

FROM OUR INTERIM PASTOR

Pray diligently for our Search Committee. In their last update around the first of December they reported to the church that they had made significant progress in their search of your new pastor. They had received over a 100 resumes and had narrowed their immediate search to three of the candidates. The chairman, Jeff Turner, reported that they had conducted preliminary interviews with all three of those candidates and would pick up the pace of the search again following Christmas.

I am confident they feel a tremendous weight upon their shoulders as they seek a successor for your former pastor. I can't imagine the burden they feel for making sure they hear from God and get this right. So pray for them daily. Pray they will be discerning, ask the right questions and sensitive to the voice of God. I know they desire to bring to you the best candidate they can find. Let them know you appreciate their effort and that you are praying for them each and every day.

Ralph

Firs Focus

A Weekly Newsletter for the Family and Friends of Pickens First Baptist

- All Church Members.....Ministers
- Ralph Carter, Jr.Interim Pastor
- Bryan Hester (704-4802).....Worship & Associate Pastor
- Jeff Rafferty (607-8306).....Discipleship & Missions Pastor
- Colton Ashley (420-6454).....Interim Youth Minister
- Jennifer Hendrix (449-5381).....Preschool Director
- Katie Freeman.....Financial Secretary
- Tricia McJunkin.....Church Secretary

Church Phone: 864-878-6564 Website: www.fbcpickens.org
 Office Hours: 8:30 AM – 5 PM, Monday – Thursday
 8:30 AM – 12:30 PM, Friday

Discipleship and Missions News from Jeff

How To Have A Powerful Prayer Life

Beginning January 5th, during our Wednesday evening Prayer Meeting at 6:30 p.m., we will be studying "How To Have A Powerful Prayer Life." We would like to invite everyone to join us as we pray for God to bring Revival to our nation and study how to take our prayer lives from ordinary to powerful and effective. We meet in Room E200 on the 2nd floor.

Tuesday Morning Women's Bible Study

How do I live the Christian life joyfully regardless of people or circumstances? What is the purpose of suffering? Do I have the mind of Christ? We are excited to offer the Precept Upon Precept Bible study entitled "Philippians -how to have joy". In this study, you will dig deeply into the entire book of Philippians where you will be able to discover God's truth for yourself and experience life-changing intimacy with Him.

Kaye Chambliss, who has led Precept Upon Precept studies for 30+ years will be leading the study. She said, "This way of studying God's Word has grounded me in the Scriptures. It has made me want to spend more and more time with God and be in His Word. I have learned how to slow down and take in His precious truths so I can apply them to every area of my life and can grow in my relationship with Him."

Come join us on Tuesday mornings. We will start on January 18th in Room E357 with an introductory lesson.

We will meet weekly from 9:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. and free child care will be available by reservation for those who need it.

Please call the church office or call Kaye at 1 (770) 330-9081 for more information or to sign up for the class.

Take Courage: A Study of Haggai

Do you ever feel like the happy ending of your story is a million miles away?

Then you know how the Jewish people felt when they returned to their wrecked land after exile and began rebuilding the temple. They were distracted, discouraged, and ready to throw in the towel. But the prophet Haggai reminded them they could find courage in the God who had never left them.

Sometimes the landscapes of our lives feel wrecked, with our hope and purpose in shambles. We too get distracted and discouraged. However, God's presence and promises give us courage to press on and trust Him with our story.

In this 7-session study on the Book of Haggai, learn to walk confidently in your calling, stay motivated despite opposition, and courageously invest your life in God's purposes, trusting Him for results you may never see in this lifetime.

If interested, please sign-up in the Fellowship Hall, or call the church office at 878-6564.

Begins January 18th from 9:00 a.m. until 11:00 a.m. in Room E250. Facilitators: Judy Holder and Helen Batson

Collecting Supplies for Samaritan's Purse

In 2022, instead of waiting until the end of the year to collect shoeboxes, we would like to collect different supplies each month. Then in November we will organize a day to have a packing party for the shoeboxes with the supplies we have gathered throughout the year. It is our hope that we will be able to increase the number of shoeboxes that PFBC contributes to Samaritan's Purse, in order to share the Gospel with more people who need to hear the lifesaving message of Jesus Christ. There will be boxes located in the Fellowship Hall (until we move back into the Sanctuary) and in the Welcome Center to collect the supplies each month. **For the month of January, we would like to collect toothbrushes and toothbrush holders, soap (preferably Ivory) and washcloths.** Of course, you are welcome to bring other items should you find good deals throughout the year. If you are unable to donate needed items, or you would rather make a contribution to help us with the shipping cost, please use one of the church offering envelopes and mark it for "PFBC Samaritan's Purse." Thank you for your help!

