



Little River
BAPTIST ASSOCIATION
Serving The Church. Serving The Kingdom.

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January 2023 Edition

“One More Year to Live”

*“A certain man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard; and he came and sought fruit thereon, and found none. Then said he unto the dresser of his vineyard, Behold, these three years I come seeking fruit on this fig tree, and find none: cut it down; why cumbereth it the ground? And he answering said unto him, Lord, let it alone **this year** also, till I shall dig about it, and dung it: And if it bear fruit, well: and if not, then after that thou shalt cut it down.” (Luke 13:6-9)*

The passage above is a parable given by our Lord that has a sobering truth. As most of you know, a parable is an earthly story with a heavenly truth. Jesus used these parables to illustrate spiritual truth to his disciples. The story of a fig tree would be very familiar to the people who lived in that day. To simplify the story; a man owned a vineyard. In that vineyard he had a fig tree. Now, the purpose of a fig tree is to produce figs. That is why it is in existence. The very existence of a fig tree would lead to believe that there will be figs present at some point. A fig tree, like any other fruit tree is useless if it does not produce fruit. It is just occupying space without fruit.

For three long years, this farmer has sought fruit from his fig tree to no avail. This empty tree has brought nothing but frustration to the farmer, so he approaches the man who was keeping the vineyard for him, *“Just go ahead and cut down this old fig tree. It's not bringing forth any fruit. It's just cluttering up the ground. Just cut it down and let's get rid of it.”*

Now, the keeper of the vineyard having more patience says, *“Sir, let's give this fig tree **one more year**. Let me work on this fig tree. Let me dig around it and fertilize the soil. If at the end of the year there is still no fruit, then we can cut it down.”* That's an amazing truth, isn't it? **One more year to live.** The fig tree had only one more year to produce and then it would be all over.

What would you do if you knew that you had only one more year to live? Many of our family, friends, classmates, and co-workers did not make it to the end of 2022. What if 2023 is your last year? What if you had only one more year to live? Would you do things different?

The truth of the matter is that we do not know. The only certainty about life is the uncertainty of life. **Proverbs 27:1**, “Boast not thyself of tomorrow for thou knowest not what a day may bring forth.” James says *“... your life, it is even a vapor that appears for a little time and vanishes away.”*

Although, there are many things about life that is uncertain. The Bible tells us that death is a certainty. Unless Jesus Christ tarries His coming, it is a certainty that one of these days you and I are going to die. The Bible tells us that. The Bible says, *“It is appointed unto man once to die, and after this the judgment.”* Death is certain. Only the timing of our death is uncertain.

What would you do if you really knew that this would be your last year? I would hope if you have never invited Jesus into your heart and made him Lord of your life, that should be your first decision. However, if you know the Lord... What about your commitment and service to him? Maybe this is the year to make the decision to follow him in church membership, baptism, Sunday School, or even a mission trip?

Probably most of us have many years to live. I pray that will be true. Yet, you know as well as I, for some of us, and yes, I include myself here... one year from now we may be in eternity? If this were your last year, what would you want to do? Live your days for the Lord, you'll never regret it.

Have a Happy New Year!

In Christ

Bro. Bobby



January Calendar of Events

- 1– New Year’s Day- (Office Closed)
- 2– New Year’s Day Observed- (Office Closed)
- 9– Executive Team Meeting, 6:00 p.m.
- 9– Mission Board Meeting, 7:00 p.m.
- 10– New England Partnership Mission Trip Meeting, 6:30
- 16– Martin Luther King Day (Office Closed)
- 31– Women’s John Part 2 Bible Study Begins

Missions Opportunity



Little River Baptist Association
 New England Mission Trip 2023
 (April 1-7, 2023)

*Come to the New England area to share
 the Gospel of Jesus Christ!*

We will schedule another New England partnership meeting on **Tuesday, January 10th at 6:30PM** at the **Little River Baptist center**.

If you came to the first information meeting, it is not necessary to come to this meeting. However, due to the fact that advanced planning is needed for work, plane tickets and lodging, as well as transportation...

By **February 1st, 2023**

- Each person planning on attending will need to fill out a registration form, including (name as it appears on Driver’s License/Passport.)

Registration forms available at LRBA or by email.

- **\$100 deposit** to secure ticket/lodge

Deposit by Check **only** (preferably thru your home church)

FINANCIAL REPORT FOR DECEMBER

Church	Regular	Special
Bethany	0	
Blue Spring	1,578.17	
Buffalo	0	
Cadiz	1,234.00	
Canton	848.96	1,250.00
Cerulean	597.00	
Crossroads	200.00	
Delmont	0	
Donaldson Creek	701.58	
East Cadiz	596.46	
Hurricane	400.00	
Liberty Point	770.45	
Locust Grove	766.00	
Maple Grove	350.00	
New Hope	194.76	
New Jerusalem	0	
New Light	50.00	
Oak Grove	467.90	
Ponderosa	404.84	
Rock Front	200.00	
Rocky Ridge	326.00	
South Union	169.80	
Wallonia		
Misc. Income	400.00	1,250.00
Total	10,255.92	1,250.00
		11,505.92
Interest NOW Acc.	3.28	
Deaf Ministry		250.00
Van Replacement		1,000.00
Subtotals	10,259.20	1,250.00
Total income		\$11,509.20
Monthly expense		\$13,733.63
Regular Fund		
Beginning Balance		40,012.89
Interest Received		3.28
Gifts		10,323.39
Trans– Contingency Fund		(100.00)
Trans– Van Replacement Fund		
Trans– Building Maintenance Fund		(100.00)
Trans– Mev Fredenburg Fund		
Expense Checks Written		(12,141.27)
Ending Balance		\$37,998.29
Treasurer: Louise Fuller 12/25/22		

Happy Birthday!

Pam Mitchell– 1/3
 Chris Downing– 1/15
 Daniel Colley– 1/19