmas is so magical. With that Baby's first cry and the angels singing, the promise of hope was loud and clear. God's plan was starting to unfold. On the night the Messiah was born, the world didn't know what greatness was ahead, but God did. He knew the future was bright. So that's what I will choose to believe. That no matter how difficult life becomes, God has something better planned for the future, and my hope is in Him.



Help us spread the word.
Like us on Facebook
@ First Baptist Church of Sunnyside

While on the church campus you can download the app and begin getting daily devotions to your mobile device.



Online Giving is available.
Go to our web site www.firstbaptistsunnyside.com
Click Give Online at the top of Home page and just follow the instructions.
Please speak with Joel if you have any questions or concerns.



December Birthdays

Rick Betsill 1st
 Tammy Shadis 14th
 Joey Jenkins 14th
 Vicky Holmes 20th
 Kay Culverson 25th
 Mariah McGhee 27th
 Natalia Crankshaw 29th

January Birthdays

Miranda Barr 6th
 Janice Phillips 10th
 Dorothy Rarrick 11th
 Charlotte Storm 14th
 Aaron Jenkins 14th
 Taylor Blaylock 15th
 Leroy Floyd 17th
 Denise Varnadoe 25th
 Hunter Blaylock 29th



Paul's Pen Opportunity

Let us now speak of opportunity, a favorable combination of circumstances, time, and place. Spoken words can be heard by many, but written words transcend time. I'm an avid reader and over the years have seized the opportunities available to me to learn from reading. But I wonder about our youth. I'm pleased that our libraries provide many opportunities for youth to learn from reading experiences. Unfortunately, many of our youth don't even read books anymore.

The 1989 film "Dead Poets Society" tells the story of an English professor who inspires his students to have a love of reading and teaches them to overcome their reluctance to make changes in their lives. He said "when you read, don't just consider what the author thinks, consider what you think. No matter what anybody tells you, words and ideas can change the world." He asks the boys to listen to what some students who went before them are telling them: "but if you listen real close, you can hear them whisper their legacy to you. Go on, lean in, listen, do you hear it?.....carpe,.....hear it?.....carpe, **carpe diem, seize the day boys, make your lives extraordinary.**"

Keep kids stimulated with reading. Use the Bible. If they don't have their own personal Bible, give them one as a gift and then spend time with them discussing the Bible readings. Create opportunities for them to use the Bible. Get them away from the TV and off the computer, cell phones, and away from the violence of video games. The opportunities are there for parents and other adults to influence the youth with God's Word from the Bible to make their lives extraordinary.



Volunteers in Preschool December

December 2nd
 Nikki Howell
 Emily Dunn
 John Crankshaw

December 9th
 Rick Betsill
 Calene Dunn
 Kaye Culverson

December 16th
 Emily Holmes
 Victor Barr
 Fran Neesmith

December 23rd
 Linda Muehlberger
 Lynn Varnadoe
 Farah Betsill

December 30th
 Nikki Howell
 Emily Dunn
 John Crankshaw



Join us for movie night
 It's a Wonderful Life
 Friday, December 14th @ 7:00 pm
 Free food and snacks will be available!

Coming Next Year:

Video Series from Focus on the Family dealing with family and life issues. Each video is stand alone so you can decide which topic is right for you. More information will be available soon.

December

2018

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
25	26	27	28	29	30	1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Church Conference						Project Linus Dinner 12noon meal will be provided
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
					Movie Night Special It's a Wonderful Life 7:00 pm food will be served. all free	
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
			No Wednesday Service			
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
Special Christmas Service @ 11:00 am Bruch will be serve starting At 10:00. No Bible Study Classes			No Wednesday Service			
30	31	1	2	3	4	5
		Happy New Year	Back to regular Wednesday Schedule			