



Faith United
Presbyterian
Church
in Farmers Branch

Words of Faith

January 2019

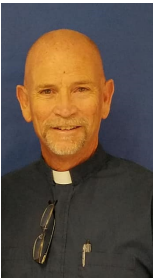
Volume IX, Issue I

*Glorify God, grow disciples, and
meet the needs of our neighbors.*

From the Pastor

Rev. Dr. Ken Ritchie

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness—on them light has shined. Isaiah 9:2b



The Advent story of Zechariah and Elizabeth (John the Baptist's parents) might be good for us to ponder before we get too far away from Christmas. They were

godly people, who were well along in years when we meet them – and they were childless. I'm certain they both longed to have children, but it seemed that it just wasn't to be. I'm also certain that at some point they resigned themselves to dying childless. Life is what it is, and a new year would not make any difference in their minds. There might even have been some strange comfort and familiarity in the status quo that shared space in their souls with their disappointment and bitterness, despair and anguish.

But, an angel appeared and announced that they would become parents and the son was to be named John. Surprised and skeptical, Zechariah questioned the whole thing – who wouldn't. The angel declared him mute until the birth of the child. Nine months would pass before he would

be able to utter a sound. Elizabeth becomes pregnant and gives birth to a son, which they named John.

God turned impossibility and doubt to possibility and hope. Zechariah and Elizabeth were turned away from the status quo of barrenness and despair to a new day of trust and promise, fulfillment and hope. Life was no longer the same; it had been radically turned upside down by God – and this was good news! The child they received became the one who prepared the way for the Savior – Jesus Christ. Our lives are no longer the same because of that Savior born to Mary and Joseph; everything has been radically turned upside down by God – and this is good news!

This is how God seems to work, isn't it – in the lives of biblical characters, and in our lives. God did not seek out the powerful to usher in a new day. God used the ordinary and common.

2019 will almost certainly bring a combination of joy and sorrow, laughter and tears, health and sickness, satisfaction and frustration,

comfort and anxiety, challenge and solution, growth and aging, death and life. And as we enter a new year, we sing the new song that God has raised up a mighty horn of salvation for us, as God spoke through the prophets of old; God has shown mercy; we have been rescued from that greatest of all enemies that we might serve God without fear in godliness and faithfulness in all our days. In the shadow of death, we who have sat in darkness have seen a great light!

How will God's mission play out in our presence? Where and how will possibility and hope be revealed in your life? In the church? May we allow the light of the world to guide our feet into the way of peace. Let's welcome and even expect the unexpected, in our lives, and in the church.

Joy to the world! The Lord is come!
Receive your king!

In Christ's Love,

Pastor Ken

Ken@FaithUnited-pc.com

Words of Faith

Presbyterian Women

Mary Marxer

The Presbyterian Women Circles continue the *Horizon's* Bible Study, "God's Promise: I am with You." Books are available in the church office or at a Circle meeting.



Tuesday Evening Circle-3rd Tuesday, 7:00 p.m. Meet in member homes. Circle moderator, Irene Simpson. Next meeting, Tuesday, January 15.

Stuffed Animals Project, materials remain available in classroom #4. Contact Lorna Acker or Lois Duell if you have any questions about this project.

Tuesday Morning Circle-2nd Tuesday, 10:30 a.m. at the church. Circle moderator, Linnie Hinkle. Next meeting Tuesday, January 8.

Outreach & Evangelism

Gail Crumpler

Pancake Breakfast—Our next Community Breakfast is Saturday, January 12, 8 to 10 a.m. Join us as we share food and fellowship with our neighbors and each other.



As I write this, my time as moderator of the Outreach & Evangelism Committee will soon come to an end. It has been a learning and growing experience for me. One of the things I have learned is that this congregation is generous and caring. Each time our committee has asked for your time and gifts, you have come through for us. You have given school supplies to Chapel Hill Preparatory School, and food for North Dallas Shared Ministries. You have donated and participated in the Metrocrest Crop Hunger Walk, and given toys and clothing for the Metrocrest Christmas Store. You have volunteered to read to the children attending the Project Transformation camp, attended and given to the Children's Home luncheon, taken a tour of NDSM and greeted members at the door.

In Mark, Jesus says "Love your neighbor as yourself." I believe we've all tried to do this.

Adult Sunday School

The **Searchers** class meets in the Resource Room/Library at 9:30 each Sunday morning. The class is currently using Jill Duffield's commentary on the lectionary scriptures each Sunday. Alison Meier is leading the class.

