



THE MESSENGER

of Quaker Gap Baptist Church - King, NC



Volume 26, Issue 1

JANUARY 2024

A Word From *Pastor Jack...*

RAISE CHRIST MORE

John the Baptist was chosen by God for an important ministry. He came in the spirit of Elijah, preaching prophetic words, preparing human hearts for the arrival of the Kingdom of God. John called all people, rich, poor, powerful, and weak to repent of their sin. Many wandered down to the banks of the Jordan River to hear John preach. Some were plunged beneath the waters of baptism. John became a celebrity of sorts, even capturing the attention of the Herods in the elite class. One day, while baptizing repentant individuals in the river, Jesus showed up. That was the beginning of the end for John. You see, John recognized Jesus right away. Jesus was the King for whom John was preparing the way. Although John the Baptist had a following and disciples of his own, he said of Jesus, "This is the one I meant when I said, 'A man who comes after me has surpassed me because he was before me.' I myself did not know him, but the reason I came baptizing with water was that he might be revealed to Israel." (John 1:30-31) John also said, "I have seen and I testify that this is God's Chosen One." (John 1:34)



Some time later, troublemakers attempted to stir up resentment between John and Jesus. They came to John and said, "Rabbi, that man who was with you on the other side of the Jordan—the one you testified about—look, he is baptizing, and everyone is going to him." (John 3:26) If John did not have a grip on his own identity, he may have felt threatened or became envious. Instead, John said, "I am not the Messiah but am sent ahead of him... He must become greater; I must become less." (John 3:30)

There is much we can learn from the humility of John the Baptist, but perhaps the most important lesson is to regard ourselves in proper perspective. In these days of selfies, personal branding, and social media, it is good to keep priorities in order. Our goal should always be to make a big deal of Jesus. If this means we fade into the shadows, or don't get the recognition we feel we deserve – so be it. If we are called to suffer indignity so that Christ's name might be proclaimed – so be it. Come what may, I pray this will be a year to promote Jesus. **Raise Christ More in 2024.**



**We welcome the following new members
into the fellowship of our church:**

Rex Samuels by Transfer of Letter

Upcoming Sermons

*Jan. 7 "State of the Church 2024" Psalm 72:1-20



SERMON SERIES: RAISE CHRIST MORE

| | | |
|---------|--------------------------|--------------------|
| Jan 14 | "The Christian Pedigree" | Colossians 1:1-8 |
| Jan 21 | "Living Worthy" | Colossians 1:9-14 |
| Jan 28 | "None Higher" | Colossians 1:15-20 |
| *Feb. 4 | "Brought Near" | Colossians 1:21-23 |

* We will be Observing **The Lord's Supper** on **January 7th** and **February 4th**

Pursue Jesus — and your passions

If you struggle with making and keeping resolutions, you're not alone. It can be discouraging to focus on what you're doing "wrong" and all the difficult changes in store. Yet January offers great opportunities to listen to God's direction. After all, Jesus came to give us abundant life and wants us to pursue Him. As you review the previous year, ask: What brought me joy? How did I grow? How did I help others? What did I do that no one else could have done? Whether your list includes spending time outside, mentoring or coaching young people or making crafts to give away or sell, continue doing what brings you joy. God gives us each unique gifts and circumstances, so live passionately for Him this year!

— Janna Firestone

Quaker Gap Baptist Church Financial Summary

January 1, 2023 through November 30, 2023

| General Fund | Actual | Budget | Variance |
|-------------------------------|------------------|-----------|-----------|
| Church Offering | \$284,448 | \$284,494 | \$ (46) |
| Special Purpose Funds | \$33,167 | | |
| Total Receipts | \$317,615 | | |
| Expenses | \$297,139 | \$284,494 | \$ 12,645 |
| Receipts Over Expenses | \$ 20,476 | | |

Checking/MM/CD Account Balances as of November 30, 2023

| | |
|-------------------------------|---------------|
| General Fund | \$279,040 |
| Building Fund | \$170,382 |
| Cemetery Fund | \$ 30,862 |
| Building Fund Expenses | \$ 0 |
| Cemetery Fund Expenses | \$ 550 |
| Annie Armstrong | \$ 1,355 |
| Lottie Moon | \$ 100 |



- 1 Abbie Clark
David Delcamp
John William Hanes
Judy Kreeger
- 2 Chad Clark
Shawn Gaudet de Lestard
- 3 Lynne Clark
Joyce Sheek
Rebecca James Stonebraker
- 4 Kevin Lanning
- 5 Sarah James
- 6 Debra Wilkins
- 10 Philip Fedorchak
- 13 Josh Davis
- 14 Kim George
- 15 L. C. Allen, Jr.
Bill Robertson
- 17 Christi McDaniel
Chris Stover
- 19 Seth King
- 21 Bill Samuels
Ali Wilkins
- 22 Danny Joyner
- 23 Carolyn Carrier
- 24 Sharon Coulter
Michelle Farrington
Regina Wood
- 25 Frances Brown
Misty Lindgren
- 28 Kevin Collins
Joshua Vaughan
- 30 Blake Borders
Kim Hicks
Terri Snow
- 31 Reagan Fowler
Lillian Stanley
Joan Warren

James' Lagniappe 
(lan-yap, n. a little something extra)

What are Your New Year's Resolutions?

Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds us all together in perfect harmony. And let the peace that comes from Christ rule in your hearts. For as members of one body you are called to live in peace. And always be thankful. Let the message about Christ, in all its richness, fill your lives. Teach and counsel each other with all the wisdom he gives. Sing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs to God with thankful hearts. And whatever you do or say, do it as a representative of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks through him to God the Father.
Colossians 3:14-17 NLT

The period between Christmas and New Years usually prompts me to think about resolutions. As I write this there is only one week left before the New Year begins. Meanwhile, Google and Amazon are competing for who can provide the best New Year's resolution incentive. Row yourself into better shape. Eat more nutritiously with subscription meals and one free breakfast item for life! Pay off your high interest credit card with a new lower interest card. Oh, and don't forget the new workout clothes, new pans and cutlery to prepare and cook those meals, and that new low interest card to pay for it all. Or maybe I'll just turn off the laptop and TV.

Here is my interpretation of a Christian's New Years' Resolution with some thoughts added from a Bible Gateway Blogger – a blogger who is serious about matters relating to the Bible.

Love one another. *Above all, clothe yourselves with love...* We can be so unlovable at times and Jesus loves us anyway. Do likewise unto others.

Be a peacemaker. *And let the peace that comes from Christ rule in your hearts...* There are plenty of things to argue over, be mad about, or be upset so offer the *first* olive branch.

Give thanks every day. *And always be thankful...* It is so easy to be thankful for the obvious major this or that so give thanks for the minor things, too.



Read the Bible daily. *Let the message about Christ, in all its richness, fill your lives...* So much richness, knowledge and wisdom is available for every situation, carefully bound in one volume, that's just a "turn, flip, or click" away.

Attend church regularly. *For as members of one body...* Let's come together once a week and just set aside our life for a second to be reminded of His.

Serve others. *Teach and counsel each other...* Daily, cheerfully, willingly, ungrudgingly, find someone to serve.

Encourage one another. *Sing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs to God...* Every day can be a battle, a discouragement to those who strive to live what they believe.

Be hospitable and humble. *Whatever you do or say, do it as a representative of the Lord Jesus...* Be open to sharing the hope that you have and remind yourself that only what God thinks of me is what truly matters.

Soli Deo gloria, (Glory to God alone)

James

James Byrd

Blessed are the givers...

And grateful are the receivers.

Dear Church Family,

Thank you for the donation to Haw Pond Church of Christ in memory of my mother, Iris S. Bennett. We appreciate the prayers that were lifted up for her and Dad the last 18 months. Even though my heart still aches, knowing that they both are together again and with our Lord provides comfort.

Thank you so much.

Mike and Sharon Gordon

Ladies Ornament Exchange



All ladies are invited to join our Women Warriors group on **Thursday, January 4th, at 6:30 PM** at the **home of Beth James** (128 Whispering Creek Rd King). Please bring a wrapped ornament to exchange and a finger food if you'd like. It will be a fun night of fellowship as we start the new year!

Dear Friends,

Much thanks for the wonderful Christmas music at our windows and the many cards and well wishes that we received from the church.

Gareath & Ann

Thank you for helping our family at Christmas.
Graceland Staff & Residents



KING OUTREACH MINISTRY

Thank you for your donations to King Outreach Ministry. Last month we collected 4 bottles of body wash, 16 toothbrushes, 15 tubes of toothpaste, 1 bar of soap, 2 bottles of shampoo, 2 deodorants, and 4 food items.

We will continue to collect donations for KOM. Our collections are personal care products (soap, shampoo, toothpaste, etc.) feminine sanitary products, baby diapers, and toddler diaper pull-ups.

Donations may be left outside the front entrance of the fellowship hall and educational building on Wednesday evenings and Sunday mornings. Please remember that this is an ongoing ministry.

This is to acknowledge and thank you on behalf of Haw Pond Church of Christ, and the family of Iris S. Bennett for your memorial donation of \$50.00. The family has been advised of your donation.

