

# FSBC

## *Messenger*

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER | FIRST SOUTHERN BAPTIST CHURCH |  
JANUARY 2022

## OCC

Some exciting news about our shoeboxes that we packed! Some of them have made their way to Mexico to be distributed! There are many different ways shoeboxes are transported when they reach their particular country. They can go by canoe/sailboat/raft, horses, camels, motor bikes, trucks, by foot, etc. Here is a short story about the great length volunteers will go to ensure the boxes get to where they need to go:

### **BATTLING THE ELEMENTS**

For a team of church volunteers in the central Philippines, their greatest challenge in transporting shoeboxes by canoe was the depth or shallowness of the water. At times, the team had to carry the long, thin boat filled with shoebox cartons over their heads for most of a day.

At other times, parts of the river were filled with high, swift currents. The going was slow as they wrestled the swaying boat for several hours to prevent the shoebox cartons from toppling into the raging river. They had taken the added step of wrapping the precious cargo in cellophane to protect the cartons from the splashing water.

At the end of their exhausting journey, they were reenergized by telling village children about Jesus and reveling in their smiling faces filled with wonder.

Pray for God's protection and strength over these energetic, determined volunteers who consider the

difficulties of the journey worth it to share the love of Jesus.

As we begin a new year, I would like to continue to collect items each month so that when it comes November 2022, we have most of our supplies that we need to pack our boxes. This month, let's focus on collecting hats, gloves, and scarves. If at anytime you see items that would be great for pack in our boxes, please go ahead and purchase them and put them in the donation box. Also don't forget to continue to pray for the boxes as they get into the hands of the children. Pray that they would come to know Him and go through The Greatest Journey discipleship program. I am so grateful for each and every one of you.

**Karen Leibbrandt**





# Pastor's Pen

## A CHALLENGE FOR 2022

Greetings, Church! I love you, Church! Happy New Year!

Getting started can be difficult. It could be starting a better habit, a big project (like cleaning my desk!), a difficult conversation, a new business venture or a career.

Chuck Ross was a freelance writer who was finding it difficult to get his writing career to take off. He found that getting a novel published is extremely difficult as an unknown author. His submissions were being rejected despite his best writing. He started to feel like the system was rigged against him, so he decided to put it to the test. Ross retyped the first twenty-one pages of a novel by Jerzy Kosinski, titled *Steps*, which had won the National Book Award six years before and sent them to four publishers, using the name Erik Demos as a fictitious byline. All four publishers rejected the manuscript.

Two years later, Ross retyped the entire novel *Steps* and submitted it under the pen name Erik Demos to several more publishers, including the original publisher, Random House. It was rejected by all with unhelpful comments, including Random House, which merely used a form letter. All told, fourteen publishers and thirteen literary agents failed to recognize a book that had already been published and had won an important award.

Sometimes we approach the Bible like those publishers approached that award-winning book. First, they failed to pay enough attention to the copy to recognize its original author. We can get so distracted by the busyness of life that we fail to even try to spot the activity of the Author Of Life. Second, the publishers were so used to reading texts from so many different voices that they failed to hear the powerful and unique one they had in their hands. We also can allow so many voices to fill our ears that we become numb to the powerful message from the Word of Life which sits by our bedside or by our chair through which God's unique perspective and truth awaits to change our lives. Third, even the publisher of the original novel failed to recognize the familiar text. Sometimes we, too, can pass over the Word of God too



quickly because we want to get on with the tasks of the day, as if we had been- there/done-that, and fail to allow it to grab our deep attention and impact our wayward lives.

Friends, let us endeavor to listen more to the Spirit of God through the Word of God in 2022. I want to challenge us all to read the whole Bible next year. There are several different approaches. If you read three chapters a day and five on Sunday, you can read it all the way through in a year. Other plans have you read an Old Testament history, a Wisdom passage, a Gospel segment, and a New Testament teaching each day. Still other plans organize readings based on a course of emphasis. Or you can read a chronological Bible which puts the segments of the Bible in the timeline in which they occurred. Go to the bookstore and find one that interests you or search for one in the YouVersion Bible app. It doesn't matter much which one you use, pick one and get started.

Perhaps you have found it too difficult to get a daily Bible-reading time started. Why not start the new year with a renewed effort, knowing that others are trying as well. In fact, share your choice with a buddy and ask them to join you in your effort so that you can keep each other encouraged. Finally, whatever plan you choose to use, choose every day to listen to what God is saying, even if you have read those words before. Don't be like the publishers and miss something powerful when God wants to tell you something each day!



# Youth

We had an amazing Christmas party!!! We had a gift exchange, food, nerf war, and hide and seek.

2022 will bring growth in the Lord as we study His Word and His ways. Be watching in February for Super Summer camp information.

May 2022 bring many blessings to you and your family!!!

Lisa Crook



## Christmas Celebrations

It is truly the most wonderful time of the year! There are cookies and other treats abounding, festive music, caroling and parties all around us. Many people are more giving and patient this time of year; we decorate and celebrate “peace on earth and good will toward men”.