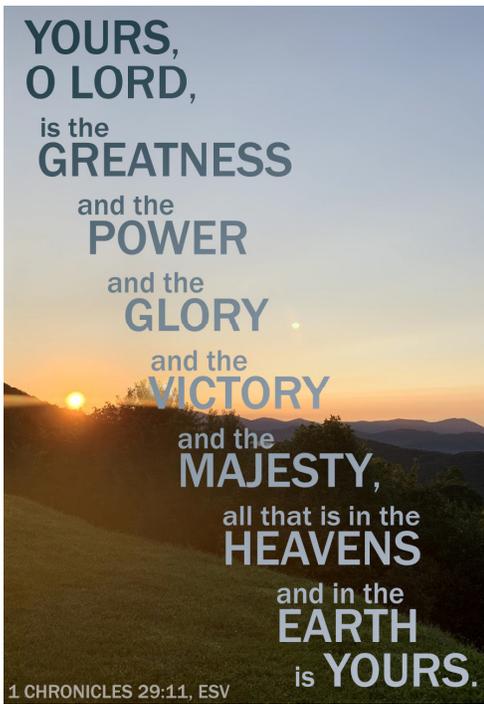
Future items to be collected:

Feb. -- balls and stuffed animals

Mar. -- jump ropes, yo-yos, match box cars

April -- sewing kits, tools, fishing equipment, and duct tape.





PFBC Men's Ministry Supper
Thursday, January 27th
6:00 pm
Fellowship Hall

Men of Pickens First Baptist come and attend a great supper and fellowship on Thursday night, January 27th, 6:00 pm. Invite your friends and come and join together for a great night of fellowship. Dad's, bring your sons with you! Bring the men that you want to encourage through a great night of food and fellowship. **Our speaker will be Dr. Ralph Carter who is currently our interim Pastor here at PFBC.** This will be a great night. **Please sign up in the Fellowship Hall by Sunday, January 23rd.**

IN BRIEF

I am so thankful to God for His love and the love our church family has shown us over the year and years. We have received *from our church so many blessings. Calls, meals and visits. We're thankful for all that each did for us. Many never want to be public about their blessings and I respect that.* Thank you again for all each of you have given to us. May God continue to be with our church and each of you this year.

Thank You, God.

In Christ love,

Cindi and Mildred Rowland

Preschool Worship Volunteers, 10:30 a.m. Service

January 9: Babies & 1's, Jennifer Hendrix & Natalie Turner
Older Preschoolers, Brett & Lauren Garrison

January 16: Babies & 1's, Vicky Hedden & Lisa Hiott
Older Preschoolers, Phillip & Cheryl Aguero

Safety Team Rotation Assignment

The Month Of January

2nd - Team A

9th - Team B

16th - Team C

23rd - Team D

30th - Team A

Student Ministry News from Colton

Grounded



The youth will be starting a new eight-week study from Lifeway on Sunday, January 9, during Sunday School. The study is titled "Grounded" and is written by Clayton King, who is headquartered at Anderson University. The youth will watch a twelve-minute video each week and then break into their respective Sunday School classes (Middle School and High School). Over the course of eight sessions, Clayton King will guide students to a holistic understanding of biblical wisdom. The curriculum will focus on themes in Proverbs. These themes include decision-making, wise counsel, the heart, relationships, pride/humility, work, money, and the power of words. Each session will be supported through practical application found within the Book of James. Our Sunday School teachers will ask probing questions in small group settings after the video.

