

New Home Baptist Church Newsletter January 2018



From Pastor Brad's Desk

Just recently I read an article regarding church music and worship. The author made this statement: "I am convinced that the best measure of a church's music is not what takes place on the stage, but what takes place in the pews." Most of the time we associate good music with a certain style or skill level; rightfully so to a minor degree. But is the worship of the Triune God really predicated upon whether the style scratches our music genre itch or does the skill level of the players determine our ability to worship? The worship of God does not begin with music talent or style, but the worship of God in spirit and in truth is grounded on two truths. First, worship is rooted in our relationship (or lack of) with God. If there is no relationship and fellowship with God through Christ, then no matter how loud you sing, whether you lift your hands or jump with joy, you are not worshipping at all. Your "worshipful" actions are the results of a superficial emotional response to religion. Your worship is not spiritual but rather emotional and of the flesh. It is kindred to spirit of pharisaical worship as Jesus told them "you honor me with your lips but your hearts are far from me". Secondly, music or its quality is never the initiator of true worship. If we look at the hymn book of the scriptures, the Psalms, we find that our vision of God (or what we believe about God) drives our worship to be deep and grounded in truth. For example, Psalm 92 says, "It is good to give thanks to the Lord, to sing praises to your name, O Most High; to declare your steadfast love in the morning and your faithfulness by night, to the music of the lute and the harp, to the melody of the lyre." God and the nature of His character is the spark that lights the flame of worship. In closing, two things we can do to praise God and glorify Him more fully in our worship for 2018; come into His sanctuary on Sunday mornings having already drawn close to God. Don't wait until getting here on Sunday to draw near (like we do most times). Come to corporate worship with your heart already set on God. Secondly, grow in your knowledge and understanding of God; read the scriptures to be drawn to and confronted by the nature and character of God. Not only must we know Him personally to worship Him but we must also know Him deeply to worship Him deeply. Study and enjoy Him before Sunday and see how more meaningful and unified our worship will be. "Those who worship Him must worship Him in Spirit and in truth".



What a year it has been! As I sit and write tonight, it is on the heels of our Wednesday night Christmas party. What a blast we had; we brought the youth and children together for a relay that involved pantyhose, a potato, balloons, and a pile of candy canes. Sound like fun? It was! But, as fun as it was, it is definitely not the highlight of our year. We have seen from children through student's growth and development as the year has progressed, from the puppet ministry that has struck the interest of some of our kids, to the rowdy singing of the children's songs that have stood the test of time, "father Abraham had many sons, many sons had father Abraham". The teachers have really made some connections this year, and we are anxious to see the fruit of those relationships as the new year begins.

The youth have also started what I call an advanced study on Tuesday night, Knowing the Living God, by Paul Washer. This study forces our students to search the scriptures to find those truths that become the foundation upon which all our faith stands. They are gaining intimate knowledge through intense study and devotion. Please pray for them as they are pressed to dig deeper than they have been. Our goal is to begin with a small group and disciple them more intensely so they become equipped to make disciples themselves. We are already beginning to see fruit from this "extra" time together. As a church family we celebrated through the baptism of Preston Conaway and Mrs. Dianne Thornton on Christmas Eve. What a way to close the year out! We eagerly await what 2018 has to offer through the faithfulness of our Father.

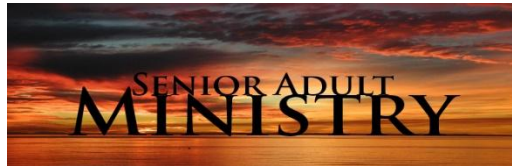
I'll leave you with the following testimony: I'm not sure what movie I remember the saying from, but it went something like this: "the student has now become the teacher". Any of you ever had the same thing come to mind? It happened to me on December 20, 2017. Billy Reinhardt and I, as we do each week, gathered with a smaller than usual group of 5, and as we shared about Christmas and the meaning behind it, I asked what would be the one thing they desired more than anything. Their answers brought me to tears. Here are the responses: two asked that dad might come home, one wished mom would come home, one desired that a dear friend come visit, and the last asked that his cousins would gain custody of his siblings. Might we learn from such honest answers that as a student ministry we are to lead our children to place their faith, hope, and trust in the One who will never let them down, Our LORD and Savior Jesus Christ. But I also submit that there is a great message to us as well. I realize that Christmas has past by now but the lesson is to take forward. Our children do not truly desire all the "things" that we strive so hard to provide. Parents, they just want you. Not another best friend, they have those, they need a shelter, a safe place, a refuge to run to that will not push them to the side in a pursuit of things that will rust and will die. Not one, when asked what they really wanted, named a single material thing. I would say that translates to each one of the children that we as New Home Baptist church minister to each week.

2018 Happy New Year!

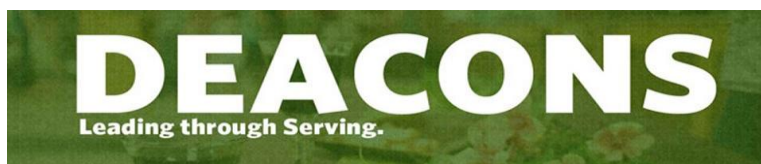
Ladies Night Out wishes everyone a Happy New Year!

Please join us January 11 for our annual dinner out. We will leave the church at 6 pm to go to the Catfish House in Millbrook. You can ride the van or meet us there. Just let Lisa Cummings or Donna Stoner know if you are going so we can tell them how many to expect. All Ladies are invited.

May 2018 be your most blessed year ever!



Happy New Year! It is Donna's and my prayer that 2018 will be a blessed and happy year for you all. We are looking forward to the coming year and finding new events and activities designed to worship God and help us better understand how we can serve His kingdom as well as having a great time in fellowship. We had a great Christmas party, and "Thank you!" to all who could attend. The food was outstanding as always, and the gift exchange "story" was both fun and hectic. The Christmas bingo was a big success. Congratulations to those of you who won the "prizes". We are going to Tallassee in January to the recently reopened Mt Vernon Theater to see a musical presentation of "Dear Mama: Letters and Music from World War II". It is based on true events of WW II, and the actors and music portray the war years. We plan to participate in a hymn singing and a luncheon with the seniors at Mt Hebron. In March we will go to LaGrange GA to the Biblical History Center to attend and participate in "Follow the Crosswalks". So plan to attend our meetings in the new year and come join us on our little adventures. Donna and I wish you God's blessings in the new year.



Happy New Year! The deacons have completed assignment of families for 2018, and you all should be receiving a letter notifying you of your new deacon. We look forward to serving each of you in the coming year, so please contact us if we can do anything for you. We are starting up a program designed to get to know each of you better starting in January. We will be having a luncheon every other month, immediately after the morning service, with our individual deacon families. Each deacon will be inviting a different family (two or three at a time) each time we hold the event. The food will be provided, and we are looking forward to the chance to fellowship with each of you during the meal. Remember, this event will be on invitation basis, so expect during the coming year to be invited to one of these events to fellowship with us. We all pray that your new year will be happy, safe, and blessed by God.