

The Link

February 2017 *From the Pastor...*

Monthly Publication of
Garden City Baptist Church
Volume 30 Number 2

FEBRUARY CHURCH EVENTS

February 5

Church-wide Breakfast
Souper Bowl of Caring

February 6

Church Council Meeting

February 8

Joyful Sounds

February 12

42nd Anniversary Celebration &
Luncheon

February 13

JOY Fellowship

February 14

WMW Widow's Luncheon
"Celebration of Love for their
Husbands"

February 18

Woman's Missionary Union
(WMU)

February 19

Church Conference

February 21

Charity SS Class meeting (FH)
Ladies Circle of Friends (FH)

February 24

Ladies Luncheon

Pastaria 811 Pawleys Island

February 25

ARC Blood Drive

42nd ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

Sunday, February 12

**Speakers: Dr. Bob Teems
Dr. Robert Shaw**

Luncheon in the Fellowship Hall after the worship service

All charter members, former pastors
and staff members and their
families are invited to join us

Plan to be here. Sunday School and
worship service at the regular times.

I hope this letter finds you well. I am excited about what the Lord is doing here at Garden City Baptist Church. This past Monday night, a group from our church went to the Waccamaw Baptist Association meeting. I heard two very interesting statistics that directly affect our church. First, on average, 32 people move into Horry County every day. Second, within the next 3 years, more than 500,000 people will make Horry County their new home. Wow!

That is alarming. What does that mean for us? Simply put, if our community is growing, we should be growing too. I want to use this brief space to give you four necessary things we need in order for our church to grow by reaching our community.

1. Preach and teach the Word - More than anything, we need to continue to preach and teach the Word. As we saw in Mark 1, people began to flock to churches that preach the truth. In Acts 2, people responded to the preached Word. They yearned for the apostles teachings.
2. Continue to be a loving church - One of the things I continue to here from guests is that our church is so friendly. We have created such a positive and loving environment that encourages people to come back and make GCBC their church home. Please, keep it up.
3. Serve in the church and in the community - We constantly need volunteers to serve in various roles in the church. Please consider serving in areas such as the children's ministry, Wednesday night clean up, or the Block Party coming up in March. We need to continue to love on our community. One of the best ways to do that is by serving in the local public schools. We are beginning to have a great relationship with Seaside. Pray that our relationship will continue to strengthen.
4. Pray for growth - We often times skip prayer. I saved one of the most important things for last. Pray. Pray some more, and when you are done, pray some more. I really believe the Lord blessed the early church (Acts 2) because they were a church that devoted themselves to prayer.

Keep these things in mind. It is not an all-inclusive list for church growth, but it is a great place to start. God is going to grow this church mightily if we lean on him. The community is growing, so should we!

Serving Him,



CHURCH CONFERENCE SUMMARY: 1-16-17

Finance: 2017 Amended General Operating Budget approved.

Trustees: Annual Inventory of all classes, organization, etc. must be in by end of January. Please note time of acquisition and price paid to provide adequate insurance coverage.

Building, Grounds & Property: Land Purchase of Lot #4 on Yaupon drive for \$105,000 finalized. Pledges for that amount have been received and \$18,000+ in hand.

Work/Clean Up Day set for March 25.

Media Center: Inventory in progress. Please no donation of books until it is completed. Only new or gently used books accepted.

Nominating: SS personnel approved: Danielle Thompson, 2-3 Yr.; Linda Faine, 4-K; Chris Devlin and Melissa Reese, Youth; Gene Dillard, Adult Teacher; Reach Committee approved: Phyllis Gore.

MEN'S BIBLE STUDY UNFOLDED The story of God starts **Thursday, February 2 at 8:00 a.m.** Most men know specific Bible stories, but do they know the overarching story of the Bible? Over 8 sessions explore this story of a God who loves us, longs to be known by us, and ultimately invites us into His story. Though there are many heroes in the Old and New Testaments, you'll discover the one true Hero of our faith: Jesus. Workbooks are available in the Office. Cost \$13 – scholarships are available. Sign-up sheets are in the front foyer and side hall.

JOY FELLOWSHIP - Fonda Rist helped us ring in the New Year at our meeting on January 9. She led the Just Older Youth in playing the bells to several of the old hymns. Those who did not ring bells sang the hymns as others played the bells. She was joined by her husband Hart, and Bill and Jean Bufton, who presented information about the writer and the hymn. The bell ringing was such an enjoyable time that she was asked to do more when her time was up - and she did. Mark your calendars for December 10 as Fonda will join us again to do her Christmas songs.

