

# Devotion

*Poetry from our Church Family*

## A Precious Gem In God's Diadem

My soul, once captive, bound by fright,  
Dwelling in a lair of stagnant night,  
Now yields its self, no longer bound,  
A treasured claim on hallowed ground,  
A grateful heart now esteemed.  
That God's divine love alone has redeemed  
Which no tarnished silver could ever attain,  
All worldly gain is but in vain.  
Blood-bought and treasured, a soul fully measured,  
In Christ alone true worth we gain,  
His perfect peace new creation's reign.

A Poem based on Spurgeon's phrase "blood bought possession"  
-by Bill Chittenden 5/10/2025

## The Character Code . . .

"Esse Quam Videri," a Latin decree,  
To be and not just appear to be.  
A life long refrain,  
The realness of self, where worth must remain.

Garbage in and garbage out, one of the mind's simple laws,  
Our Character molded also through our flaw's.  
Though we can travel the world, from Harbor to Star,  
No matter where you go, there you are.

This the true constant, the nature we keep  
Where shadows of seeming are fragile and cheap.  
"Cogito Ergo Sum," I think, therefore I am  
So every thought I must capture and exam.

What we think in quiet, the choices we make,  
Is the blueprint future expressions will take.  
Our Inner Life guards, our soul's honest core,  
Where choices and actions reflect so much more.

The masks we wear, the face we show the crowd,  
Mirror the thoughts we've sincerely allowed.  
So let our thoughts noble and true be found  
That integrity's output in action may abound.

Setting our minds on God's word, steadfast and sure  
Timeless truth that will always endure.  
For a life is hidden in Christ, the only authentic measure,  
Our true reputation, sealed by that heavenly treasure.

-Written by Bill Chittenden 10/30/2025 (combining my thoughts on  
the lesson I am working on in Max Lucado's "Tame your Thoughts"  
book, with statements, folksy sayings I often repeat, and computer  
logic application of programming in relation to thought process)



FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

## Family Connection

*A Monthly Publication of Caldwell First Baptist Church*

VOLUME 33 ISSUE 1

January 2026

### FROM THE PASTOR'S PEN

#### When Christmas Is Hard

Christmas time brings out emotions in all of us. Often they are joyful memories of family, tradition, and togetherness. But those same memories can sometimes cause discouragement, even depression. So how do you cope with a holiday that can bring as much hurt as it does happiness? Following are some thoughts and Scriptures to aid you during the holidays:

**Look to God for peace, if your mind and heart are unsettled.**

2 Cor. 1:3-4 "Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves have received from God."

**Remember that the coming of Jesus is the promise of our future joy with Him.**

This is meant to give us joy in the darkest of days. 1 Thess. 4:17-18 "After that, we who are still alive and are left will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will be with the Lord forever. Therefore encourage each other with these words."

**Be encouraged that, when you have Christ, you have everything you need.**

Jesus gives us a purpose in life no matter what trials may come. Phil. 1:21 "For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain."

**Be thankful for all you have, including the memories of loved ones.**

James 1:17 "Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows."

May you praise the Lord in both the good times and the bad because He is with us always, even to the end of the age!

Merry Christmas!

Pastor Brett Siegalkoff

#### INSIDE THIS ISSUE

2 Weekly Events,  
Youth News,  
Library "Kids'  
Corner,"  
January  
Calendar,  
Recommended  
Reading

3 Ministry/  
Missions  
Spotlight:  
New Literary  
Magazine,  
Upcoming  
Events

4 "Devotion"  
Gifts of poetry  
from our CFBC  
Church Family

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Family Connection is  
freely distributed to the  
CFBC congregation and  
friends.

**At CFBC, we exist to:**  
**WORSHIP the Lord**  
**WALK with Believers**  
**WORK in the Church**  
**WITNESS to the World**



Weekly at First Baptist

Sunday: 9:30am Worship Service - Communion is the first Sunday of every month.  
11:15am Sunday School for all ages

Monday: Office open 8:00am-2:00pm  
Choir at 7:00pm

Tuesday: Office open 8:00am-2:00pm  
Ladies' Bible Study in Fellowship Hall 10:00am - Studying "Discovering God In the Psalms"  
Men's Bible Study in Room 106 at 10:00am - Studying Genesis  
Men's Bible Study in the Library at 6:30pm - Studying 1 John

Wednesday: Office open 8:00am-2:00pm  
Youth Bible Study at 5:30pm; Youth Group at 6:30pm  
Awana at 6:20pm  
Ladies' Bible Study in Library at 6:30pm - Studying "Foundations"(New Testament) by Rob and Kandi Gallaty

Thursday: Office open 8:00am-2:00pm  
The Elder Board meets the fourth Thursday of each month at 7:00pm.

