

## December New Members

Retha Hardwick  
2524 Limekiln Lane  
Eastover, NC 28312  
910-485-7748

Bobby & Crystal Brinson  
4109 Desert Cove Circle  
Fayetteville, NC 28312  
910-584-7822  
Children:  
Shay, Kaitlyn & Emma

Mason Barriage  
749 Pecan Grove Loop  
Fayetteville, NC 28312  
Son of  
David & Kim Barriage

Jennifer Wielgoszinski  
800 Hounds Chase Court  
Fayetteville, NC 28311  
910-494-9865

## January Ushers

Ron Candler  
Lynn Godwin  
Jimmy Horne  
Gene Hales  
Tommy Hall  
Paul Curlee  
Chris Curlee  
M. S. Faircloth

## January Security

1/5—PJ Long  
1/12—Taylor Jackson  
1/19—Randy Hendrix  
1/26—Chad Smith

## January Greeters

Susan Lowe  
Phyllis McLean  
Brenda Horne  
Denah Long

## We Need You!

Do you play an instrument, sing, or are you good with technology? Have you ever considered using your talent as part of the Worship Arts team at Temple? If so, now is the time! We have some exciting things planned for the upcoming year, and we need you! Please plan to join us on Sunday, January 12, 2014 for our new year kick off. We will have lunch together in the fellowship hall, discuss all the new ideas we have for 2014, and have a time of commitment to the Lord. You don't have to have the best voice or the most talent, just a willing heart that God can use! If you have any questions please see Dawn Seegars or any music team member!

## Temple Christian Academy

Mrs. Shari Watkins, Assistant Director

Christmas is always an exciting time for us here at TCA. On December 19 we had our Christmas program. The children did a great job for their family and friends. This month we want to feature our 3 year olds, Ms. Denise Jackson. She has taught preschool for 12 years. The 3 year old class is busy learning to recognize their letters A-J and count 1-15. They have been covering the Christmas story and stories from the Old Testament in Bible times. We are looking forward to the New Year and seeing what God has in store for us. He continues to bless us on many levels. We pray his blessing upon you and your family for a happy and prosperous New Year!



## Communicating Well

Parents, Listen - And Listen Hard -  
Before you Speak!

Has this been a struggle for you? It has been for me at times. All too often I'm the guy who's described in Proverbs 18. I'm one of those fools who *have no interest in understanding; they only want to air their own opinions* (v. 2) and the shameful fool who speaks *before listening to the facts* (v. 13). I've learned over the past 13 years in student ministry that when I've been thrust into conversations with our students, where we don't see eye-to-eye, it's sometimes best to bite my tongue, shut my mouth, and open my ears. We have to remember that our students are not yet adults. We can expect a mix of their developing and not-yet-there thinking ability to be tainted by immaturity, impulsivity, inconsistent logic, and a lack of the kind of wisdom that comes with age and experience.

Speaking quickly to point out that (a) they have no idea what they're talking about, (b) they're wrong, and (c) here's the right answer - well, we all know how that ends! Let me encourage you to listen first. And when they know they've been heard and respected, they're more prone to hear your carefully crafted and well-thought-out response.

Join Us Sunday, January 5th in the FSM Room

Speaking of communicating well, I'm excited about our annual vision casting meeting coming up Sunday, January 5th from 5-6:30 pm. Pastor Kelly will cast the vision God has given him for our church in our 11am service. That evening I will do the same with our FSM parents, students and volunteers by casting God's vision for FSM in 2014.

We will discuss....

2014 FSM Vision  
New Parent Ministry  
2014 Trip Dates & Deadlines  
2014 Fundraisers  
Q&A

I hope you will make plans now to join us!

DB



Pastor Brian & Jesus  
Galatians 2:20

## New Beginnings Activities

We have had a great year in New Beginnings. We have taken several recent trips, including going to Ridgecrest for the Glory Conference, Jeanne Robertson performance in Raleigh, and trips to the Rudy Theater in Selma. I am looking forward to going to the Quartet Convention next September, and all the other exciting events our team will arrange for us. If you are over 50, come to our next meeting which will be Thursday, January 9th. We will be meeting in the Fellowship Hall at 6:30. Come and be a part of the New Beginnings.

I hope everyone is **On Board** in helping us get a bus. If everyone will help, we can get a bus this year. If we have 100 people give (over and above their tithe) at least \$6 per week we will be able to reach our first goal by August. And some will be able to give much more than that. Thank you for supporting New Beginnings.

