



First Edition

January

2016



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

Greetings and Blessings for the New Year, 2016

As this year draws to an end and a new year is about to begin I am excited to see what the Lord will do in and through us in the days ahead! This past year, God has been actively molding and shaping us into vessels that He can use for His glory and our good. And so I find myself wondering what might our great and awesome God has planned for each of us and for His church in 2016.

As you look back on this past year what specific attributes or qualities has God been building into your life? Is it possible He has engineered or allowed certain events to take place in the past that He plans to use in the coming year in order to bring glory and honor to Himself? How might God be using your current situation or circumstances to prepare you for something much more important in the future? A good question to ask yourself is: What is God trying to teach me through the simple ordinary things He calls me to do each and every day?

Fact is, that God wants you to be the unique person He created you to be, and if you are willing, He will mold and shape you into the person He desires. And as you yield yourself to Him, He will be glorified and you will be blessed. But as far as I am concerned, it all begins by making God the number one priority of your life.

God has called His church on the corner of 28th & Alameda to draw

closer to Him and to His Word, to each other and also to the community in which He has placed us. We have been called, both individually and corporately to be the light of the world and to let our light shine in such a way as to make God visible in a world that is seemingly growing ever darker. But in order for that to happen we must grow closer to the Lord by focusing on Him and His Word. We need to allow God to renew our minds. We need His values, not the world's. Our minds are changed by God's Word so we must be immersed in it!

Ken Gire wrote a beautiful and informative prayer that really captures the attitude we ought have when we approach God and His Word.

"Cultivate my heart, Lord, so I may catch every word that falls from heaven - every syllable of encouragement, every sentence of rebuke, every paragraph of instruction, every page of warning. Help me to catch these words as the soft, fertile soil catches seeds."

God wants His children to continually grow in their relationship with Him and the surest way for that to happen is by spending quality time each day with God and His Word. The Word is where we meet God and have the opportunity to learn and grow deep in Him.

Oswald Chambers said: The main thing about Christianity is not

the work we do, but the relationship we maintain and the atmosphere produced by that relationship. That is all God asks us to look after, and it is the one thing that is being continually assailed.

Remember God's Word is not only active and living, but it is powerful! Therefore if you want your life to be all that it can be, if you want to be growing in your relationship with the Lord, make spending time with Him a daily priority. Allow God to teach you and mold you through His Word this year! May God bless you in the New Year as you spend time with Him and His Word!

I pray that *"the eyes of your heart may be enlightened, so that you will know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints, and what is the surpassing greatness of His power toward us who believe."*

Ephesians 1:18-19

May the coming year truly be a time of transformation and growth in each of our lives as together we learn to live like Christ and reach out to others in His name! It is my hope that together like the Apostle Paul we will choose to press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus!

Love in Christ,
Pastor Marc & Candace

Greetings and Blessings continue -- >

In this New Year, may you fully commit your heart and your life to the wonderful care and leading of our perfect Heavenly Father. May we all together be faithful to the things the Holy Spirit is showing us. May Jesus receive all glory and praise of whom it is written, "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. For God was pleased to have all His fullness dwell in Him, and through Him to reconcile to Himself all things, whether things on earth or things in heaven, by making peace through his blood, shed on the cross." Col. 1:15-20

Doug Andrews

With the certainty of the hope from our Lord and Savior, I hope All my FBC family (who are very special to God and to me) have a blessed Christmas season and a joyous new year in the Lord.

Clay Minter

May the Lord give you wisdom, strength and peace as you walk closely with Him.

Stenya Strang

Praying that all of you will have a very blessed New Year. May you all go deeper in your relationship with the Lord in the months to come and enjoy His favor and blessing in your lives.

Sandy Murray

May the truth of the gospel continue to impact our community keeping us centered on heavenly hope, growing in faith, and love for one another in the coming year. May the God of peace, who through the blood of the eternal covenant brought back from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great Shepherd of the sheep, equip you with everything good for doing His will, and may He work in us what is pleasing to Him, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory forever and ever. (Heb 13:20-21).

Mara Prieto

"And this I pray, that your love may abound still more and more in real knowledge and all discernment, so that you may approve the things that are excellent, in order to be sincere and blameless until the day of Christ; having been filled with the fruit of righteousness which comes through Jesus Christ, to the glory and praise of God." (Philippians 1:9-11)

Tami Strang

Isaiah 26:4 says, "Trust in the LORD forever, For in GOD the LORD, we have an everlasting Rock." Let us join with His creation and praise Him for all He has done and all He is going to do. May your year ahead be more than you ever hoped for or dreamed of. -

Blessings, Janet White

Have a fruitful New Year as we continue to be His church, ministering to each other and to the community.

Doris Waddell

the list and be reminded of what God had shown me about Himself and what He wants of me. I know the page will serve as an encouragement and reminder in later days, too.

