

January 2022

“Seek Ye First the Kingdom of God”

First Matters

Cleveland First Baptist Church

www.firstcleveland.com | 706-865-2933

HAPPY New Year

May the favor of the Lord our God rest on us...

PSALM 90:17a

Movie Night – Sunday, January 16, 2022, 6:00 PM

“I Can Only Imagine”

Based on a true story! Growing up in Greenville, Texas, Bart Millard suffers physical and emotional abuse at the hands of his father, Arthur. When Arthur becomes terminally ill, he finds redemption by embracing his faith and rediscovering his love for his son. Years later, Bart's troubled childhood and mended relationship with his dad inspires him to write the hit song "I Can Only Imagine".

Complimentary Pop Corn, Hot Dogs and Drinks will be served. Movie will start promptly at 6:00 PM

From My Heart... Dennis Turner, Associate Pastor

Happy New Year! It's 2022, and 2021 is behind us. However, you may be finding yourself remembering some of the memories from the past year. Some wonderful successes and, yes, even some low points and challenges. We have had several people join the church. We have seen people making professions of faith and being baptized. We rejoice in these blessings. We have been able to resume more and more activities even as we have navigated the concerns of Covid-19. We have been diligent in our worship, our serving, and our giving.

Some of you have had loved ones pass away; several church members passed away too. We miss these people; they were our family, our friends, our fellow church members. As we remember them, let's be encouraged by their lives and their faith as we look to God who gives us hope and comfort.

Having once again celebrated the birth of Christ being born in a manger in Bethlehem over 2,000 years ago, we know God loves us. He sent his Son into the world as a child born in a stable. Through Christ, his plan to bring salvation is made known. We rejoice that, through Christ's birth, death and resurrection, salvation was brought to the world, and his kingdom keeps growing.

As we enter a new year, I want to remind you that God has plans for us as individuals as well as his church. Jeremiah 29:11 says, "For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future." Part of that plan is a Senior Pastor for our church. I am so grateful to our Pastor Search Committee (PSC). They have been faithful in their work. While it was disappointing to find out in December that the pastor they had been in talks with since the end of September, had chosen to remain at his current church due to concerns there, we know that God is leading and is in control. God's leading is what we desire—God's leading and his will. I encourage you to pray as we continue this process to find the right man.

- Pray for the PSC. Pray for wisdom, and patience as they wait on God's timing. Pray for our church to have patience as the process is going longer than expected. Pray for us to trust God's leadership of the PSC.
- Pray for the church. Pray and support the ongoing ministry of our church. There is much we can and need to do now, even without a Senior Pastor. Let us focus on what matters – the Gospel and sharing the good news. May our passion only increase for proclaiming the Word of God through our church and our daily lives.
- Pray for the man God is preparing to be our next Senior Pastor. Pray for God to give him a love for our church's congregation, our community and the unsaved. Pray for the church that he will be leaving. Pray for God to prepare him to shepherd our church through the blessings and challenges of ministry. Pray for his family, for a move is always bitter-sweet. Pray that we will love them and be a blessing to them as they are to us.

"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future." Jeremiah 29:11

The church staff expresses their gratitude to the church for the appreciation gift they received in December. We are most thankful for your love and support throughout the year. It is a pleasure and a privilege to serve on the staff of Cleveland First Baptist Church.

Bethany Beck, Pianist; Kathleen Clay, Nursery Coordinator; Laura Cormier, Executive Secretary; Hannah Hammock, Receptionist; Terry Goodger, Financial Administrator; Sue Massey, Organist; Manning Minton, Associate Pastor of Students and Families; Michael Pickett, Music Director; Bea Chambers Rogers, Receptionist; Terry Trimble, Custodian; Dennis Turner, Associate Pastor.

