

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
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Words of Encouragement...

The article below was written by my wife, Debby, primarily to the women of our church. She and I have had multiple discussions concerning the subject of this article. Because I have found her thoughts insightful and poignant, I asked her to write them down to share with you. **Pepper**

*But know this, that in the last days perilous times will come: For men will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, unloving, unforgiving, slanderers, without self-control, brutal, despisers of good, traitors, headstrong, haughty, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, **having a form of godliness but denying its power. And from such people turn away! For this sort are those who creep into households and make captives of gullible women loaded down with sins, led away by various lusts, always learning and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth.** 2 Timothy 3:1-7*

Back in late October, social media networking sites exploded for a day or two with the news and subsequent criticism of prominent Celebrity Christian, Jen Hatmaker's, declaration that a homosexual marriage could be holy in the sight of God. The explosion ignited a controversy that prompted her husband (a prominent Celebrity Christian in his own right) to publicly post his defense of his wife's position.

Bearing in mind that the Hatmakers, and others like them, are the byproduct of a movement that builds churches based on market research rather than God and his eternal, unchangeable, inerrant Word, their position on homosexual marriage is not surprising. The latest market research would tell you that most in our culture are, at least, ok with this trend, so why wouldn't God be? He wants us to be happy, right? In Mr. Hatmaker's defense of his and his wife's new position on this issue, he said this: "We don't believe a committed life-long monogamous same-sex marriage violates anything seen in scripture about God's hopes for the marriage relationship."

Yes, you read that right. He said **God's hopes** for the marriage relationship, sounding very much as if he has a *form* of godliness, while completely denying its power.

I could write entire essays in response to this one thing. But this one thing is merely a symptom of a much bigger thing that has been burdening my soul for a while. We women can be gullible creatures (although we might rather think of ourselves as trusting), and quickly led away by various lusts or desires. As a result, we will "follow" Celebrity Christians like Jen Hatmaker and social networking trends without personally testing them against scripture.

Unfortunately, this has led us to a place where we attend "Bible studies" with no actual Bible being studied. Instead we read books and blogs and newsfeeds by people whose only claim to fame is that they have an opinion and we find it "relevant" or it makes us laugh—oh, and they love their Jesus. Then they get shows on HGTV, and we buy from their line of home décor products with lovely scriptures we can hang on our walls—the nice ones that make us feel good. Because no one wants to hang a hand-lettered sign in their kitchen that says: "*When he is about to fill his stomach, God will cast on him the fury of His wrath, and it will rain on him while he is eating.*" (Job 20:23)

No one wants to decorate their house with the wrath of God. The wrath of God makes people uncomfortable. It hurts their feelings. And yet, it is a true and holy part of who God is.

This, sisters, is where we find ourselves, and I hate it. We scroll through Pinterest, Facebook and Instagram, drinking in the poison, increasingly unhappy because our lives don't look as pretty as countless strangers' lives do. We watch

Article continued inside on second page.

FBC Bangs "The Messenger"
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IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER!

- January 1st: New Year's Day, *No Children's Church and no Evening Services*
- January 2nd: Church Office closed for New Year's Holiday
- January 2nd-3rd: Take down holiday decorations
- January 6th: Take down holiday decorations
- January 8th: Missions Committee Meeting/Lunch, Girls Night In, CMT Meeting
- January 10th: Advanced Group Luncheon
- January 12th: Clothes Closet OPEN
- January 18th: Deacons' Meeting
- January 22nd: Children's Ministry Luncheon
- January 25th: Business Meeting, Maintenance Committee Meeting
- January 29th: Potluck Fellowship Lunch, No Children's Church
- February 5th: Missions Committee Meeting/Lunch, Girls Night In
- February 8th: Valentines for Bangs Nursing Home (Children)
- February 9th: Clothes Closet OPEN
- February 11th: Valentine Banquet
- February 12th: CMT Meeting
- February 14th: Valentine's Day, Advanced Group Luncheon
- February 15th: Deacons' Meeting
- February 19th: The Lord's Supper
- February 20th: Presidents' Day
- February 22nd: Business Meeting, Maintenance Committee Meeting

THE CHURCH OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED JANUARY 2ND FOR NEW YEAR'S DAY.



