

FLAT BRANCH COVENANT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH NEWSLETTER

130 Darroch Rd., Bunnlevel, NC 28323

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January 2025

NEW ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS

starts January 5, 2025

by Pastor Tom Cox

Together, we'll explore the teaching of Scripture with regards to our salvation in Christ. Romans 8:29-30 says, For those whom He foreknew He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son, in order that He might be the firstborn among many brothers. And those whom He predestined He also called, and those whom He called He also justified, and those whom He justified He also glorified. We'll investigate the meaning of these and other doctrines and we'll also discuss how the benefits of Christ are applied to our lives.

We'll also explore a Gospel Combustion Cycle whereby we can GROW in our faith. This course will run from January through February with Pastor Tom guiding the conversation. We'll meet each Sunday at 10 AM upstairs in the classroom adjacent to the church office. Join us!



2 Corinthians 13:11
(ESV)

Finally, brothers, rejoice. Aim for restoration, comfort one another, agree with one another, live in peace; and the God of love and peace will be with you.

Wednesday Night Bible Study, by Warren Bailey

A new study – a new time

Starting on January 8 and continuing for 16 weeks we will be having a study on how Grace changes the way we live our everyday lives.

- Should it ?
- Does it ?

The new starting time for these one-hour meetings is 5:30 PM

We will begin with living in an alien land, discuss three possible ways to live and the sin within the sin.

Then we will spend some weeks discussing the “one another’s” in the Bible (there are over 50 of them telling us how we as Christians are to treat one another).

Then we will discuss various world views, being a people for others and finish up with the world that is to come.

Each of these sessions is a stand-alone topic. Meaning if you have to miss one or two sessions you will not fall behind in any way.

We would love to have you participate. So please plan on joining us.

FINDING YOUR RHYTHM IN BIBLE READING,

by Pastor Daryl Dash (Part 1 of 3)

Hands down, there's nothing more important than reading the Bible for spiritual growth. Out of all the things you can do as a Christian, reading Scripture is at or near the top. The problem, though, is that reading the Bible isn't so easy. It's a complicated book or set of books. It's hard to know where to begin, and it's also hard to develop the habit of reading Scripture.

Why Read the Bible?

What are the benefits of reading the Bible regularly? Four reasons come to mind.

First, **reading the Bible will deepen your relationship with God.** Scripture is how God reveals himself to us. It's given to us by God so that we understand him and what He expects from us. Nothing is more important in life than understanding who God is and orienting ourselves rightly around him. You were made to know God. Nothing is more important.

The best way to get to know God is through Scripture. Scripture meets our deepest and greatest need: it helps us understand who God is and what he wants us to know about Him.

Secondly, **reading the Bible consistently will give you wisdom and guidance for daily life.** We all face countless decisions, but lack the wisdom we need. Scripture is a source of wisdom on how we should live. It's very practical. Scripture is designed to give us the wisdom we need to live well in God's world. We can't live well unless we understand the world from God's perspective and what He's revealed about how He wants us to live.

Third, **engaging with Scripture will facilitate your transformation.** The Bible makes a claim about itself: "All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work" (2 Timothy 3:16-17). The Bible is designed not only to change our behavior but also to change our hearts. Reading Scripture has a profound effect on our lives. As we are shaped by Scripture, we find ourselves increasingly changed as we understand more about God.

Finally, **we need to read the Bible so we can flourish.** Psalm 1 offers a powerful description of a man who delights in Scripture:

He is like a tree
planted by streams of water
that yields its fruit in its season,
and its leaf does not wither.
In all that he does, he prospers.
(Psalm 1:3)

The message of the psalm is that if we are going to be like this tree that flourishes, we need to delight in God's word. For these reasons and more, it's important that we develop the habit of reading scripture regularly in our lives.

FBCPC KIDS CORNER, by Jenna Cox

January 2025 Update

Happy New Year, Flat Branch Families! We hope you had a wonderful holiday season and are excited to begin a new year with your little ones in our Flat Branch Kids ministry.

