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**Ministry Assistant:** Marilyn Kuss

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# A Look Ahead...

## January

- 3.....The Story of God "Creation" Unit Begins
- 10.....213Life Conversation Series Begins
- 13.....Youth Go To Monks
- 20.....KidX Returns
- 21.....Nursing Home Birthday Party
- 31.....The Story of God "Fall" Unit Begins
- 31.....Baptism and Communion Sunday



**Worship...Grow...Serve**

BE A PART OF  
THE  
CONVERSATION  
EACH WEEK  
THROUGH:

**Website:**  
www.fbcsweetwater.org  
**Jerry's Blog:**  
pastorconversation.  
wordpress.com  
**Facebook:**  
"First Baptist Church  
Sweetwater, TX"  
**Twitter:**  
@FBCSweetwater

**Giving Update  
Through  
November**

*Undesignated Receipts:*  
\$415,696

*Expenditures:*  
\$399,739

*Operating Fund  
Balance:* \$42,161

*November Connecting  
Generations:* \$3,488

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# First Baptist Church Hands & Feet Newsletter

VOLUME 3, ISSUE 1 JANUARY 1, 2016

## Pastor Conversation...

Here we go. It's time to get this New Year started and we have plenty of opportunities coming your way. There is a phrase that I use a lot, "If you always do what you've always done; then you always get what you always got." With this mentality there are few surprises and any progress comes pretty much by accident.

This year we are going to be intentional about making disciples and helping them reach their full potential in Christ. We will accomplish this through our Sunday Morning Conversation Series and through a series of Classes and LifeGroups--did you catch that? You are correct. We are naming our groups to more accurately identify their specific role in our process.

Classes will be offered on Sunday mornings at 9:15am and on Wednesdays at 6:00pm. LifeGroups are small groups that will have a variety of meeting times and are intended to develop community through Bible study and relationships. We will be explaining this process through our communications during the first three weeks of the New Year.

So grab your journal and get ready. It's going to be a fun year!



**Pictures from Children's Progressive Supper**

## My Treasure, My Heart...

On Sunday, January 17, we will be offering a class on personal budget and finance. As the New Year begins the two most frequent resolutions have to do with money and fitness. Jesus often spoke of money and the Bible has a lot to say about the management of our resources.

This class is a part of our core class structure where our desire is to help people reach their full potential in Christ. The discipleship process begins with those things that are closest to our heart and our personal stewardship is among our top priorities.

This class will last four weeks and will meet at 9:15am on Sundays. We will meet in Room 206. You can register for the class by calling or emailing the church office. Follow up coaching will be available to everyone completing the class.

## February Discover FBC...

On February 7, 2016, Discover FBC Membership Class will have its first class of 2016.

Have you thought about checking out Discover FBC? Discover FBC is for everyone, whether you are a member or not. During the class you will hear about the history of Sweetwater and FBC, you will hear about what makes us distinctly Baptist, you will learn what makes us "uniquely first," and you will learn what it means to be a covenant member with FBC.

Sign up at the Information Table in the Worship Center Foyer and join the Koinonia Class as they go through Discover FBC, too.

## The Story of God...

Sunday, January 3, the student ministry of FBC unveiled "The Story of God" in the Sunday Morning Classes. From Preschool to 12th grade, students will be learning about the way God's story develops in Scripture.

The new curriculum is built on two pillars: 1.) Simplicity, and 2.) Everyone loves a story. Each lesson teaches one main objective along with a Bible story. Every two years, students will go through the Bible from Genesis to Revelation on Sunday mornings.

The Story of God is made up of 24 Units such as Creation, Abraham, Egypt, Church, Paul, etc. Each class will be studying the same unit at the same time which keeps families in the same area of the Bible on Sunday mornings. Each unit has a memory verse, so students are not only learning the story of God, but also memorizing Scripture.

The best part of the new curriculum is that we are writing the curriculum as a Church. The first unit, Creation, was written by many of our teachers, and from here on out, teachers will be forming teams to write the curriculum. Writing the curriculum has become an exciting part of the process, so don't be surprised if you are asked to be on a writing team. As a leadership team, we look forward to serving with you as we take seriously the discipleship of our students here at FBC.



## KidX Returns Jan. 20...

KidX is our Wednesday Night ministry for children and made some exciting changes this last semester. This semester, the theme is "Journeys" and will walk with students through the journey of the numerous disciples we meet in Acts. Peter, Silas, John, Saul, Lydia, Philip, Stephen, and so many other disciples have such unique experiences in their own faith journeys and we want students to see the variety of ways that faith is lived out in the Early Church.

Also, the children will be using the music portion of KidX to practice a Children's Musical that will be a part of leading us in Worship on May 15. Jenny Doggett and James Craig did an amazing job with the children during the Children's Christmas Musical and we are looking forward to the children leading us in Worship in May.

Finally, maybe you are looking for your place to serve, we need some adults to walk with children's groups in KidX for the Spring Semester. You will not regret spending Wednesday Nights with some amazing Children and Adults. If this is you, contact Lisa Eaker or Tique Hamilton.

## A Word from Jeremy...



As we approach the beginning of the New Year we often start to think of our resolutions; how we can improve ourselves and our circumstances. Whether it is to be better at something, be a healthier version of ourselves, or maybe even try something new, we all have something in mind with the feeling of a fresh start.

I often lean toward physical improvement in my New Year resolutions, but what if we took time to evaluate our spiritual health? What if we dedicated the same time and effort to our Heavenly Father in prayer and study, love and kindness, patience and understanding? I think we would get so much more than a lean and healthy physical being if we strengthen our souls this New Year.

I am excited about worshipping with you this New Year and growing in relationship with my family at First Baptist Sweetwater.

## Online Giving...

First Baptist Church now has Online Giving available for those who prefer to give their tithe or offerings to the Church online. Online Giving has been available for two months now and already we have had several Church members take advantage of this new way to give.

You may wonder how Online Giving benefits you:

- 1) It's timely: By setting up a recurring contribution that is scheduled to come out of your account on the day you specify, you establish your gift to God as a priority in your budget.
- 2) It's simple: You will not need to remember if you gave this month or to send in your offering check when you are out of town.
- 3) It's secure: An online gift cannot be lost or stolen.
- 4) There are no distractions: Instead of needing to worry about writing your contribution check to bring to church with you, you can be assured that your gift has already been processed

If you would like to try out Online Giving, go to [www.fbsweetwater.org](http://www.fbsweetwater.org), click the upper right tab "Online Giving," and follow the instructions to give your first gift online. If you have any questions, call or drop by the Church Office and we will be glad to help.



## Inclement Weather Plan...

The prediction by many weather outlets is for a cold and potentially icy January and February, so we want to be clear about our plan in case of inclement weather.

Our plan is to always have Worship on Sunday mornings. If we cancel anything, it will be the Bible Study hour to give members more time to safely make it to Worship. Our plan is to always make the decision to cancel the Bible Study hour by noon on Saturday, so the congregation will have time to pass the information along and not be worried about checking late Saturday or early Sunday.

If we cancel due to inclement weather, the places you will be able to find updated information will be 1.) FBC website, [www.fbsweetwater.org](http://www.fbsweetwater.org), 2.) FBC Facebook Page, 3.) FBC Twitter Account, @FBCSweetwater, and 4.) We will contact local news and radio outlets if they are giving updates.

