



## *Monday Morning Missive*

**2020, here we come! Over the Christmas holidays, I had the wonderful opportunity to play several exhilarating rounds of “Hide and Seek” with my granddaughters. Fortunately, I was able to find them most of the time! As a grandfather, I made sure they were able to find me – most of the time! I do have a little bit of a competitive streak every now and then, so there was this one time that.... I digress. The good news about the New Year is that it doesn’t play “Hide and Seek” with us. It comes whether we are ready or not. The rest of the good news is that First Baptist Church Dadeville is more than ready to embrace the New Year. In fact, I am excited about what lies ahead for our wonderful church family. Let me lay out a few of the upcoming events:**

- **January 5 – Churchwide luncheon celebrating Mrs. Yvonne Petty for her 55 years of service in our nursery. (Let me say at this point how much I love and appreciate Mrs. Emily Patterson. I really messed up on the announcements yesterday because the committee was planning a simple reception, but when I announced we were doing lunch, she jumped on the phone and made arrangements to have a big lunch celebration for Mrs. Yvonne. Whew! Thanks for having my back!) So, bring some of your favorite dishes and join us as we honor this precious ladies. There will be tables and baskets set up for gifts, cash, and gift cards with our notes of appreciation.**
- **January 8 – Men’s Bible Study resumes at 10 a.m. We will be finishing up our study of Ephesians over the next two months, but it will still be a good time to join if you haven’t already.**
- **January 12 – Small Groups kick off! I will be working on the groups today and Thursday,**

**so please let me know if you want to be part of a group, host a group, or facilitate the discussion in a group.**

- January 19 – Ordination service for Bro. Zack and Bro. Forrest. This is a special time in the life of every minister, so plan to be part of this service.**
- January 26 – Business Meeting. This will be an important meeting as we vote on our proposed updated Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws. If you need to refresh your memory, they are on the church website. You can also come by the church office and we will print a copy for you.**

**These are just a few of the upcoming events, so stay tuned. Keep informed through the bulletin, newsletter, and my Monday Morning Missive. If you know of anyone who might like to receive the Missive, let me know and I will send them a copy along with a link to sign up.**

**I read a quote this morning from another pastor. He made this statement: God will give you 20/20**

**vision in 2020. That is a true statement when it comes to His vision for our church. We simply must pray, seek Him in worship, obey His word, and surrender our lives to Him, and He will show us exactly what He has in store for us. The Strategic Planning Team has been praying over the Field Guide we received from Visioneering Studios, and we will be putting together our Strategic Plan for First Baptist Church over the next several weeks. This will include a number of proposals concerning ministries and facilities because we believe what God has promised in Jeremiah 29:11, that He has plans to prosper us as we continue to serve Him. So, let me ask you to pray for us as we seek God's will for our church.**

**Can I close out this missive by giving you just a taste of what I think God is going to do for us in 2020? I believe that He is going to give us at least 40 new members with many of these coming into our church through believer's baptism. I believe that our attendance is going to increase to record numbers because of our two worship services. I**

**also believe that we will start at least 2 new Sunday School classes which will take our attendance to around 250 in Bible Study. I believe that our current ministries are going to continue to get stronger and that we will see a number of new ministries to our community. Please hear my heart. While you may read this as the pastor is only concerned about numbers, please let me assure you that this is not the case. I am concerned about people – specifically the hearts of people who are in our church and who are in our community. Numbers represent lives that have been changed, are being changed, and will be changed in the future. Every additional number shows us that we are making a difference in the lives of these people, and as long as there is even one lost person out there, my prayer this year will be, “Father, give us that one.”**

**I love you, church family, and I am praying for you.**

**Bro. Ben**