

Lighthouse Views

360 Canco Road, Portland, ME 04103

Senior Pastor Keith Moore writes...

Dear Members and Friends of First Baptist Church~

What if First Baptist Church got back to the basics in 2015?

At the beginning of a new year, many of us make resolutions. Whether it is losing weight or being less stressed or spending more time with family, our minds usually kick into the mode of *I want to do better in 2015*.

My imagination is aflame with the idea of a church resolution for 2015. Our Lord said this about Himself: *“For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost”* (Luke 19:10). He gave us a basic mission. *“Jesus drew near and said to them, I have been given all authority in heaven and on earth. Go, then, to all peoples everywhere and make them my disciples: baptize them in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, and teach them to obey everything I have commanded you. And I will be with you always, to the end of the age”* (Matthew 28:18-20, GNB).

Notice that Jesus didn't say: 'Build beautiful buildings' or 'Have great programs.' In effect, He said, 'Go out and win followers for Me.' Can you imagine the joy you would experience if you were instrumental in seeing one person come to trust Christ as his Savior in 2015? That one act of obedience to Jesus would put everything in perspective for you. More importantly, it would change the eternal destiny of your friend.

The best people you can reach are the ones who already know you. Ask God to put someone on your heart. Make a list of 3-5 people you are going to pray for in 2015. You will pray for them daily, or at least weekly, to come to Christ. Commit to the Lord that you will look for every opportunity to tell them the Good News. **Sow lots of seeds!** The farmer knows if he sows one seed, it might not take root, therefore, he sows lots of seeds.

When Andrew met Jesus, the Apostle John points out that the first thing Andrew did was to find his brother Simon and tell him, “‘We have found the Messiah’ (that is, the Christ).” Let's allow the Holy Spirit to burn this next verse into our hearts. Let's use it as our theme for 2015.

“And he brought him to Jesus” (John 1:42).

Love from Your Pastor,

Keith

Volume 1
January ~ 2015

At a Glance:

- Theme for 2015
Keith Moore
- When the Saints Go Marching
Michael Olmstead
- Youth Ministry/Children's Ministry
- Women's Ministry/Men's Ministry
- Birthdays / Finances
- Missions Prayer Requests



Lighthouse Views

First Baptist Church

360 Canco Road,
Portland, Maine 04103

Telephone: 773-3123

Web site:

www.firstbaptistportland.org

Visit FBC on Facebook

Office Hours:

Monday - Friday
8:30 a.m. ~ 4:30 p.m.

Senior Pastor: Keith Moore

Assoc. Pastor: Mike Olmstead

Student Ministry: Andrew Foster

Children's Ministry: Hannah Veit

Production: Nancy Gaudet
Jessica Udall

When the Saints Go Marching**Pastor Michael Olmstead**

This morning my 98 year old great Aunt Millie was promoted to glory, just three weeks shy of her 99th birthday. She was still mentally sharp when my mother talked with her yesterday at her bedside.

Aunt Millie was no stranger to hardship. Her mother and father were subsistence farmers who moved from Lyons, Ohio to Webberville, Michigan in the early 1900's along with six or seven other farming families. Her one brother, Harry, was a recluse. She invited him to live with her and her family and she cared for him until he died. One of her sisters, Reba, was born with physical and mental disabilities and died at an early age. Millie married William Schneider and they had two girls. 'Uncle Bill', as I knew him, worked hard but never had much money to show for it. His love of alcohol and a nicotine addiction did not help the family finances. Millie went to school to learn hair dressing and opened her own shop in the small farming town of Webberville.

Later in life she gave hospice care to several elderly people in her community. Millie ministered to her oldest daughter, Susie, when she contracted cancer that would eventually take her life when she was only middle aged. Her youngest daughter, Sharon, was married and had a daughter before she experienced the pain of divorce. Later in Sharon's life she was diagnosed with Huntington's disease which is a slow deterioration of the brain, for which there is no cure.

Given all the hardships she faced she could easily have had a bitter and hardened heart. But early in life she heard the gospel, the Good News of God's love for us through His one and only Son, Jesus. She put her trust in Jesus Christ and trusted His words *'For my Father's will is that everyone who looks to the Son and believes in him shall have eternal life, and I will raise him up on the last day.'*

I have not met a more joyful person in all my life than Aunt Millie. All her hardships forced her roots to grow deep into God's truth and grace. While she knew deep grief and loss, she also experienced a deep joy that only the Holy Spirit can give. Her laugh was infectious and she loved life and the people around her. She was a kind and giving person. When I would visit her in Michigan, if I commented on any object in her home, she would say, "Would you like it?" One such comment prompted her to give me a picture of a sailboat, which hangs in our home.

