

First Baptist Church of Oakville

Vision 20/20



for the future

PRAYING, TRUSTING, GIVING

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 one 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.



January Birthdays

Zach Vandiver.....1
Brendan Southard Jr.....6
Jean Parshall.....8
George Crafton.....10
Mary Fitzenreider.....11
Genevieve Southard.....12
Brayden Boxx, Corey Williamson,
Carl Nappier.....15
Tim O'Shea.....17
Cliff Caldwell.....21
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.....2
Fellowship Breakfast.....5
Lord's Supper (A.M. Service).....5
Church Council Meeting.....5
Deacon's Meeting.....12
Sanctity of Life Sunday.....19
Vision Committee Meeting.....19
W.M.U. Progressive Dinner.....24

**Sunday Nights in January
& February**
Jeremiah
Faithful to the Mission



JOHN'S JOTS

Our Christmas celebration was truly a joy and a blessing again this year. Advent, with the "Characters" that visited each week, the Choir's presentation of *The Carols of Christmas*, our

Christmas cantata were beautiful reminders of the wonderful story of that first Christmas. And our Christmas Eve service was well attended and a very meaningful way to pause and celebrate the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ. I pray your Christmas celebration was joyous and blessed.

An outstanding addition to our Christmas tradition at FBCO again this year is the Christmas Light Show, produced by Tony Pezzo. The lights and music entertained and witnessed to over 500 guests who saw one of the four presentations. This outreach event has become a welcome part of our Christmas celebration, and a valuable outreach.

Sunday morning, January 5th, 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 we exceeded our *Lottie Moon* goal of \$3000 on Christmas Eve. 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.

JEREMIAH—Faithful to the Mission is our Bible Study on Sunday nights, beginning on January 5th. On those Sunday nights, we will review the life and ministry of this man of God called the *Weeping Prophet*. Jeremiah has a message from the Lord that is timely to our day. Textbooks can be purchased at a cost of \$5⁰⁰, from Nancy in the Church Office. Books also be available on Sunday nights during the Study.

Our *Vision 2020* emphasis moves into an all important next phase this month—a capital stewardship campaign to raise the funds to help make our vision for a multi-purpose facility for the future of FBCO a reality. Over the next few months, you will hear more about the *Vision 2020* campaign and our goals. Please pray for the capital campaign and for the Vision Committee as we take these very important next steps in our faith journey.

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 since Brenda's diagnosis of cancer. Your love is such a blessing to us, and we are indeed blessed by how many ways you express it. I only hope we express our love for you as clearly. As I anticipate 2020 for us and our Church family, I see several challenges. But our God is able, and He is faithful. Let us join our hands and hearts to face the new year trusting Him. Thank you again for being God's people at First Baptist Church of Oakville, and letting us serve God with you.

Pastor John

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GWEN'S Gallery

Divine Intervention by Hope Callaghan

At the centermost point of the United States, lies the tiny town of Divine, Kansas, boasting a population of just over 1,200 and yet, thousands of tourists flock there every year. So what's so special about this mysterious little town smack dab in the middle of nowhere? For newcomer and businesswoman Jo Pepperdine, it's the perfect site for not only a home for women to get back on their feet after being released from prison, but also her Second Chance Mercantile and Divine Baked Goods Shop. After purchasing the sprawling McDougall property on the outskirts of town, she begins to experience strange and mysterious events in her life and the lives of those around her. But not everyone is ready to welcome Jo and "outcasts," and it seems someone is determined to destroy their dream of a second chance, after vandalizing her property and a potentially deadly attack. Can Jo and her friends get to the bottom of the crimes . . . or will it take a Divine Intervention to solve the mystery?

Lead Me Home by Amy K. Sorrells

Abandoned by his no-good father and forced to grow up too soon, Noble Burden has set his dreams aside to run the family farm. Meanwhile James Horton, the pastor of the local church, questions his own calling as he prepares to close the doors for good. As a severe storm rolls through, threatening their community and very livelihood, both men fear losing what they care about most and reconsider where they truly belong.



Kidz Kollege

HAPPY NEW YEAR! We have enjoyed a blessed Christmas this year in Kidz Kollege with caroling at Bethesda Residences, (our 12th year) Christmas partying, and singing with the adult Choir in the cantata, *The Carols of Christmas*.

During the Fall, we were also blessed to be able to earn the money to buy gifts to fill many 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 8th. Every Wednesday, from 0630—0800 pm, all kids ages 4 thru 5th 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 . . .

In January, we will begin looking at the ins and outs of being a Christian. It will take most of the year; and will cover things like how to worship God, why do we pray, and how to serve.

Sometime in the early part of the year, we will have our second youth leader training, and our first lunch/meeting with parents. I look forward to learning and growing with the kids during 2020!

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

Cyndi Harmon



John's Notes



Greetings Everyone,

We have come to the end of another year at FBCO and with it, its good to reflect back on 2019 and see what amazing things that God has done and is doing in our church. God has blessed us with many new members and families that have stepped up and taken on positions that needed to be filled and to work along side to minister to the church and the community.

We had the most successful Harvest Festival to date, thanks in part to great weather and a mostly rain free day—a monumental event that takes the entire church working together to succeed. It has been a blessing to have several of our friends from Lemay Baptist join us in our Sunday evening Bible Studies and to be part of our choir for our Easter and Christmas Cantatas. They are a much appreciated addition.

The Vision Committee has made great strides this year in researching and planning what type of building will best suit our church for our needs today and into the future. The Christmas Light Show was another great outreach to our community which had close to 500 people attend during the 4 nights.

Although there were many positive things to occur during the year, there were some disappointments, but by Gods Grace and assurance, we are able to overcome them.

As we look to the new year of 2020 with promise and anticipation of Gods work at FBCO, we pray for continued growth and the success of the capital campaign that will be a cornerstone in the next step of a new building. It is truly a remarkable and exciting time at our church, and my desire is we all find our place to do our part.

On a personal note I would like thank the choir for their diligence and hard work in preparing for the *Carols of Christmas* Cantata. This was a very challenging musical, and they were up to the task and presented it magnificently. Thank you to Ernie Downs and Dave Reeder for guest conducting and working with the choir in preparation. Thanks also to veteran sound man Jim Boxx and Tony Pezzo and John Stanley working with Facebook Live and the video production.

May God Continue to Bless Abundantly and I LOVE YOU ALL,

John Gorse



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.