

FIRST EDITION

Newsletter of First Baptist Church, San Mateo

FEBRUARY 2020

BLESSINGS & GREETINGS FOR 2020

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

It is my prayer that the coming year would be a time in which each of us is filled up with all the fullness of God & that together we learn to live like Christ & reach out to others in His name! May God bless you & fill you!

—**Love in Christ, Pastor Marc**

Whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks through Him to God the Father.—Colossians 3:17

May this new year see us all grow in our love and deeper commitment to Jesus.

—**Pastor Doug**

2019 was a year where I have had to experience life on my knees in humbleness and acceptance, not necessarily understanding but in the knowledge that I AM NOT alone, He is with me, in me and has already gone before me! There has been some a REALLY difficult/painful times, but I truly believe there is a light at the end of this ride! I look forward to see how God works in my life and my family in 2020!

—**Janine Dufficy**

To all God's children at FBC: Have a great year in the Lord and stay connected to the vine (JESUS) for blessings & growth throughout 2020.

—**Clay Minter**

My prayer for the church in 2020 is that we say:

Teach me your way O Lord: I will walk in your truth: Unite my heart to fear your name.—Psalm 86:11

—**Sandy Murray**

May the God of hope bless you and fill you with all joy and peace as you believe in Him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.—Romans 15:13

May God give us grace this year to be loyal, good stewards, faithful servants, and consistent students of His Word.

—**Mara Prieto**

May the Lord encourage you with His joy and peace as you walk with Him.

—**Stenya Strang**

But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as from the Lord, the Spirit.—2

Corinthians 3:18

In 2020, may you behold Christ's face and see His plan and purpose for your life ever more clearly!

—**Tami Strang**

Join with me in praising the Lord God Almighty:

*Bless the Lord, O my soul,
And all that is within me, bless His holy name,
Bless the Lord, O my soul,
And forget none of His benefits,*

*The Lord has established His throne in the heavens,
And His sovereignty rules over all.*

Psalm 103:1, 2 & 19

—**Ron Thomas**

The Lord is my Shepherd—Psalm 23:1

Truly in this season of trial and change in our lives, God has been our Shepherd, caring for us and loving us each step of the way. May You too know His enduring love and care in 2020.

—**Cathy Thomas**

Always be joyful. Never stop praying. Be thankful in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you who belong to Christ Jesus.—1 Thessalonians 5:16–18 (NLT)

May this year bring you closer to your Savior and open your eyes to what He has in store!

—**Janet White**

WORD OF THE MONTH: HOPE

ἐλπίς *elpis*

the looking forward to someth. with some reason for confidence respecting fulfillment, hope, expectation, especially pertaining to matters spoken of in God's promises

Key Verse: Romans 12:12 (NIV)

"Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer."



Winter Retreat 2020

What an awesome way to bring in the new year! On January 1 we left for the snow. This year the Lord had a new place for us to explore, Jenness Park Christian Camp. There was plenty of snow to play in as we spent one day at the camp and one day at Leland Snow park tubing down some fun hills. Each day we spent times together playing games, worship, teaching, and personal time alone with God. This year the Lord had a powerful section of scripture for us to read and contemplate: Matthew 21-25. This is Matthew's account of Jesus' last week and his teaching, from His triumphal entry to the last supper. In this section, Jesus interacts with the Pharisees and teaches his disciples about the Kingdom of God. Specifically He addresses the last days before His second coming. He says,

“There will be famines and earthquakes in various places. All these are the beginning of birth pains. Then you will be handed over to be persecuted and put to death, and you will be hated by all nations because of me. At that time many will turn away from the faith and will betray and hate each other, and many false prophets will appear and deceive many people. Because of the increase of wickedness, the love of most will grow cold, but the one who stands firm to the end will be saved. And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come.” —Matthew 24:7-14

The end times for Christians will be difficult. In those days we will be “hated by all nations.” If you really think about it, this is an amazing statement, and a reality that we all need to be preparing for. In light of this truth, I believe the questions that I the Lord had for us were:

—How are we evaluating the purpose of our lives?

—Do we understand our lives in terms of more than just a future career, marriage, family, house, etc?

—Are we focused on Jesus and His Kingdom to come, that we are ready to lay our life down for Him?

—Are we examining our lives in terms of seeking first His Kingdom and living to see His purposes lived out in us?

These questions are powerfully expressed in 2 parables that Jesus tells after this in Chapter 25. These are the parable of the 10 bridesmaids and the parable of the Master giving his 3 servants talents to invest. The summary of each of these asks us the question, are we living today ready for Jesus to return at any moment and are we diligently serving Him and His Kingdom purpose in the time remaining till He comes? These questions are serious. It's my hope and prayer that this week was a powerful and transforming one for our students. That they took these questions to heart and begin to reprioritize their lives based on what we learned. If they can do that now, at the beginning of their journey in life, imagine what can happen and what God will do through them. Please continue to pray for all of our youth and their relationships with the Lord.

WEEKLY YOUTH EVENTS**Youth Service**

Sundays, 11:00 am-12:15 pm

College/Young Adult Fellowship

Alt. Sundays, 12:30-2:00 pm

Youth Group (Junior High & High School)

Tuesdays, 7:00-9:00 pm

AWANA UPDATE

The Awana JV and high school group had its annual Samaritan's Purse shoe box packing party on Sunday night, November 17. Ten clubbers came to Scott and Lisa McBirney's house loaded down with useful and fun items to pack into the shoeboxes. They immediately got busy organizing the toiletries, school supplies, clothing, and wow toys into separate groups all while chatting and having a good time together.

After a dinner of pizza and snacks, they all listened carefully to instructions on how to fill the boxes for the different age groups. Grabbing their first boxes, they all took ownership of packing their boxes with essential and fun items. They were not afraid to ask questions and were open to course corrections as necessary.

RON & CATHY THOMAS

After they packed their boxes, they had a good time decorating Christmas cookies and playing games. Friendships were strengthened and the group dynamics benefited from working and playing together.

The following Wednesday, Lisa delivered 20 boxes to the Samaritan's Purse drop off location in San Carlos. The Lord blessed our project with both the great attitudes of the kids that came as well as the a very complete supply of items with which to pack our boxes.

—Submitted by Lisa and Scott McBirney
Journey/Trek (7th-12th grade) Directors

DRIVE FOR TEEN CHALLENGE

Starting Sunday, February 2 and continuing through the entire month, we will be collecting items for the Alum Rock Asbury Family Center and the Women & Children's Center for Teen Challenge, located in San Jose.

If you would like to contribute to the drive, please see the list of needed items in the next column. Containers will be located in the Narthex and the Foyer.

Costco Gift Cards in any amount are also welcome. To donate, please place it in the offering or give it to an usher.

Thank you for supporting this ministry!

Items Needed:

- Toilet Paper
- 45-Gallon Outdoor Trash Bags
- 13-Gallon Trash Bags
- 409 Multipurpose Cleaner (Large size)
- Pine Sol (Large size)
- Liquid Dish Soap (Large size)
- Hand Soap
- Commercial paper towels (Costco)

FEBRUARY EVENTS

Men's Breakfast

Saturday, February 22 · 8:30 am

Movie Night

Friday, February 28 · 6:30 pm

BASS Conference

March 5-7 · Redwood Chapel, Castro Valley

Go to bassconvention.org & click "Express Pass" to register. Use Express Pass Code **BKHXQ**

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

February 1 Barbara Shelton

February 17 David Shong

February 18 Candace Heinz

February 20 Ron Thomas

February 28 Skip Hoard