What we must always keep in mind is that none of the things above are what make this the most wonderful time of the year. It is also a time when many struggle, mourning lost loved ones and missed

opportunities. It is a time when people get caught up in the hustle, bustle and preparation and forget to find joy each day.

What makes this the most wonderful time of the year is that this is the time we celebrate our Savior. He came to save us from our sins, paying a price that we could not. He lived among us and faced trials and temptations common to man. Unlike the rest of us, He remained without sin and for that reason was able to be the final perfect sacrifice

for our sins. As one of our Church Family loves to sing, “Christmas has it’s cradle, and Easter has its cross.” Below are some pictures from some of our Church celebrations. I pray that each of us takes time to praise our Savior, and minister to those who are struggling. As a line from Charles Dickens’ “A Christmas Carol” (sure, a movie or two was made from it as well) states, “God Bless us Everyone.”

Laura



Caroling at John and Mary Mehaffey's Home



Cookie Exchange

# JANUARY 2022

<b>26</b> Susan Ballard, Tom Edwards	<b>27</b> 6:15 pm Prayer Meeting	<b>28</b> Dylan Davis, James & Kelly Davidson 6:30 pm CR	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b> Barry & Sue Mohler	<b>1</b> David Baca
<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b> Austin Prewit, Sophie Simpson	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b> Willie Spivey
<b>9</b> Potluck Soup Dinner "A Team" Meeting	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b> Calendar Dates and Newsletter Articles due	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>16</b> Nathan and Nancy Wright	<b>17</b> Gloria Tucker	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b> Walter Shepherd	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b> Deb Reinert
<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> Jakiyah Warren	<b>25</b> Lisa Crook	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b> Lesa Rumsey 5:30 Facilities Team Meeting	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>
				Laura Out of Office		
<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b> Matthew Wint	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b> Vicki Peacock
Laura Out of Office						

## January Birthdays and Anniversaries

## January Events

1st—David Baca  
 5th—Austin Prewit, Sophie Simpson  
 8th—Willie Spivey  
 16th—Nathan and Nancy Wright  
 17th—Gloria Tucker  
 20th—Walter Shepherd  
 22nd—Deb Reinert  
 24th—Jakiyah Warren  
 25th—Lisa Crook  
 27th—Lesa Rumsey

9th—Potluck Soup Dinner  
 9th— 1:30 pm "A Team" Meeting  
 13th—Calendar Dates and Newsletter Articles due  
 27th—5:30 Facilities Team Meeting

# FEBRUARY 2022

<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b> Matthew Wint	<b>3</b> Cory Gill	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b> Vicki Peacock
<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b> Tyler Luehrs	<b>9</b> Tyson Nielsen	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>13</b> Potluck (Valentine Themed) "A Team" Meeting	<b>14</b> President's Day	<b>15</b> Mike Rumsey, Dan Sherman, Trenton Davis	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b> Calendar Dates and Newsletter Articles due	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>
<b>20</b>	<b>21</b> Joanie Taylor	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> 5:30 Facilities Team Meeting	<b>25</b> Aidan Davis	<b>26</b>
<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>

## February Birthdays and Anniversaries

2nd—Matthew Wint  
 3rd—Cory Gill  
 5th—Vicki Peacock  
 8th—Tyler Luehrs  
 9th—Tyson Nielsen  
 15th—Mike Rumsey, Dan Sherman, Trenton Davis  
 21st—Joanie Taylor  
 25th—Aidan Davis

## February Events

13th—Potluck (Valentine Themed)  
 13th—"A Team" Meeting  
 14th—President's Day  
 17th—Calendar Dates and Newsletter Articles due  
 24th—5:30 Facilities Team Meeting



<b>Date</b>	<b>Bus</b>	<b>Children's Church</b>	<b>Nursery</b>	<b>Counters</b>	<b>Date</b> (Wed nights)	<b>Bus MONITOR</b> (Steve R. Driver)
12/26	Steve & Linnie	None	Sandy & Brenda	Deb, Shawn, Glenna	12/29	NONE
1/2	Deb & Jackie	Reinert	Dianna S., Julie H.	Rod, Ulala, Penny	1/5	Cory
1/9	Sandy & Dianna	Brickley	Diane G.,	Rod, Diane, Susan	1/12	Cory
1/16	Steve & Allison	Brickley	Johnnie G., Donna G.	Rod, Laura, Glenna	1/19	Cory
1/23	Deb & Jackie	Brickley	Steve R., Cindy R.	Rod, Deb, Laura	1/26	Cory
1/30	Sandy & Dianna	NONE	Kat H.,	Rod, Ulala, Penny	2/2	Cory
2/6	Steve & Allison	Reinert	John B., Norma B.	Johnnie, Diane, Susan	2/9	Cory
2/13	Deb & Jackie	Reinert	Joe R., Deb R.	Johnnie, Laura, Rod	2/16	Cory
2/20	Sandy & Dianna	Reinert	Glenna W., Hope B	Johnnie, Deb, Glenna	2/23	Cory
2/27	Steve & Allison	NONE	Janna D., Hannah B.	Johnnie, UlalaPenny	3/2	Cory