

**First Baptist Church of Oakville**  
6741 Telegraph Road,  
St. Louis, MO, 63129

## A Prayer for the New Year . . .

*Father, as we face another new year, help us resolve to pray continually, live faithfully, and love deeply. Whatever comes, we know that Your grace is sufficient and Your love is steadfast. You have a plan and a purpose for each of us, and no less for First Baptist Church of Oakville. Thank You for all Your blessings. We praise You for Your amazing grace. Help us to serve effectively for Your glory in the New Year. In Jesus' name, Amen.*

## Ending 2018 with Thanksgiving—Beginning 2019 with Hope

### January Birthdays

Zach Vandiver.....1  
Jonah Thompson.....3  
Jean Parshall.....8  
George Crafton.....10  
Mary Fitzenreider.....11  
Brayden Boxx, Corey Williamson,  
Carl Nappier.....15  
Mary Ann Ball, Tim O'Shea.....17  
Judy White.....27  
Brendan Southard.....29  
Brenda Hessel.....30

**God Bless You  
on Your Birthday!**

### January Calendar

Happy New Year!.....	1
P.E.P. Club Fellowship.....	3
Fellowship Breakfast.....	6
<b>Lord's Supper</b> (AM Service).....	6
Church Council Meeting.....	6
Deacon's Meeting.....	13
<b>Sanctity of Life Sunday</b> .....	20
Youth Winter Jam.....	26

**Sunday Nights in January  
& February**  
**Revelation 1-3**  
*The Letters to the 7 Churches*



## First Baptist Church of Oakville



### JOHN'S JOTS

*Our Christmas celebration* was truly a joy and a blessing again this year. Advent and the Choir's presentation of **Only Love**, our Christmas cantata were beautiful reminders of the wonderful story of that first Christmas. And our Christmas Eve service is a special time of worship for me, suggesting the quiet intimacy we imagine of that first Christmas night—in a stable in Bethlehem.

*An outstanding addition to our Christmas* tradition at FBCO this year is the Christmas Light Show, designed and produced by Tony Pezzo. The lights and music entertained and witnessed to over 375 guests who saw one of the four presentations. I hope, like Advent, the Cantata, and the Christmas Eve service, this outreach event will be a welcome part of Christmas celebration next year.

*Sunday morning, January 6<sup>th</sup>, our worship* will include the Lord's Supper. That Sunday coincides with **Epiphany**, marking the arrival of the Magi who brought gifts to the newborn Christ child. This service also reminds us, as Paul said to the Church at Corinth, **Thanks be unto God for His unspeakable gift.**

*We have a wonderful Church family*, and your spirit of giving is evident. You have proven faithful in giving to meet needs several times. Jim Boxx reports that our budget giving has exceeded our budget needs again this year, and that reaching our **Lottie Moon** goal, \$2500, this Sunday is sure. I praise the Lord for your faithful giving throughout the year, but I also **THANK YOU** for your giving faithfully to the Lottie Moon Christmas offering.

*Revelation 1-3—Letters to the 7 Churches* is our Bible Study on Sunday nights in January & February. For those eight Sunday nights, we will review John the Beloved Apostle's letter to seven churches in Asia Minor (modern-day Turkey) and their implications for our Church. You will be both encouraged and challenged as we study John's record of letters dictated by the risen and reigning Christ to real churches facing real challenges of their own. Textbooks can be purchased next Sunday, at a subsidized price of \$5<sup>00</sup> per copy.

*Our Building Committee is continuing* their important work. They will begin meeting with design and construction professionals this month. The committee is working from the mandate approved in our September business meeting—a multi-purpose facility that will be functional and economical for the future of FBCO. As the committee works to sharpen the focus of that vision, they will report their progress in the March business meeting. For now, please pray for the committee and their chairman, Wayne Allen.

*Once again, as we reflect on this past year*, with its blessings and its challenges, Brenda and I are grateful for your prayers, your encouragement, and your support. And especially this Christmas, we thank you for all your cards, gifts, and kindness shown to us. Your love is such a blessing to us, and we are indeed blessed by how you express it. I hope we express our love for you as clearly. The promises of 2019 also will have several challenges, so please keep praying. Thank you again for being God's people at First Baptist Church of Oakville, and letting us serve with you.

**Pastor John**

*First Baptist Church of Oakville \* St. Louis, MO, 63129, \* 314 846-8511 \* [www.firstbco.net](http://www.firstbco.net)*



# GWEN'S Gallery


## Reason to Breathe by Deborah Raney

At twenty-nine, Phylcia Chandler put her life on hold to care for her dying mother with her sisters, Joanna and Britt. Now Mom is gone and their father stuns them all by running off with a woman young enough to be their sister. Life is moving forward all around her, but Plylicia feels stuck—until her father’s protégé, Quinn Mitchell, presents the sisters with an intriguing business opportunity to purchase a trio of cottages just outside of Langhorne, Missouri. Joana and Britt are convinced the three of them should launch a vacation rental venture, but Phylcia remains skeptical.