For more information about this study, go to lifeway.com/en/product-family/grounded

A Thought About Ministering to Our Community

The PFBC Youth Ministry will be feeding the PHS Varsity Boys' Basketball Team on January 14. We have provided meals to a couple school-related programs (athletic teams, clubs, etc.) over the past few weeks. We have had a very positive response to this endeavor. I hope to further promote the culture of fellowship and appreciation for our church by doing small outreach "events" to the youth in our community. I believe it will be a fruitful mission in the short term, but even if it does not yield immediate results, I think it will in the future. For example, when I was a student at PHS (who actively attended another church), I came to FCA at PFBC. I came to community events in PFBC's building. I went to a lunch hosted at PFBC when I graduated from PHS (I believe it was the baccalaureate service). I attended Beta Club induction ceremonies in PFBC's sanctuary. These memories are precious to me and are a part of why Lauren and I are at PFBC. I hope that we can continue to minister to the community in this way because we never know how it can impact the future of our community members

Youth Winter Retreat

There are 11 slots available (to youth) for the winter retreat, which is February 18-21 (departure and arrival times are TBD). We will be going to Snowbird Wilderness Outfitters. Snowbird will provide three meals per day and will handle lodging. We will have ski passes and will be attending worship services at the retreat. The cost is \$100 per youth. If you would like to attend, please review the information at fbcpickens.org/youthwinterretreat. You'll need to sign up on that page as well. Once 11 youth sign up, the registration form will automatically close. I will have to send more detailed forms from Snowbird to those who sign up.

Calendar



- January 16 – Going to Fuddruckers
- January 30 – Youth Fellowship in the Xchange
- February 18-21 - Ski Retreat at Snowbird Wilderness Outfitters (Non-refundable total cost of \$100 and all paperwork are due on Wednesday, January 26, 2021) Information is available at fbcpickens.org/youthwinterretreat
- March 6 – Dinner at the Ashley's!
- March 18-19 – Youth Lock-In

Homebound Ministry Birthdays For January

Doris Hamby - January 19



Remember Our Homebound

Please notify the church office if you or a family member would like to be added to our homebound or in-care facility lists.

Pickens First Baptist Church Schedule

Sunday, January 9

8:00 a.m. - 1st Worship Service
9:15 a.m. - Sunday School
10:30 a.m. - 2nd Worship Service

Wednesday, January 12

6:00 p.m. - Awana, FH
6:15 p.m. - Orchestra Rehearsal
6:30 p.m. - Adult Bible Study & Prayer Service,
Room E200; Youth Activities, Xchange;
Preschool Activities; Adult Choir & Small
Groups Rehearsal

2021 Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for International Missions

PFBC Goal: \$66,000.00
Given To Date: \$53,765.87

FACTS & FIGURES

January 2, 2022

Building Fund: \$644,076.24

Sunday School - No Sunday School
Offering - \$3,527.00
Offering to Date - \$3,527.00
Goal to Date - \$22,220.88



Newsletter Deadline

Unless otherwise noted, the newsletter deadline is Monday at 10:00 a.m. each week. You may email Tricia at tricia@fbcpickens.org with the information you want in the newsletter or you can call her at 878-6564. Thank you!

Thank you for worshipping with us Today!

Please complete, tear off, and place in offering plate.



Connect with Us Here at PFBC!

Name

Email

Phone Number

I would like to know more about becoming a Christian.

I would like to know more about Pickens First Baptist Church.

Welcome to Pickens First Baptist Church

January 9, 2022

Opening Song *I'd Rather Have Jesus*.....Bryan Hester

Scripture

Matthew 16:24-26

24 Then Jesus told his disciples, "If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. 25 For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will find it. 26 For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world and forfeits his soul? Or what shall a man give in return for his soul?"

Is He Worthy?

Small Group Ensemble (8:00 a.m.)

Choir and Orchestra (10:30 a.m.)

Congregational Songs

Good, Good Father

Holy, Holy, Holy

Prayer and Welcome

Message In Song *Midnight Cry*.....Eddie Allgood

Message From God's Word.....Dr. Ralph Carter

Song Of Commitment

In My Life, Lord, Be Glorified

Closing Prayer

8:00 a.m. - Larry Martin

10:30 a.m. - Lynn Fisher

Closing Song

Holy, Holy, Holy

Pickens First Baptist Church exists to be a Worshiping, Evangelizing, Learning, and Loving (W.E.L.L.) family of faith to the glory of God. (Mt. 28:18-20; Acts 2:42-47; 1 Cor. 10:31).

Online Worship Service Available

* On YouTube: On your smart TV, smartphone, iPad, or computer go to:

fbcpickens.org/youtube

* On Pickens FBC Website: On your smartphone, iPad, or computer,

go to: www.fbcpickens.org