

# THE Challenger

The Monthly Voice of Central Baptist Church | January 2019

## A Resolution to Keep

by Rev. Stephen Byrd, Lead Pastor

It's that time of year again when it's time to start thinking about all of those resolutions that likely won't stick. I am the worst offender. Two weeks into the new year and I usually don't even remember what I had resolved to do. Still, I would like to offer up one that we ALL should make and one that we ALL should keep and that is making worship a priority in 2019.

Ken Ramey, in his book, **Expository Listening**, tells us why this needs to be considered. He explains: *"For the majority of people, even church members, church is not the priority of their week. Too often school, work, sports, and other activities take precedence over going to church. They make the mistake of letting their time be ordered by the world, which views the weekends as a time to relax, to play sports, to stay up late and sleep in. For Christians, however, Sunday should be the most important day of the week. You should try to schedule your work, activities, get-togethers, and vacations around church."*

Some of us might balk at what he says, but he has a point. Worship should be the grand event in the life of a Christian. All too often, it doesn't feel very grand. There are reasons for this. One of the main reasons is a failure to prepare. The Israelites were expected to make proper preparations, and so should we. The simple reason is that God does not want us to enter into His presence with distracted minds, weary bodies, and cold hearts. He wants us to enter His house focused, rested, and with zeal. Our aim should be to bring him our best every Lord's Day.

So, how do we do that? Let me share with you 6 steps that will help get us ready to best worship the Lord.

**1. On Saturday night, read over the sermon passage for the next day and pray for God to do a great work through the gathering of His church.**

**2. Go to bed at a decent hour.** It's hard to participate and even listen when you're nodding off.

**3. Get up at a decent hour.** If you are running late, it can often leave you feeling scattered and stressed. Instead, try to establish a God-centered atmosphere on the way to church. Read some Scriptures, sing, and pray.

**4. Eat a good breakfast.** Hunger is not a virtue during the sermon. It's difficult to hear the Word over the grumbling of your stomach.

**5. Arrive early** so that you can greet one another and settle your soul before the service begins. Coming in late means you might miss something important and it takes a few minutes to tune your heart to heaven to be ready to worship.

\*For further encouragement on this point, Google >>> The small change that can radically improve your church experience. [No, seriously — google this!]

**6. Stay Late.** Don't rush out but find a few friends and catch up on the week and even discuss what was just preached. Enjoy being a part of the family. Or, just take them to lunch.

Please know, this is not an attempt to enforce man-made rules on your worship. It is also not an attempt to make anyone feel guilty. There is no doubt that life is busy and hectic. However, it is helpful to think through these issues so that we can properly prepare to worship the One who has saved us.

My grandmother summed it up this way: "Sunday morning starts on Saturday night." I think she has a point. So does Ken Ramey. He concludes his book by saying: *"When you fail to plan ahead, Sunday morning ends up becoming a chaotic crisis, and by the time you get to church, you are frustrated and frazzled and your heart is in no condition to receive the Word. But when you plan well and are able to arrive in a relaxed, leisurely way, you will be in a much more receptive frame of mind."*

Let us prepare well and then say along with the Psalmist: "I was glad when they said unto me, let us go into the house of the Lord." ■

# A Breath of Fresh Air

by Dr. Bob Dilks,  
Associate Pastor, Member Care

**2019**... A new year, a new month, and a time to look at what the Lord may want from me! This is not an article on New Year's resolutions. Rather, it is an invitation for you to review your spiritual journey of the last year. It is a time to reflect on your service in Kingdom ministry as a disciple of our Lord.

Some basic questions are in order to help us review and reflect.

> What evidence is there that shows I have grown spiritually in the things of the Lord this past year in my personal life?

> Am I satisfied with the content and direction of my conversations and time with family and friends?

> Are there indications from other people that affirm I am making a significant difference in the direction and depth of their lives?

A verse from God's Word is a great encouragement to me in these areas: **"The Spirit of God has made me, and the breath of the Almighty gives me life."** ~ Job 33:4

Our lives are utterly dependent on the breath we breathe—a gift of God!