Aunt Millie loved the church and attended faithfully as long as she was physically able. I called her two weeks ago and asked her to pray for me about an issue. It was the last time I spoke with her, but she was very willing to pray about this matter with me.

We sent Aunt Millie a Christmas gift in the mail, but she's not there to receive it. She received a much better gift: the gift of marching orders to be with the Lover of her soul. I will miss her, but I am very grateful for the Lord's faithfulness to her and to all He calls to Himself.



January Birthdays

- 1 Zera Peters*
Mary Vaughan
- 2 Jessica Brubaker*
Alanna Haslam*
Mara Mishkin
Jamie Doyon
- 5 Nancy Gaudet
- 6 Barbara Selby
January Campbell
- 7 Diana Barcellona
- 9 Mark Leighton
Erwin Richardson
- 10 Marie Moxcey
- 11 Tim Brubaker*
- 13 Malcolm DeCosta
Carre Gardner
Scott St. Hilaire
- 14 John Emmons
- 15 Dr. Delvyn Case
Rachel Miller
- 16 Joseph Kimball*
Russell Lamour
- 18 Jessica Erdmann*
- 20 Rob Miller
Carmie Hagar
- 21 Christopher Oulton
- 22 Christine DeCosta
Nicole Doyon
- 23 Sally Jones
Alan Russell
David Tauwala
Rus Willette

- 24 Aaron Howell
- 25 Cyndy Adams
Jessica Gray*
- 28 Linda Carvell
Bob Pierce
- 31 Sharon Sawtelle
Colby Therrien

*Denotes Missionary or family member



We will gather in the FLC on Sunday, January 18, 2015 at 10:15 a.m. to celebrate folks turning 80 or older in 2015.

This is always such a memorable time for the church as we wish our very loved, appreciated, and wise brothers and sisters a Happy Birthday! Please invite family and friends to join you. See you on the 18th!

January Events...



- 1st Happy New Year!
- 4th New Year Evening Service
- 5th Men's Community Bible study resumes.
- 7th Connect, AMP & Switch resumes meeting
- 9th MOMs Group resumes
- 10th Budget Saturday
- 11th Baptism & Membership Class - sign up by calling the church office 773.3123
- 17th Women's Ministry Wellness Tea
- 18th 80+ Birthday Celebration
- 24th Men's Ministry Breakfast

Quarterly Leadership Meeting (morning)

Women's Outdoor Adventure Cross Country skiing
- 25th 3rd Quarterly Business Meeting 6 p.m.

January 19th is [Martin Luther King Day](#). Martin Luther King was a civil rights activist. A leader in the movement to end racial segregation using non-violent protests in the U.S. His most famous address was the "I Have A Dream" speech. The youngest to be awarded the Nobel Peace Prize. He was assassinated in 1968.

Revenue vs. Expenses

Total as of 12/15/14

Revenue	\$548,934
Expenses	< \$595,629>
Surplus (Shortfall)	< \$ 46,695>

Weekly Offering/Budget Report

Total as of 12/15/14

Offering	\$548,934
Budget	\$725,718
Shortfall	<\$176,784>

Women's Ministry



Our Purpose:

To reach women where they are with the love of Jesus Christ and to lead them into a growing relationship with Him.

Women's Ministry Team:

Karen Bogart	Donna Buyze
Patti Camp - Chair	Carole Powell
Louise Pelletier	Laurel Jerry
Mercy Mugala	

Activities for January 2015:

- ♥ **Ladies Prayer Group** on Tuesdays from 7-8 a.m. in the Chapel at FBC. FMI call 773-3123.
- ♥ **January 17th 9-11 a.m.** Informational and Fun Wellness Tea to help get a jump start toward optimal health in the New Year!
- ♥ **January 24th** - Karen and Donna's Outdoor Adventures. Join us cross country skiing - Bring a friend! More information to follow~
- ♥ **January 2015** - Bible Study "Jonah, , Navigating a Life Interrupted" a 6-week Bible study by Priscilla Shirer will be offered on Monday evenings and Tuesday mornings and will begin in January. Watch the Sunday bulletin for the start date and sign up information.
- ♥ **FMI**, Please stop by the Women's Ministry table to sign up for any of these activities or contact Donna dbuyze@berrydunn.com.

- ♥ **MOMs Group** 9:30 - 11 a.m. There is childcare.

