



Graham, North Carolina

January 2019 *E-NEWS*



From
the
Pastor's
Heart

Happy New Year! Can you believe that it is 2019, or at least very close to it? As I write this, we are just hours away from saying good-bye to 2018 and hello to 2019. What will the New Year hold for us? It is really anyone's guess. Only God know what is in store for us and I am glad that my future is in His hands. Over the last 67 years of my life, I have seen Him at work and never once has He made a bad decision or instigated a poorly throughout plan regarding my life. In the nearly 59 since I was saved, I have never regretted one moment of that decision. I hope as you begin this New Year you have that same confident assurance that regardless what happens in 2019, you are in the best hands possible with God.

2018 has been a good year for us at Riverside as we have seen God's hand at work in so many ways and in so many lives. We have also seen some heartbreaks as members and friends have died and some have chosen to attend other churches. There have been countless sicknesses and visits to hospitals. Some of those ended in visits to funeral homes and standing by grave sides, but in it all God has been faithful to us, His people. He has guided, comforted, and even brought restoration to some and promoted others to a glorious eternity with Him. How could we do any less that bless and praise His Holy name?

I hope that as we begin this brand-new year with a clean slate before us, that we will seek to write His praises on that slate and give Him our very best. Our best involves out time, our talents, and our treasures. He deserves the very best that we have to offer Him in our service, our time, and yes, our finances.

Beginning this Sunday, I will be preaching a series of messages on our stewardship of time, talents, and treasures. I do this each year as a reminder that we need to start the new year off right if we hope to end it successfully. There are many excuses that each of have and use in our attempt to convince ourselves that we are doing as much as we can in serving God. The truth is, we always find the time the ability, and the finances to do the things we really want to do. Can we say that about our relationship with the one who, by His own sacrifice, purchased our salvation and atoned for our sin?

Let's begin this year fresh and committed to make 2019 a year in which we put Jesus first in every part of our lives. I believe that this can be the most exciting year that we have ever experienced at Riverside.

So Happy new Year to you all,

Pastor Bob

YOUTH MINISTRY

HERE'S WHAT'S HAPPENING

Happy New Year!!!! I trust and hope that your new year is off to a great start. If it is not, remember as we talked about last Sunday night, God says He will be with you through it all. The good, the bad, He is right there with you to support and comfort you.

There is always excitement this time of year as we set out to make this the best year ever. In the church, it is no different. We as a church are looking at how can we better serve the Lord this coming year. With our finances and with our time and talents. We as individuals are called to do the same. Have you set up a time for daily Bible reading and prayer? Have you purposed how much you want to give to the Lord's work financially this coming year? Have you prayed about what ministry the Lord wants you to be a part of? Have you prayed about how the Lord might use you to reach those around you with His love? These are all great questions that each one of us need to have an answer for. I trust that you will seek the Lord's will for each and every aspect of your life this new year.

A big thank you to everyone who helped us reach and surpass our goal for **the Lottie Moon International Missions Offering**. 100% of this offering goes directly to putting missionaries on the ground all over the world. Because of your generosity they can stay on the mission field and continue to share the gospel message of Christ love.

We have a couple of things coming up right off the bat this year. First, is our **Vacation Bible School**. Yes, you heard me correctly, we are already thinking summer time. Our VBS will be **June 23-27** this year, so mark your calendars and join us for amazing encounters with Jesus. In preparation for that myself and a few people will be attending the VBS Preview at Ridgecrest January 11 & 12. This is a great opportunity to see what this year's theme and study materials have in store. Please begin to be in prayer for our students and for our workers that will be involved in this year's VBS. Also, be praying for where you will serve and be a part of this great outreach time for our church.



Our next big opportunity starts this month and runs all year. That is **Operation Christmas Child**.



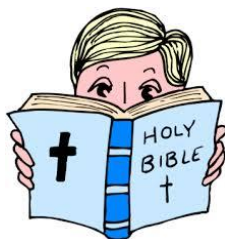
As Ethan says, it's not too early to start preparing for next Christmas. I want to challenge each of you to try and make a box a month. I know what you are thinking, those boxes and the shipping is expensive. I know it is especially in one lump sum. If you spread it out over the next 10 months, it is a little more manageable. As you are out shopping and see a deal grab a few extras for your own boxes as well as some to donate to our AWANA Kids collections each month. It does work. Last year Stephanie tried this when things were on sale and we as a family were able to do ten boxes. You may not be able to do that many or you may do even more. Just know that whatever you can give will go to help tell boys and girls that Jesus loves them and has a plan for their lives. **This month the AWANA kids are asking you to bring in small toys (balls, cars, jump ropes, dolls, etc.). Please no camouflage or war related toys.** The collection box is located behind the stairwell outside the Sanctuary. Near the time of collection week, our kids will take all the donated items and pack shoeboxes for kids all over the world. Be a part of this great outreach mission.