I recently had a rare opportunity to be with 13 of my first cousins in one room for a few hours on one day. Because of age, health, and distance, some of us will never see each other again. Some in the group had not seen each other in more than 50 years. I saw on their faces and heard in their voices the images and sounds of their parents. Many of those parents had built their lives on strong spiritual foundations in the Lord. Those parents (my aunts and uncles) had served the Lord so well through serving others. Some were educators; some businessmen; some hourly workers in very physically demanding jobs. Besides their joint family name gained through their large family of origin, they

shared the common fact that we are only a breath away from eternity. It was a **"breath of fresh air"** to me that day to hear how many of those cousins had overcome great obstacles in life and were giving the Lord credit for sustaining them. Most had found their unique gift of service to others in and through their church.

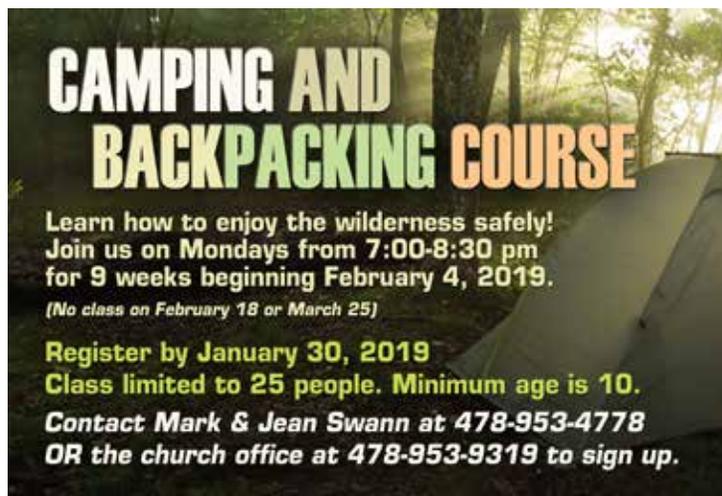
Our lives are given to us for a reason—a reason with spiritual purpose.

I Timothy 4:14 reminds us: *"Do not neglect the gift you have."* The specific context of that scripture passage was an older minister encouraging a younger minister. The underlying principle is applicable for **all of us** as disciples of our Lord Jesus—His followers; His Kingdom workers.

Take a breath of fresh air! Depend on the very breath from the Lord to sustain you. Find or re-engage your channel of service in His work and get off to a new start this month! I pray that 2019 will be a year of much spiritual growth and Christian service for you. Trust the Lord for results! ■



**DIVORCE Care**  
DC4K  
DivorceCare for Kids  
New Session Begins  
Sunday, January 13 at 4:00 pm  
DivorceCare/Rm. 192 & DC4K/Rm. 295



**CAMPING AND BACKPACKING COURSE**  
Learn how to enjoy the wilderness safely!  
Join us on Mondays from 7:00-8:30 pm  
for 9 weeks beginning February 4, 2019.  
(No class on February 18 or March 25)  
Register by January 30, 2019  
Class limited to 25 people. Minimum age is 10.  
Contact Mark & Jean Swann at 478-953-4778  
OR the church office at 478-953-9319 to sign up.



**CONGRATULATIONS**  
to the Newly Elected Deacons for 2019

Darryl Berryhill	Bill Bloser
Tracy DeFoor*	Jacob Dellinger*
Carl Floyd	Terry Horton
Phil Jones	Bryan Joyner
Richard Kilburn*	Chad Summers
Bobby Waller	Stan Yarbrough

\*Deacons to be ordained January 13.  
Thank You to all the men  
who were willing to serve!