January 2015 schedule:

- 1/9 Welcome back discussion: God's faithfulness over the holidays
- 1/16 Testimony by Patty Camp
- 1/23 Helping older kids adapt to younger siblings (and other family changes)
- 1/30 Teaching kindness to children.
FMI contact Becca beccasenita@yahoo.com.
Whether you are an expectant mom or have older children, all mothers are welcome and wanted at *Moms Offering Moms Support*.

Mom's Offering Moms support group (**MOMS**) began 25 years ago through the vision of Nona Frederich, wife to FBC Pastor Robert Frederich (1989-96). Nona left a legacy of love for all mothers which continues today as moms gather on Fridays to encourage and pray for one another.

As a mother and grandmother, Nona, set an example for all of us to follow. During January and February our MOMS Group would love to hear from the many moms who benefited from attending MOMS Group over the years. In 2015, let's continue the legacy of blessing other mothers with what motherhood has taught us. If you have a special memory from MOM'S Group please email Betsy Paulding betsypldg1@aol.com or drop by to visit with the MOMS Group on a Friday morning – we begin at 9:30 a.m.

Wishing all mothers the wisdom and joy that comes from our Lord. Blessings, Betsy Paulding (Advisor to MOMS Group)

"A kindhearted woman gains respect"
(Proverbs 11:16).

ATTENTION FBC MEN

Saturday, January 24th from 8-9 a.m.

Men's Ministry is hosting a Full breakfast, including a Special Speaker, for all men. Admission is free. Please invite other men to join us during this time of fellowship.

If you would like to get involved in the Men's Ministry, please contact Gordon Foster at 239-0306.

Men's Bible Studies

♦ Monday Community Bible Study

Monday evenings at 7 p.m. Meet in the Chapel. Men will be discussing the Book of Hebrews.

♦ **Mondays** - Men's Fight Club - 6:30 a. m. in the Parlor with Mike Senita.

♦ **Thursdays** - Men's Fight Club - 6:30 a.m. in the Teen Room with Pastor Mike.

♦ Thursday Night Bible Study

Meet in the Teen Center from 6-7 p. m. Gordon Foster is the contact person.

An Opportunity to Fellowship and Pray

Son Risers Breakfast - 7:30 a.m. meet on the **Second** Wednesday; monthly at Cole Farms. All ages. Contact Jim Knowlen at 409-3388.

First Baptist Mission Family Prayer Requests: *January 2015*

Mark & Bethany Clark-Greece: Praises to the Lord for the “Homecoming Celebration” for them and the entire St. Andrews Church in Athens, Greece, who had been unjustly evicted from their rented church building home four years ago and this wonderful church building has been restored to them, and they are most grateful.

Brian & Mary Dennett-Guatemala: Praises for travel to the Netherlands to meet with donors, to Lima, Peru, to encourage national workers and throughout Canada for the many speaking opportunities. The Lord is blessing and expanding their ministry to poor children.

Dale & Margaret Gallagher-PEI Canada: Pray for God to make it possible for some of their men to attend the 2015 New Brunswick Bible Institute Men’s Conference January 23-24. Simon, Dale’s interpreter, hopes to attend.

Ken & Miriam Hawley-Maine: May the 10 new volunteers at Long Creek know God; for ways to forge relationships with the boys and may the boys’ hearts be prepared to receive salvation. May God lead in the establishment of a ministry at the Maine State Prison, Cumberland County Jail and Mountain View Development Center along with the needed funding and administrative support.

Torli & Saawile Krua-Boston: For Torli and family as he pastors a Liberian church in Dorchester, MA especially for the families in his church affected directly or indirectly by the Ebola crisis in Liberia.

Roger & Donna Labbe-CEF-Maine: For our upcoming winter retreats –a full winter camping ministry and enough volunteers. Staff will be stretched as some will be working at Blueberry Mountain Bible Camp this winter in the absence of a director.

Janet Ludlam-NY: Praise God for successful cataract surgery and her daughter has been diagnosed cancer free. For Trans World Radio as it spreads the gospel worldwide in many different languages.

Evan & Kathryn Pillsbury-Maine: Pray that area Christian faculty would be Christ’s light on their campuses. Also pray for Christian faculty and staff directly affected by layoffs at USM.

Robert & Lois Rehbein-St.Louis, MO: Pray for them as they seek to provide for the physical and spiritual needs of the poor in their neighborhood. Robert & Lois live just a few minutes south of Ferguson, MO.

The Root Cellar: For volunteers to staff our Homework Help after school program. This support program helps kids move from having low self-esteem and exhibiting bad behaviors to believing in themselves and a new ability to succeed.

Rus & Jen Willette – Maine: For 100% funding, preparing of student hearts, boldness and clarity for a fruitful ministry.

