

PUBLICATION INFORMATION

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF WINCHESTER

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NEWSLETTER DEADLINES

The next TIE will be mailed on Wednesday, February 8. Please email content to: office@fbcwinc.org by 10:00a.m. Wednesday, February 15 .

BULLETIN DEADLINE

The Church Bulletin is printed every Wednesday Morning. Please submit content to the Office Manager by Monday 10:00am . Email is: office@fbcwinc.org

PRAYER CHAIN

For our Prayer Chain Ministries please direct your prayer request(s) to: Mattie Fries at friesm@verizon.net

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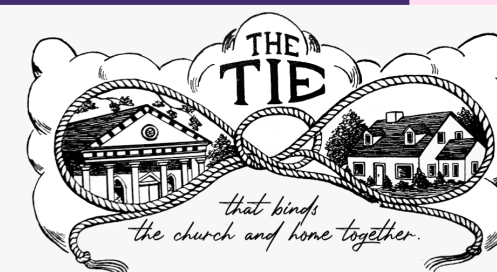
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THE OFFICAL NEWSLETTER OF FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF WINCHESTER

LETTER FROM THE PASTOR

Dear Friends,

New Years Day is traditionally a time to make resolutions—promises to ourselves about who we will be or try to be in the year ahead. Often these resolutions can revolve around becoming better versions of ourselves or, in the most extreme cases, entirely different people. But in Methodist traditions, the New Year is a time to renew our covenants—the promises we make to God and to one another. Rather than focusing on self-improvement, covenant renewal is about remembering who we have always been in God's eyes and trying to live more faithfully into that truth.

I like that emphasis. And maybe it is an important one for us to claim for ourselves and for our church this year. After all, if you want to eat more vegetables, go to the gym more often, or read more books, those are admirable and worthy goals. But please remember that none of those things will make you more worthy of God's grace. Instead, it may be more fruitful to wonder: How can I live faithfully in the year ahead?

Here is John Wesley's Covenant Prayer as we look towards a new year together!

O Lord,
I am no longer my own, but yours.
Put me to what you will, rank me with
whom you will;
put me to doing, put me to suffering;
let me be employed for you, or laid
aside for you,
exalted for you, or brought low for you;
let me be full,
let me be empty,
let me have all things,
let me have nothing:
I freely and wholeheartedly yield all things
to your pleasure and disposal.
And now, glorious and blessed God,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit,
you are mine and I am yours. So be it.
And the covenant now made on earth,
let it be ratified in heaven.

God Bless You in this New Year,

Pastor Kristin

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Publication Information

THE YOUTH SCOOP

By: Rev. Ethan Hughes

I hope that you all had a wonderful holiday and New Year. As we look forward to the end of winter and the beginning of Spring, I am excited about all the blessings that await us in this new year. As our youth begin to gather again for Wednesday night, we will start off with a 3-week bible study and discussion on worship. I believe worship is essential to faith formation, therefore, we will go in depth about why worship is important, and why we do the things we do in worship from prelude to benediction and postlude. I also think this is a great opportunity for our youth to express their talents and gifts. This will also be a time when we will be going over to the sanctuary and spending time there. We will talk about the space and why it looks the way it does while talking about liturgy, music, prayers, offerings, and sermons. I am also going to send home a small weekly summary of what we talked about and include quick tips and reminders to enhance the worship experience on Sunday mornings. I am excited for our students and love how they value worship. I am grateful to this church for all the many ways that we help our youth grow and serve in different ways during worship as well!

Happy New Year,

Pastor Ethan.

LORI - COME TO THE CROSS AND REMEMBER

Palm/Passion Cantata

As we are welcoming 2023, I wanted to share my excitement for a new cantata: Come to the Cross and Remember.

Cantatas are such a special way to worship our Savior, especially knowing that their inception can be traced all the way back to the end of the Renaissance! The word Cantata is driven from the Italian language of the 16th/17th century and when translated, it means "that which is sung" and when you break it down even further, it stems from the Latin word *cantare*, which means "to sing." And that is what I am inviting everyone to do this season—sing. Sing in Come to the Cross and Remember.

This cantata is special as it will have a few firsts: it will be the first cantata since 2019, the first performance of Come to the Cross and Remember, and the first time there will be an open rehearsal for a seasonal performance. I am encouraging everyone of all ages and experience levels that is interested in participating in this special season of singing to join.

I encourage you to come to a rehearsal, and challenge yourself by trying something new this season. There are 2 options: Tuesdays from 10:30-11:30 am beginning January 24 or Thursday evening rehearsals from 7:00-8:00 pm beginning January 26.