As we continue walking through our Simply Loved curriculum, we are now in the second quarter, which started on December 29th. We're diving into exciting Bible stories and truths that will help our kids grow in their faith.

Unit 1: The Story of Joseph

In this unit, we'll learn that "God is good, no matter what!" Through Joseph's journey, we'll explore how God was with him even in difficult times. Our Bible verse for this unit is:

"The Lord is good, a strong refuge when trouble comes." (Nahum 1:7)

Unit 2: The Exodus

Next, we will dive into the story of the Exodus and learn that "God takes care of us." Through the story of Moses and the Israelites, we'll see how God provided for His people in amazing ways. Our Bible memory verse for this unit will remind us:

"If God is for us, who can ever be against us?" (Romans 8:31)

Unit 3: Never Fear, Jesus Is Here!

In our third unit, we'll discover that "Jesus rescues us." We'll talk about how Jesus saves us with His mercy, not because of anything we've done, but because of His great love for us. Our Bible verse for this unit is:

"He saved us, not because of the righteous things we had done, but because of His mercy." (Titus 3:5)

We are so excited for what this quarter holds and look forward to seeing how God will grow our kids in their faith. We encourage you to continue this journey with your children at home, reinforcing the lessons and Bible verses each week.

Thank you for being part of our Flat Branch Kids family as we grow together in God's love!



FBCPC COMMITTEE CORNER

Worship & Music Committee:

We are starting off the year with Communion, it will be observed on January 5th.

The Adult choir performed a Christmas cantata on Sunday, December 15, during the morning worship service. Name of the cantata was "Waiting for Christmas" by Marty Parks.

Choir practice is at 6:00 p.m. on Thursdays; old and new voices are welcome!

Happy Birthday

Brandy Newtown—1/3

Betty Darroch—1/6

Will Butler—1/7

Carolyn Frasier—1/7

John Martin Magyar—1/7

Marie Coleman—1/12

Peighton Twiss—1/17

Laurie Blanton—1/20

Karen Moore—1/23

Lester Skoblar—1/30



Happy Anniversary

Ronny & Vivian Holmes—1/2

Thank You!



Kelli and I would like to thank the many folks who gave us a love gift on Christmas Eve. We are grateful to each of you for your kindness and generosity. I'm so glad to be able to preach and teach the Word at Flat Branch! Happy New Year to all!!

In Him,
Pastor Tom

Memorials

Phil Bain

Betty Bain

Roger L. Bain

Betty Bain

Catherine M. Barnes

Joel & Carolyn Frasier

Jean M. Brown

Joel & Carolyn Frasier

Tony A. Brown

Wanda Brown

Ruth E. Morris

Reggie & Stella Akers

Mary Lasater

Ray & Becky McArtan

Carolyn Shaw

Chari S. Pitchford

Reggie & Stella Akers

Alvin & Charlotte McArtan

Ray & Becky McArtan

Carolyn Shaw

Erika Schroeder

Mary Lasater

Ray & Becky McArtan

Carolyn Shaw

Semple Family (Jim, Sr. & Edna Semple)

(Terry & Helen S. Harrison)

Jim, Jr., & Debbie Semple

Robert Vanaman

Mary Lasater

Prayer Requests

Our Pastor, Church Leaders and Church Family

Our Country (and Leaders) for many reasons

Our Military Personnel & Emergency Services

Western NC

Sara Praeger—illness

Tommy Shaw— pneumonia

Brynlee Crawford— daughter of Brittany Bass and Jonathan Crawford in NICU at Duke

Charlie Aslund— Cancer

Donnie Hamilton—health issues

Betty Bain—cancer

Evelyn Bordeaux—illness

Paul & Georgette Dempster— illness

Unspoken concerns

Shut-ins who are alone and lonely

Those who are struggling financially, physically, and mentally.

Those doing Mission work spreading the Gospel of Jesus throughout to World.

The needs are many and these are the ones that we're currently aware of. Please feel free to contact us by the church phone, email, website, or Facebook should you have a specific request.

(Additional updated Prayer Requests are distributed every Sunday at Worship Service)

Beautiful Memories Made in December