Cleveland First Baptist Church – January 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Happy New Year – See you in Church!						1 New Year's Day
2	3	4 Staff Meeting 10:30 AM	5 Fellowship Meal 5:30 PM	6	7	8
9 Deacons Meeting 2:00 PM	10	11 Staff Meeting 10:30 AM WOM 10 AM	12 Ladies Bible Study Resumes 9:00 AM	13 Brotherhood 6:30 PM	14	15
16 Movie Night 6:00 PM	17 School Holiday Kids Fun Day	18 Staff Meeting 10:30 AM	19	20 Grand Adult Luncheon 11:30 AM	21	22
23	24 WC Caring & Sharing 10:00 AM	25 Staff Meeting 10:30 AM	26 Crafters 10:00 AM	27 Grand Adult Mystery Trip 9:00 AM	28	29
30 Lord's Supper Morning Worship 10:30 AM	31 Quarterly Committee Meetings 6:30 PM					

Regular Sunday Schedule

Praise Team Rehearsal – 8:30 AM
 Sunday School – 9:15 AM
 Morning Worship – 10:30 AM

Regular Wednesday Schedule

Ladies Bible Study – 9:00 AM
 Youth – 6:30 PM
 Mission Friends – 6:30 PM
 Kids Missions Journey – 6:30 PM
 Adult Bible Study & Prayer Service – 6:30 PM



Sunday School Report

12/5-80 • 2/12-85 • 12/19-67

Morning Worship Attendance

12/5-130 • 12/12-173 • 12/19-138



Grand Adult Luncheon

It a new year... let's all come together for our first Grand Adult Luncheon of 2022 on Thursday, January 20, at 11:30 AM. It's covered dish, so cook up or prepare your best go to dish and join in the fellowship and fun.

It's a Mystery Trip

We will start of the year with a mystery trip on Thursday, January 27. Reservations are required. We leave the church at 9:00 AM. Cost is \$5 plus lunch.



Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. 2 Corinthians 2:7

**Tithes and Offerings
as of December 26, 2021**

Budget Goal YTD.....	\$535,755.00
Budget Receipts YTD.....	\$531,075.00
Budget Under.....	\$ -4,680.00
Building Fund	\$ 11,334.00
Sign Fund.....	\$ 25,005.00
Lottie Moon	\$ 11,951.00
Disaster Relief	\$ 200.00

Dear CFBC Family,
Thank you to each and every one for your time, effort, involvement, and monetary donations this year.

Through your donations, we continue to fund our church programs, and missions, as we share the gospel of Christ. We are extremely grateful for all donations received this year.

We look forward to a great year to come. Our sincerest gratitude once again for your generous contributions.

If you haven't picked up your 2022 offering envelopes, they are on the table in the hallway by the elevator. If they are not picked up by January 16, they will be mailed out

Your 2021 offering contribution statements will be mailed to you no later than January 31, 2022. If you have any questions concerning your statements, contact financial administrator Terry Goodger at 706-865-2933.

The church is grateful for your support as we minister together.

Memorials and Gifts

Budget Fund

In Memory of Billy Wayne Edwards

By Jimmy and Carol Armour

In Honor of Russ Nash

By Truthseekers SS Class

In Memory of Jack and Ruby Nix

By Phyllis Nix Graham and Children

In Memory of J.L. Seabolt

By Maxine Seabolt

In Honor of

Crawford and Ann Skelton

By Phyllis Nix Graham and Children

In Memory of Richard Smith

By Charles E Jackson

Building Fund

In Memory of Jenny Grapse

By Amos and Celia Wipf

In Memory of Billy Wayne Edwards

By James and Bea Rogers

By Bill and Joyce Schofill

By Crawford and Ann Skelton

By Neal and Pam Walden

Electronic Sign Fund

In Memory of Billy Wayne Edwards

By Gary and Stella Hawkinson

In Memory of Harold Turner

By Crawford and Ann Skelton

Lottie Moon Christmas Offering

In Memory of Jennie Smith

By Kara Christy

By Nancy Christy

In Memory of Joyce Mauney

By Rush Mauney

In Memory of Louise Mauney

By Rush Mauney

In Memory of Thomas and Fifi Turner

By Dennis Turner

Designated Building Fund Policy: The church, in exercise of its religious purposes, has established a Building Fund to maintain the church buildings, grounds, equipment and provide for the future needs of the church. First Baptist Church welcomes contributions to the fund. The administration of the fund, including all disbursements, is subject to the control and discretion of the Building and Property Committee in cooperation with the Finance Committee of the church.

