



FROM THE PASTOR'S PERSPECTIVE...

Happy New Year! Have you made any new year's resolutions yet? May I suggest a few?

1. *I will deny myself, take up my cross, and follow Jesus Christ as my Lord each day (Luke 9:23).* This is a commitment we must renew every day by saying "NO!" to ourselves and "YES!" to God, walking in the way of Jesus Christ as he leads and lives in us through the Holy Spirit. Our goal as his disciples is to become like him.
2. *I will worship God faithfully through a daily personal devotional time and with his people each week (Psalm 95:6-7).* Worship is the most important thing we do as Christians. Through prayer and Bible study in a personal quiet time, we learn and grow in our walk with the Lord. When we gather with God's people on Sundays to worship together, we offer God our praises and prayers, hear and respond to his word in Scripture, sermon, and song, and experience fellowship with other believers in a way we can find nowhere else. If you don't attend worship, you're missing out on the most important thing we do as Christians!
3. *I will devote myself to loving God with all my heart, soul, mind, and strength (Mark 12:29-30).* Studying the Scriptures carefully and prayerfully helps us learn about the Christian life. We don't study simply to obtain information, but rather to experience spiritual transformation, to be formed into the likeness of Christ. Personal study and study with other believers are vital ways of growing in our walk with Jesus. To love him with all our heart, soul, mind, and strength is to love him with everything we are, with every area of our life yielded to him, with head and heart joined in the adventure of knowing and becoming more and more like Christ.
4. *I will be a faithful steward of all God has entrusted to me (Matthew 25:14-30).* God expects us to be good stewards of the time, talents, abilities, spiritual gifts, and material and spiritual resources he entrusts to us. While the tithe (10%) is the Scriptural guide to giving, and the goal is sacrificial Christ-like generosity, God is concerned about how we use *all* our resources! We must place *everything* we have at his disposal, using it according to his will and for his glory!

The Messenger

Happy New Year!

A Newsletter of the

Murfreesboro Baptist Church

JANUARY 2024

5. *I will share my faith with others (Acts 1:8).* We must tell others about Christ as the Holy Spirit guides and empowers us and gives us opportunities. We must pray for those who don't know Christ. We must do deeds of love and mercy that open doors for words of witness. We must support our missionaries with our prayers and resources, and pray for workers for God's harvest. And we must obey God's leading, whether he calls for us to witness to the neighbor down the street or the nation on the other side of the world.
6. *I will faithfully and enthusiastically participate in the life and mission of Murfreesboro Baptist Church.* Truth be told, if we keep these first five resolutions, we will be doing this one. We will be *loving God, following Jesus, and serving others.* It's only as we commit ourselves individually to genuine discipleship, God-focused worship, faithful stewardship, and winsome witness that we can join God in his mission in the world.

These resolutions are a tall order. They're really about being serious about being disciples of Jesus together as a family of faith and the body of Christ. We can only keep them by depending on God's strength rather than our own. But can you imagine the difference it would make in our church and our town if we *all* genuinely made them and faithfully kept them? Will you join me in these commitments?

Grace and peace,

Mark E. Gaskins, Pastor

KIDS' CLUB NEWS...

Kids' Club will once again participate in

Please bring cans of soup to the box in the connector from now until Sunday, Feb 11.

This year's goal is 250 cans. The cans of soup will go in our church food pantry.

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY SCHEDULE

Jan 10	Kids' Club	6-6:45
Jan 17	Kids' Club	6-6:45
Jan 24	Kids' Club	6-6:45
Jan 31	Kids' Club	6-6:45

Sunday, January 14, 2024

There will be a Pastor Installation Service for Dr. Mark Gaskins on Sunday morning, January 14. The guest preacher for this service will be Dr. Ron Cava, Senior Minister of the First Baptist Church of Henderson, NC. Dr. Tom Ogburn, Pastor of Triangle Baptist Church in Raleigh, NC with lead the pledging of the covenant and the installation prayer. Tom is married to Beth Williams Ogburn, who grew up in our church, and both the Cavas and the Ogburns have been dear friends of the Gaskins since Mark, Ron, and Tom were classmates in college and seminary. A covered dish fellowship lunch will follow this special worship service. We ask that you bring a vegetable, covered dish or dessert. The meat will be provided by the church.

