

January 2008

The Faith Builder

Monthly Newsletter of First Baptist Church

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Jump into January

Pastor's Letter by Dan Nelson

Like it or not, the new year is here and we have much to look forward to. There are challenges, but there is also God's promise to be with us. My biggest concern, which has intensified recently, is the strong wall of separation between the church and the un-churched in our community. We must reach new people to be obedient to the Great Commission and see the church grow.

On any given Sunday, there are few, if any, people who are lost in our congregation. The struggle for Proposition 8 drew battle lines rather sharp in the last few months. Our church was right in our stand but many are looking for one more excuse not to come to church have used this as an excuse. They stay as far away from the church as possible.

Our church was planted before any of the surrounding houses. We were literally on the edge of town but so many do not attend anywhere and we have the message of salvation. What shall we do? We are to do what God calls us to do. We need to concentrate on getting the gospel out to people.

There are several items you can pray for. God has blessed our church through revival meetings in the past. There were revival meetings scheduled from March 15-18 with Dr. Thomas White, Dean of Student Services at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. It is not too early to start praying and ask God for a great move of His Spirit in our midst. More information will be forthcoming as we get closer to this date.

We will again be trying to distribute literature in the neighborhood the first Saturday morning of each month at about 10:30 a.m. I count on you to join me in meeting people and let them know what is going on in our church. Please let me know if you can help.

I am also burdened about the men in our church. We need men in leadership roles, leading our church to be a great body of believers. Pray for us to begin a men's Bible study and discipleship group. We ought to have a continual discipleship growing on to help new Christians and even ones that have been Christians awhile establish effective habits of discipleship and Christian growth.

This would be open to all and not just men. I am asking God for wisdom on a timeslot and leaders who would be directing this. In the middle of December, it is hard to think about the new year. But I am sure the Lord will provide the leaders, material, and timeslots.

We will be having laymen's Sunday at the end of January with men speaking. We will also be getting back into a chapter by chapter study of the scripture. I will begin a series of messages out of the book of Acts. Acts is one of the favorites. One semester, I taught a class on this book at Channel Islands Bible College. I do not know of anything we more for the New Year than to study how God has worked through the Holy Spirit with the body of believers and individuals that change the world through their witness.

I really want to see this new years as different and life-altering. We are due for revival. We must humble ourselves before God and be willing to be used of Him. That is my prayer to God for our church in this new year.



A Christian History Figure You Should Know About:

Peter Waldo

Founder of the Waldenses (*a fore-runner of the Baptists*)
(1140-1217)

The Waldenses proclaimed the Bible as the sole rule of life and faith. They rejected papacy, purgatory, indulgences, mass, and other mere forms of religion in favor of gospel simplicity. They believed that worship, Bible-reading, prayer, and preaching can be conducted by all Christians as moved by the Holy Spirit. Their distinctive pre-Reformation doctrines survived centuries and still influence the true Church of Christ in the present day.

Peter Waldo was born in Lyon, France, in 1160. A wealthy businessman, he amassed great wealth and yet was driven to questioning his accumulation of wealth. At his home, one of his close friends was attacked by a sudden seizure and died.

Waldo began to search for answers since the preaching of the church was in Latin, that left no solace for his search. These priests put together portions of the Holy Scriptures and began to gather around Waldo. They would go out and explain the scripture to people. He began to reject all worldly wealth, sold his fortune, and provided wealth for his wife and children.

Then, Waldo began to join in the quest for a simple and serene life. His vow of charity was carried out in the most practical matters. His regular distribution of food and provisions to the poor was a response to claiming what Jesus said that “no man can serve two masters.” This greatly moved the masses and many were drawn to follow him.

Waldo began to gather around him individuals known as the “poor men of Lyons”. They began to preach the gospel everywhere and were violently persecuted by the civil authorities who were in league with the pope.

The enemies of the Waldenses hunted them down, letting loose upon them a whole pack of agents of the inquisition. Many of the Waldenses were imprisoned, some put to death, while others remained closely hidden in houses. They were dispersed into the entire world at that time. The center of their organization was located in the Alps, between Italy and France. There, in the mountainous region, they hid for their lives yet fellowshiped with each other and still continued to proclaim the gospel to all the world.

Little is known of the places they went preaching the gospel, but we do know about the impact that they had. For one thing, Waldo’s great stand for scripture aligned him with the other three great pre-reformation leaders, such as Wycliffe, Huss, and Savonarola.