Sincerely,

Vicki P. Hill, Treasurer
Haw Pond Church of Christ

Worship Schedule

Sunday

| | |
|----------|-------------------|
| 9:30 AM | Sunday School |
| 10:30 AM | Worship Service |
| | Children's Church |

Wednesday

| | |
|-----------|------------------------|
| 7-8:00 PM | Bible Study |
| | Choir Rehearsal |
| | Salteens Youth Group |
| | GapKids |
| 8:15 PM | Worship Team Rehearsal |

THE MESSENGER is a monthly publication of QUAKER GAP BAPTIST CHURCH, 2265 FLAT SHOALS ROAD—KING, NC
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Rev. Dr. Jack Darida, Senior Pastor
Tyler Van Meter, Minister of Youth

Rev. James Byrd, Minister of Music
April Ragan, Administrative Assistant

Quaker Gap Baptist Church Activities



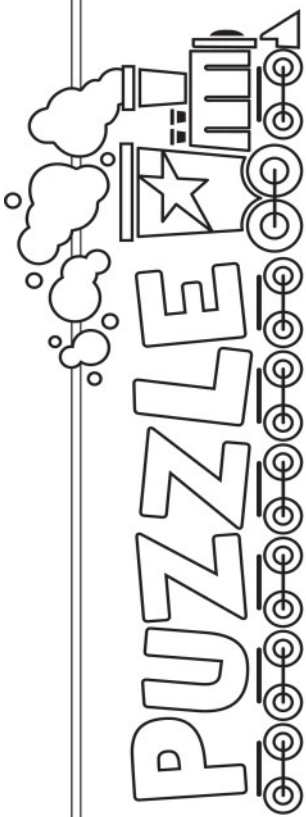
| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|---|---|--|---|--|--|---|
| | 1 <div>Church Office Closed</div> <div>New Year's Day</div> | 2 | 3 6:00 PM Eat In Meal in Fellowship Hall 7:00 PM Adult Bible Study Choir Rehearsal Youth Group Salteens GapKids 8:15 PM Worship Band Rehearsal | 4 12:00 NOON Bulletin Deadline 6:30 PM Ladies Ornament Exchange - Home of Beth James | 5 | 6 4:00 PM Adult 1 Class After Christmas Party- Fellowship Hall |
| 7 8:00 AM Men & Boys' Breakfast in Fellowship Hall 9:30 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM Worship Service Children's Church | 8 | 9 | 10 <div>Wednesday MEAL PICK-UP</div> 5-6:30 Drive Thru /Eat In Meals @ Fellowship Hall 7:00 PM Adult Bible Study Choir Rehearsal Youth Group Salteens GapKids 8:15 PM Worship Band Rehearsal | 11 12:00 NOON Bulletin Deadline | 12 | 13 |
| 14 9:30 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM Worship Service Children's Church | 15 Martin Luther King, Jr. Day | 16 | 17 6:00 PM Eat In Meal in Fellowship Hall 7:00 PM Adult Bible Study Choir Rehearsal Youth Group Salteens GapKids 8:15 PM Worship Band Rehearsal | 18 12:00 NOON Bulletin Deadline | 19 <div>Newsletter Deadline</div> Deadline for February Newsletter Submissions | 20 |
| 21 9:30 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM Worship Service Children's Church 12-3:30 PM KAC (Kids After Church) Eat Lunch, Go Bowling in Mt. Airy | 22 | 23 7:00 PM Deacons' Meeting -Adult 1 SS Class | 24 <div>Wednesday MEAL PICK-UP</div> 5-6:30 Drive Thru /Eat In Meals @ Fellowship Hall 7:00 PM Adult Bible Study Choir Rehearsal Youth Group Salteens GapKids 8:15 PM Worship Band Rehearsal | 25 12:00 NOON Bulletin Deadline | 26 | 27 |
| 28 9:30 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM Worship Service Children's Church | 29 | 30 | 31 6:00 PM Eat In Meal in Fellowship Hall 7:00 PM Adult Bible Study Choir Rehearsal Youth Group Salteens GapKids 8:15 PM Worship Band Rehearsal | | | |

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Visit Us on the Web: www.quakergap.info



HAPPY NEW YOU!

Changing the calendar each January is a reminder that God makes all things new.

Directions: Use the clues and the calendar code to complete 2 Corinthians 5:17, ESV.

JANUARY 2024

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|--------|-----------|-----------|-----------|----------|--------|----------|
| | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
| | God | night | word | in | love | Jesus |
| 7 | therefore | speak | give | light | Christ | a |
| 14 | saw | beginning | anyone | waters | help | is |
| 21 | he | again | through | earth | made | while |
| 28 | new | if | and | creation | | back |
| | | | | | | |

The second Monday _ _ _ _ _

The last Monday _ _

The 16th _ _ _ _ _

One day before the 20th _ _

The day before the first Friday _ _

The last weekday of the second week _ _ _ _ _

The day after the 20th _ _

The day after 18th _ _

The first day of the second weekend _

The last Sunday _ _ _

The last day of the month _ _ _ _ _

