

CHURCH NEWSLETTER

FAITH FREE WILL BAPTIST CHURCH

SOMETHING TO CONSIDER

“Maintaining Joy”

I think we can all admit that it's not the easiest life being a Christian. We often go through things in this life that are difficult. Many times it would be easier to make impulsive decisions instead of waiting for God's guidance and spending time in prayer. In the letters to the Thessalonian church Paul used some words that we can probably relate to pretty well: affliction, suffered, persecuted, and hindered. These were all things that the people in that church were feeling and experiencing. Now more than ever it seems like the church [and the people in it] are going through things that weigh them down not only physically, but mentally and spiritually as well.

Getting weighed down with things of this life can rob us of our joy. Paul and James both stated that even in the midst of suffering, we are still able to experience joy. John 16:33 says *“These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world.”* No matter what gets in our way in this life, if we are truly a child of God, we have someone to go through tough times with us. We also have resources that help us during these times: **God's Word** – John 1:1 *“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.”* God's word is one of the main sources of communication between God and man. It has every answer for every possible situation we could ever encounter. **God's People:** All people suffer in this life, but Christians share a special bond. We've all been treated differently because of our faith; getting called closed-minded, radical, fanatic, and Bible thumpers are names that the world will call us. Galatians 6:2 commands us to bear one another's burdens. It doesn't matter where they originate, just be there for your fellow brethren. **God's Glory:** As a child of God we can look forward to seeing Christ face to face. We get to experience little moments of God's glory here on earth, but one day we'll get to see him in the fullness of his glory. I Thessalonians 4:17 gives us this hope: *“Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord.”*

There should never be a moment or situation that you can't find any joy. Joy is not situational, it is spiritual.

*“That ye might walk worthy of the Lord unto all pleasing, being fruitful in every good work, and increasing in the knowledge of God; Strengthened with all might, according to his glorious power, unto all patience and longsuffering with joyfulness;”
Colossians 1:11-12*

PRAYER REQUESTS

Miss Betty and her mother

David Neal – health

Erin Neal

Kaye and Gary as they search for jobs

Barbara and her upcoming surgery

Pastor Vic's family in Galax, VA

Carolyn's aunt as she heals from her recent surgery

Niki's assistant director
Renee's upcoming surgery

Sara and Matt as they close on their house

Our church: we want to see it grow in number, but first we need to see our congregation growing in spirit and knowledge of the Bible. We need to find our desire and zeal for the Lord.

Pastor Vic, Associate Pastor Josh Maness, and our other teachers and leaders

(If you ever have a request that you want added to this list, email us at: faithfreewill@gmail.com)

* Remember those that we mention on a weekly basis as well as the lost and those who have gone astray *

4.0 ★ 4.0 of 5 stars
1 review

5 star
4 star  1
3 star
2 star
1 star

WEB UPDATES

The facebook page and website are both steadily increasing with followers and regular visitors. We are up to 2,366 facebook subscribers! If you are one of the ones that follow us on facebook, please go on the church page and fill out the star rating for it. The more people that rate it (positively), the more the info is shared with others. I'm not sure what it looks like exactly, but if you can find the "Reviews" tab, you should be able to add a rating.

The website has been down for a day or so. I have no idea how to fix it either ;/ I'm waiting on a response from Steve so we can get it back up ASAP. Some of our most recent visits have come from Lubbock, Texas; Springdale, Arkansas; Dover, Delaware; Mumbai, India; Cairo,

Egypt; Phoenix, Arizona; Beijing, China; Seattle, Washington; Bowling Green, Kentucky; Grand Rapids, Michigan, and somewhere in Germany (no exact location given).

RECENT AND UPCOMING EVENTS

Spring Things

Right now things are a little slow due to the season and our unpredictable NC weather. Here are some of the upcoming events that I know of:

- Prayerbelles Meeting – March 14th
- Master's Men Meeting – March 15th
- Piedmont Annual Association Meeting – March 27th and 28th in Gastonia. Exact info is: Emmanuel FWB Church, 208 N. Spargo St. Dallas, NC 28034
- Prayerbelles Yard/Craft Sale – April 11th
- Easter Breakfast at Golden Corral – April 5th
- Easter Cantata – April 5th

If anyone has anything to donate for the upcoming craft/yard sale, please contact Kaye or Angela.