

North Bedford Baptist Church
2014 Pastor's Year-End Report
January 7, 2015

Dear Church Family,

"But who am I and who are my people that we should be able to offer as generously as this? For all things come from You and from Your hand we have given to You." 1 Chronicles 29:14

The Lord has indeed been good to our North Bedford Baptist Church family! All that we have in terms of resources and direction and opportunity has come from His good hand. We have much to be thankful for and much to look forward to. As always, there are challenges to trust Him with – but I believe as we walk through this new year – we will find Him just as faithful as He has shown Himself in the past. It is good to look back and see what our God has done – and give Him the praise that is due.

I begin this report with the year 2014 in review:

Discipleship

Bible Study:

We began the year with our January Bible Study on each of the Sunday evenings in January. The topic this past year was "How To Study The Bible." A good group walked through several key passages together and practiced the principles that make individual understanding and application of God's Word more simple.

Men:

Our Men's Ministry continues to be strongly anchored by the weekly Men's Bible Study breakfast at Carol's Restaurant. This study continues to average between 12 and 15 men every Tuesday morning. In 2014 the men studied through the books of 1, 2 and 3 John, Judges and have begun a study of the Gospel of Mark.

Baptist Men's Day was held on January 26 and the speakers were Gary Witt and Jim Wright.

Nine men traveled to Snowbird Wilderness Outfitters on September 11 for a 3-day Men's Conference. That is always a spiritually fruitful trip.

Women:

Our Women's Ministry continues to be led by the Women's Ministry Council. In the Spring of 2014 the Council planned a 6 week Bible Study that was attended on average by 10 women.

The Fall saw Baby showers for two different families.

Children:

The Sunday night children's ministry called Puggles, Cubbies and Club continued for 9 weeks each in the Spring and the Fall. Gary Witt continues as our Club Director, with Charlotte Wilson and Darla Owens leading the Cubbies and Dayna Staples and Sandy Jarels leading the Puggles. The ever-popular Grand Prix Derby Car race was held on February 21 with good attendance from the families of our children, several visitor families and others from our church family at large. Another very popular activity is the Children's lock-in. Held on April 11, the lock-in was attended by about 30 children, many of whom were visitors.

An addition to our children's ministry this year was CentriKid's Camp at Eagle Eyrie. Nine children attended with 3 chaperones. Camp is a great environment for our leaders to spend extended time developing relationships with our kids, and an invaluable opportunity to disciple them as Christ-followers in an environment away from their normal routine. Much fruit was seen from our week at camp. As a follow-up to our camp experience, two other summer activities were planned. An outing to Holliday Lake State Park and an Ice Cream/Movie night at church were both well attended by our children.

Vacation Bible School is always a highlight of the year for our children's ministry. This year's Bible School was well-attended and well-led. Many visitor families attended.

Youth:

Jason Wooldridge continues to be our Part-time Staff Youth Minister. This year in addition to the regular Sunday Night Youth Meetings, Jason planned a Youth Retreat to Hat Creek Camp in Brookneal, Virginia. That retreat began on a Friday and lasted through Sunday afternoon with 17 students and 4 chaperones participating. This was a new activity for our Students, and one that they would like to continue.

Eight students and 2 chaperones also went to camp at Snowbird Wilderness Outfitters again for a week in June. Nine students and 2 chaperones ended the year on New Year's Eve by attending Winterfest at Liberty University.

The rest of the year was filled with "Girl-Days" after church on Sunday, Friday night football games, bonfires and other activities that provide opportunities to build relationships and point our students to Christ.

College:

Mike Hicks continues as our College-age Sunday School teacher with Chad and Allison Brady both spending time with our college crowd. This year saw an increase in the number of Liberty students coming to church on Sunday morning as well as participating in various events.

Chad continues to lead a weekly college Bible Study on campus at Liberty. This past year we have studied through the books of Romans and Ecclesiastes. There were three special events for our college students including a bonfire at the church, a trip to Richmond to tour the IMB Headquarters and missionary training facility, and a Christmas lunch at the Bradys after exams were over.

Four of our college students worked on staff at Snowbird Wilderness Outfitters for the summer. It is a great blessing for any church to see its young people serving the Lord in ministry.

Sunday School:

With the Fall Quarter of Sunday School material, all of our church's Sunday School classes, from babies all the way through our senior adult class will be using the same literature (age-graded) and studying the same passage of Scripture. The literature change was the result of a six-month process led by our Sunday School Director, Jim Wright and the team he assembled. The process involved a survey of needs from a cross-section of our congregation, a study of different literature options and finally a recommendation and acceptance by the congregation. The new literature that we are now using, Lifeway's Explore the Bible, integrates each age-level with the goal of bringing the entire family into Bible Study together.

Fellowship

A number of Fellowship opportunities for the church family as a whole were well-attended and resulted in very healthy fellowship. They included our annual After-Church Lunch/Easter Egg Hunt on Palm Sunday, an Ice Cream Social in August, the Fall Festival in October.

Our Homecoming speaker this year was Col. Jim Park, Chaplain to the Corps of Cadets at the Virginia Military Institute. The fellowship lunch that followed was a great blessing to all.

Missions

Outreach opportunities to our community continued in 2014. The Good News Club at Boonsboro Elementary School continued to be well attended, averaging 60-70 students for each of the 6-week sessions in the Spring and the Fall. The Lord continues to give us favor with the school administration and an open door to minister to the students there.

The ministry to the bicyclists of the Monday night Rootbeer Ride down Coffee Road is a great blessing to the bicyclists of our community. Each Monday night from April to Labor Day offers an opportunity to interact and serve up to 30 or 35 bicyclists.

Though no international trips were taken, contact is continuing with our IMB missionaries in the Dominican Republic as well as new contacts that have been made with IMB missionaries in China and Europe. We are praying that the Lord will direct our steps through those contacts.

Administration

One of the most significant administrative decisions that our church family made in 2014 was the adoption of the first step of a comprehensive Child Protection Policy: Selection and Screening of Children and Youth Volunteers and Workers. Beginning with the draft that was written by the church's attorney, Simms Showers LLP, a committee made changes to suit our church situation. With approval from the Deacons, the church family reviewed the document and participated in 2 question and answer sessions which resulted in several key aspects of the document that needed to be clarified. The amended document was adopted and Child Protection Policy forms have been collected and background screenings run on all of our children and youth workers, staff and deacons.

Challenges

Each new year always brings new challenges and with new challenges there is the opportunity to see our great God lead and provide. Almost every year brings leadership challenges, and 2015 will be no different. We will have to trust the Lord to lead us as a church and as individuals to provide the leadership we need for each specific ministry area, to accomplish what He has given us to do.

2015 will also see the introduction of the next step of our Child Protection Policy. We will again be going through a review and revision process. We will need the Lord's wisdom to direct us to the issues that are important to protect our church.

Finally, the challenge is to consistently see how the Lord would use our church in our community and around the world. Our God wants to use the resources and the talents and the gifts that He has given to our Church. We need to ask Him to direct us to use all of them in a way that would bring Him glory.

I hope that you see how good our God has been to our church family. We have truly seen His faithfulness in the past year. We can trust that this coming year we will find Him just as faithful. What a blessing it is for us to serve Him together!

Because He Lives!



Chad Brady
Pastor, North Bedford Baptist Church
Philippians 3:10