# January 2019

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
<p><i>"Seek the Lord and His strength; seek His presence continually! Remember the wondrous works that He has done, His miracles and the judgments He uttered..." ~ 1 Chronicles 16:11-12</i></p>		<p>1 <b>NEW YEAR'S DAY</b> • Church Office Closed</p>	<p>2 • <b>NO FELLOWSHIP MEAL, MIDWEEK SERVICE, KIDZ OR STUDENT ACTIVITIES, CHOIR OR ORCHESTRA REHEARSAL</b></p>	<p>3</p>	<p>4 • <b>8:30 am - 5:30 pm</b> Upward Basketball GAMES RESUME</p>	<p>5 • <b>8:30 am - 5:30 pm</b> Upward Basketball GAMES</p>
<p>6 • <b>5:00 pm Children's Leadership Meeting (FLC)</b></p>	<p>7 • <b>1:00 pm Helping Hands</b> • <b>5:30-8:30 pm</b> Upward Basketball Practice (Gym) • <b>6:30 pm</b> Prayer Ministry</p>	<p>8 • <b>9:00 am -12:00 pm</b> Int'l English School • <b>5:30-8:30 pm</b> Upward Basketball Practice (Gym) • <b>7:00 pm JoyBells Resumes</b></p>	<p>9 • <b>9:00 am -12:00 pm</b> Int'l Bible Study • <b>4:45-8:30 pm</b> Mid-Week at Central All Activities Resume</p>	<p>10 • <b>9:00 am -12:00 pm</b> Int'l Reading Class • <b>5:30-8:30 pm</b> Upward Basketball Practice (Gym)</p>	<p>11 • <b>5:30 - 9:30 pm</b> Upward Basketball GAMES</p>	<p>12 • <b>8:30 am - 5:30 pm</b> Upward Basketball GAMES</p>
<p>13 • <b>9/10:30 am</b> Deacon Ordination • <b>12:00 pm Student Parent Meeting (FLC)</b> • <b>4:00-6:00 pm</b> DivorceCare &amp; DC4K New Session Begins • <b>4:30 pm Deacons Mtg</b> • <b>6:00 pm Sunday Night Service (FLC)</b></p>	<p>14 • <b>5:30-8:30 pm</b> Upward Basketball Practice (Gym) • <b>6:30 pm</b> Prayer Ministry</p>	<p>15 • <b>9:00 am -12:00 pm</b> Int'l English School • <b>5:30-8:30 pm</b> Upward Basketball Practice (Gym) • <b>7:00 pm JoyBells</b></p>	<p>16 • <b>9:00 am -12:00 pm</b> Int'l Bible Study • <b>4:45-8:30 pm</b> Mid-Week at Central /Church Conference</p>	<p>17 • <b>9:00 am -12:00 pm</b> Int'l Reading Class • <b>9:15-11:45 am Ladies Bible Study Resumes</b> • <b>10:00 am Women on Mission</b> • <b>5:30-8:30 pm</b> Upward Basketball Practice (Gym)</p>	<p>18 • <b>5:30 - 9:30 pm</b> Upward Basketball GAMES</p>	<p>19 • <b>8:30 am - 5:30 pm</b> Upward Basketball GAMES</p>
<p>20 • <b>5:00 pm Children's Parent Meeting (FLC)</b> • <b>4:00-6:00 pm</b> DivorceCare &amp; DC4K</p>	<p>21 <b>Martin L. King, Jr. Day</b> • Church Office Closed • <b>5:30-8:30 pm</b> Upward Basketball Practice (Gym) • <b>6:30 pm</b> Prayer Ministry</p>	<p>22 • <b>9:00 am -12:00 pm</b> Int'l English School • <b>5:30-8:30 pm</b> Upward Basketball Practice (Gym) • <b>7:00 pm JoyBells</b></p>	<p>23 • <b>9:00 am -12:00 pm</b> Int'l Bible Study • <b>4:45-8:30 pm</b> Mid-Week at Central</p>	<p>24 • <b>9:00 am -12:00 pm</b> Int'l Reading Class • <b>9:15-11:45 am</b> Ladies Bible Study • <b>11:00 am Central</b> • <b>5:30-8:30 pm</b> Upward Basketball Practice (Gym)</p>	<p>25 • <b>5:30 - 9:30 pm</b> Upward Basketball GAMES</p>	<p>26 • <b>5:30 - 9:30 pm</b> Upward Basketball GAMES</p>
<p>27 • <b>4:00-6:00 pm</b> DivorceCare &amp; DC4K • <b>5:00-7:00 pm</b> Starting Point</p>	<p>28 • <b>NO Upward Basketball Practice</b>  GBC STATE EVANGELISM CONFERENCE</p>	<p>29 • <b>9:00 am -12:00 pm</b> Int'l English School • <b>5:30-8:30 pm</b> Upward Basketball Practice (Gym) • <b>7:00 pm JoyBells</b></p>	<p>30 • <b>9:00 am -12:00 pm</b> Int'l Bible Study • <b>4:45-8:30 pm</b> Mid-Week at Central</p>	<p>31 • <b>9:00 am -12:00 pm</b> Int'l Reading Class • <b>9:15-11:45 am</b> Ladies Bible Study • <b>5:30-8:30 pm</b> Upward Basketball Practice (Gym)</p>	<p><i>Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!</i> ~ 2 Corinthians 5:17</p>	

