



# First Edition

## January 2017



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## New Year's Greetings - 2017

● As I await the start of the New Year, I find myself filled with curiosity, excitement and great expectations as I consider what the Lord has in store for us in 2017. God has been so faithful to us, and this past year we have seen and experienced so many of His blessings! So I wonder, how does He want to use us in the coming year?

I also wonder if we will we be faithful to the Lord and His leading, or will we miss out on His best? What kind of Body are we going to be? One that functions in dependence, integrity, and obedience, or will we settle for the status quo? Will we choose to take a stand for Christ or seek to keep a low profile and fly under the radar? You know, it is so easy to settle, to accept the way things are. It's easy to get in a rut and allow life, your life in Christ, to become far less than God intended or desires. It is also possible for people who love the Lord, to lose sight of the fact that He expects all of His people to stand out and shine in this present darkness.

In Matthew 5:14-16 Jesus said: *"You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden; nor does anyone light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all who are in the house."*

*"Let your light shine before men in such a way that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father who is in heaven."*

Light is a common theme in scripture, and its function is to make reality or truth visible, thereby giving direction and guidance by what is seen. Jesus said we are to be like a lighted lamp set on a lampstand, in a prominent place

so that it gives light to the whole house and not stuck under a bucket, where it does no good. In other words, as Christians we are intended to influence and impact the world around us for good, making Christ visible through our lives and through our actions. Are we doing that? Will it be our goal, corporately and individually this year to be light in this community and wherever else God may choose to send us?

It's important to understand that in verse 14 Jesus used the emphatic "you" stating, *"You are the light of the world."* Do you know what that means? It means that if you are a believer, you are already the light of the world. Jesus clearly makes the point in these verses that it is the very nature of His people to be light in the world. Therefore, a believer who fails to function as light is going against their God given nature as a new creation in Christ. The Greek word *doxasosin* that is translated in verse 16 as glorify, means to praise, honor, or magnify. And the idea here is that when we live righteously, we shine, making visible the character of God the Father. So a believers life and influence is to be visible and obvious, not secret or hidden. Which means you must not camouflage your devotion to Christ, but humbly do all that you can to allow your faith to be seen.

Dietrich Bonhoffer had this insight: "A community of Jesus which seeks to hide itself has ceased to follow Him." We must be ourselves, our true Christian selves openly living the life described in the beatitudes and not ashamed of Christ."

These verses in Matthew contain

some very powerful truths and provide instruction as to how we ought to live in this world. They also make the point that while we have a purpose in the world, we are not to be of the world. As Christians we are to be radically different from those who don't know God. That's why our goal shouldn't be to fit in, maintain a low profile, not offend anyone, we are intended to stand out. Yet many who claim to know the Lord are reluctant to share their faith or let their light shine. There are those who claim to believe, but there seems to be little difference between the way they live and the way unbelievers live. Others want to minimize the differences between believers and unbelievers, but the differences are so great that Jesus illustrated this difference by contrasting light and darkness.

Friend, if you are a believer in Jesus Christ then you have not only been set apart, you have graciously been granted the incredible privilege of having a personal relationship with Almighty God. And that not only makes you different, but it demands that you live differently.

John Stott had this great insight: "We serve neither God, nor ourselves, nor the world, by attempting to obliterate or even minimize this difference. Probably the greatest tragedy of the church throughout its long and checkered history has been its constant tendency to conform to the prevailing culture instead of developing a Christian counter culture."

Jesus wants to use each of us to impact the world, and to bring His light into the darkness. He wants us to spread His truth and show what it means to tru-

Continued on next page.

## New Year's Greetings - 2017 (Cont.)

ly be alive. Which is why it is so very important that we don't hide who and what we are in Christ. We dare not be complacent or disobedient! It is our God given responsibility to live in such a way that makes God visible to a world that is blind to Him. As one New Testament scholar says: "the good word without the good walk is of no avail."

As incredible as it may sound, you and I really can be used by God to impact the world. **We can make a difference! But it all begins by choosing to live flat out for Him.** As we do that, this church and the community will be blessed! But that's not all; you will also become a blessing to other people. And God will use you as His instrument to bring life and hope to a broken world,. Best of all, God will be glorified.

Let's join together and pray that in this coming year, God will use His Church to bring about a dramatic change in the world. Let's make a resolution to not settle for anything less than God's best! May we seek to let His light shine in and through us, I believe if we are obedient and do that, this truly will be a Happy New Year!

Pastor Marc

● *"Therefore, it was necessary for Him to be made in every respect like us, His brothers and sisters, so that He could be our merciful and faithful High Priest before God. Then He could offer a sacrifice that would take away the sins of the people. Since He himself has gone through suffering and testing, He is able to help us when we are being tested."*

Hebrews 2:7-18

All thanks and praise to Jesus for His love and power to redeem us and transform our lives. I am so thankful for all He is and has done in and through us here at First Baptist. Looking forward to growing deeper in Him with all of my church family.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Doug

● To my First Baptist Church family, I would like to thank you all for being my family in Christ, It means more to me than you'll ever know. Just like our Savior Jesus made all things new, I pray for a renewing revival in your relationship with God and your hearts for Him. May the new year, 2017 be blessed beyond belief for you and yours.

