



First Edition

January 2015



First Baptist Church of San Mateo 2801 Alameda de las Pulgas San Mateo, CA 94403 650-345-1965 www.fbcsanmateo.org

New Year's Greetings

● *"For this reason I bow my knees before the Father, from whom every family in heaven and on earth derives its name, that He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with power through His Spirit in the inner man, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; and that you, being rooted and grounded in love, may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ which surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled up to all the fullness of God."* Ephesians 3:14-20

"So let's keep focused on that goal, those of us who want everything God has for us. If any of you have something else in mind, something less than total commitment, God will clear your blurred vision—you'll see it yet! Now that we're on the right track, let's stay on it.

"Stick with me, friends. Keep track of those you see running this same course, headed for this same goal. There are many out there taking other paths, choosing other goals, and trying to get you to go along with them. I've warned you of them many times; sadly, I'm having to do it again. All they want is easy street. They hate Christ's Cross. But easy street is a dead-end street. Those who live there make their bellies their gods; belches are their praise; all they can think of is their appetites.

"But there's far more to life for us. We're citizens of high heaven! We're waiting the arrival of the Savior, the Master, Jesus Christ, who will transform our earthy bodies into glorious bodies like his own. He'll make us beautiful and whole with the same powerful skill by which he is putting everything as it should be, under and around him." (Philippians 3:15-21,

The Message Translation)

We hope that this New Year is not only a time of transformation and unparalleled growth in your life we pray that each of us is will be filled up with all the fullness of God! Together may we learn to live like Christ and reach out to others in His name! May God bless you and fill you!

Love in Christ,
Pastor Marc & Candace

● May this New year bring you closer to our Lord and Savior, of whom it is said in Colossians 1: "He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. For by Him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things were created by him and for him. He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together. And He is the head of the body, the church; He is the beginning and the firstborn from among the dead, so that in everything he might have the supremacy." May He reign and be cherished in all our hearts more and more in 2015. Doug Andrews

● May the truth of God's Word sink deep into our hearts and may our understanding of God's great love for us grow throughout the year so that we have the faith to be all that He calls us to be in the power of His Holy Spirit. Have a blessed New Year. In Him,
Dave and Alba Kellejian

● *"May the God of hope fill you with His joy and peace. May the amazing grace of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, and the affectionate love of God the Father, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all."* (2 Cor 13:14) Mara Prieto

● "Gina and I hope that you had a joyful, restful and blessed Christmas season.

"For a child will be born to us, a son will be given to us; and the government shall be upon His shoulders; and His name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Eternal Father, Prince of Peace. There will be no end to the increase of His government or of peace..." (Is 9: 6-7).

Our God is truly an awesome God. May He be the center of your lives this coming year and forevermore.

We love you.
Pat and Regina Coffey

● *"Because of the LORD's great love we are not consumed, for his compassions never fail. They are new every morning; great is your faithfulness."* (Lam. 3:22-23)
I wish you all the blessings that God wants to bestow upon you.

Sheryn Cockett

● *"We have seen and testify that the Father has sent the Son to be the Savior of the world."* 1 John 4:14

And praise God that He came because where would we be without Him!!! As we move into a new year, we can say that we have seen our God do great and marvelous things! Praying that we continue to deepen our hunger and thirst for the only One who can satisfy our every longing and that we would follow His every lead. May you enjoy ALL of what He can provide! Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to you all!
Janet White

● I pray that this year, God strengthens you with His power and might. I also pray that you grow to a deeper understanding of His will, in conformity to Christ's character, and in readiness to follow His Word.
Tami Strang

More Greetings

● *"The Lord is my shepherd, I lack nothing. He makes me lie down in green pastures, he leads me beside quiet waters, he refreshes my soul. He guides me along the right paths for his name's sake.*

Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me. You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies. You anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows.

Surely your goodness and love will follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever."
(Psalm 23)

Funny how the Lord works at times and how fortunate we are to have a God that will never abandon us. With Him in our corner, we can rest assured that no matter what hardships we encounter, God will always be there to comfort us. Life is a lesson in progress, but with the right tools there are no reasons to worry. Take from each situation, the good and not so good, the lesson our Lord is trying to teach.

Looking forward to the New Year when we continue to learn His way to serve.
David Shong

● My prayer is that we as a body and individually would all grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ in the coming year and maintain the unity of the Spirit which God has graciously given us. I also pray that we may go forward with His presence and blessing. Finally, for all who are hurting, I pray that God will touch you with His great mercy, compassion and healing.
Sandy Murray

● May the Lord be the lamp to your feet and the light to your path (Psalm 119:105).
Stenya Strang

● *"The Lord bless thee and keep thee; The Lord make His face shine upon thee and be gracious unto thee; The Lord lift up His countenance upon thee and give thee peace."*

(Numbers 6:24-26)

What blessing could be more desirable for the New Year than God's favor? May God's blessings be on you, your family, and His church.
Doris Waddell

● Have a great Christmas and an awesome 2015.
Bruce Bagley

Dear First Baptist Friends,

God has been gracious in my life. He is always faithful. He is trustworthy. I am thankful for His unending mercy and grace, His amazing, unconditional love. All glory, honor, praise and thanks belong to Him.

