



# MESSENGER

January 2012

## From the Pastor

### New Beginnings

Matthew 9:17

Change is often so difficult to deal with and yet we know that change is happening around us every day. Many times we do not necessarily see the change or notice it. I had the experience of seeing my granddaughter on Skype this last week and I saw with my eyes how much she has changed since I last saw her in June. She now walks, says a few words and is filled with all kinds of energy. There is a part of me that wishes that she had remained that little baby, but that is not reality. Every person grows and changes as well as organizations that are doing what they should be doing to touch the lives of people.

In the Scripture we read these words: "Neither do men pour new wine into old wineskins. If they do, the skins will burst, the wine will run out and the wineskins will be ruined. No, they pour new wine into new wineskins, and both are preserved" Matthew 9:17. Friends, this passage does not simply refer to wine. Jesus was making it clear that change was coming. It was going to be something new. Things were not going to be like they had always been.

I want to share with you what William Poteet wrote in the Pentecostal Minister: "In 1903 the Russian czar noticed a sentry posted for no apparent reason on the Kremlin grounds. Upon inquiry, he discovered that in 1776 Catherine the Great found the first flower of spring. "Post a sentry here," she commanded, "so that no one tramples that flower under foot." Some traditions die hard and change is made difficult simply because we have our eyes on the past and not on the now and the future. In order for God's church to survive, change is necessary. What was done in the past is for then, but God has new experiences for us, new plans, and he needs men and women to be open and ready to receive the new that is coming.

Are you ready for what the Lord is going to be doing in making changes this New Year? Let us come into His presence daily, ready to be filled to overflowing with His new wine in us. God bless you and have a great year.

In His Love,  
Pastor Dean

## Bible Book for January

Hosea

Hosea was a prophet in the northern kingdom during its final years as a nation. In the first three chapters of this book, Hosea's family life became a living picture of the message he preached to his country. The Lord told Hosea to marry a prostitute, as a way of showing how unfaithful Israel had been. Then the



Lord told Hosea what to name his children, and these names were reminders that Israel was going to be punished. But Hosea was told to love his unfaithful wife, and his love was to be a picture of the Lord's continuing love for unfaithful

Israel.

The rest of the book emphasizes the agreement that the Lord had made with Israel. This agreement demanded that Israel and the Lord be loyal and faithful to each other. The Lord had always lived up to the agreement, but the people had broken it time after time. They had trusted their own military strength and the power of foreign countries, rather than depending on the Lord to protect their nation. And the people had worshiped other gods and trusted them to provide good crops and large herds of livestock.

In this book the Lord put Israel and Judah on trial and charged them with breaking their agreement with him. They were guilty and would be punished.

But the Lord still loved his people in spite of everything they had done. And so he promised to forgive them and bless them again after they learned to be faithful to him: (14.4)

## Annual Reports

A report from all Teams, Committees, Officers and Affiliated Groups is to be turned in to the church office no later than January 20. These reports will be published and available the first part of February.

If you need additional information, contact the church office.

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## Decorations Taken Down

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The Flower Committee is asking for help in taking down the Christmas decorations. If you can help, come Tuesday, January 3 at 9:30 AM.

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## Mid-Winter Mission Conference

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The Mid-Winter Missions Conference will be held January 13-14, 2012 at Cross Wind Conference Center. There will be workshops, music, great food, fellowship and worship. Registration forms are at the Welcome Center. Registrations must be received to their coordinator no later than January 10.

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## Contribution Reports

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To ensure the deductibility of your church contributions, do not file your 2011 income tax return until you have received a written acknowledgment of your contributions from the church. Some of your contributions may not be tax-deductible if you file your tax return before receiving this report. The reports will be available as soon as possible after the first of the year.

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## Promise Yourself for the New Year:

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To be so strong that nothing can disturb your peace of mind.

To make all your friends feel that there is something special about them.

To look at the sunny side of everything, and make your optimism come true.

To think only of the best, to work only for the best, and to make the best come true.

To be just as enthusiastic about the success of others as you are about your own.

To forget the mistakes of the past and press on to the greater achievements of the future.

To wear a cheerful countenance at all times and give every living creature you meet a smile.

To give so much time to the improvement of yourself that you have no time to criticize others.

To be too large for worry, too noble for anger, too strong for fear, and too happy to permit the presence of trouble.

—copied

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## From the Youth Pastor

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James Smith II, A.K.A. Pastor J, is a 23 yr-old young man who was born in Tampa, Florida and raised in Leavenworth, Kansas. Pastor J attended St. Paul Lutheran School from Kindergarten to 6<sup>th</sup> Grade, Warren Middle School for 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> Grade then Leavenworth high school where He graduated in 2006 and went on to Columbus, Ohio to attend Valor Christian College where He graduated with a certificate from the Honors Program and an Associates in Pastoral and Church Leadership.