Happy New Year!  
Ron Denning



## A Resolution of Sorts

If the Christmas season has a sore spot, it must be the arduous task of "undecorating." The inflatable Santa lies lifeless on the front lawn; the icicles beckon from the second story roof line; thousands of mini-lights stand ready to be re-tangled; and you have orders to raze an entire miniature village. A solution to the repacking monotony is to hear the silent sermons of returning décor. Handcrafted ornaments marked with well-worn dates preach reflection and thanksgiving. Snowmen reflect on purity and the brevity of life. St. Nicholas addresses church history and generosity. More than any, the nativity scene perched on the mantle resounds with the majestic simplicity of Christ's miraculous birth. As its characters are one by one prepared for stowing, the message of the nativity can be bittersweet. While we are lamenting the end of yet another Christmas season, many around the world are yet to celebrate their first. You see, one of the nativity's most poignant reminders is that the same characters which are firmly established within our tradition remain unrecognizable and insignificant to billions of men, women, and children who are yet to learn of their Savior at all, much less His exceptional birth. Thus, the nativity's cast of characters should teach, inspire, and convict us to a resolution for 2014 far more important than those of exercise and expenditures. When we repack the lowly shepherds, we should be struck that Jesus is the promised Good Shepherd, the *only* door to life for all of us sheep, especially those of every nation, tribe, and language who are currently outside the fold. When we replace the wise men in their box, they force us to extend our gaze beyond our own borders, beyond our American comforts, and beyond our cultural preferences. These Wise Men, heralding from what is now the Middle East, remind us that Jesus traded the throne room of Heaven for the brokenness of earth, His crown for a cradle, and His cradle for a cross, in order to seek and save the lost of Israel, of America, but also of Iraq and Iran. Having made our way to Mary and Joseph, we get a lesson on calling, obedience, and sacrifice in spite of fear, persecution, and personal loss. This young couple changed all of human history when they submitted themselves to the commissioning of God. They were jarred from the Israeli dream of a normal, comfortable, and self-focused life and fulfilled their role in the grand storyline of God. The final piece to be stowed away is that of Jesus cradled in a feeding trough. As we hold His delicate body in our hands, our minds drift ahead to the ravages of the cross and the glories of an empty tomb. From the manger, Jesus reminds us that He came, not for festivities and tradition, but for redemption. Could it be that we have missed the reality that much of the world knows nothing of this story? As our holidays transition from Christ's incarnation to Christ's resurrection, what of the one who does not know Christ at all? We stand to learn from the shepherds who both worshiped *and* shared the good news of Christ. We stand to learn from the Wise Men who trekked thousands of miles for His glory. We stand to learn from Mary and Joseph who prioritized submission to God over personal aspirations and ambitions. And finally, we stand to learn from Jesus Christ, the God who took on flesh and sacrificed all so that others might live. With our repacking complete and the final boxes stuffed away, it is my prayer that our beloved nativity has truly prepared us for the year ahead.

Caleb Waller, Ministry Intern

## Don't miss AWANA!

### January Themes

1/5—Pirate & Princess  
NO SWORDS

1/12—Dress Backwards  
Night

1/19—Crazy Hair Night

1/26—What I want to be  
when I grow up

If you have any questions  
please call Commander  
PJ Long @ 308-1267.

## Ladies Bible Study

Ever feel insufficient?  
Could it be that your weaknesses are the keys that unlock God's strength? Through a look at the life of Gideon, you can discover that instead of ignoring, neglecting, or trying to escape your weaknesses, you can see them as the gifts, given specifically and strategically by God to unlock the door of God's strength. Starting Monday, January 13<sup>th</sup> at 7 PM in our Fellowship Hall, we will begin a 7 week series on the life of Gideon. Cost per person is \$12. Deadline to register is January 5<sup>th</sup>. Sign up sheets will be in the front lobby at the welcome center. Please see Lindsey Bullard for more details. Hope you can come join us!

## Love Out Loud Night to Resume

On Wednesday, January 8 we will resume our monthly Love Out Loud night! LOL will be the first Wednesday night of each month. This is a wonderful opportunity for us to reach out to our community and in to our church family. We have several ministry areas in which you may serve. Let's kick-off the New Year strong with LOL!



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January, 2014

*Transforming Lives Through the Love of Christ!*

**A New Year at Temple!**

This past year of ministry at Temple has been a wonderful year! We have experienced God do much in our church family and through us. I am so excited about this new year of ministry! For many, the future is a scary thing because it's unknown. But for me, it's exciting! The possibilities that are before us in 2014 are endless! God is writing our story and I believe this year is going to be a defining chapter in the book!

Every year I share my "State of the Church Address" with you at the beginning of January. This year, I will be sharing a similar message with you on Sunday, January 5, 2014 during our morning worship service. I hope you'll do everything in your power to be here. For months, I along with our staff, and other leaders, have been praying about this new year of ministry at Temple. On January 5, I will be presenting our theme for the upcoming year, and casting a vision for the direction, in which I believe the Lord is calling us to focus. I will also be sharing with you about an exciting partnership in ministry, which will assist us in fulfilling our calling as a church body over the next year. Once again, I do hope you'll be here for this special day.

Beginning Sunday evening, January 5, Pastor Brian and I will be co-leading a church-wide study called, "G-3: The Imperative Life of a Christ Follower." Being a Christian means that we have been called to be a Christ follower, but what exactly does that mean? What does that look like? During this ten week study, we will be exploring the distinctives of a Christ follower. This study was written by a friend of mine, Dr. Chuck Campbell. In his introduction to the study, Chuck writes— "For years we have seen the church focus on making converts of all nations (Matt. 28:19). We have also stood strongly on the need for open confession through baptism. Yet, the first part of Matt. 28:20, 'teaching them to observe all things I have commanded you,' has not received the same emphasis. The result being that we lost our effectiveness in sharing the Gospel. Therein lies the essence of this study. The goal is to bring us back to the true character of a disciple...A true disciple follows to the point that they in turn are not just being a disciple; they are actively seeking to make disciples. Not until this happens have we truly fulfilled the Great Commission."