The **Weekly Bible Study**, taught by Rich Lewis. The class has begun a study of Revelation. It will continue through March. They meet at 9:30 on Sunday mornings in Double Classroom #4.



Happy Birthday!

January 4

* Jim Laclede

January 6

* David Kirchmeyer

January 7

* Janet Marxer Rodriguez

January 9

* Dick Nelson

January 10

* Ralph Miller

January 11

* Doris Rose

January 22

* Quinn Moser

January 27

* Tracy Tiemann



**Next newsletter is
February 2019.
Deadline for articles,
Friday, January 18.
Contact church office
or Brenda Swindle via
email to submit articles.**



Rehab/At Home:

- ♥ Anne Mobley
- ♥ Wanda Mosher
- ♥ Freddie Simmons

In the hospital

- ♥ Margaret Jones

Prayers for:

- ♥ Dale Durcholz
- ♥ Kathie Heffler
- ♥ Elizabeth Hendricks
- ♥ Roger Jones
- ♥ Sugie Maxfield
- ♥ Betty Runkel
- ♥ Margaret Plunkett
- ♥ Barbara Stein

Sunday Morning Greeters

Lois Duell

The new year is here. Please consider taking charge of one month for greeters, either being at the door or arranging for someone to be there in your place. A sign up sheet will be on the usher's table just outside the sanctuary.



Directory Updates

Please remember to notify the church office if your information changes.



Betty Runkel

No longer at The Bentley. Now at The Avenues of Park Forest
3344 Forest Ln. Room 212
Dallas, TX 75234

Gerry Shotswell

New phone number
972-602-5043

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
6 9:00 Prayer-Resource Rm. 9:30 FUPC Sunday School 10:30 Coffee/Fellowship 11:00 Communion Worship 11:00 Good Shepherd & Following Jesus 11 am to 4 pm GSKPC	7 7:30 GA-Room #2	8 10:30 PW Circle #4 7:00 Gam-Anon #2 7:00 GA-Rm #4 7:30 OA- #1	9 9:30 LTCDS #1 6:30 GSKPC #4 7:00 FUPC Choir	10 7:00 GA-#1	11 9:00 LTCDS Fellowship Hall #1	12 6:30 GSKPC #4 8:00 FUPC Breakfast #1 11:00 GA Double Rm #4 11:00 OA-Fellowship #1
13 9:00 Prayer-Resource Rm. 9:30 FUPC Sunday School 10:30 Coffee/Fellowship 11:00 FUPC Worship 11:00 Good Shepherd & Following Jesus 12:30 FUPC Session #4	14 7:30 GA-Room #2	15 7:00 PW Circle 7:00 Gam-Anon #2 7:00 GA-Rm #4 7:30 OA-#1	16 9:30 LTCDS #1 6:30 GSKPC #4 7:00 FUPC Choir	17 7:00 GA- #1	18 9:00 LTCDS Fellowship Hall #1	19 6:30 GSKPC #4 11:00 GA-Double Rm #4 11:00 OA-Fellowship #1
20 9:00 Prayer-Resource Rm. 9:30 FUPC Sunday School 10:30 Coffee/Fellowship 11:00 FUPC Worship 11:00 Good Shepherd & Following Jesus 11 am to 4 pm GSKPC	21 7:30 GA-Room #2	22 7:00 Gam-Anon #2 7:00 GA-Rm #4 7:30 OA- #1	23 9:30 LTCDS #1 6:30 GSKPC #4	24 7:00 GA-#1	25 9:00 LTCDS Fellowship Hall #1	26 6:30 GSKPC #4 11:00 GA Double Rm #4 11:00 OA-Fellowship #1
Complete calendar of events may be found on the website—www.FaithUnited-pc.com						
27 9:00 Prayer-Resource Rm. 9:30 FUPC Sunday School 10:30 Coffee/Fellowship 11:00 FUPC Worship 11:00 GS & FJ	28 7:30 GA-Room #2	29 7:00 Gam-Anon #2 7:00 GA-Rm #4 7:30 OA- #1	30 9:30 LTCDS #1 6:30 GSKPC #4 7:00 FUPC Choir	31 10:00 LTCDS #1 7:00 GA-#1	1 9:00 LTCDS Fellowship Hall #1	2 6:30 GSKPC #4 11:00 GA Double Rm #4 11:00 OA-Fellowship #1



**Faith United
Presbyterian Church**

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