To complicate matters, Quinn soon finds himself falling hard for Phylcia. But how can he pursue this beautiful, talented woman twelve years his junior when she’s still reeling over her father’s hasty engagement to a younger woman? Quinn is determined to give Phylcia her happily-ever-after. But first, he must help her come to terms with her discovery of long-held family secrets and persuade her that true love can transcend their differences.

## Sweetwater Gap by Denise Hunter

Josie Mitchell’s sister Laurel thinks she’s come home to pitch in with the apple harvest and save the family orchard. Her brother-in-law Nate thinks she’s there to talk the overworked, very pregnant Laurel into finally selling the family business. The orchard’s new manager Grady Mackenzie just thinks she’s trouble with a capital T. They’re all right . . . and all wrong. Because no one really knows what drove Josie from home in the first place. Why she’s never come home before, even for her own father’s funeral. Why she pushes herself so hard . . . and what she’s running from. And nobody, not even Josie, is prepared for the surprising new fruit she’ll find on her last trip home.



### Kidz Kollege

**HAPPY NEW YEAR**, almost! We have enjoyed a blessed Christmas this year in Kidz Kollege with caroling at Bethesda Residences, (our 11<sup>th</sup> year) Christmas partying, and singing with the adult Choir in the cantata, *Only Love*.

During the Fall, we were also blessed to be able to earn the money to buy gifts to fill 32 Operation Christmas Child boxes, to be delivered to boys and girls around the world as a part of the world wide ministry of Operation Christmas Child.

The New Year in Kidz Kollege begins Wednesday, January 2<sup>nd</sup>. Every Wednesday, from 0630—0800 pm, all kids ages 4 thru 5<sup>th</sup> grade are invited to come for Bible Story time, praise singing, crafts and games, snack time and other fun stuff. JUST COME!!

*Ed & Pauline Maness*

## Kidz Praise . . . Children In Action

(Cyndi’s article will return next month.  
Congratulations to Cyndi on starting a new position, teaching reading to 4th graders.  
God bless you, Cyndi )

We praise God by loving one another, and we show that love through RESPECT.

*Cyndi Harmon*



# John's Notes



Greetings, everyone.

And, *Felice anon novo, Sana Sa-eeda, Xin Nian Kuai Le* 謹賀新年, *Godt Nytår, Sanah Jadidah, Bonne Année, Kiortame pivdluaritlo, Onnellista Uutta Vuotta, Akimashite Omedetto Gozaimasu, Новым годом!*, *Chuc Mung Tan Nien, С Новым Годом (S Novim Godom), L'Shannah Tovah*, or as we say in English: **HAPPY NEW YEAR!** You just were greeted a Happy New year in 15 languages, including Italian, Russian, Eskimo, Chinese, Vietnamese, French, Arabic, Hebrew among others. But unless you speak or could read those languages you did not know what the message was, until it was printed in English, your native language.

This has long been a challenge of Christians and missionaries, and that is how to spread the Gospel to people that do not speak our language. As of October, 2017, the entire Bible has been translated into 670 languages and the New Testament alone into 1521. This has been done to reach people around the globe and give the message of the Gospel to all. In addition to languages there are many other challenges that today’s Church faces with getting "the message" out. Some involve how the message is delivered.

I rejoice that our church is using old and new creative ways to reach people with the Gospel. Musical cantatas have long been a way we have delivered the message, along with Vacation Bible School, and Bible Studies. More creative ways have been the Pioneer Harvest Dinner and the Harvest Festival, and even more creative and tech savvy has been our Electronic Sign, The Church Website, Targeted mailing, Online Streaming, and Facebook Live of our church services and the Christmas Light Show.

If we are to make a difference in the community, I feel we have to continue looking for new ways to connect with them. As great an idea or method as any of these are, the conventional time-proven method of personally inviting someone to church and being able to give your testimony along with just making people feel welcome and amongst friends when they attend church is the most personal and powerful. May we each do our part as we strive to reach more people this year at FBCO.

Personal note: Thanks to God’s Choir at Oakville for hard work and wonderful presentation of the "Only Love" Christmas cantata, and to the church and many others for the very nice gifts. May God Bless Abundantly, Gelukkige nuwe jaar and I LOVE YOU ALL,

*John Gorse*



Christmas Light Show—2018

**THANK YOU**  
to Tony Pezzo, for all the work to produce a truly memorable display of Christmas joy and magical celebration.

**THANK YOU**  
to all who helped host and serve guests who came to this event.