

309 Washington Street
Plymouth NC 27962
www.firstbaptistplymouth.org
252.793.5026
fbcoff@embarqmail.com

**Rev. Paul Harrington,** Senior Pastor

Mr. Loyd Jones, Associate Pastor, Youth and Children

Mr. Scott Bradshaw, Worship Director

**Mrs. Danita Davis,** Office Administrator

**Mrs. B.J. Lyle,** Organist

Lora Craddock, Deacon of the Month



# **New Sunday Morning Sermon Series**



Starting January 7, 2024

## -It's not just about singing!

How did worship of God begin? How did it progress through the ages?

Why do we do what we do? Is worship just for Sunday?

All these questions and many more will be answered!

# **PLYMOUTH** FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH Have a Blessed 2024!

# January 2024

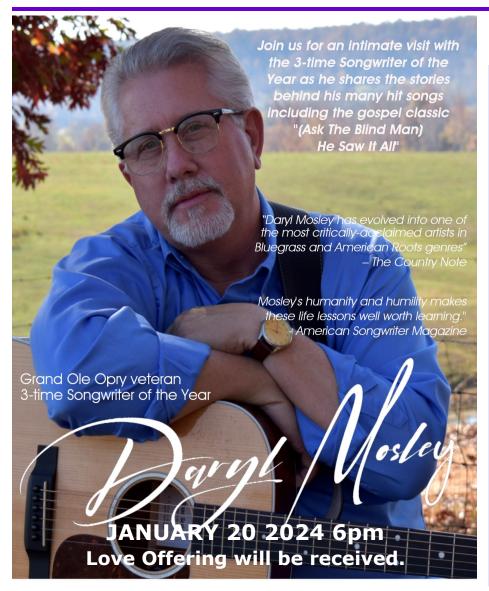
To the members and friends of First Baptist Church,

The Christian life is not for the casual passer-by. The Christian life does not work well for the one who places their walk with Jesus at the very bottom of their to-do list. Our technological age is an amazing and yet frightening time. It is training human brains to be impatient-demanding instant gratification and affirmation. Our culture reinforces an attitude of doing "just enough to get by." That attitude will not be blessed by God if we approach our relationship with Him in such a way. In fact no relationships can be blessed with such an attitude. Yes, initial faith in Jesus can come in a moment. Yet, that moment, if genuine, will lead to a lifelong pursuit of the One who has called us to Himself.

Though our salvation is a free gift- and we are eternally secure when in genuine faith- the life of following Jesus is costly. Remember, it was Jesus himself who said if anyone wanted to be his disciple they must take up their cross and follow Him. (Mark 8:34) It requires a renouncing of our old sinful ways. It may require us to severe close friendships in the beginning of our faith journey and even along the way as others falter and turn away from the pilgrimage with Christ. My experience in church life as a pastor over many years is that there are too many professing Christians who seem to really believe in Jesus, and yet never find him in their day to day life. The reason I have found many times is that they have not sought the Lord in their life with everything they are. The LORD said, "You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart." (Jeremiah 29:13)

The joy, peace, hope and love promised in the Advent Season is only found in our day to day living when we are seeking it in the person of God-man, the Lord Jesus Christ. The LORD warned the Israelites when they were going to enter the promised land that they would forsake Him and turn to idols. They would stop seeking Him and turn their hearts to other things. This would cause God to scatter them throughout the nations. Maybe, because of your divided loves, you sense within yourself a scattering. Thankfully, God makes them a promise, and it can be yours as well, "But if from there you seek the LORD your God, you will find him if you seek him with all your heart and with all your soul. <sup>30</sup> When you are in distress and all these things have happened to you, then in later days you will return to the LORD your God and obey him. <sup>31</sup> For the LORD your God is a merciful God; " (Deut. 4:29-31)

Perhaps you walked closely with the Lord years ago, but now you are a casual passer-by. Deep down you know it's harming you. But you haven't been willing to make the choices in repentance required to get on the right path- by the way, going to church is just step 2 after getting saved. The Christian life is a daily commitment to seek the LORD in all things. You know it was probably at least a year after His birth that the wise men came to worship Jesus and offer Him their gifts. Perhaps in the New Year we should all desire to be like them. Willing to do anything, and sacrifice anything to be close to the KING OF KINGS and LORD of LORDs. Love and Happy New Year, Pastor Paul