- Regular Activities**
- SUNDAY ACTIVITIES**
- 9:00 am.....Sunday School / Life Groups Worship
  - 10:30 am .....Sunday School / Life Groups Worship
  - 4:00-6:00 pm ..DivorceCare & DC4K
- WEDNESDAY ACTIVITIES**
- 4:45-6:00 pm ..Fellowship Meal
  - 5:30 pm .....Prayer Time
  - 6:00 pm .....M&Ms
  - 6:15 pm .....Tethered (Students) Mid-Week Worship Bible Study Classes
  - 7:15 pm .....Choir & Orchestra Rehearsal

**THE GEORGIA BAPTIST STATE EVANGELISM CONFERENCE**

*The Sufficiency OF THE GOSPEL*

**JANUARY 28-29 2019**

CENTRAL BAPTIST CHURCH

*CBC Members Welcome to Attend!*

For speaker itinerary, please go to:  
<https://gbcevangelismconferences.com/>

# Living with Gospel Intentionality

by **Drew Heurion,**  
**Associate Pastor,**  
**Discipleship & Evangelism**

The New Year always brings with it fresh opportunities to start a new habit, kick an old one, or simply resolve to be more intentional in certain areas of our lives.

This year I'm challenging myself to live with more gospel intentionality. What does that mean? Simply put, I want to live my everyday life with a sense of spiritual awareness of those around me. I want to actively seek out gospel opportunities and look for ways to develop relationships with non-believers so that I can speak the gospel to them.

You know, when we think of evangelism or outreach, we usually think of it as an activity that takes place on a certain day and at a certain time. For example, we will meet on Thursday evenings at 6:30pm. Now, let me just say, there is absolutely nothing wrong with that! But let me also say that if we *only* relegate evangelism/outreach to those types of structured times, we will miss a lot of opportunities that the Lord puts in front of us every day!

Gospel-intentional living means going to the places we always go to, enjoying the activities we always enjoy, and doing the things we normally do, with our radar up and ready to spot gospel opportunities as they arise.

Please pray for me this year and please consider joining me as together we seek to be on mission, making, maturing, and multiplying disciples of Jesus Christ! ■

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MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

## Parenting CONFERENCE

### ON FAMILY WORSHIP



February 8 & 9 (Fri. evening & Sat. morning)  
Featured Speaker: **Dr. Don Whitney**  
Assoc. Dean at the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary

PLUS Many Workshops Available!

## Central Rec New Year Fit Challenge

### January-February 2019

➔ **Weight Loss Competition Challenge**  
➔ **Exercise More Consistently Challenge**

For details, please contact Marty Hollingshead:  
[marty@centralwr.com](mailto:marty@centralwr.com) or 478-953-9319



### NEWCOMERS CLASS

Sunday  
Jan. 27 | 5-7 pm

*Meal Included*  
To Register,  
Call or Email Jodi:  
478.953.9319  
[jodi@centralwr.com](mailto:jodi@centralwr.com)