Reading the Bible cover to cover also gave me a feeling of being on a "journey." In a year that was alternately challenging and uneventful, I valued both the discipline and the sense of consistency that this particular plan gave to me—rather, I should say that GOD gave to me through His Word and presence! Each day, I made steady progress from the beginning of the Bible to the end. As the days, weeks, and months passed, I could see my bookmark moving along and be reminded that God was with me in that progress. I would pause and be grateful for the "daily bread" and the forward motion in His Word!

This year, I plan to read through different books of the Bible more slowly, spending more in-depth time meditating on a few verses each day. I look forward to seeing what God will teach me through the process!

How will you spend your quiet time with the Lord in 2016? If you haven't yet decided, here are some of my suggestions for developing a personal plan that can bear fruit:

1. Prayerfully consider your spiritual goals for the year. For example, perhaps you want to grow in wisdom and discernment.

2. Once you've written your goals down, think about the types of reading or activities that will help you accomplish them. To carry on the example above: you might decide to spend an extended period of time in Proverbs for your Bible reading and also read some classic Christian books that will encourage you in the faith.

3. Develop your plan! It helps to be as specific as possible. Maybe you'll decide to read one chapter of Proverbs per day, and read one classic Christian book per month.

4. Then, stick with that plan! Stay consistent. Read and pray every day.

5. Keep a journal or track your progress on a checklist. As you proceed through the year, you'll be encouraged by all that God has shown you!

Need ideas? Ask a discerning friend about the plans that have helped them grow spiritually throughout the years!

I'm excited to hear what God will do in and through you as a result of your quiet time with Him!



Reading the Bible in a Year— Cover to Cover

By Tami Strang

Every year I take a different approach to my quiet time. Sometimes I dive in deep to particular sections of the Bible, spending several weeks on one book; other times I choose to read through the Bible in a year. Sometimes I accompany that reading with Christian classics; sometimes I use current daily devotionals.

This year, I decided to read the Bible cover to cover—a new experience for me. Starting in Genesis and moving on through to Revelation, I read about three chapters every day. I used one particular Bible, and kept my place with a bookmark.

After finishing each book of the Bible, I wrote down a word or two that summarized what I'd observed or learned through that book. I used one of the blank pages at the end of the Bible—partly so I wouldn't lose the paper, and partly because it gave me a "permanent record" of what I'd learned. I noted words such as "courage" for Joshua, "witness" for Acts, and "righteousness" for Romans. Every so often, I'd review

FB**Consummate
Man****Men's Monthly
Breakfast is
January 2,
8:30 a.m.****Leadership
offerings for the
month of January
will be for the
needy fund.****All Youth****CAD - High School Group -**

Tuesdays, 7:15-9:00pm

TNT - Jr. High School Group -

Thursdays, 7:00-8:45pm

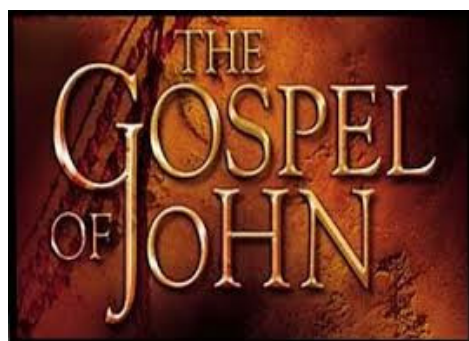
Youth Service - All Grades -

Sundays, 11:00-12:15pm

**Special Event
New Year's Event
for Youth****January 3, 2016**
Breakfast at Church at 8:45am**Followed by a
Combined Service at
10:00 a.m.****A BIG THANK YOU**

There are so many who helped with the mural in the windows of the Chapel. By name they are: Stenya and Tami Strang, Lily Olson, Caitlin Neciuk, Annika Bjhornson, and Nathan Angel. My thanks and appreciation for your willingness to help, and thank God for letting us get acquainted. I don't know when I've been prouder of our youth, Lily, Caitlin, Annika, and Nathan.

Doris Waddell



It's not too late to receive the blessings of the Wednesday night study on the Book of John. It starts at 6:30 p.m. in the Chapel for worship and a short prayer time; then the women meet together in Room 250 and the men stay in the Chapel for an interactive study time until 8:00 p.m.

If you haven't tried it, you'll love it! Don't miss this wonderful opportunity to move deeper and deeper in your walk with our LORD.

**Save the
Date
February 26-28**
**Women's
Winter
Retreat at**



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 2801 Alameda de las Pulgas
 San Mateo, California 94403

Daily Bible Readings

The following Bible readings
 are provided by
 biblegateway.com

January

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

*Do you have a prayer
 request?*

*The Prayer Box is available
 in the narthex.*

The Pastoral staff will pray for you.



*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.*

*The office staff will order your bouquet
 to be delivered -- so convenient, and so
 appreciated by your loved ones.*