# Let us Celebrate!

### **Happy Birthday**

Chris Smith 1/1 Susan Rea 1/11

Don Wynne 1/12

Clara Tate Foster 1/13

Braylon Modlin 1/13

Danita Davis 1/15

Danica Davis 1, 19

Bryan Foster 1/16

Robyn Lloyd 1/21

Kennedy Dail 1/22

Madeline Chandler 1/25

Tim Peyton 1/25

## Congratulations!

#### Happy Anniversary

Tony & Micki Dail 1/16

Don & Kathy Wynne 1/16



#### **NURSERY SCHEDULE**

Jan. 7-Lora Craddock & Glenda Smith

Jan. 14-Caroline Chandler & Amy Collins

Jan. 21-Faith Noell & Jolie Barnes

Jan. 28-Dianne Swain & Susan Sawyer

### Coming up this month.

2nd-Gail Hardison Circle will meet at 6:30 pm in the Craft Room.

2nd-Helen Peele Circle will meet at 7:00 pm. Chapter 2. Ann Cody and Susan Rea will host.

7th-Baptist Men's Breakfast at 7:30 am.

8th-Ladies Winter Bible Study begins at 10 am.

8th-Mission Action Circle will meet at 1:00 pm at Golden Skillet..

8th-Handbells will resume practice at 5:30 pm.

8th-Buildings & Grounds Committee will meet at 6:30 pm in craft room.

8th-Deacons meet at 7:00 pm in the fellowship hall with Lora Craddock hosting.

10th-Wednesday Supper and Bible Study begins. The menu will be in the January 7th bulletin.

31st-Supper and Quarterly Conference.

#### **THANK YOU NOTE**

Dear Friends.

Jeff and I would like to thank you for the generous love offering. We are so grateful for your love and support during this time of uncertainty. It is not an easy road we are traveling on right now, but with God and friends like you, we are hopeful for better days ahead. We pray that 2024 brings great things for each of you.

With Much Love,

Danita and Jeff



Happy New Year!

I pray that everyone had a Merry Christmas, and a wonderful New Year celebration. In hopes to continue to reflect closely on Jesus in the New Year, I shift my focus from the birth of Jesus to how Jesus makes all things New - Rev. 21:5. I encourage every follower of Christ to remind themselves that they have been made a New creation - 2 Cor 5:17. As New creations we do not walk as we use to but instead walk in Newness of life - Rom 6:4. I am looking forward to see what the Lord has in store for our students this year! - Loyd Jones

## Check out last months...

**Gingerbread Tabernacle!** 



**Custom Ornament Gifts!** 



Children's Church Christmas Creations!

# **Wednesday Night Suppers** and Bible Study

Restart January 10, 2024 We will be studying 2 Thessalonians

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

We want to thank everyone for all their kindness to us during the Christmas Season. Your generosity and love is so greatly appreciated. We thank the LORD for each of you, and the opportunity that we have to walk this portion of our lives with you. How blessed we are to be your pastoral couple. May you be blessed in the coming year as you continue your walk with Jesus. Love, Paul and Sherri

### PRAYER CONCERNS

**NURSING HOME CHURCH FAMILY:** 

Family of Gwen Phelps, **RESIDENTS:** 

**Steve Barnes** Dewaine Smith,

Autumnfield of Virginia Dilday, Belhaven

George Boyd, **Pauline Humphries** 

Marguerite Hart, River Trace, Ronnie Matheny, Washington

Tim Elks; Denise Nobles,

Carrolton of Plymouth Leroy and Ann Bland,

B.J. Lyle, Phyllis Dickerson,

Faye McCombs.

#### **FRIENDS AND RELATIVES:**

Joyce Jones (Wife of FBC pastor Terry Jones)

Shirley Harrell (Sister of Alan Barnes)

John C. Mann (Nephew of Lorita Simonds)

Evan Roberson

Wanda Williams

Thomas and Gretchen Maloney

Denise Baldwin (Cousin of Ben Cherry)

Marie Cox (Mother of Bill Benjamin)

Betty King (Mother of Tammy Wiard)

Shelton McNair, Sr

George & Debbie Bagley

Whitney Denton (Niece of Phyllis Faulk)

Jeff Davis

Shelton McNair, Jr.

Jamie Asby

Shelby Flint

Mae Oliver

Keith Sawyer

When you can't make it to worship, listen on Magic 95.9 If you are blessed, consider supporting with your financial gift.