



CHRISTIAN CALLER

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**MISSION STATEMENT: WE DESIRE TO HONOR GOD
BY LEADING PEOPLE TO BECOMING FULLY DEVOTED
FOLLOWERS OF JESUS CHRIST.**

A WORD FROM OUR PASTOR

And so the decorations come down. The adornments, the garland and ribbons, the trapping and flashy lights that cover up and make the ordinary look somehow more special and beautiful ... it all gets put away for another year and we start anew, over... a new year, a fresh beginning starts. There is no hiding behind the trapping. The past year reveals itself to be what it was. You can “Christmas” it up, and make it look better than it was, but when the decorations come down reality is left staring you in the face. For some this past year was very hard, and raw, and painful with lots of heartaches and changes that left an effect on the deepest of levels. For some it wasn’t perhaps very easy to navigate. Or maybe it was just routine for you, another year come and gone, no big deal, you just got through it... status quo... same-ole-same-ole... another year in the books. Old struggles still find you struggling. Habits still hold you. Attitudes still cling. Relationships still need to be mended or started, or ended as the case may be. And spiritually... well, spiritually it’s time to go deeper, but you still can’t seem to get out of the shallow end. Again, we can adorn it, tinsel it up, put lights on it but pretty soon the coverings we hide behind have to come down.

Maybe you’ve heard the “lipstick on a pig” statement... “You can put lipstick on a pig, but it’s still a pig!” It is a rhetorical expression, used to convey the message that making superficial or cosmetic changes is a futile attempt to disguise the true nature of something... a person, a product, a problem, a struggle... whatever it is. Charles Haddon Spurgeon, respected and powerful preacher, said it like this, “A hog in a silk waistcoat is still a hog.” Lipstick on a pig... okay, sometime we feel just like a pig wallowing around in the same old muck year after year, and year after year as a new year begins we put the “lipstick on the pig” but it doesn’t take long before the lipstick comes off and we are still the pig. We make lots of promises and resolves as new years start... the lipstick, and the promises fall by the way side nearly as soon as we kiss the new year. Jesus’ promises to bring true and lasting change to our lives and the resources and supply necessary for those changes is more than cosmetics on a pig... more than “Christmas” cover. The Apostle Paul tell us that when we come to Christ the promise is real in 2 Corinthians 5:17, “*Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.*” Changed for real... not mere putting of make-up on a pig here! Jesus Christ changes us... changes our life. And we are to be “transformed” as Paul says in Romans 12:1-2, “*I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service. ² And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.*” Again, changed! Changed by Jesus... not decorations on a pig. Jesus can and will change us! You want real answers, real change for the new year? You want real “new” this year? Hang all your hopes and dreams, and plans, and future on Jesus.

This year as a new year begins let’s look to the One who can bring lasting change to your life, who can enable us to overcome the things that have long plagued us, who can solve our dilemmas and heal our wounds, who can fix relationships and mend broken hearts. Let’s look to and wade out of the shallow end to Him who can truly take us deeper. Wipe the make-up off...the mask of pretend, get rid of the waistcoat Spurgeon speaks of, no more hiding, no more concealing, no more pretending... just you and Jesus and the change He wants to make in you. **Happy New Year! I love you, Bro. Buddy**

YOUTH NEWS—REMIND+

*“Blessed be the Lord, who daily bears us up; God is our salvation. Selah
Our God is a God of salvation, and to God, the Lord, belong deliverances from death.” – Psalm 68:19-20*

2021 is now left to the historians and it is time for us to move along to a new year. It’s interesting my whole life this time of year is always met with a stirring optimism and excitement for a fresh start. However, in a post COVID world it seems, such positivity is quickly squashed. The cynicism of our day has so overtaken us that we can no longer look at a new year as a new opportunity, but with dread at what awful thing awaits us.

It is for this reason that I wanted to use my newsletter this month for a gentle reminder as we start this New Year that our God is a God of salvation. 2022 may be filled with many unknowns but one that the Lord will daily bear us up. You know what that means? That means for the next 365 mornings you will wake up with new mercies, new blessings, and a new opportunity to embrace this God of salvation or to continue in the fear-stricken misery of a lost world. I believe that God wants to do something big in 2022, and I will be seeking it out with you my church. My prayer is that you will join me in celebrating our God who is our salvation. **Happy New Year! In Christ’s love, Trey Johnson.**

MUSIC NOTES

HAPPY NEW YEAR everyone. Don't you just love when things are brand new and clean? I love getting to start over with a brand new year with brand new opportunities.

If you started this new year deciding now was the time to join our amazing adult choir, then DO IT! It's the perfect time to start. Please come. We'd love to have you.

In His Name, Nancy

WMU

Our Lottie Moon Christmas Offering goal was \$3,500. To date we have raised \$8,180. The WMU will not meet in January. **Happy New Year!**

CHILDREN'S CORNER

Happy New Year to all!!! How blessed we were by our children, youth & adults during the Christmas musical. A special thank you to Kim Hodge for planning and coordinating the program. We are so blessed to have her at FBC Buda. Thank you Kim, Carole Hite, Cindi Blackmon, Truman Sullivent, and Zach Sellers, as well as everyone else who helped with the children for the musical.

Our AWANA program will start back on January 5. God has blessed us with so many children. We had a challenge from Thanksgiving to Christmas between the boys & girls to see who could bring the most canned goods for the food pantry at Buda United Methodist Church. For the 1st time in 4 years the girls won and the boys graciously served the girls milk and cookies. The most important part was that we gave more than **700 canned goods** from AWANA and then the church added greatly to that number. The pantry director from the church said our donation would help them get thru the holiday season. Thank you AWANA's and church for your donations. *In Christ's love, Children's Ministry Team*

JANUARY AT A GLANCE

Jan. 5	Midweek Services Prayer meeting, 6:00 PM Adult Bible Study, 6:30 PM AWANAs & Youth, 6:30 PM Choir Practice, 7:30 PM
Jan. 6	Ladies Bible Study, 10:00 AM
Jan. 11	Precept Bible Study, 1:00 PM
Jan. 12	Midweek Services Prayer meeting, 6:00 PM Adult Bible Study, 6:30 PM AWANAs & Youth, 6:30 PM Choir Practice, 7:30 PM
Jan. 13	Ladies Bible Study, 10:00 AM
Jan. 16	Business Meeting after AM service
Jan. 18	Precept Bible Study, 1:00 PM
Jan. 19	Midweek Services Prayer meeting, 6:00 PM Adult Bible Study, 6:30 PM AWANAs & Youth, 6:30 PM Choir Practice, 7:30 PM
Jan. 20	Ladies Bible Study, 10:00 AM
Jan. 25	Precept Bible Study, 1:00 PM
Jan. 26	Midweek Services Prayer meeting, 6:00 PM Adult Bible Study, 6:30 PM AWANAs & Youth, 6:30 PM Choir Practice, 7:30 PM
Jan. 27	Ladies Bible Study, 10:00 AM
Jan. 29	Youth Hang Out, 6:00 PM
Jan. 30	The Lord's Supper after AM Service