SENIOR PASTOR:	Dr. Pepper Dill
ASSOCIATE PASTOR/YOUTH MINISTER:	Zach Tharp
MINISTER OF WORSHIP:	Corey Ash
CHILDREN'S DIRECTOR:	Joy Mitchell
OFFICE MANAGER:	Cindy Boyle
OFFICE ASSISTANT/WEB MASTER:	Marsha Zabecki

2017 CHILDREN'S NEWS



SAVE THE DATES!

The Big Picture for 2017

- January 22nd: Children's Ministry Luncheon
- April 15th: The Great Hunt! Community Wide Easter Egg Hunt at 2:00 pm at Bangs City Park
- April 30th: Kid's Spring Musical
- April 9th: CMT & VBS Training Meeting at 7:10 pm in the Children's Church Room.
- June 25th-29th: VBS at 5:30-8:00 pm-Group's Maker Fun Factory- Created by God! Built for a Purpose!
- July 2nd: FAMJAM at Camp Bowie Aquatic Center
- July 10th-12th: Pre-Teen Camp: Family Night: July 12
- August 20th: Back to School Bash
- August 27th: Promotion Sunday / Back to Church Sunday
- October 29th: NO FEAR PARTY 6:00 pm
- October 31st: Trunk or Treat
- December 9th: Parade- 6:00 pm/Live Nativity & Christmas in the Park
- December 10th: Children's Christmas Musical
- December 13th: Christmas Meal/ Happy Birthday Jesus Party

Happy New Year!!! The Christmas season may be over, but as Christians, we continue to celebrate our Savior & King year round! One BIG question remains for all people? "What Child is This?" This question reminds me of Jesus asking Peter "Who do you say I am?" I pray He is our Savior and the King of every part of our lives! He is our teacher and our Master!

What child is this? This is Christ the King of our hearts, lives and our families YEAR ROUND!

As we begin a new year in Children's Ministry at Bangs FBC, we will share the vision of Servanthood! Jesus said in Mark 9:35 that "Anyone who wants to be first must be the very last, and the servant of all." Our hearts desire is to hear our Master say, "Well done, good and faithful servant!" Matthew 25:23

Each of us was Created by God and Built for a Purpose! He designed us with gifts and abilities, a plan and a purpose for His Glory! Will you faithfully and fervently SERVE the Lord with us this year? Let's be faithful over the little and God will make us ruler over much.

Blessings on you! Joy ☺



NEWS

Happy New Year!

It is hard to believe that another year has gone by. 2016 seemed to arrive in a flash and exit even more abruptly. Where does the time go? We all pass the time in a similar fashion. Our time is taken up by jobs, family, friends, and other commitments. Did you ever stop to think how you became so locked in to your present routine? With us being as busy as we are it is important to take time, intentionally, to spend time alone with God. You have to plan it. Put it on the schedule. It will not just happen. As we mark the beginning of another new year and half-baked resolutions are being pulled from the oven to see if after being flung at the wall they will stick, let me encourage you to keep it ridiculously simple. For 2017, resolve to spend time with God daily. Want to be bold? Make it the first part of your day. Read His word. Pray. Not just the kind of "pray" where you ask God for a lot of things, the kind where you sit in silence and listen for what He wants to tell you. Come to church. Be a part of a small group or Sunday School class. Get to know people better. Find somewhere in the church to serve. These are my encouragements to you as 2017 has arrived and 2018 will be here before you know it.

May God's Grace Abound, Zach



MISSIONS



Clothes Closet OPEN! Thursday, January 12th & February 9th from 10:00 am to 3:00 pm.
Bangs Food Pantry OPEN! First and Third Thursdays from 10:00 am to 3:00 pm.