Also, this month our AWANA program starts back. Please be in prayer for the kids and workers as they push to make this second half a great experience of learning and growth in the Lord. We **NEED** some helpers to help in leading some small groups and or large group time. If you have questions or would like to serve the Lord by sharing His love with our children, see Stephanie Stephenson and she will be glad to share with you the needs.



Pastor Mark

BIBLE READING FOR THE MONTH



Jan. 1 Genesis 1-2
Jan. 2 Genesis 3-5
Jan. 3 Genesis 6-9
Jan. 4 Genesis 10
Jan. 5 Genesis 11
Jan. 7 Genesis 12-14
Jan. 8 Genesis 15-7
Jan. 9 Genesis 18-20
Jan. 10 Genesis 21-24

Jan. 11 Genesis 25-26
Jan. 12 Genesis 27-31
Jan. 14 Genesis 32-36
Jan. 15 Genesis 37-40
Jan. 16 Genesis 41-44
Jan. 17 Genesis 45-47
Jan. 18 Genesis 48-50
Jan. 19 Exodus 1-4
Jan. 21 Exodus 5-8

Jan. 22 Exodus 9-12
Jan. 23 Exodus 13-18
Jan. 24 Exodus 19-22
Jan. 25 Exodus 23-26
Jan. 26 Exodus 27-30
Jan. 28 Exodus 31-33
Jan. 29 Exodus 34-36
Jan. 30 Exodus 37-40
Jan. 31 Leviticus 1-3

January Birthdays

3rd Susan Capps
Wendy Duke

4th Chris Luman
Haylee Sharpe

10th Debbie Holmes
Alice Pruitt
Brenda Ray

11th Wendy Andrews
Kim Isley

12th Carl Martin

18th Harold Shelley

19th Elaine Walker



20th Linda Webb

22nd Joshua Holmes

23rd Chandler Kime
Judy Sharpe

24th Jason Johnson

25th Patrick Ward

28th Jennifer Johnson

29th Pastor Bob Stephenson

30th Brandon Bolick

31st Buster Tuck

JANUARY

- 1st NEW YEARS DAY – OFFICE CLOSED
- 2nd 6:30 PM Bible Study & Age Graded Activities
- 7th 10:00 AM Valda Cates Circle
6:30 PM Genesis Circle in Fellowship Hall
- 8th 6:00 PM Josie Brewer Circle
6:45 PM Lydia Circle
7:00 PM Riverside Brotherhood
- 9th 6:30 PM Bible Study & Age Graded Activities
- 11th VBS Preview @ Ridgecrest
- 12th VBS Preview @ Ridgecrest
- 13th 4:30 PM Deacon's Meeting
- 16th 11:30 AM Widows & Friends Luncheon
6:30 PM Bible Study & Age Graded Activities
- 19th 9:00 AM Young @ Heart Breakfast
- 20th 3:00 PM Church Council
- 23rd 6:30 PM Bible Study & Age Graded Activities
- 30th 6:30 PM Bible Study & Age Graded Activities



Start your New Year off with these Goals.

- To your enemy, give Forgiveness.
To an opponent, give tolerance.
To a friend, give your heart.
To a customer, give service.
To all, give charity.
To every child, give a good example.
To yourself, give respect (forgiveness).
To the world, give your testimony of Christ in your life!

To God, give your all.



January

SUN

MON

TUE

WED

THU

FRI

SAT

		<p>1 OFFICE CLOSED</p> 	<p>2</p> <p>6:30 PM Bible Study & Age Graded Program</p>	<p>3</p>	<p>4</p>	<p>5</p> 
<p>6</p>	<p>10:00 AM Valda Cates Circle</p> <p>6:00 PM Genesis Circle in Fellowship Hal</p>	<p>8</p> <p>6:00 PM Josie Brewer Circle</p> <p>6:454 PM Lydia Circle</p> <p>7:00 PM Riverside Brotherhood</p>	<p>9</p> <p>6:30 PM Bible Study & Age Graded Program</p>	<p>10</p>	<p>11</p> <p>12</p> <p>VBS Preview@ Ridgecrest</p>	
<p>13</p> <p>4:30 PM Deacon's Meeting</p>	<p>14</p>	<p>15</p>	<p>16</p> <p>11:30 AM Widows & Friends Luncheon</p> <p>6:30 PM Bible Study & Age Graded Program</p>	<p>17</p>	<p>18</p>	<p>19</p> 
<p>20</p> <p>3:00 PM Church Council</p>	<p>21</p>	<p>22</p>	<p>23</p> <p>6:30 PM Bible Study & Age Graded Program</p>	<p>24</p>	<p>25</p>	<p>26</p>
	<p>28</p>	<p>29</p>	<p>30</p> <p>6:30 PM Bible Study & Age Graded Program</p>	<p>31</p>		