This month's meeting is **Monday, February 13 at noon** with a covered dish luncheon. Our presenter will be the **Long Bay Threshold Singers:** A chapter of the International Threshold Choir whose core mission is to comfort persons who are crossing the threshold from this life to the next.

Joy Fellowship is for youth who are 55+. This is a great way to meet other church attendees in an informal get-together.

WOMAN'S MISSIONARY UNION (WMU) meets **Saturday, February 18 at noon.**

Sue Gelman will share the mission work that Michele (her daughter) and Ethan are doing in Japan. See their new address below. Chili will be provide. Please bring a dessert or cornbread.

MISSIONS COMMITTEE PROJECTS

1. There will be another treat for the staff at Seaside Elementary School on February 14 to let them know we support them.
2. Between **January 29 and February 12** we are collecting travel size toiletries to go into bags for the police to share with any homeless people they encounter. They will keep the bags in their cars and have them handy. We are putting **small size shampoo and deodorant** in a one gallon plastic bag. Also, **tooth paste, toothbrush, wash cloth, comb, hard candy, gum and Tic Tacs.** The police can use men's socks, women's socks and small stuffed animals. A bin for these items will be in the hall by the office door.

February Birthdays

- 1 – Sara Alexander
- 2 – Nathan Rutherford
- 3 – Richard Sapp
- 5 – Mark Schlueter
- 6 – Judson Hendrick
- 6 – Joshua Pierce
- 7 – Roy Ruff
- 7 – Donna Dame
- 8 – Gene Dillard
- 8 – Jim Anthony
- 8 – Jordan Reese
- 8 – Deena Langston
- 9 – Joanna Pastomerlo
- 11 – Betty Mercer
- 11 – James Walker
- 12 – Traci Ousley
- 12 – Bennie Harmon
- 13 – Brenda Richardson
- 14 – Joanne Adams
- 16 – Kayla Thompson
- 16 – Ray Adams
- 17 – Stan Jackson
- 17 – Melissa Reese
- 18 – Crawford Walters
- 18 – Jodi Bridschge
- 19 – Jana Thompson
- 19 – Richard Grice
- 20 – Lorraine Sergeant
- 20 – Tim Hutto
- 21 – Ken Whiteaker
- 21 – Shirley Campbell
- 22 – Joyce Elben
- 22 – David MacDonald
- 24 – Alan Cooper
- 26 – Pat Taverno
- 28 – Linda Wells
- 28 – Elaine MacFarlane
- 28 – Connie Lockaby

NEW ADDRESS

Ethan and Michele Fisher & Boys
Barry & Sue Gelman's Daughter
& Family
Palazzo 2F
Nagara 3 Chome 196
Gifu-shi, Gifu-ken 502-0071
Japan

SOUTH STRAND MOBILE MEALS March 6-10

To volunteer contact Esther Holland or Phyllis Melton
Deliver a hot meal to people who can't provide for themselves. Be their friendly face for the day!

Varina's

JOYFUL PRAISE KIDS (Kindergarten – 5th grade)

- The children will sing **Sunday, February 19** during the 11 o'clock service.
- Please invite new friends to join us on Wednesdays from 6:00 p.m. until 6:30 p.m. RAs and GAs follow at 6:30 p.m. until 7:30 p.m. We are looking forward to seeing YOU involved in our Wednesday night children's programs!

JOYFUL SOUNDS (Open to all who are interested in visiting our homebound members and nursing homes)

- We will meet **Wednesday, February 8 at 12:30 p.m.** in the Choir Room. We will then visit with a church member. **PLEASE NOTE THE DATE CHANGE.**

CHANCEL CHOIR (High School – Adults)

- Please consider joining the Chancel Choir for rehearsal on Wednesdays from 7:30 p.m. until 9:00 p.m. We also lead worship each Sunday morning during our 11 o'clock service. We would love YOU to join us!

YOUTH PRAISE TEAM (6th – 12th grades)

- If you are interested in joining the praise team, please see Mrs. Melissa or me. Rehearsals will begin Wednesday, February 1 at 6:00 p.m. until 6:30 p.m. in the Youth Building.

ADULT PRAISE TEAM

- Please check Messenger for rehearsal schedule.
- Please be tuned and ready to rehearse each Sunday morning at 9:15 a.m.

South Stand Helping Hand (SSHH)

January and February being the coldest months of the year, we are off to a busy start. Total church support continues to be down.

Hamburger Joe's has partnered with SSHH and started the relationship with a big donation.

The treasurer is leaving the area due to work and we need a new treasurer. If this is something you can do, please call JoAnne in the church office. It's a volunteer job, takes 1-2 hours per week and uses QuickBooks.