THINK GLOBALLY!



ACT LOCALLY!

Our Medical Closet!

We have a wide variety of equipment to loan out including wheel chairs, walkers, beds, bed rails, and shower chairs.



Words of Encouragement continued.

HGTV and are unhappy because there is no shiplap in our rooms. In our quest to be *always learning*, we pick up the latest women's study that

promises to show us how to fill the void, parent better, be healthier, and we allow the author to tickle our ears with unsound, untested doctrines (2 Tim 4:3-4), sometimes flat-out lies, while failing to come to actual knowledge of the truth.

And the apostate church continues to lure us closer to its snare.

As we begin a new year, let's resolve to back away from that snare and read the Bible so we will *know* what it says. And when we read a book by the latest, greatest Celebrity Christian (which it is absolutely ok to do), let's resolve to be like the Berean Jews, of whom Luke writes in Acts chapter 17: "...were of more noble character than those in Thessalonica, for they received the message with great eagerness and examined the Scriptures every day to see if what Paul said was true."

Throughout the 17th chapter of Acts, Luke writes of strong, prominent women who heard the gospel and believed it. My prayer for us this year is that we will be like those women rather than the women of 2 Timothy who are continually led away by various envies and desires.

May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you! Debby

MUSIC NOTES



Hello, all!



Hard to believe that the year 2017 is upon us and will pick up speed as they all seem to do! I would like to once again invite anyone who has a voice of praise to come and join us in the worship choir. We meet every Wednesday evening at 7:00 pm and go to 8:00 pm, and childcare is available. We have a great time singing each week! I know that I always leave refreshed from the encouragement that praise brings! Some of you need to be singing with us!

Music is truly a gift from God to us. Each time that we praise Him we find that our spirit is lifted and encouraged in the process. It absolutely never fails! And, when we sing with other believers it just seems that the blessing is multiplied! Give it a try. You'll be convinced! If you haven't been coming to choir, we want you to know, we miss you and want you to experience, again, the joy that it is singing with other believers in song to our Lord!

See you Sunday!

Soli Deo Gloria, Bro. Corey

BUSINESS MEETING NOTES

OCTOBER 2016 MINUTES

- September 2016 minutes were approved as printed.
- Reports were accepted, letters of transfer and new members were approved.
- The 2017 Church Calendar was approved.
- Approval was given to purchase a reception counter for the foyer.
- Approval was given to sealcoat and stripe the north parking lot.

NOVEMBER 2016 MINUTES

- October 2016 minutes were approved as printed.
- Reports were accepted, letters of transfer and new members were approved.
- Nominating Committee recommendations were approved.
- The 2017 Proposed Church Budget was approved.
- The Ministers' 2017 housing allowance and benefits package was approved.

OCTOBER 2016 GENERAL FUND

Total Contributions:	\$37,106.63
Weekly Average:	\$7,421.33 (5 Sundays)
Weekly Requirement:	\$8,313.75
Fund Balance:	\$13,103.50
BUILDING SAVINGS ACCOUNT BALANCE:	\$127,050.87 (10/31/16)*
CHURCH ROOFS ACCOUNT BALANCE:	\$63,239.82 (10/31/16)
GENERAL SAVINGS ACCOUNT BALANCE:	\$8,269.11 (10/31/16)

NOVEMBER 2016 GENERAL FUND

Total Contributions:	\$33,587.16
Weekly Average:	\$8,396.79
Weekly Requirement:	\$8,313.75
Fund Balance:	\$14,017.88
BUILDING SAVINGS ACCOUNT BALANCE:	\$100,733.87 (11/30/16)*
CHURCH ROOFS ACCOUNT BALANCE:	\$36,922.82 (11/30/16)
GENERAL SAVINGS ACCOUNT BALANCE:	\$8,269.79 (11/30/16)

* Includes funds for the roof projects