

CHURCH NEWSLETTER

FAITH FREE WILL BAPTIST CHURCH

SOMETHING TO CONSIDER

Fellowship and Membership

Due to the fact that we are a smaller church, we should be like a family. We are in the family of Christ – brothers and sisters bonded by His blood. We unite for a common purpose just like a typical family. We should actually function better than the average family. When one part of the family hurts, we should hurt. If one is in trouble, we should be there to help. We should constantly be encouraging, supportive, dependable, positive, uplifting, inspiring and most of all, praying for our spiritual families. It is hard to do these things though if we never talk or share what's going on in our lives. If we don't see one another face to face to talk, it's hard to remember to call, email or write those people because eventually after not seeing them, they tend to slip your mind. Any relationship takes communication. Not just occasional

communication, but constant communication. A marriage would end up in divorce quickly if one side only was gone half the time or never spoke during a conversation. There's a need there that isn't being fulfilled.

When your dedication and desire to fellowship decreases, there is a need that isn't being

fulfilled. The church thrives on fellowship. If you are a member of the church and you don't attend regularly, it not only has an effect on your spiritual life, but those around you. We are commanded by God in the book of Galatians to bear one another's burdens. It's hard to obey that commandment when we don't know the burdens that go on. If you don't attend, we don't know what's going on in your life. You are in a dangerous place when people stop asking why you haven't been at church and they begin to assume that you have no desire to be in the house of God.

If you look at the words **fellowship** and **membership**, they both have a common suffix, or ending. That little piece of each word "ship" comes from the old English and it means the state or condition of being something. To be a *fellow* means to be involved in the same activity. A *member* is someone who belongs to a group or organization. Both of these words are used often when discussing the church. The Bible tells us that if we are saved, we should desire to fellowship with other

BUT IF WE WALK IN THE LIGHT,
AS HE IS IN THE LIGHT, WE
HAVE FELLOWSHIP ONE WITH
ANOTHER, AND THE BLOOD OF
JESUS CHRIST HIS SON
CLEANSETH US FROM ALL SIN.
I JOHN 1:7

PRAYER REQUESTS

Stanfanie Richardson - in Baptist hospital. Was hit by a car

Mrs. Jane's mother – she fell this week

Miranda and Tim's situation

Kaye's friend Roger's dad who had a stroke

Crystal and Steve Forcum/Troy and Layla Redding – pray that they get back in church

Carolyn and David Lawson – praying about a decision

Ann – health concerns

Todd York – recovery from his back surgery (Missy too as she helps him recover)

Miss Betty and her mother

Chris Cole – health concerns

The Bouyer Family

Denise as she travels for work this week

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 *

Christians. If attending church is a burden to you and you don't enjoy talking, sharing, and being in the company of other members, chances are you aren't going to church for the right reasons.

WEB UPDATES

Facebook and Web Stats

The facebook page has changed once again. Apparently the administrators for facebook frown upon having a business or organization using the "friend" format now that they have designed the new "page" format. Luckily they made this an easy transition for us and converted all the people that were our "friends" into "likes" for the page so none of our contacts were lost. It has affected the amount of people we reach, but with prayer I believe we can build that back up. The name will officially be changed from Faith Baptist back to Faith Free Will Baptist at 3:43 am on July 16th. Hopefully this will be the last change that affects the facebook page.

The website is still doing great. We are reaching people in the following countries: Israel, Netherlands, Malaysia, India, Ghana, Canada, Australia, United Kingdom, Japan, Philippines, Ireland, Germany, Tanzania, Kenya, Brazil, and 29 out of 50 US states. Most of our hits are coming from India, Florida, Texas, North Carolina, Virginia, Kentucky, and Tennessee. Watching the stats amazes me but it's more than seeing the clicks. We're finally building up a base of people who are returning to the site frequently and they're staying on the site for an average of 5-10 minutes actually reading the information. Outlines are getting more downloads and we're getting emails from other countries that are very thankful for this information. They are using it to teach and preach in their areas, so our goal of getting the gospel to others is being accomplished! The new sermon series that has been started can be found here: <http://www.faithfreewill.org/the-church-of-the-21st-century.html>.

There has been a section added to the site where you can find previous and current editions of the newsletters. They can be found here: <http://faithfreewill.org/newsletter.html>

RECENT AND UPCOMING EVENTS

Singing Service, Small Group Meetings, and Campmeeting

On the afternoon of Sunday, July 27th we will be having a cookout with a singing service following. This will begin at 4:30 so people won't be getting home any later than normal Sunday evening service times. Those that sing, please be prepared. We need to add some music to the website and this way we can get it all recorded and videoed at one time. We hope you will plan on joining us for fellowship.

The ladies Prayerbelle's group has cancelled the weekend trip that was originally planned for August 1-2 due to a snake issue with the house we would be staying in. The event has been rescheduled for Saturday, September 27th. We will be having a tea party themed luncheon at Niki's house. More information will be available in the next week or so. This way no one will have to go out of their way for a weekend trip and we can still fellowship with one another.

We will be having choir practice on Sunday, August 3rd at 4:30. The Prayerbelle's will be meeting for breakfast at J&S Cafeteria. The

address is: 5835 Samet Drive, High Point, NC 27265. The master's men will be meeting at 5pm on Sunday, August 13th.

In August the Piedmont Association will be having their annual campmeeting services. The dates for these services are:

- Monday, August 18th at Arrington Heights FWB – Address: 455 Free Will Circle, Lexington, NC 27295.
- Tuesday, August 19th at Prince of Peace FWB – Address: 4225 Vincent St. Kannapolis, NC
- NO MEETING ON WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 20th
- Thursday, August 21st at Madison Heights – Address: 214 Andrew Sink Road, Lexington, NC 27295
- Friday, August 22nd at Edgewood FWB – Address: 715 Athenia Place, Bessemer City NC 28016

All services will begin at 7:00pm and there will be two speakers each night. Speakers will be announced soon.