With Love, Clay

● God has been mindful of our humble state, He has lifted us up, and He has blessed us with great things. The Almighty God remembers His people in His compassionate loyal love.

May we all be strengthened in the Holy Spirit to live joyful lives thanking, praising, and magnifying our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Mara

● Romans 12:2 (ESV) *"Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect."*

I hope God's best for all of you in the coming year and beyond..

Sheryn

● Regina and I wish you all a very Merry Christmas, and joyous and Happy New Year. May the peace and joy of this season be with you through all of 2017. May God's blessings be lavished upon you.

With love, Pat and Regina Coffey

● *"Set your mind on the things above, not on the things that are on earth."*

Colossians 3:2

Have a Merry Christmas and an even more wonderful new year as we keep seeking after our Lord and Savior!

Janet

● Blessings to all at FBC: May you go deeper in His Word this year and experience more of His Presence. May you be still and know that He is God.

Sandy Murray

● "May you grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ." (2 Peter 3:18)

Blessings, Stenya

● One of God's most loving promises is in Psalm 91:14-16. All this because we love Him: deliverance, security, answered prayer, His presence in time of trouble, He rescues and honors, satisfies with a long life, and will let us see His salvation. What a beautiful way to spend 2017. May all these blessings be yours this year.

Doris



**Breakfast at 8:45 a.m.  
in Fellowship Hall**

**Tim's Cooking Again! = Good Food!**



**Combined Service  
10 a.m.  
in the Sanctuary**



# Praising the Lord for all He did in 2016!!!

By Doug Andrews

What a great season we had during this last Fall and Christmas!!! We had the opportunity to spend time serving the Lord through the Harvest Festival and our October events, worshipping God in thankfulness during our Thanksgiving events, and then celebrating Christmas together at our annual Christmas events and party, and soon we'll be heading for the snow to draw even closer to Him and each other for our Winter Retreat. Below are some pictures from the events we had.

Sunday mornings in 2017 we are starting our gospel series where our goal is to help equip students to understand who Jesus is and really grow deeper in their individual relationship with Him, by studying the Gospel books. We'll be teaching about prayer, reading the Word, and how to practically live for Jesus everyday in everything we do. We're going to put new Study Bibles and devotional books in students' hands and teach about just how to have a devotional/quiet time with the Lord and how to connect with God through the spiritual disciplines.

We have a couple of great retreats coming up in the next month. All Youth will be going on our Winter Retreat, January 4-7, 2017. Then we'll be going away for a one day Ski Trip on the president's weekend. College students can go to Hume Lake Christian Camp over the second weekend in March for a challenging weekend of learning how to live a life in awe of who God is. More information is below

Please be praying for us. If you see youth around church please encourage them and let them know just how much they mean to us as a church family. Thank you so much for all of your encouragement, support, and prayer. And continue to keep our youth leaders and helpers in your prayers:

### Regular Events:

CAD (High School) - Tuesdays @ 7:15 - 9:00 pm

Youth Service (Jr. high, High, and College) - Sundays @ 11:00am - 12:15pm



# Upcoming Youth Events:

## Youth Winter Retreat - Wednesday-Saturday, January 4th - 7th, \$65

We'll be going up to the Sierra's for a great weekend of spiritual growth in the Lord. We have a cabin in the snow nearby some great places to sled, ice-skate, and play in the snow. If there is no snow we have some other awesome adventures planned too. We'll be bringing our Bibles and taking this weekend to really grow in Christ together. Fun games, great food!!!



## Presidents Day Youth Ski/Snowboard Trip - Sunday-Monday, February 19th - 20th,

Cost TBA (based on ski package)

Come learn to ski/snowboard or get better as we take on the mountain. Last year, this fun and affordable one-day trip was a great day with surprisingly few crowds and great weather. Join us as we head back to the Sierra's for more.

## College Winter trip - Hume Lake Christian Camp

Friday - Monday,

March 10-12, \$195

We're going back to Hume for an incredible weekend of great worship, speakers, and tons of fun in the snow. Tubing, snowboarding, broom hockey, games, activities for everyone! Come and bring a friend!!!



**More information for all of these events coming soon!!!**

## Our Missionaries at Work

"The decorations and the Christmas music start here in the malls on September 1. This is the first of the "...ber months," and therefore the official start of the Christmas season. There have been Christmas decorations for sale in front of the hardware stores for quite a while now.

"I think the Philippines must be one of the most wonderful places to be at Christmas. They love Christmas here, and there are no political ramifications to celebrating it fully. We see nativity scenes everywhere and no one protests. Malls and hotels are decked out fully, and the creativity in decorating knows no bounds.

"The groundskeepers and gate guards in our subdivision, along with the garbage truck men, will visit our house for their "Merry Christmas," a bonus of 100 pesos in an envelope (equivalent to about \$2. Children and groups of adults will come by the house to sing Christmas carols in hopes of a "Merry Christmas" of candy or a few coins (similar to the Halloween tradition in the U.S.).