I can't wait to see everyone,

Lori

ATTENDANCE

Attendance Chart

<u>DATE</u>	<u>8:30 SERVICE</u>	<u>11:00 SERVICE</u>	<u>ONLINE (FB/YT)</u>
December 4, 2022	36	118	129+50
December 11, 2022	29	138	153+65
White Christmas	4:00PM	121	355+85
December 28, 2022	42	118	FB DOWN+106
December 24, 2022	125	62	FB DOWN+192
December 25, 2022	NO 8:30	68	142+55

GIVING AT FBC

In Malachi 3:10, God tells the Israelites to "bring the full tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. And thereby put me to the test, says the Lord of hosts, if I will not open the windows of heaven for you and pour down for you a blessing until there is no more need." In this moment, among the many in the Bible, God is displaying evidence of his promises and is showing favor to the faithful. He receives the glory when we give cheerfully. It also allows us to grow spiritually. Here are some easy ways to tithe and give:

It is very easy to set up an automatic or one-time bank draft through your bank. Simply go to your bank's bill pay webpage. Set up First Baptist Church, Winchester as the "payee" and have your payments automatically delivered electronically. This is simple and doesn't cost you or the church any fees.

Our church is also set up to receive tithes and offerings through online giving. Just visit our webpage at www.fbcwinc.org/giving and follow the instructions. Our church can also receive mailed offerings at our physical address: 205 W. Piccadilly Street, Winchester, VA 22601.

Because of the envelopes being on temporary backorder, if you are using blank envelopes for this quarter's tithes, please include your name and envelope number, if you know it, on the outside.

FBC CHILDRENS MINISTRIES

By: Alison K. Wright

As we enter the second half of our current school year, the SLC is looking ahead to the next! Our registration for the 23/24 school year is now open to church members and current students. Registration will open to the community on Feb. 1st.

Our registration link can be found on the church's website and Facebook page. Anyone interested can also send an email to slc@fbcwinc.org to receive extra information.

On January 21st, the SonShine Learning Center will have a table at a preschool fair that is being hosted by Handley library! We have taken the time to prepare activities for the children and prepare supportive information for the parents!

Our FBC kids! programming continues to thrive with weekly Sunday school, childcare and Wednesday evening activities! An exciting series has also been planned for our special kids worship program! Mark your calendars for the following Sundays of January 22nd, February 19th, March 19th and May 21st if you wish to attend!

Some winter sports activities are also being planned! On February 10th we will take a group to Bryce resort for a ski lesson. We will return to that resort on March 4th for a morning of snowtubing! If you or your family are interested, we will have more information on Facebook and the weekly emails.

Already looking forward to the spring? So are we! With an Easter Egg Hunt being planned for April and a June Hershey Park trip being planned to celebrate the start of Summer Break—you can tell that we are ready for a warm outdoor adventure!

If you have any questions about our children's programming please feel free to email Alison at alisonkwright413@gmail.com

WATTS


The Winchester Area Temporary Transitional Shelter, or WATTS, as most know it, has a mission to break the cycle of homelessness one life at a time, and it is a great organization that was created by faith-based leaders to help prevent anyone who is homeless from freezing to death.

February 11-18 is when First Baptist Church will be proudly taking our turn to host WATTS. With that being said, it truly takes a community to keep this wonderful program alive. So, we're looking for volunteers! If you would like to help with a meal, donate clothing items, or you are a medical professional that can provide basic medical assistance, please give fill out a form in the new Narthex or call the church office. We can provide a link for sign-ups for those interested in providing medical assistance, too.

Thank you for the love that you help poor into our community.

HUNTING RIDGE RETREAT: A TESTIMONY

Wow, Happy New Year! It is hard to believe that in the next couple months, Jeff and I will have been here at HRR for 10 years and starting our 11th season of serving God's children in His blessed place. We are excited to see what He has planned for us this year. Following is a testimony shared with me by a guest this past November. It blessed me greatly to hear how God is making such an impact on so many loves all over the world through HRR and I pray that it blesses you as well.

Here's a post I wrote in 2019  You might let your folks know that I've been following Jesus since that day at Hunting Ridge 25½ years ago, that I was a religion teacher for 5 years before becoming a full time missionary 10 years ago, that I've read the Bible in its entirety 20 times, have written 3 books about Jesus, and have preached to tens of thousands of people in 50 states and 20 countries, and I owe it all to one weekend at Hunting Ridge in 1997.



Thank you. Truly. Meg

There's a patch of land at the northern tip of Virginia that's more sacred to me than almost anywhere.

