

SBC Happenings

Volume 20, Number 1

A publication of Sterling Baptist Church, Sterling, Alaska

Merry Christmas!

It is my hope that this newsletter is encouraging to you and helps spread information and updates to our church family, but I need your help! If you have information, ideas, article submissions, births/deaths, or anything church related that you think would be a good fit, please let me know. I'd love for this to be about you and by you! Simply contact me at the church office. THANK YOU!!
Annie
sterlingbaptist@acsalaska.net

HOW you can HELP

Ready to get involved in a ministry or group? Have a talent or some time you are willing to share? Look inside for a few ways to get involved or talk to Pastor or any deacon and let them know. You may be surprised how even the simplest acts of kindness make the biggest difference!

Advent

Advent is here! Perhaps you've heard the term *advent* in reference to Christmas but are not exactly sure what it means. Advent is *the arrival of something anticipated*. So just like we have anticipated the arrival of the Christmas season this year, the Jewish people anticipated the arrival of the Christ. However, imagine spending your entire life anticipating the Christmas season only to never experience it.

Think about advent from the perspective of all the people mentioned in the genealogy of Jesus Christ in Matthew 1. From Abraham to David and beyond, there were many saints who spent their entire lives anticipating the arrival of the Christ, only to never see it. So did God lie to these Old Testament saints since they never witnessed the fulfillment of His promise?

"Arrival of Something Anticipated"

Far be it from God! God's faithfulness and veracity are not contingent upon us seeing in our lifetime the fulfillment of all God's promises. The Old Testament saints understood this. We may not see the fulfillment, but just like Abraham and David, we are seeing God's present, active work. Here is the application for us this advent season: *Take time to recognize God's present, active work in your life*. Slow down and take time to reflect and meditate; for it is God's present, active work in our lives that gives us confidence that God will bring all things to completion.

Merry Christmas!
Pastor Andrew

COVID-19 Update

The leadership at SBC is committed to continuing in-person Sunday morning worship as much as possible. If we must cancel, we will post it online (Facebook Live-stream) and send notices to our email chain with more information.

If you are able to worship with us in-person, please remember there is hand sanitizer available at all entrances, offering boxes are available for giving (no plate is passed), and communion will be set up for minimal contact. Mask wearing is left up to the individual and their families.



Finish STRONG

Philippians 3:13

Rather than looking to the past, or to ourselves, we ought to look forward, to an eternity with the Lord.



Pastor Andrew:
Tuesdays 10am to 4pm

Office / Annie
T/W/Th 9am to 1pm
(Although may be working from home during heightened COVID days, call first)

What's Up?

We want to reach as many folks as possible and in these crazy COVID days, that can be challenging. Here are a few ways we try to keep information current and available.

Facebook:

Sterling Baptist Church—Livestream

You'll find our live Sunday morning worship service, videos from Pastor, Sunday School classes by Darrell and lots of other good information.

Sterling Baptist Church Friends and Family

Here, you'll find announcements, news, and general updates.

Web:

www.sterlingbaptist.org

This is a great site for visitors to learn about our church as well as links to our missionaries, general group, club info, as well as information on ways to give. PLUS—it has our church and building calendar.

Email Chain:

Make sure we have your email(s) so we can send out any sudden announcements, prayer requests and share needs as soon as possible.

Come worship!

Unless SBC leadership decides it is safest for services to be online only, we plan to meet each Sunday for worship.

A Moment with our Missionaries

As we count down to Christmas, it's a great time to pick a missionary and pray for them!

Here is a list of the current missionaries Sterling Baptist Church Supports.

Barry & Anita Beiles—Spain
John & Joanna Frey—England
Mike & Rachel Gustafson—Ukraine
Higher Ground—Sterling, AK
John Mark & Deborah Steel—Uruguay
Pastor Lague Vaye & Jake Memorial Baptist College
Kristy Walker—Berlin, Germany
Tim & Barbara Whatley—Peru



Keep an eye out on the Facebook Friends and Family page where updates from our missionaries are posted. There is also a large binder in the resource room where hard copies can be found.

Want to Get Involved?