Wednesday Evening



In the recent survey about Wednesday evenings, almost 42 percent of respondents preferred meeting every Wednesday evening year-round, except Big Wednesdays and holidays, while around 17 percent preferred every Wednesday during the school year, except Big Wednesdays and holidays. Another nearly 42 percent preferred Wednesday evenings for a set number of weeks, with multi-week breaks. A large majority (62.5 percent) preferred a Prayer and Bible Study Service with the pastor teaching while the rest preferred a small group style study. A variety of biblical books and themes were suggested.

Based on these responses, we will resume Wednesday evening Bible study beginning on January 10 at 6:15 (this may be adjusted if participants think a different start time will work better). Our regular schedule will be every Wednesday evening except Big Wednesdays and holidays, with multi-week breaks in July (all month) and from mid-November through December (all month). Studies will vary from books of the Bible to biblical themes to studies of Christian doctrine, and how these all apply to our lives today. Presentation style (teaching/facilitating) may vary with the type of study.

Since the Gospel according to Mark is the primary Gospel in the lectionary this year, and the Pastor will be preaching mainly from Mark from January through Easter, we will begin with an overview study of this Gospel, drilling down deeper in some passages that will not be covered on Sunday mornings.

We hope you'll join us on Wednesday evenings as we pray and study God's word together!

USING THEIR GIFTS TO SERVE IN JANUARY

Deacon of the Month
Susan Alston

Opening the Church
Johnny Jenkins

Ushers
January
Johnny Jenkins, Freddie Bazen,
Bob Lee, Bob Turner

Radio Ministry Sponsor
Colon and Jane Ballance

Caregivers
Dec.31-Jan 13 Lynette Bunch
Jan. 14-27 Garth and Erin Faile
Jan. 28-Feb. 10 Booker Daniel

Flowers
January 14 Sarah Davis
January 21 Judy Clark
January 28 Booker Daniel
February 5 - Available
To place flowers in the Sanctuary on dates
available...Please contact the church office.

UPCOMING DATES IN JANUARY

- Jan. 7 Communion
- Jan. 9 Deacons' Meeting
- Jan. 14 Installation Service For
Dr. Mark E. Gaskins
- Jan. 15 Martin Luther King
Holiday
*Administrative Office
Closed*
- Jan. 16 Food Bank of the
Albemarle

Church Office Hours

Monday – Friday 8:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.
252-398-3613

www.murfbc.org

Office Will Be Closed Monday, January 15th for
Martin Luther King Holiday

2024 OFFERING ENVELOPES



The 2024 offering envelopes are available for pick-up in the church library. Names have been placed on the boxes and you may notice that your number on the envelopes may have changed from last year. If you do not see a designated box with your name, please contact the church office.

COMMUNITY MISSIONS CHRISTMAS ANGEL TREE

Thanks to you, Murfreesboro Baptist Church provided 14 local children in need with gifts for Christmas. Our church may be small, but our members have hearts of gold.

FUEL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

Thank you to Ben McLean for organizing and to many of you who donated to the Fuel Assistance Program once again. \$2,800.00 was donated towards helping those in need of home heat, and the excess of donations was given to the MBC Community Missions Fund.

WHITE CHRISTMAS BOXES

Thank you to everyone who contributed to the White Christmas Boxes. With your donation, we were able to provide 16 families with the fixings for a wonderful Christmas meal.

FOODBANK OF THE ALBEMARLE

Volunteers are needed on Tuesday, January 16 by 1:30 p.m. in the church parking lot to distribute food.

FOOD PANTRY

If you have committed to help us keep our pantry filled, please remember to bring twelve of your selected items to the church by the 15th of each month. As always, any donations are greatly appreciated.



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| January 5 | Don Johnson |
| January 8 | Mamie Ballance |
| January 8 | Jennifer Taylor |
| January 12 | Jessica Torres |
| January 15 | Jack Cole |
| January 15 | Patty Joyner |
| January 18 | Chris Sumner |
| January 23 | Claire Revelle |
| January 30 | Charlie Cole |
| January 30 | Jacqueline Snyder |
| January 30 | John Page Revelle |
| January 30 | Tristan Miles |

Don't see your birthday? Please call the church office and let us know when your special day is.

CHURCH STAFF Dr. Mark E. Gaskins PASTOR

PAULA PRESSNELL.....ORGANIST
& CHOIR DIRECOR

TOM CAULKINS.....PASTOR
EMERITUS

TERESA MARTIN....ADMINISTRATIVE
ASST.

Murfreesboro Baptist Church
200 West Main Street
Murfreesboro, N. C. 27855

Return Service Requested