"We love being here in this season. It is a little sad, however. This nation

- the only "Christian" nation in Asia, knows of Jesus, and yet so many of the individual Filipinos have not met him in a personal way. Pray for the Filipino people.

"And if I did miss anything (besides our grown kids!), it might be the possibility of snow. That will never happen here."

Merry Christmas from  
The Hardemans

"May the Blessings of Christmas be with you today and always. Thank you for your prayers and the blessings of your gifts of support at Christmas and throughout the year."

Hillcrest Chaplaincy and Ministries

"It's been another fantastic year in which we marvel at God's many blessings. So thankful you are a part of our lives.

"Wishing you a merry Christmas & a Hppy Hannukkah! With love and blessings from our family to yours,

Garrett, Nici, Zach, Daliya & Illana  
The Smiths"

## Men's Monthly Breakfast

**December 3,  
8:30 a.m.  
in the Chapel.**

**For ALL men.**

"Oh, the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are His judgments and unfathomable His ways! For WHO HAS KNOWN THE MIND OF THE LORD, OR WHO BECAME HIS COUNSELOR? Or WHO HAS FIRST GIVEN TO HIM THAT IT MIGHT BE PAID BACK TO HIM AGAIN? For from Him and through Him and to Him are all things. To Him be the glory forever. Amen."

Romans 11:33-36



**Begin again  
January 4th,  
6:30 p.m.**

**December 31st**

**10:00 a.m.**

**Come help us  
remove all the  
Christmas  
decorations and  
clean up  
for the New Year.**



*Have you ever considered honoring a loved one by providing a bouquet of flowers for the sanctuary? Several dates are available. Sign up in the notebook on the counter in the narthex. We ask and appreciate a \$40 gift for each arrangement.*

**Special offerings for the month  
of January will go to the Needy  
Fund.**





# January 2017

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	
1 <b>New Years Day</b> 8:45 am Breakfast 10:00 am Combined Service <b>Communion</b>	2	3 7pm FBC Youth	4 5pm Youth Band Reh. 6:30pm AWANAS 8pm Worship Reh.	5	6	7 8:30am Men's Monthly Breakfast	
<b>ALL FBC YOUTH RETREAT</b>							
8 12:30pm Children's Ministry Meeting	9	10 7pm FBC Youth	11 5pm Youth Band Reh. 6:30 pm Study in John 6:30 pm AWANAS 8pm Worship Rehearsal	12	13	14	
15	16 Martin Luther King, Jr. Day	17 7pm FBC Youth	18 5pm Youth Band Reh. 6:30 pm Study in John 6:30 pm AWANAS 8pm Worship Rehearsal	19	20	21	
22	23	24 7pm FBC Youth	25 5pm Youth Band Reh. 6:30 pm Study in John 6:30 pm AWANAS 8pm Worship Rehearsal	26	27 6:30 pm Movie Night - Bring a salad or dessert to go with the hot dogs. Drinks also provided.	28	
29	30	31 7pm FBC Youth	<b>SUNDAY MORNINGS:</b> 9:30am Bible Studies for Children and Adults Contemporary Style Worship 11:00am Bible Studies for Adults and All Youth Classical Style Worship				<b>All Events Are Subject to Change.</b>





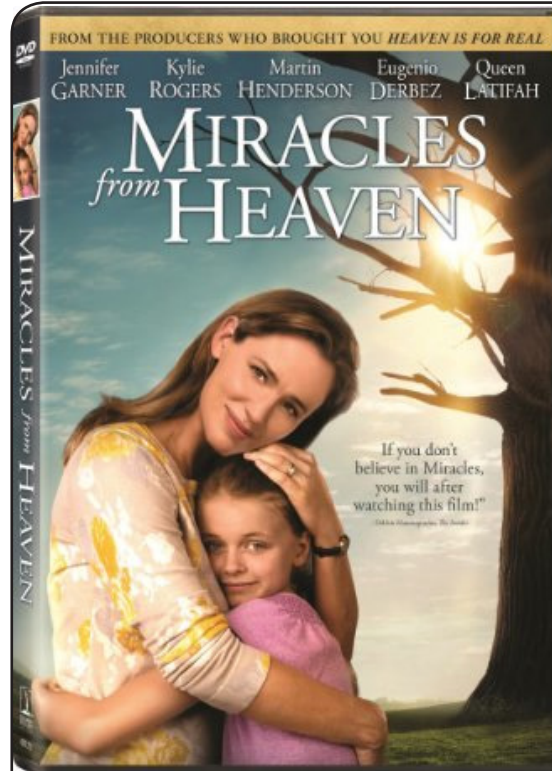
First Baptist Church  
 2801 Alameda de las Pulgas  
 San Mateo, California 94403

### Daily Bible Readings

The following Bible readings are provided by biblegateway.com for our use.

#### January

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



Miracles from Heaven is a 2016 American Christian drama film directed by Patricia Rigen and written by Randy Brown. It is based on Miracles from Heaven by Christy Beam, which recounts the true story of her young daughter who had a near-death experience and was later cured of an incurable disease.

## Movie Night Friday, Jan. 27th 6:30 p.m.

Popcorn, Hot dogs and drinks are provided.

Please bring a salad or dessert to share.