Friday: Office closed; Pastors' and Staff day off



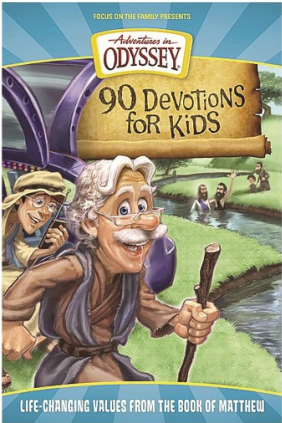
How many of you in your youth believed that by the year 2026 we would have flying cars, high speed trains, colonies on the moon, and cities orbiting the earth? Crazy what we think decades into the future will look like. Praise God that He is sovereign! Thank you Jesus that you hold our days in your hands. At the end of one year and the beginning of the next, it is a wonderful time to reflect on all that God has brought us through, and has brought us to. What an honor to be

able to sit with teens and families and look back on what 2025 brought in their lives. Wonderful times of celebration as well as times of sorrow and sadness. All opportunities to give God the glory. Psalm 90:12 reminds us to "teach us to number our days that we may get a heart of wisdom." Please be in prayer for all of our teens and their families this new year that we may all remember to number our days and to look to Jesus in prayer that we would gain understanding and that He would guard our hearts and minds. Praise God for 2025 and what He will bring in 2026.

Pastor Nate Pickens

Library “Kids’ Corner”

Recommended Reading



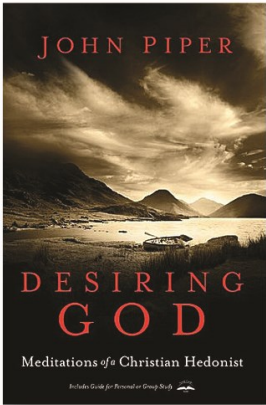
Check It Out at the CFBC Library  
P 242 YOU (4th-5th)

January 2026 Upcoming Events

- January 3 Memorial Service for Peggy Tietzort at 11:00am
- January 4 Family Worship Service at 10:30am  
No Nursery, Children’s Church, or Sunday School so families can worship together.
- January 10 Memorial Service for Pat Schill at 10am
- January 17 Men’s Breakfast at 9:00am  
Take Down the Greens at 10:30am
- January 18 2nd Half of the Annual Meeting
- January 24 Baby Shower for Jamie Frederick at 11:00am
- January 25 Missions Committee at 12:30pm  
Newcomers’ Fellowship at 4pm

From the Library

Recommended Reading



Check It Out at the CFBC Library  
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Ministry/Missions Spotlight - New Literary Magazine



You may have noticed that, for the past few months, the fourth page of this newsletter has featured the poetry of some of the members of our church family. We will be publishing a literary magazine in 2026 that will contain poetry and artwork from our congregation. The goal of this publication is to allow those of our congregation whom God has gifted with writing and artistic abilities the opportunity to bless our church family with their gifts. It also may be used as a fundraiser for missions or special projects. In addition to the magazine, we will



continue to use the fourth page of the Newsletter to feature poetry or devotionals from our church family.

If you feel that the Lord has gifted you in this area, we would love to have you participate.



Bill Chittenden, Brenda Carver, and Diane Nevers will be spearheading this effort. Uplifting poems, devotionals, and artwork should be submitted to them. Children’s work can be submitted as well.

Please observe the following guidelines:

- 1. All work must be glorifying to God and theologically correct in order to be published.
- 2. Submissions should be no more than a single page with an easily readable font size.

More information will be coming in January.

Upcoming Events



Saturday, January 17, 9:00am

2nd Half, Sunday, January 18



Newcomers’ Fellowship  
Sunday, January 25th  
4:00pm  
Come meet our Elders and Staff