Pastor J has a heart for the youth of this generation and is passionate about seeing God change them into whom God has called them to be. Pastor J will be focusing on igniting a hunger and desire for God in each young person, changing their craving of worldly desires to a desire of more of God.

Pastor J has several ideas planned that will bring more unity to the youth group, grow the youth group and instill hunger for God in each individual youth. The first youth event will be a banquet on December 31<sup>st</sup> from 10pm-midnight for the youth and their families to meet Pastor J and to hear more of his heart and vision. Foundation Scripture: " O taste and see that the Lord is good..." ( Psalms 34:8 ) "And the Lord said unto satan, The Lord rebuke thee, O satan; even the Lord that hath chosen Jerusalem rebuke thee: Is not this a brand plucked out of the fire?" (Zechariah 3:2 )

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## Pictorial Directory

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First Baptist Church did our last church directory in 2007 so the Deacon Team & Pastor have contracted with LifeTouch to produce a new pictorial directory. Photography dates are January 24-26 and February 2-4, 2012. If all deadlines are met, we should have the directory sometime around the April-May time frame.

The best directory is a complete directory so ways have been implemented to make it convenient for you to sign up when you are at home or at a place you can access the internet. You can sign up you or your family by going to our website - [www.fbcleavenworth.org](http://www.fbcleavenworth.org) and click on the directory sign up link. You can then pick what date you are available and fill in all the blanks and you're done. You can print a confirmation at that time and then you will be sent a reminder when it is closer to photography dates. You can always call the church office and we can schedule you anytime. There also will be some paper and pen sign- up times on Sundays if the internet is not convenient for you.



## The Messenger

First Baptist Church  
340 N. Thirteenth  
Leavenworth, KS 66048

Dated Material  
Address Service Requested

January 2012

U.S. POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
LEAVENWORTH  
KANSAS  
PERMIT #158  
NON-PROFIT ORGN

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## Transportation Help

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The Deacon Ministry Team is providing transportation help through the Council on Aging vans. Punch coupon books have been purchased for those in our church family who might need the help. If you are a member or regular church attender and would like to take advantage of this outreach, contact the church office at 682-4426.

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## Bad Weather Information

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Should there be bad enough weather that consideration is given to cancel events, the following places should be checked out: Church website - [www.fbcleavenworth.org](http://www.fbcleavenworth.org), email (do we have your current one? If not - please provide) and TV stations. We will always do the best we can in letting you know if things have been changed.

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## Ladies Beth Moore Study to Begin January 31

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Attention Ladies - Mark your Calendars! Back as promised – Beth Moore's "Here and Now, There and Then" beginning on Tuesday, January 31, 2012. Beth Moore's Lecture Study on Revelation will be held in East Fellowship Hall. It is an exciting 11 weeks looking at Revelation from several points of view. The study book is \$9.00. There will be a sign up sheet at the Welcome Center on January 1, 2012.

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## Senior Adult Retreat

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Information can be found at the Welcome Center about the upcoming Sr. Adult Retreat, April 25-26, 2012. The theme is "Cloud of Witnesses" based on Hebrews 12:1. This is a time for fun, learning, fellowship and much, much more. This retreat is one of the most widely attended events our Region holds. Registration is encouraged early.

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## Singspiration

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First Baptist Church is invited to the Church of the Nazarene, 115 S 17<sup>th</sup> St., on January 29 at 6:00 PM for a time of singing and fellowship. There will be no services here that evening.

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## Need Envelopes?

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Do you need new church giving envelopes or envelopes for the first time? If so, contact the church office and envelopes will be prepared for you.

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## Business Meeting Update

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At the December 18<sup>th</sup> Quarterly Business Meeting, the members of the church present, elected the Leadership proposed from the Nominating Committee for their respective terms. The first Team meeting of the year will be held January 8 at 6:00 PM. There will be a short devotional, a financial update and then Teams are dismissed for meetings. Teams include: Deacons, Deaconesses, Discipleship, Evangelism/Missions and Trustees.

If you were elected to a Committee, watch the monthly calendar or for a phone call to remind you of your meeting. If you have questions, contact the church office at 682-4426.

The budget for 2012 ministry expenditures was also approved by the Church.

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## New Year's Meditation

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Put your hand in the hand of God as you start the New Year. Then the New Year will be a fresh adventure every morning and a quiet benediction every night. You will be alive in every portion of your being. You will be aware of God and man.

— E. Stanley Jones