Elizabeth Wilson-Maine: Praises for individuals willing to get involved with Way of Life Mission as volunteers. For the follow-up process and that their willingness will grow and not diminish.

Also pray for: ABBA, Paul & Jan Bothwell, Judy Bowen, Bob Brittingham, Tim & Jessica Brubaker, Karl & Deb Crossman, Bill & Kathi Cutler, Doug & Joyce Erdmann, Free Indeed Ministries, Thayne & Barb Frost, Gideons, Joel & Karen Gray, Jim Grosser/World Venture, John & Laura Haslam, Susan Hay, Colby & Lisa Holmes, Humanitarian Workers-Asia, IREF India, Nelson & Consuelo Juarez, David & Janet Kimball, Dan & Heather Litchfield, David & Martha Macomber, Maynard & Elinor McBreairty, New England Bible College, Mutima & Zera Peter, Larry & Debbie Porter, Neel & Chalor Roberts, John Romano, Chuck & Barb Roswell, Dow & Brooke Saunders, Steve & Beth Turner.



Youth and Children's Ministry at FBC

=====

First Baptist Church Youth Group

The 2nd Annual Ugly Christmas Sweater Party



and Cookie Delivery was a huge

success! 23 students and leaders hit the streets of Portland handing out Christmas cookies and sharing Christ's love. Bags of cookies were also dropped off at area fire stations, Preble Street Teen Center and Oxford Street Shelter. The teens did an incredible job being a light in some very dark places.



Youth Group Leaders Meeting Monday January 5th 6-8pm

If you're interested in becoming a volunteer, please see Andrew. He is still looking for help on Wednesdays – all hours.

- Switch and Connect come back from Christmas break on Wednesday January 7th
- Are you interested in being a part of a small group Bible study on Thursday nights at the Foster's House? See Andrew if you're interested.

First Baptist Church Children's Ministry December, for the Children's Ministry, was a busy month that flew by, and we have much to be thankful for!

First, thanks to the Property Commission, our new **Children's Ministry Welcome Center** has counter tops! Please stop by and say hello and take a look. This space is made available for parents, new to our church, to get information about our programming and ask any questions about our Children's Ministry.

Secondly, beginning sometime this month (January) the Welcome Center will also be a place for our existing families to interact with other families as well as use our **new** (almost ready) **electronic check-in system**. This station will be manned during both services. If you enjoy welcoming new families into our church and love children, this would be the perfect spot for you to volunteer!

Thirdly, praise the Lord, **the Nursery has many new volunteers!** We will be having a **Nursery Worker's Training Meeting** between services on January 25th for people interested in getting involved or for those who are already involved. If you are interested in becoming a nursery volunteer or substitute teacher, please contact Hannah Veit @ 773-3123 x 107 or email at hannahfbc@maine.rr.com

Finally, the **AMP** program for 1st-4th graders on Wednesday nights is full of energy and excitement to learn about God and how to serve others. During the month of December the kids made 113 cards to personally deliver to Birchwood's and The Woods at Canco. The children and adult volunteers sang Christmas carols (*the residents sang with us!*) and we had so much fun interacting with everyone there. AMP will restart January 7th for anyone age's 1st-4th grade.

Remember God can use all of us! It may not be exactly how He has used us in the past, but He can still use you, me and our children... *Happy New Year!* *Blessings, Hannah*



MORE FBC HAPPENINGS...



Moving forward.....

During our November **Thanksgiving Gathering** we announced the desire to assemble as a group to study God's Word. While we enjoy our social time together, our fellowship can be made even more complete when we gather around God's Word. To that end, we are developing plans to start a twice monthly, mid-week meeting at FBC in the Family Life Center for a time of Bible study combined with a noon luncheon. We are very encouraged by the response since our November announcement. This is certainly great confirmation that God is leading us in the right direction.

II Timothy 2:15 calls on us to be diligent to present ourselves approved to God as workmen who are not ashamed, accurately handling the word of truth. Also, Romans 12:2 encourages us to not be conformed to this world but to be transformed by the renewing of our minds so that we can prove what the will of God is in our lives. That can only occur through the power of the Holy Spirit who changes us through our study of and meditation on the Scriptures.

I especially look forward to seeing how God works in our midst as we continue to gather in His name and as He leads us to reach and encourage others to advance His Kingdom here in the Greater Portland area. *Are you ready to be faithful, available and teachable to God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit to be used by HIM in a most magnificent way?* Please continue to pray for this ministry as plans are finalized. Watch for a time and date notice coming soon! ~ Sonny Pierce, Senior Connections Ministry.