Women on Mission

Tuesday, January 11, at 10 AM

Ladies Bible Study

Wednesdays beginning January 12 at 9:00 AM.

Brotherhood

Thursday, January 13, at 6:30 PM in Heritage Hall. Make reservations through the office. Guest Speaker will be Benjamin Riese.

Crafters

Wednesday, January 26, at 10 AM

Lord's Supper

Sunday, January 30, during the worship service at 10:30 AM

Quarterly Committee Night

Monday, January 31, at 6:30 PM in Heritage Hall. Let the office know if your committee will be meeting.

January ETC Workers

January 2

Deborah Hammack and Emily Minton

January 9

Kathleen Clay and Ashton Pickett

January 16

Jennifer Minton and Matthew Minton

January 23

Tonya Palmour, Samantha Palmour, Pat Jones

January 30

Margaret Owens and Wilma Pittman



Deposits will be due soon for everyone who has signed up to be part of this exciting trip to the Ark and Creation Museum. Dennis will let you know as he hears a due date from Daniel's Tours.

It's not too late to sign up to go along. See Dennis for more information. The dates for the trip are Monday, April 18 – Thursday, April 21, 2022.

Notes on the Bulletin Board...

Jan Smith and Family thanking everyone for their calls, visits, prayers and care during the passing of husband, Richard.

JoAnne Williams, Lillie Reynolds and Maxine Seabolt expressing their thanks for the deacon visit and Christmas gift.

Doris Powell thanking everyone for the cards, prayers and phone calls while she was ill.

Bea Rogers expressing appreciation for the gift from the office staff Christmas party.

Jimmie Brown expressing thanks to everyone for your thoughts and prayers for her.

Phyllis Nix Graham and Children wishing everyone a blessed 2022 filled with health, happiness, laughter, and good fortune.



Rehearsals Resume

Celebration Choir

Choir practice will resume on January 5, 2022. Rehearsals will be at our normal choir time of 6:30-7:30.

The current plan is to start off slowly, having practices and trying to get as many people involved as possible. Once the choir feels that we are at an acceptable level, we will start singing in the sanctuary.

We also will start very soon working on an Easter Cantata. If you have any questions, please reach out and contact me at Pickett4@gmail.com.

Can't wait to see you on Wednesday!

January Birthdays

- 1/2 Claude Smith
- 1/3 Gerald Hendrix
Martha Senkbeil
- 1/5 Chris Edwards
- 1/6 Cherry Himstedt
- 1/8 Judy DesCombes
Jeremy Lyon
- 1/10 Tonya Dorsey
- 1/11 Lauren Stanley
- 1/12 Jeff West
- 1/15 Riley Turner
- 1/16 Bill Black
Gail Smith
Sonja West Waddell
- 1/23 Alyse Iacono
- 1/24 Lathan Burnett
- 1/27 Emma Evans
- 1/28 Nancy Staton

If your birthday was accidentally left off, call the church office at 706-865-2933.

Our Sympathy To...

Chris Edwards and Family in the passing of Chris' father, Billy Wayne Edwards.

Estelle Whitley and Family in the passing of her sister-in-law, Faye Pate.

First Wednesday

Covered Dish

Family Fellowship

January 5, 2022

5:30 PM in Heritage Hall

Setup/Cleanup Crew:

Miriam Armstrong,

Don and Rusty Stanley,

Neal and Pam Walden

Important Information!

☒ The church office is updating emergency contacts for anyone in the church who would like to have an emergency contact on file. Call the church office with your information.

☒ We will also be updating all the door codes at the welcome entrance. If you have a code, it will not work after January 27. You will need a new code.