Although Waldo never left the church, it seemed the church left him. He is noted for grasping the great principle of the supreme authority of Holy Scripture, salvation by grace through faith, and the right of the people to be instructed in the truths of the Bible. Waldo’s leading principle was this: “What Christ commanded must be done, and if the decrees of the pope and the council should be found to contradict God’s Word and Christ’s precepts, they must give way.”

Waldo was committed to the supreme authority of scripture. He clung to the Christ of scripture as the author of salvation and the guide for his life. This great leader of the people, known as the Waldenses, left behind in his followers, people who faithfully carried on what he had begun.

The Waldenses organized local bodies as Baptist churches do, practiced believer’s baptism by immersion, and rejected the concept of the universal church being governed by civil authorities. Because of this, Baptists have a close kinship with the Waldenses. Although they never refer to themselves by that name, their doctrinal beliefs are very similar to what we believe. May we be willing to suffer the way Peter Waldo and his followers did, so that truth might always win.

Taken from Heroes of the Faith by Gene Fedele

Announcements

Men's Day & Annual Men's Pie-Baking Contest January 25

We are celebrating Men's Day on January 25. We will be having testimonies from men in our congregation.

We are also holding our annual Men's Pie Baking Contest after the Evening Service at 7:00 p.m. that Sunday. The men's pies will be judged by the ladies in our Kitchen Crew and awards will be given.

There will be plenty of pie, so come join us!



Birthdays in January

- 1 Carole LeCocq
- 1 Samuel Gonzalez
- 1 Chris Martinez
- 6 Janice Dixon
- 10 Livya Brumage
- 10 Helen Pamintuan
- 11 Berlyn Powell
- 13 Eleana Brumage
- 14 Sherry Brahim
- 16 Sean Brahim
- 16 Fredrick J. Graning
- 19 Christina Gonzalez
- 21 Joe Pentecost
- 24 Kelly Pitman
- 25 Joshua Jennings
- 25 Sandra McKeag
- 25 Bill Milton
- 26 Joseph Bylsma
- 27 Yukiko Erbe
- 30 Julie Kenney
- 31 Lynn Ramin



Valentine's Banquet

February 7

Tickets are going on sale, sometime in January, for our annual Valentine's Day Banquet on Saturday, February 7, at 6:30 p.m.

This banquet is hosted and catered by our youth, with the proceeds going toward the cost of youth trips.



True Love Waits

February 15

On Sunday, February 15, our service is going to be centered on challenging youth to be sexually abstinent until marriage.

Youth can make this commitment during the special service. Those who have already made this commitment can renew their vows.

Our Youth Minister, Bill Milton, is going to be speaking.



Choir Notes

What a wonderful year it has been! What a wonderful time it has been! Great sermons! Great ministries! Great outreach!

You would think choir is all about singing, but it isn't. You may think that we are up there, "entertaining" the crowd, but, that's not what it's all about. We might think we are entertaining you. Oh, how quite the contrary. Our congregation might feel as if they were the audience, listening to us "perform". But, I assure you, that's not it!

Have you ever stopped to think, that perhaps the Lord is our audience? That we are performing for our Lord and Savior? That we are praising Him through music. We worship Him. We adore Him. We lift Him up. We give Him all the glory!

May we acknowledge those wonderful times we've had, in 2008, through worship, fellowship, and praise. May we realized how truly blessed we all are, in so many ways ... May we strive to be more like Christ. May we strive to muster up the strength to share with a loved one, "Let me tell you what a friend we have in Jesus." The courage to plant the seed and make somebody go, "HMMMMMM....."

No matter what ministry you may serve in, may all of us be encouraged with courage through Christ our Lord and Savior for 2009, and build the Kingdom.

In His service,
Timothy King



Our **January Newsletter** is the first newsletter to go online. We are no longer mailing the newsletter. Please make sure you to give us your E-mail address so we can send it to you. We will provide hard copies at the back of the church for those who do not have E-mail, but would like a copy.

The **Ladies' Epistle** is also going online. We will be E-mailing this beginning in February. If you are a lady in the church, we need your E-mail address for this too.



Final Budget Totals for 2008

Budget	\$306,129
Amount Spent	\$285,416
Amount Received	\$336,718

Lottie Moon Christmas Offering

Goal	\$3,000
Given	\$3,009

Thank you for helping meet this goal!