Your participation in this study is important for several reasons. First, I believe that this study has the ability to be the most life transforming study we have ever been a part of! I do not say that carelessly. I have heard testimonies from other pastors and Christ followers about the impact that G-3 has had on their personal lives, as well as their churches. I fully expect God to do something spectacular during this time. Secondly, this study will help us establish a foundation upon which we will be building throughout the entire year. If you were to ask me— "Pastor, what would be one of your New Year wishes for our church?" I would tell you that my desire would be for every single member and attender of Temple Baptist Church to participate in this study! In fact, I believe it is so important that we will have a "make-up" class on Wednesday nights for those who serve in other ministry areas on Sunday evenings, or for those whose schedule will not allow them to be here. This make-up session will be led by Caleb Waller. Lastly, I believe G-3 will be a tool that God uses to led us in being more fruitful followers of Jesus and bringing Him glory through our lives.

Another special Sunday at Temple will be January 12. During our morning worship service, we will have a special guest preacher, Dr. Mark Harris. Dr. Harris is the Senior Pastor of First Baptist Church in Charlotte, NC. He has just completed his second term as the President of the Baptist State Convention of NC. I have had the privilege of getting to know Dr. Harris over the past few years and he has become a great friend and mentor in ministry. Some of you will remember Dr. Harris preaching at Temple, years ago, when Richard Hicks was pastor here. You'll also recognize his name, because Mark has entered the US Senate race for 2014. God has been using, and continues to use Mark's leadership all across our convention and across our state. He is a remarkable man of God and a phenomenal preacher of the Gospel! I look forward to being here, introducing Mark to you, and hearing him preach God's Word! This is one Sunday you will definitely not want to miss!

Lastly, I hope you'll join me on Wednesday nights, beginning January 15, for a new series through the book of "Revelation." From John's exile on the Isle of Patmos, to his fascinating description of heaven, we'll work our way through this book, asking God to speak to our hearts and nurture our faith.

**Church Staff Contact Information:**

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*Pastor Kelly*

The Jews who survived the exile and returned to Jerusalem were in disgrace. The walls of the city were burned and crumbling. At least that's the report Nehemiah heard from his brother when he inquired of his beloved homeland. And he knew what that meant. The lack of protection from the city walls left the people vulnerable, exposed. Upon hearing of his homeland in a state of disarray, Nehemiah did what any patriot should do: he mourned; he wept; and then he fell on his face before a Holy God and begged for mercy for his people. And after one of the most intense and heartfelt prayers written in the Word of God, Nehemiah took action. You see, Nehemiah was in a position to have the king's ear. He was the cupbearer to King Artaxerxes, and even though Nehemiah was not royalty, he was often in the presence of the royal court. In modern terms, he was the secret service. He was the last line of defense between the throne and those who threatened its occupant. And when the king saw Nehemiah that particular day, he immediately knew something was wrong. In a moment of God-given bravery, as the king inquired, Nehemiah let it be known that his people and their city were broken down, in ruins, and facing annihilation. You know the story. The king responded favorably and not only allowed Nehemiah to go and oversee the rebuilding of the walls, but also granted letters allowing safe travel and supplies for the project.

What in the world would posses Nehemiah to risk his life asking the king not only for the opportunity to travel, but for supplies as well? Why would he even want to take on all of that work? The answer is found in Nehemiah 1:4.

*"When I heard these things, I sat down and wept. For some days I mourned and fasted and prayed before the God of heaven."*

Nehemiah had great love and compassion for his people. His heart was broken by the news of their suffering. And that compassion became a springboard that set God's plan of redemption for Jerusalem in motion.

So, as a new year begins, here is my question for you: What is it that is breaking your heart? Is it hunger in your own community, poverty in your neighborhood or violence in your child's school? Do you hurt for the elderly who sit alone day after day or for the college student who hasn't made a friend yet? Do you weep for those in our country and in other countries who haven't come to a saving knowledge of Christ? In Nehemiah's terms, what is your wall? What is it that puts you on your knees before God as an intercessory for someone or something else? If you have no idea what I'm talking about, you may need to ask God to replace your heart of stone with a heart more like His. But if you know, if you read these words and something immediately comes to mind, if God has laid on your heart a thought or a ministry opportunity that has until now been a fleeting notion, hear these words of encouragement: It's time to answer the call to the wall! God is faithful, and where He gives a vision, He also provides the means. Do we have to work for it? Of course! Will it cost us? Probably. But friends, the vision was given for such a time as this. In 2014, make an impact for the Kingdom. Be part of God's plan for redeeming His children. Be part of building a wall!

*Dawn Seegars, Worship Leader*