As many of you know, Seth and Jordan Russell were members here at CFBC during their days as students at TMU. They moved to Alaska to minister to the people there two years ago. Our church has supported their efforts with prayer and finances. We received the following email from them recently updating their plans. Be in prayer for them as they make this change in their lives. Thank you to each of you who helped to support them in their ministry in Alaska.

There's no easy way to share this: we bought one-way tickets back to Georgia. It is with heavy hearts that we share we are leaving Alaska and moving back to Georgia. Alaska has been an absolute dream to live in. Yes, winter is dark and tough, but summer gorgeous and lively. Many will be confused and a little surprised by this decision, because we moved here with no timetable of coming back to Georgia. Two years ago, we made the decision to move up to Alaska to join a small church that was still learning how to grow. Two months after moving, something happened that no one would expect. The entire world went into lockdown. This put an abrupt halt to life as we knew it. When we moved, we had no clue that we would experience 3 losses within 3 months. This was tough, because it felt as if we had to grieve alone and were prevented from attending funerals due to strict travel mandates at the time. We didn't realize how difficult and expensive it would make seeing our family, whether they came to Alaska, or we visited GA. This decision to move back has been spurred by a few different things, but Seth received a job offer that was too good to refuse. We love AK and the friends we have made since living here, and we intend to come back and enjoy this beautiful state every once and a while. Alaska has a special place in our hearts, and we will miss it greatly.

We still aren't completely sure why God had us here for 2 years. We know without a doubt that we were supposed to be here, and you can trust the decision to move back has been saturated in prayer. There has been a lot of heartache, though. Even though we had made great friends, we found ourselves feeling lonely most of the time. We don't want anyone to think it was all bad though. We fell in love with this state and made so many memories that will last a lifetime. We are certain that is the best decision for us currently to return to family and friends in GA. Since living in AK, Seth has not had health insurance and mine runs out at the end of the year. We both have experienced different medical issues that weren't even on our radar before moving here. This new job for Seth has a full range of benefits so we will both have insurance again. Also, we are hopeful that this new job will allow me to either go back to school to finish my degree, or to pursue something bigger.

For the time being, we have resigned from any specific ministry responsibilities. Anyone that has served in ministry knows the weight of it all. It can be overwhelming and exhausting at times. We are grateful for friends and family who have supported us financially to make it possible to us to serve in Alaska. We have never taken it for granted. We would not have been able to have this great opportunity without you. We are sharing this information with you, so you know the impact that you've had on our lives. That being said, we pray that you continue to support a different ministry. We are looking forward to a fresh start with a new community of likeminded believers who we can grow with.

We will begin this next season of life, living within a short drive of the company's office near Lawrenceville, GA. It is a much shorter distance from our families than Palmer, AK. This is a bittersweet decision that we've made together. We look forward to being closer to family and friends, allowing for us to be with one another during the celebrations and the rough times. Alaska has forever changed us in ways we could not have imagined. Please continue to pray for us as we enter this new chapter in our lives. We love and appreciate you all. We look forward to seeing those of you that we will get to see soon!

Volunteers Needed - The decorating committee will be taking down the Christmas decorations on Tuesday, January 4, at 10:00 AM. The more volunteers, the quicker this task will go. Come help if you can. Lunch will be provided. Thanks in advance.

Christmas Cards - Some of you still have Christmas cards that need to be picked up. They were placed in the "Lottie Moon Post Office" for you. The cards have now been moved to the desk in the hallway near the elevator.

White County Food Pantry - During the month of January, the food pantry will be collecting canned meats – beef, chicken, tuna, salmon. You can place your donations in the container in the hallway towards the elevator. Thank you for your support of the White County Food Pantry.



Coming in 2022 - Churchwide Operation Christmas Child Packing Party From Cherry Himstedt, OCC Project Coordinator

We are going to try something new this year. We are going to collect specific items every month as a church from January through October. Then in the fall, we will come together and pack our shoeboxes. Our goal is to pack 200 boxes. This month of January we will collect combs, brushes, hairbows, and hair barrettes. Look for a drop-off box in the hallway. Thank you for your support and participation.