

## Calendar of Events

Jan. 1		Church Office Closed
Jan. 3		No Wednesday Night Activities
Jan. 7	8:30a 9:30a 10:45a 6:30p	Foundation Service Bible Study Groups Formation Service Youth Bible Study @ The Birtman's
Jan. 9	9:00a	Discovery School
Jan. 10	6:00p	Pastor's Bible Study Children's Activities Coaches Wives Bible Study Youth Core Stewardship Meeting
Jan. 11	9:00a	Discovery School
Jan. 14	8:30a 9:30a 10:45a 11:45a 4:00p 5:00p 6:30p	Foundation Service Bible Study Groups Formation Service All Members of All Committees Meeting FBC Family Ministry Committee Meeting Deacon's Meeting/Meeting with Tony Youth Bible Study @ The Birtman's
Jan. 16	9:00a	Discovery School
Jan. 17	6:00p	Pastor's Bible Study Children's Activities Coaches Wives Bible Study Youth Core
Jan. 18	9:00a 6:00p	Discovery School Quilt Group
Jan. 21	8:30a 9:30a 10:45a 4:00p 5:00p 6:00p 6:30p	Foundation Service Bible Study Groups Formation Service Bereavement Committee Meeting Baptism Committee Meeting Missions Committee Meeting Youth Bible Study @ The Birtman's
Jan. 23	9:00a	Discovery School
Jan. 24	6:00p	Pastor's Bible Study Children's Activities Coaches Wives Bible Study Youth Core
Jan. 25	9:00a	Discovery School
Jan. 28	8:30a 9:30a 10:45a 4:00p 5:00p 6:00p 6:30p	Foundation Service Bible Study Groups Formation Service Lord's Supper Committee Meeting Personnel Committee Meeting Physical Properties Committee Meeting Youth Bible Study @ The Birtman's
Jan. 30	9:00a	Discovery School
Jan. 31	6:00p	Pastor's Bible Study Children's Activities Coaches Wives Bible Study Youth Core



First Baptist Church of Palestine  
5700 North Loop 256  
Palestine, TX 75801

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF PALESTINE

JANUARY, 2018

# CHURCH NEWSLETTER

*Following Jesus, Making Disciples, Serving Others, Changing Lives*



**Tony Watson, Senior Pastor**

[tony@firstpalestine.org](mailto:tony@firstpalestine.org)

What a wonderful Christmas season this has been at First Palestine! The choir started it off with their wonderful musical presentation of "The Arrival" and it has been great throughout the month - the worship times, the fellowships, and oh my, the Candlelight service - it has all added greatly to my heart and life.

On a personal note, thank you for all of the Christmas cards, gifts and goodies you have given our family. They have all been enjoyed and appreciated (even though I may have to add to my time at the Y!). Our first two months as a part of FBCP have been a God-send to my family and I, and we look forward to many years together.

Many of you know I have a "Word of the Day" text messaging list. I renew it every new year. For those of you who are on the list, I'll be contacting you. For those who are not, all you have to do to get on the list is send me a text to 214-862-1069 and let me know. Typically, I send out a verse or passage with a short prayer attached six days a week, most often during the 7am-8am hour. I usually post the same text to Facebook as well.

I also have written a devotional guide entitled "Songs for Life: A 365-Day Journey Through the Psalms", that is printed in monthly installments. I have a limited number of the January edition that I have printed and available on the Welcome Center. If I run out, I'll print another limited supply. It can also be sent as .pdf file to your e-mail. Personally, I have used that and e-mailed it to my kindle e-mail address and view it there. If you'd like the e-mail version, simply send me an e-mail to [tony@firstpalestine.org](mailto:tony@firstpalestine.org) and let me know. Also, my blog at [pastortonywatson.wordpress.com](http://pastortonywatson.wordpress.com) that is typically published on Friday mornings is a great way to get a preview of the sermon for the upcoming Sunday. You can subscribe there.

My heart is to encourage you to get into God's Word every day. Many of you will be making resolutions that involve health or habits - and those are all good. Making a resolution is only as good as the determination and action behind it. As you make resolutions, include your spiritual disciplines with those other health-conscious choices. Determine a plan of action and make it a part of your daily routine. If you do, your spiritual life will no longer remain routine.

I am blessed to be your pastor.

# Children's Corner



The Girls in Action(GA's) went Christmas Caroling to the homebound members of FBCP.



The Children's Department is wrapping up another amazing year! Join us in the New Year every Wednesday night at 6:00pm for GA's and RA's.



Stay tuned for exciting news about Vacation Bible School. The theme this year is I AM Exodus 3:14

## Giving Report for December as of December 28th:

Ministry Budget Offering:  
\$57,276.65

Designated Funds Offering:  
\$8,418.00

Ministry Budget Offering YTD:  
\$484,688.62

Ministry Budget Exp. YTD:  
\$391,468.17

Received over expenses YTD:  
+93,220.45

You can give online at:  
[www.firstpalestine.org/giving](http://www.firstpalestine.org/giving)  
or by texting the amount you would like to give (\$10) to  
903-638-7067



## Skip Birtman, Youth & Worship Pastor

[skip@firstpalestine.org](mailto:skip@firstpalestine.org)

As quick as it came, Christmas has gone! I'm so very thankful for the time that I've had with my family the past couple of weeks. There are times when it feels like we run a B&B at our house, and even though I give my in-laws a hard time, I really love having them in our home. I hope this Christmas season was a great one for you and your family.

When it comes to the daily, mundane grind, too many times I get the "main thing" wrong. It's easy to lose sight of the blessings God has given us that come in the form of some pretty amazing people, our family. Don't take for granted the time you have with your family, but make the most of it. Talk through the hard stuff. Work on loving each other with the love of Christ. I told my kids recently, "You'd better learn to love each other, because, knock on multiple pieces of wood, these are the only siblings you are ever gonna have."

Many times we don't realize what we have until it's gone. If there is a broken relationship in your family, seek forgiveness, offer forgiveness, and start the healing process. Jesus showed us many things while he walked this earth. His love for people is the perfect model for us. If I'm going to declare the love of Christ to the nations, I'd sure better model and declare it to those closest to me. It's gonna be a great year. Here we go 2018!

Skip

Music:

Thanks for all of the hard work put in by our adult choir for our Christmas musical "The Arrival". You guys are a blessing to me as well as our church body. This year's musical ultimately ended up being one of my favorites. Looking forward to Easter. New music to come.

Youth:

Saturday Night Live Youth Game Night! On January 14th the youth will meet at the church at 6:30 pm.

Our student ministry will be hosting a church wide Chili Cook Off on January 21 at 12 pm at the second service. We want this event to be a legitimate contest. The cook off will serve as a fundraiser to help send our youth to Super Summer and/or Student Life Camp. More details to come. Get those recipes perfected, and bring your A game!



# QUILT GROUP

## JANUARY 18TH @ 6:00PM

