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December 16, 2018

Dear First Baptist Church Family,

Merry Christmas and may your heart and mind remain focused on Jesus Christ, the reason for this and every season of life! I am so thankful for Jesus Christ and to be a member of His Church!

This is the 3<sup>rd</sup> letter in our efforts to refocus on the 2020 Vision Initiative. The purpose of this initiative is to effectively communicate FBC's mission and vision so that we as a church will know who we are and where we are going.

- Our mission: **transforming stories through the gospel of Jesus Christ.**
- Our vision: **we desire to see communities thriving to the glory of God!**
- To accomplish this hope we are focusing on seven big words: GATHER, FOLLOW, REST, BELONG, LOVE, SERVE, and GO!

We have already covered GATHER (Acts 2:37-47) and FOLLOW (Mark 1:17 and 1 John 2:6). If you missed some of those Sundays, you can watch or listen to those sermons and/or read the sermon notes on our new and improved website at [www.newcastlefbc.org](http://www.newcastlefbc.org). Please check this out.

On January 2, 2019, we will kick off an 8-week sermon series called **REST**, which is built on Jesus' invitation of Matthew 11:28-30. Jesus is inviting us: **"Come to Me all who are weary and heavy-laden..."** You won't want to miss a single message of this life-transforming series!

In fact, at FBC every Sunday service aims your head and heart at Jesus Christ with the hope of . . .

- Helping you grow closer to Jesus Christ as His disciple (follower) and to one another as fellow members of Jesus' Church.
- Encouraging you to be a closer follower of Jesus than you were a year ago.
- Having FBC be more like the Acts 2 Church than we were a year ago.

**One of the ways we are going to do this in the new year is by prayerfully inviting the FBC Family to participate in the "7:1 Initiative". We encourage you to invest in 7 friendships at FBC (new or existing) and in 1 place of service at FBC (a new ministry or a place where you are already serving).** We believe that if you do this, it will not only change your experience at FBC, but your neighbors' experiences as well. Because we reap what we sow, this will make FBC everything you hope, dream, and pray we would become as a church, for the sake of our communities we serve. This is located in the heart of God's Word that says, **"Let us not lose heart in doing good, for in due time we will reap if we do not grow weary"** (Galatians 6:9).

I hope you have been joining us. If not, I hope you will join us in the new year. We have a lot to celebrate in Jesus as His Church. You are invited to get involved and join us in the celebration.

Merry Christmas & Blessed New Year,

Pastor Jerry Ingalls