

Pfafftown Baptist Church is on mission to serve God by sharing joyful life and displaying love with our greater community.

Pfafftown

Baptist Church

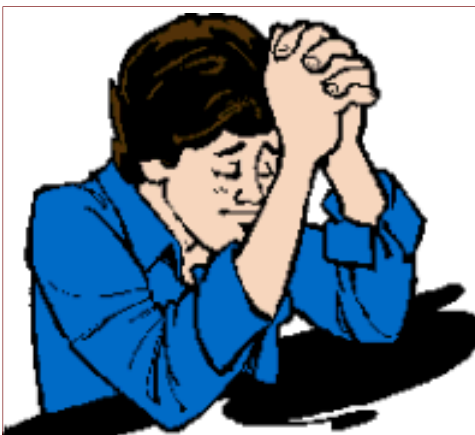
January 2017

PBC *Connections*

My (Borrowed) Prayer for 2017

2016 is quickly fading into the sunset and we are nearly one fifth of the way into a century that many predicted would implode on its first day! *Do you remember all the scams and scares of 1/1/2000?* The Y2K hype was incredible. Kim and I were spending New Year's night to close the 1900's in a hotel in Asheville. The hotel issued keychain flashlights to every guest, just in case... you know... the Y2K bug took down the power grid. *Now here we are about to enter 2017.*

2016 has not been a banner year for America. The violence and vitriol in our country this year has peaked at levels not seen since the Vietnam era. It's enough to make the believer and the skeptic finally agree: *where is God?* It is a question that has been asked from the beginning of time, most often when times seem tough.



As I personally enter into 2017 I am preparing my New Year's resolutions. I create them most years and have records of success; I'm a list person and that helps a lot.

Most of my few resolutions this year will be health and home related but this year I will cling to one I've never used. It came to me from a favorite poem I know from Howard Thurman, influential African-American author, philosopher, theologian, educator, and civil rights leader of the first half of the 20th century. It's called "*The Mood of Christmas*".

*When the song of the angels is stilled,
When the star in the sky is gone,
When the kings and princes are home,
When the shepherds are back with their flocks,*

The work of Christmas begins:

*To find the lost,
To heal the broken,
To feed the hungry,
To release the prisoner,
To rebuild the nations,
To bring peace among people,
To make music in the heart.*

Will you join me this year in being a finder, a healer, a helper, an advocate, a renewer and a person of peace? Will you sing in your heart with me the songs of Christmas all year long?

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Borrowed Prayer ... (continued from page 1)

It only takes a day or two for all the stuff of Christmas to be cleaned up like the debris after a ticker tape parade. *That leaves us the rest of the year to be the presence of Christ everywhere, with everyone, at all times.* I'm making that resolution this year in a big way. Will you join me? Happy New Year.

I'm always glad to hear from you. Connect with me on reflections, reactions, or inspirations.

pbcpastor@windstream.net

Thank you

The **Night Baptist Women's Group** would like to thank everyone who helped with our November 30th Blood Drive.

A total of **42 lives** will benefit from the **14 units** of blood collected.

Thank you for the donations of snacks and drinks.

Thank you to **Sylvia Long** who worked the entire day.

Thank you to **Pfafftown Baptist** for your prayerful support.

January
OCC Shoebox Item



Combs

Goal of 150

Night WMU Group

invites you to participate in feeding the hungry in our community by donating:

CANS OF BEEF STEW

That will be delivered to Crisis Control Ministries

Missions Groups

Baptist Men's Breakfast - Jan 7 @ 8am - Fellowship Hall
All Men Age 13 and up welcome

Night WMU Group - Jan 9 - 7:00pm - Fellowship Hall
Bring Items for Heads/Hands/Feet and Crisis Control Item

Day WMU Group - Jan 10 - 9:30am - Fellowship Hall



Music-related things you may possibly observe in 2017 at PBC:

1a. New Hymns with relative themes. There are many things I love about the Baptist Hymnal we use. I think we can honestly say that we sing 50% of it within every few years, and that's pretty good. However, as a worship leader, there are some voids I wish to fill. For example, there are 20-something hymns that speak to receiving forgiveness from God, but only one (to my knowledge) about the necessity of forgiving each other. I could choose probably one hymn a week without repeating that says how God loves us. I would be hard-pressed to find one per season that encourages us to love one another (as God has loved us). There are hymns out there, and to balance our message through song, we need to sing them! I'm hoping for one such hymn per month, but it may be every other month.

1b. New Hymns to Old Tunes. Not all hymns will be completely new. There are lots of hymn lyrics set to meters that fit hymn tunes we already know. For example, did you know that besides "Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee" - not only is that melody used for 2 other hymns in the Baptist Hymnal, but you

could also fit the lyrics from 31 other hymns to that tune. Try this just for fun. Sing "What a Friend We Have in Jesus" to the tune of "Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee". Just to be fair, flip it around with "What a Friend" the tune and "Joyful" as the words. We can introduce much new while still knowing what to sing.

2. Favorite Hymns - If I'm asking you to be adventurous with learning new hymns, I expect to also give you your favorites. I know from surveys what you really want to sing, and will do my best to get them into worship more often.

3. The Return of Hymn Medleys - There are many ways I reveal myself not to be a native North Carolinian, and one is that it's hard for me to maintain the discipline of a tradition. For whatever reason, hymn medleys fell by the wayside, and we only did one in 2016. Count on more in 2017.

4. The Return of 4th Sunday Doxologies - We're not a liturgical church that sings the Doxology every Sunday, but some of you have told me that you value at least an occasional experience. With the exception of special services, expect it on the 4th Sunday of each month once again.

What do all the above have in common? They are things you **ALL** get to do. The music ministry will also be planning goals and events for its groups throughout the year. *Easter Music will begin rehearsal by the end of January, and we always welcome guest singers for our chorus.* Stay tuned for details.

In Christ,
David



Baptist Women's Day

Sunday, January 29th

Guest Speaker is Amy Pardue Boone

Executive Director-Treasure for WMU NC. Former IMB Missionary and author of the book, *Stones from the Riverbed: Experiencing God's Grace in Mozambique*