This retreat center is where my whole life changed. This is where a 13-year-old cradle-Catholic/occasional-atheist went to confession just because everyone else was. My plan was to say a couple of things to some priest and get the heck out of there.

But grace works. And while imaginary peer pressure isn't exactly the same as contrition, apparently sometimes God squints. In that moment, I realized I wasn't talking to a priest. I was kneeling at the foot of the Cross, giving Jesus Christ the hammer I used to nail him there, and he was reaching out his pierced hand saying, "I still love you. I still want you." Every good thing in my life is the product of that one accidental confession. I met the God I'd been hungering for all my life, though I'd never known it, and I realized that if Jesus was God that had to change everything.

So I committed to daily prayer (10 minutes a day), to reading the entire Bible and Catechism, to watching

more Touched by an Angel   I started following Jesus and, by his overwhelming grace, I've never turned back.

Life is the story of a thousand conversions, of course, and it took years before I stopped cursing, stopped lying. It was years more before my faith was more love than it was pride. I still wrestle with one temptation after another, but Jesus grabbed my heart that day and I've never managed to wrest it from his grasp since.

Every year I go back to lead that same retreat: a 2-night, all-girls confirmation retreat of the sort that almost nobody does. I tell them about the misery of my life before Jesus, of the joy and hope and glory since. I tell them about the Cross, but I tell them that suffering in Christ is worlds better than suffering alone.

I just got back from this retreat: 40 hours of sleeping bags and s'mores and tears and grace and joy. It's a hard weekend to pull off, requiring a lot of buy-in from parents & volunteers & priests & kids, but it is powerful beyond measure. If even one of those girls met Jesus like I did 22 years ago, the world had better watch out. The young Church is going to set it ablaze.

Please continue to pray for Hunting Ridge, our Staff and all the guests that will be joining us this year. Pray for God to continue to use us for His Kingdom!

Melissa Engler

ANNOUNCEMENTS & REMINDERS



FBC 95TH ANNIVERSARY

Our 95th anniversary is next month! We will have a celebration on February 23, so stay tuned for more details!



JANUARY CCAP COLLECTION

Throughout the month of January, CCAP is collecting donations of soups and ground beef. Soups can be brought to the Narthex. Ground beef should be frozen and brought to the church office.



WOMEN ON MISSION: SOUP, SANDWICHES AND A MEETING

WOM will be preparing Soup and Sandwiches on Saturday January 28th 9am at the FBC Ministry Center. The soup prepared with sandwiches will be going to the residents at the Winchester Rescue Mission. The January Meeting will also take place during this time. Please call Linda Fletcher or the Church office for information.

JANUARY-FEBRUARY 2023

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
15 Worship 8:30/11 Peniel Worship 2:30PM	16 Martin Luther King Jr Day	17 Stewardship and Finance Meeting 6:30PM	18 Wednesday evening dinner and study/ Wednesday morning Zoom Bible study	19 Chancel Choir Rehearsal 7:00PM	20	21
22 Worship 8:30/11 Deacon Ordination Service 11AM Peniel Worship 2:30PM Special Kids 4PM	23	24 Cantata Rehearsal 10:30 -11:30 AM	25 No Wed Morning Zoom Meeting Wednesday evening dinner Multigenerational Bible Study 6:30PM Church Council 7:30PM	26 Chancel Choir Rehearsal 7:00PM	27 Young Adult Holy Guacamole 6:30PM	28 WOM Soup and Sandwiches / Meeting
29 Worship 8:30/11 Peniel Worship 2:30PM Peniel Worship	30	31 Cantata Rehearsal 10:30 -11:30 AM	1 Walk and Talk 9:30AM Wednesday evening dinner and study/ Wednesday morning Zoom Bible study	2 Chancel Choir Rehearsal 7:00PM	3	4
5 Worship 8:30/11 Peniel Worship 2:30PM	6	7 Cantata Rehearsal 10:30 -11:30 AM CBF Cultivating Generations Cong 5:30— 7:00PM Singin' Seniors Donato's 11:30AM	8 Walk and Talk 9:30AM Wednesday evening dinner and study/ Wednesday morning Zoom Bible study	9 Chancel Choir Rehearsal 7:00PM	10	11 WATTS
12 Worship 8:30/11 Peniel Worship 2:30PM WATTS	13 WATTS	14 Cantata Rehearsal 10:30 -11:30 AM Valentine's Day WATTS	15 Walk and Talk 9:30AM No Wednesday evening activities WATTS	16 WATTS	17 WATTS	18 WATTS