SOUPER BOWL OF CARING is Sunday, February 5. The goal is to use the energy of the Super Bowl to care for people in the local communities who are hungry and those in need. Hunger and poverty have a negative impact on individuals and the communities where they live. **All the money donated through Souper Bowl of Caring goes to SSHH.**

After the worship hour members of the Youth department will be at the doors to receive donations.

LADIES LUNCHEON

You are invited you to join us for lunch once a month. In order for people to be able to plan ahead the luncheon will be the same time each month--the 4th Friday except September 15 and November 17 when there are other activities planned. We normally have 20-30 people each month. Always a good time and an opportunity for you to get to know others that you worship with. All are welcome.

Each month sign-up sheets are on the table in the front foyer and side hall. Always add your phone number so if there are any changes to our plans we can get in touch with you. If there are any questions, call Shirley Oesterle 843-748-0465.

This month's Ladies Luncheon
Pastaria 811 in Pawleys Island
at 12 noon

If you want to carpool we will meet at the church and leave by 11:30. Be sure and sign-up.

SOLID GROUND STUDENT MINISTRY



American Red Cross Blood Drive

Fellowship Hall
February 25 ♦ 9am – 2pm
In memory of Lisa Buff
Paula Koscelnick's daughter

WOMEN'S MINISTRY

WOMEN'S MINISTRY (WM)

By: Tish Walker

Welcome to an exciting 2017 in Women's Ministry. We started the year with not one but two new Bible Studies. One for the ladies on Thursdays—THE COVENANT with Kay Author. One of the entire church on Sundays –CHRONOLOGICAL STUDY OF THE OLD TESTAMENT. There are about 68 participants in both studies. If you haven't come to either study it's never too late. We take all comers anytime at both studies.

A great big thanks to all who helped decorate the fellowship Hall for the holidays and a bigger thanks to those who helped take down and inventory all the decorations.

We thank everyone who participated in Friday's Spa Night. It was a great time. A special thank you to Jeri Chestnut. She supervised our treatments (teaching us the proper way to do beauty care) and taught us new techniques in beauty care and massage.

A special invitation to all ladies in our church. If you would like to be a part of the WM team please see me (Tish Walker) or any WM Coordinator. There's a place for you to serve.

Keep watching the bulletin and The Link for upcoming events in February and our spring retreat in March.

THIS IS THE DAY THE LORD HAS MADE LET US REJOICE AND BE GLAD IN IT. Ps. 118:24

Save the Date! March 25
Cleaning inside and outside



SUNDAY SCHOOL REPORT

By: Tim Hutto, Sunday School Director

Our Sunday School **attendance** remains strong. For the new church year, September – December we averaged 183. Due to a recent SS roll up-date, our SS membership has decreased from 321 to 295. This should be temporary with new visitors every Sunday.

With the loss of some Sunday School teachers others have stepped up and filled voids. These new teachers include: Chris Devlin, Youth; Danielle Thompson, 2 & 3 year olds; Linda Faine, 4 & 5 year olds and Kay Souza (not a member yet) is helping with the 4 & 5 year olds. Gene Dillard was confirmed as an adult substitute teacher.

Have a blessed day.

LADIES CIRCLE OF FRIENDS

By: Yvonne Marcum

At the January we had 15 ladies to taste some healthier foods. I want to thank each and every one of you for attending but I also want to thank you for bringing in healthier options for us to enjoy! Thank you Francesca Smit for giving us an awesome devotional and it sure hit home for us! Eating healthier should be an everyday occurrence in our lives. It is ok to have an unhealthy meal on occasion but not for every meal or snack we eat. There were some wonderful tasty food for us to enjoy.

Our **February** Circle will be the **21st at 7:00pm** in the Fellowship Hall. So come and see what I have planned for you! But most of all the Fellowship we have with each other has meant so much to me!

Gospel Body is still going strong. We are using one of the new big TVs and enjoying it. I purchased some new DVDs for walking. Good music to exercise with but mainly good friends and conversation! **Monday, Wednesday and Friday at 10 a.m.**, hope to see some new faces!

WIDOW'S MINISTRY

Monthly birthday luncheon is **Sunday, February 19** after the worship service to celebrate Lorraine Sergeant's birthday. Going to the Tasty Platter. Meet at the front of the sanctuary to carpool.

Special Valentine's Day Event Celebration of Love for the Husbands February 14 at noon

Even though they are no longer with us, they will always be in our hearts

Meet in the Fellowship Hall. Soup & salad provided, please bring a dessert. Also, Bring memorabilia to share (pictures of you and your husband, wedding album, etc. **Please call Pat Hample at sign-up at 843-748-0163 or 704-460-4056.**

HEART TO HEART KICK-OFF is **Friday, February 17** at 2:00 p.m. Watch the bulletin for more information.