What a journey I had with Him through the years here in America. Leading me to First Baptist Church of San Mateo is a blessing. The Lord used each one of you for my growth. I thank God for you. Thank you in how we as a church helped, supported each other in serving Him through different ministries.

Thank you, Women's Ministries, my sisters in the Lord, for friendship, all the Bible studies and the socializing time as well. I pray that you will keep that love for His precious words always hungry and desiring to grow deeper.

Thank you, little children, for the joy you give in my heart. May you grow in His grace and knowledge of a wonderful Father.

Thank you, teenagers, for your energy and desire for Jesus. May you truly have discernment from the Holy Spirit and wisdom not to be swayed by the world, only by God's word.

Thank you, Worship Choir, for the friendship, the fun, the joy, the heart to sing praises to our Savior King, to worship in Spirit and Truth to the One True Living God. May you keep singing for Jesus until you can sing no more but still utter the words of praise.

Thank you for the leadership of this church, who stayed firm and true to God's word, no matter how many bullets and arrows were thrown at you by the enemy. I pray that you continue to be faithful to God alone and have godly wisdom and understanding always.

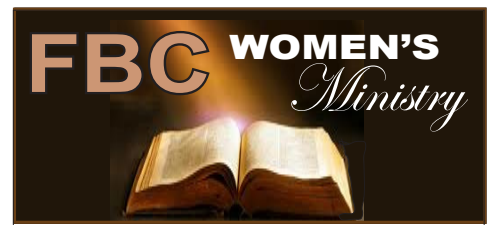
In all of these, may we continue to rise for Christ wherever we are, be the shining example, be the walking witness for our Savior and Master who gave it all so that we may glorify Him.

Thank you so much for your love, kindness, friendship and generosity. I will surely miss you all. Heaven is our home, remember that! God willing, we might see each other again before we are called home. He is Sovereign and in control. Nothing is impossible with Him.

I leave this verse for you, as it always reminds me who we are as children of God. Philippians 3:13-14 *"Brothers, I do not consider I have made it my own. But one thing I do: Forgetting what lies behind and straining forward what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus."*

As this is the season of Christ's birth, I wish you all a very glorious Merry Christmas and a blessed, prosperous New Year!

With all my love in Christ,
Rose



Tuesday Nights

By Sandy Murray

The study on James resumes the regular schedule, meeting twice each month: January 6th and 20th in the Chapel at 7:00 p.m.

Sunday Mornings

Women's Class:

"Meditations on The Psalms" begins on January 11th. Note: The class is moving upstairs to Room 352.

Save the Date: March 20th - 22nd
Women's Ministry Retreat
Redwood Glen



"Building a Firm Foundation in the Faith"

Begins Jan. 11

Open to
Men and Women
Sundays, at 11:00 a.m.

To sign up
(if you haven't already) or
get information,
call the church office at 650-
345-1965.

Be Rooted in the Faith.

To know God is not just
to know the facts about
Him, but to stand in awe
of Him, and have a
RELATIONSHIP
with Him.

LIFE OF THE CHURCH January 2015

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
SUNDAY MORNINGS: 9:30am Bible Studies for Children and Adults Contemporary Style Worship 11:00am Bible Studies for Adults and All Youth Classical Style Worship		All Events Are Subject to Change.		1 Church Office Closed	2	3 8:30am Men's Breakfast
4 8:45am Kick-Off Breakfast Combined Service Communion	5 7pm Scouts	6 7pm AI-Anon 7pm C.A.D. 7pm Women's Bible Study	7 6:30pm Midweek Service 8pm Worship Rehearsal	8 3pm Youth Band Reh. 7pm TNT	9	10
11 8:45am Prayer Meeting in the Hospitality Room 12:30 Children's Ministry Lunch	12 7pm Scouts	13 7pm AI-Anon 7pm C.A.D.	14 6:30pm Midweek Service 6:30pm AWANAS 8pm Worship Rehearsal	15 3pm Youth Band Reh. 7pm TNT	16	17
18 8:45am Prayer Meeting in the Hospitality Room 12:30pm Women's Ministry Team Meeting	19 7pm Scouts Martin Luther King Day	20 7pm AI-Anon 7pm C.A.D. 7pm Women's Bible Study	21 6:30pm Midweek Service 8pm Worship Rehearsal	22	23	24
25 8:45am Prayer Meeting in the Hospitality Room	26	27 7pm AI-Anon 7pm C.A.D.	28 6:30pm Midweek Service 6:30pm AWANAS 8pm Worship Rehearsal	29	30	31

FBC, SAN MATEO CHRISTMAS, DECEMBER 7

Dave Irish, FBC Choir, Story Time, Crafts, Meeting Folks,



A GREAT WAY TO CELEBRATE CHRIST!

Daily Bible Readings - January

The following Bible reading is provided by
biblegateway.com
for our use.