At our annual meeting in February, we will be voting on folks who are willing to commit in a variety of roles. Take a look, do you see an area you would like to help in? If so, talk to Pastor or a deacon asap. Maybe you don't want to lead or be formally in such a group, but would like to help those that do—let pastor know and he can chat with you and get you hooked up!

To Vote on:

Deacon
Church Clerk
Sunday School Superintendent
Head Usher
Nominating Committee
Audit Committee
Missions Committee
Fellowship Committee

Other Groups & Areas to Help:

AWANA
Women's or Men's Groups
Teen Youth Group
Music Ministry
Bible Reading during Service
Sound System/Recording
Security

Got questions? Please ask! We love helping folks get involved however they are able!

Ministry Leaders—It's That Time...

If you are in charge of a ministry, *and you know who you are (hint hint—see above)*, it's time to start planning for the annual meeting in February.

It is really up to you what you'd like to include. Contact Annie if you'd like last year's submission sent to you as an example.

Packet submissions are due to the office by January 15th.

Children of the King

Notes from Miss Mary

Memory Verse

An amazing number of children and youth recited 10 verses in 10 weeks! I am so proud of them! We always have memory verses to work on in Children's Church and once Sunday School Starts up. If you are working with your parents on any Bible memory project, come tell me about it, I'd love to hear you!

Parents, if you'd like help on choosing some verses to work on with your children, please find me, I'd love to help.

Upcoming Events

Weekly

Sundays

-Online Bible Study
-Worship @11
-Evening Worship @ 6

Wednesdays

-Online Moments with Pastor
-Awana @ 7

Thursdays

-Men's Group @ 7am
(Ammo Can)

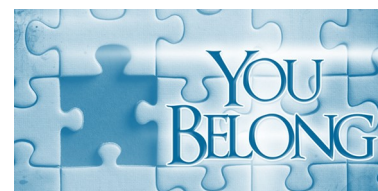
December Events

6 Communion Sunday
18 Teen Christmas Party with Grace Brethren
20 Business Meeting
21 Family Christmas with Pancake Breakfast
25 Christmas
27 Community Game Night

Awana is cancelled December 23rd & 30th

Interested in Membership?

Please let Pastor Andrew know and he'd be happy to chat with you about joining Sterling Baptist Church. He loves the opportunity to share why church membership is important, our church's history, it's government and any other questions you might have.



Sterling Baptist Church
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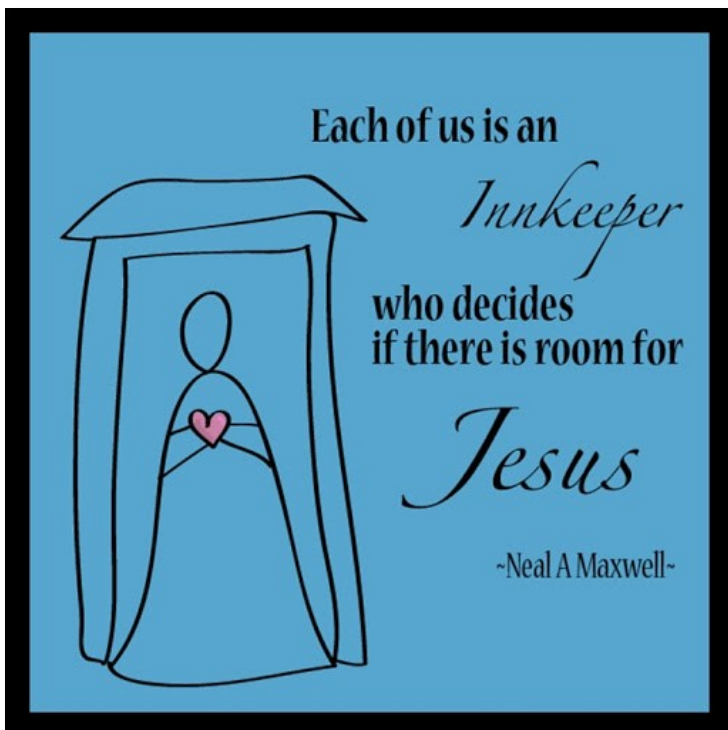
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SBC News



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