ADULT BIBLE STUDIES

Sunday mornings 10:10-10:45 a.m.

The Attributes of God - Led by Len MacPhee & Paul Erskine. In session and meets in room 251. A right understanding of God can affect every aspect of our lives.

Your Life in Christ - Led by Mercy Mugala - meets in the Chapel. If you have decided to follow Christ and want to know what this looks like, please join this group on Sunday mornings.

SATURDAY NIGHT POTLUCK & BIBLE STUDY

Everyone is invited to join us on the first and third Saturdays from 5-7 p.m. in the Family Life Center.

Our theme for 2015

Deepening our love for The Lord God by growing in love for others and reaching out to our community.

Topics for study for the 2015 Schedule:

- ◆ January 17th - Servanthood
- ◆ February 7th - Accountability (Having a Wing-man/woman)
- ◆ February 21st - Communication



Thinking ahead....



--



“I'll put my Spirit in you and make it possible for you to do what I tell you and live by my commands” (Ezekiel 36:27, The Message).

“Then the one seated on the throne said, 'Look! I'm making all things new.' He also said, 'Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true.'” (Revelation 21:5 CEB).

“Don't remember the prior things; don't ponder ancient history. Look! I'm doing a new thing; now it sprouts up; don't you recognize it? I'm making a way in the desert, paths in the wilderness” (Isaiah 43:18-19 CEB).

New Year's Scripture verses to help us usher in 2015

- Sunday Morning Worship 8:45 and 10:45 a.m.
- Discipleship Institutes/Sunday School 10:05—10:40 a.m.
- Sunday Evening Bible Study / Special Services 6:00 p.m.
- Weekly Prayer Services Tuesday 6:00 p.m.

First Baptist Church 360 Canco Road Portland, ME 04103
 207-773-3123
 Senior Pastor Keith Moore
 Youth Pastor—Andrew Foster
 Associate Pastor Michael Olmstead—Caring Ministry
 Children's Ministry Director ~ Hannah Veit
 www.firstbaptistportland.org



360 Canco Road, Portland, ME 04103

Nonprofit Org.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
PORTLAND, MAINE
PERMIT NO. 21



New Year's Resolutions - Christian New Years *Pursuing Godly Goals will Bring Favor and Blessing*

For Christians, if God is central in the New Year's resolution, it has a better chance for success. God gave human beings free will, and He never oversteps that freedom to make choices. God's Word certainly has made clear which choices are better than others, but God never forces His people to comply. Choosing to do the will of God is always a right choice and, of course, has God's endorsement. God's favor and blessings should be incentive enough to pursue Godly goals. God's Word is filled with what is right and good, therefore reading and learning the Bible is a good place to start and a good place to stay.

The Christian's first priority should be making time or more time to read and study the Word of God. This may necessitate getting up an hour earlier, or maybe less TV time. One will always make time for whatever or whoever is loved. Jesus said, *"You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself"* (Matthew 22:37-39).

This is a good place to start for any believer. Goals set in this light would include spending more time in personal devotion to God, Bible reading and time in prayer. Other resolutions might include memorizing verses of Scripture, perhaps one a day or one a week. Pick positive and encouraging passages, and inspirational promises of God. Prayer time should be purposeful, perhaps with a list of people or situations that need prayer. One might even have a prayer journal, jotting down how and when God answers the prayers.

Financial giving is certainly a solid Biblical principle which includes tithing and special additional offerings for different church needs or perhaps for the support of missions work. The only way to improve on the principle of tithing is to increase the proportion of the amount. It may be that in order to give more, the resolution might include spending less on sodas, or coffees or movie rentals. These kinds of resolutions are blessed decisions. If one has more time than money to offer, perhaps volunteer in the children's department at church, or make a plan to visit the sick or elderly. Maybe it's time to restore a damaged relationship with a family member or an old friend.

Personal resolutions might include watching less TV, spending more time with spouse or children, such as playing games or going out to sports events or picnics in the park. Resolutions might include becoming better organized at home, in the office or garage, or maybe getting additional education. Better financial management is an important goal, which could include renegotiating insurance policies, utility expenses, reevaluating food costs and auto usage, and perhaps making a savings plan for a family vacation.

Loving God first with heart, soul and mind includes and can be expressed in having an enthusiasm and exuberance for many things in life. God's desire is for His people to live life to the fullest and to flourish, having good health and prosperity, among many other blessings. Resolutions and goals selected with love for God and done thoughtfully in prayer can be life enhancing and enriching. (Share Faith <http://www.sharefaith.com/guide/Christian-Holidays/christian-new-year-pursue-godly-goals.html>)