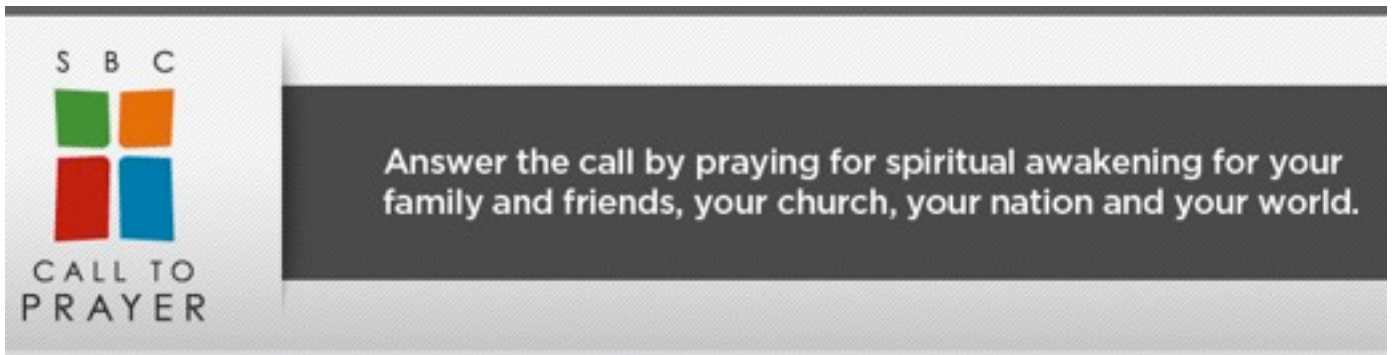


FROM OUR PASTOR



January
NEWSLETTER

A Call to Prayer
by Brett Mask

With the new year before us, there is much talk about making resolutions. Most of those resolutions relate to personal discipline or lack of disciple in the life of an individual, but what about making a resolution for an organization like a church? I haven't ever really heard of a church or an organization making a New Year's Resolution, so I began to think about this concept. Mostly, I thought about what a resolution for Salem Baptist Church would look like. Frankly, it was just a passing thought until I received some information in the mail. After reading a letter in the mail about a denominational call to prayer, I felt impressed that a great resolution for Salem and any church would be to reaffirm and recommit to the priority of corporate and personal prayer. As someone once said, "you can never pray too much."

Therefore, for the next month we will be focusing on the priority of prayer. I will be sharing with you a series of messages entitled "When the Church Prays," and we will be participating in the denominational wide "Call to Prayer." There is so much direction that is needed for individuals and the life of the church, and our first priority should be to seek God's direction. We seek God's direction through corporate and personal prayer, and there is no better time than now to reaffirm and recommit to the priority of prayer. I hope and pray that you will join me in making 2012 a year saturated with the priority of prayer.

In Christ,
Pastor Brett

First and Last

By Brody Bearden



LAST
SHALL BE
FIRST

One thing I love about sports is how there is a constant debate over who is the best. Which team is the best, who would win, and why. ESPN fills the airwaves with discussions and arguments and points that all but prove that “their team” is the best.

Currently, the debate is over who will win the College Football National Championship, LSU or Alabama. LSU won the first meeting and some say, even with an Alabama win, LSU would still win part of the National Championship award because they won earlier in the year and played a tougher schedule.

All of the hubbub surrounding this game on Monday, January 9th reminded me of the story in the Bible when the disciples were arguing about who would be the greatest.

Luke 9:46-48

An argument started among the disciples as to which of them would be the greatest. Jesus, knowing their thoughts, took a little child and had him stand beside him. Then he said to them, “Whoever welcomes this little child in my name welcomes me; and whoever welcomes me welcomes the one who sent me. For it is the one who is least among you all who is the greatest.”

Can you imagine? Jesus has been healing people and performing miracles and the disciples are arguing about who is the greatest. Then Jesus drops a Jesus juke on them, “For it is the one who is least among you all who is the greatest. The least is the greatest. The last is the first.

Confusing stuff, especially since we live in a world that thrives on being first. But the beautiful thing is that Jesus doesn’t work like that. First isn’t about winning. Greatest isn’t about being the best. To Jesus, it’s about serving and helping those who need help.

My 2012 be a year full of you being the least and last and may your witness and love and heart for Jesus be the very thing that puts you first in the Kingdom of God, because you’ve chosen to be last while here on earth.

Peace, Love, Christ
Brody

PS. I still want UGA to be first, though.

February 5th
Youth Super Bowl
Party

February 18th
Youth Auction &
Spaghetti Supper

March 2-4
DNow Weekend

Children's Church
Schedule for January

January 8 - Maggie Faz
January 15 - Brody and Trisha Bearden
January 22 - Sharon Peterman
January 29 - Gloria Peterman



NurSery
Schedule for January

January 8 - Heather & Debbie Hansford
January 15 - Shannon Peterman & Holly Sanders
January 22 - Rita Tompkins & Murphie Davis
January 29 - Sam & Caroline Paradise



Prayer Requests

Herbert Smith
W.R. Long
The Military
Ruth Brooks
Zelda Buckman

Randy Boring
Joyce Gay
Pam Doster
Ruth Power
Sambo Paradise Family

December Birthdays and Anniversaries

Harriett Sanders - 1/1
Phil Sanders - 1/1
Donald Day - 1/5
Chad Pyfrom - 1/8
Hazel Hayes - 1/11
Roger Justice - 1/12
Strauss Schoeman - 1/16
Leslee Smith - 1/21
Morgan Bryant - 1/22

Steve Peterman - 1/23
Andy Paul - 1/26
Roddy Sturdivant - 1/29
Gloria Peterman - 1/31
Bert Buckman - 1/31
Katie Nation-Bradberry - 1/31





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