Thurs.	1	Genesis 1-3
Fri.	2	Genesis 4-6
Sat.	3	Genesis 7-9
Sun.	4	Genesis 10-12
Mon.	5	Genesis 13-15
Tues.	6	Genesis 16-18
Wed.	7	Genesis 19-21
Thurs.	8	Genesis 22-24
Fri.	9	Genesis 25-27
Sat.	10	Genesis 28-30
Sun.	11	Genesis 31-33
Mon.	12	Genesis 34-36
Tues.	13	Genesis 37-39
Wed.	14	Genesis 40-42
Thurs.	15	Genesis 43-46
Fri.	16	Genesis 47-50
Sat.	17	Exodus 1-3
Sun.	18	Exodus 4-6
Mon.	19	Exodus 7-9
Tues.	20	Exodus 10-12
Wed.	21	Exodus 13-15
Thurs.	22	Exodus 16-18
Fri.	23	Exodus 19-21
Sat.	24	Exodus 22-24
Sun.	25	Exodus 25-27
Mon.	26	Exodus 28-30
Tues.	27	Exodus 31-33
Wed.	28	Exodus 34-36
Thurs.	29	Exodus 37-40
Fri.	30	Leviticus 1-3
Sat.	31	Leviticus 4-6

Special Offerings

For the month of January will go
to Hillcrest Chaplaincy.



January 5: Debbie Shong
January 18: Janine Dufficy
January 22: Mara Prieto
January 28: Jeff Olson
January 31: Becky Olson

**Jesus' birth day can be questioned,
but His birth can not be denied.**

New Year's Resolutions

By David Shong

- I will make time to read the Bible every-day - starting with 5 minutes at a time and going from there. ● I will study what I have read. ● I will apply what I have learned.
- I will let the Holy Spirit work through me.
- I will donate my most precious thing I control, my time, using my God given gift to help the needy - starting with one day a month and going from there. ● I will apply God's word through my actions.

Do you have a prayer request? The Prayer Box is available in the narthex. The Pastoral staff will pray for you.



Call to Me

Submitted by Pat Coffey

God is eager to communicate with His children. The Lord's words to Jeremiah extend to us as well: "Call to Me, and I will answer you, and show you great and mighty things" (Jer. 33:3). What we need to do is to get ready to hear Him. Hearing from God is a learning process that takes time, but it is available to everyone who desires it. We don't have to have reached some high level of spiritual maturity. We don't have to have it all together, with all the struggles of our lives under control. He is available to us just as we are.

It's also important that we allow ourselves the freedom to listen expectantly for Him. During Jesus' ministry, He took time alone with His Father and told His disciples to do the same (Mark 6:31, 46). We too need a quiet place free from distraction. Once there, how do we know that what we're hearing truly is from God?

Here are some questions you can ask yourself to determine if it is God speaking to you:

- Is it consistent with Scripture?
- Is it consistent with the character of God?
- Does it lead to change or growth in your life?
- Does it lead to the restoration of relationships?
- Is there a sense of healing; release from past sin or pain?
- Is there a sense of peace, a lessening of anxiety, of contentment where once there was striving?
- Does it lead to conviction instead of guilt?

There is a distinct difference between the conviction of the Holy Spirit and the condemnation of the devil, because the two speak different languages. The characteristics of each should help you distinguish who is speaking. However, we sometimes mistake Satan's voice for God's, because Satan's voice fits so well with our own distortions and misunderstandings about God and how we think He feels about us. But God speaks to us in a way that is completely different from the condemnation of Satan.

How can you tell the difference? Satan communicates in the following way:

- Tone: accusing, nagging, and mocking. Generates fear and causes confusion.
- Vague: generates an overall sense of guilt, as if everything is wrong. Creates



ATTENTION ALL MEN:

Men's Ministry Monthly Break-fast

Saturday, January 3, 8:30 a.m.
in the Chapel.

feelings of hopelessness and weakness.

- Discouraging: attacks your self-confidence, tells you that you are weak and worthless.
- Brings up the past: replays your sin and shame, reminds you of your poor choices.
- Rejecting: produces the feeling that God has rejected you as unworthy and unholy. Portrays God as judge and you as a miserable sinner.
- Isolating: gives suggestions that cause you to withdraw from others.
- Negative: tells you that the horrible way you feel is the way it is.

The conviction of the Holy Spirit is just the opposite:

- Tone: gentle, loving, imploring, and urges your return to Him.
- Specific: tells you to take a specific action in response to sin; freedom follows.
- Encouraging: says you can rely on His power, not your strength.
- Release from the past: tells you your sins are forgiven, never to be held against you.
- Attracts: generates an expectation of kindness, love, and a new beginning with His help.
- Draws into friendship: sends others to minister to you in love, as well as sends you to others. Speaks of His unchanging nature and steadfast love.
- Truthful: states facts about you and God.

Use this list as a guideline so you will be able to clearly hear God's responses as you share your heart with Him.

The Bible is clear about the fact that God actively pursues a personal relationship with His children. He delights in you and desires to bring restoration to the painful places in your life. He offers Himself as a refuge from fear and anxiety. He holds out His strength to those who are broken. He is here for you – anytime you come.

He is gently calling, "Come with Me."

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