

BIBLE BAPTIST TABERNACLE

(The Digital Edition)



e-News and Notes

January 4, 2026

FROM THE PASTOR

My wife and I went to Pigeon Forge this week with Craig, Suzanne, Samuel, and Jake. The locals said it was the busiest week of the year. All the hotels had "No Vacancy" signs. We were at Whispering Pines, and no other rooms were available. Suzanne could only take Samuel this week due to school starting back, so that was her reason for going now. I am not sure if she asked us to go along or we volunteered to go. I asked her, but she could not remember.

The traffic was terrible, and stores and restaurants were full. We tried to get in some restaurants, but there was a 40-minute wait. I-40 through the mountains had traffic moving at 2 mph with several mile-long backups. We met some sweet folks from other states who loved our Lord. Freedom Baptist Church, where I preached often, is struggling with only having a few folks in attendance, but Morristown Baptist has added many and are growing with a new pastor out of Pickens, South Carolina.

Please pray and support Brother Tony and Brother Scott as they preach our morning and evening services today. God has given us many godly preachers here. Let's thank Him.

Fresh Start Sunday

Brother Scott will head up "Fresh Start Sunday" today by giving us ideas of things we can do to get a "Fresh Start" this year. We all need a "fresh start" at times. We often get slack at doing critical things in our life. Just the idea of having a "fresh start" is a comfort and encouragement to our hearts. This is a great time to dedicate yourself again to doing things for God. Whether you need a "fresh start" in your Bible reading, your prayer life, your witnessing, your giving, family altar, your marriage, or inviting people to the house of God, this is the time to start. God is a God of FRESH STARTS!

New Year

There are so many opportunities placed before us during this new year. There are souls living forever, many burning forever, and some may be our relatives or friends. May God get hold of our hearts to reach all possible for Him.

Ladies' Corner

Can you imagine an Israelite leaving Bethlehem to go to Moab? Elimelech who was an Ephrathite (descendants of Ephraim who was Joseph's son) took his whole family to Moab. Moab was located east of the Dead Sea and originated from the sin of Lot and his daughter. Joseph was forced to leave his family and was sold into slavery, but **Elimelech CHOSE to leave**. He did not wait on God to provide food and went outside of God's will to see if he could find something better. His influence did not stop with him but affected his wife Naomi and her two sons. When Elimelech died, **Naomi still stayed in Moab**. It was not until her sons died that she decided to go back to God. When all was lost, she decided to go home. You can see how Naomi changed being in Moab so long. She told her daughters-in-law to return to their homes, but Ruth was persistent in going with Naomi. She said in Ruth 1:15, "And she said, Behold thy sister-in-law is gone back unto her people, and unto her gods, return thou after thy sister-in-law." This verse is very sad as you have a mother-in-law who does not try to encourage both of her daughters-in-law to go with her back to God. She even lets one go back to her homeland to serve her gods. When you are backslidden, you never see anyone else. You are not concerned with your own family's spiritual welfare. Maybe Naomi was unsure how it was going to be when she went back home. Maybe she thought all was lost and there was no hope for her and no hope for her daughters-in-law either. As low as Naomi got, she knew she must return to HIM. As far as she had gone, God, with his all-seeing eyes, still brought her through. God gave her a daughter-in-law who was willing to work. Did God stop there with Naomi? No! He restored Naomi and even gave her a grandchild to watch grow. She did not know that Jesus Christ would come through the union of Boaz and Ruth. Many times we only see what is in front of us in our lives and not what God sees in our future. No matter how far we get away from God, if we return to Him, He can restore us.

Ladies' Bible Study (Date Change)

The ladies' monthly Bible study will resume in the month of January after skipping the month of December due to the holidays. We will meet on **Thursday, January 15** (one week later than normal), at 7 pm, at the home of Mary Jo Sumner. We will continue our study on the life of David and will be in II Samuel 19. Please join us, if possible.

Ladies' Winter Party—Postponed

The ladies' winter party will be postponed for a few weeks due to so much sickness among our people. We will give you a new date as soon as possible.

Special Services

Please remember the special services we have planned to help us compel people to come to hear the Word of God. If you have more ideas for special services, please give them to one of the men.

January 18 Youth Night (led by youth)
February 15 Don't Break My Heart Sunday
February 28 Whispering Pines Ladies' Meeting (Hartsville)
(10 am – 1 pm)

TCS
Tabernacle will start the second half of the school year tomorrow as students return from Christmas break. God has given the ministry such a fantastic staff with a heart to see the school go forward and to see children's lives impacted for Christ. We look forward to all God has in store for this upcoming year!

The teams of TCS will resume their season this week, playing in Lancaster on Thursday and back at home on Friday.

College Students

Some of our distance college students will head back to school soon. Josiah was only able to come in a few short days. Others will leave next Sunday if not sooner. Perhaps the Lord will lead you, like some have already done, to eat a meal with them or find a few minutes to just encourage them. No place can be as encouraging as home and the people here!

DEALING WITH ETERNAL SOULS WILL CHANGE OUR WHOLE DAY!

Hurricane Helene

The damage and lives lost in the storm that was 7-10 hours away from the ocean is still shocking. Helene cost 108 lives in North Carolina, 50 in South Carolina, 37 in Georgia, 34 in Florida, and 19 in Tennessee. The cost is now 59.6 billion dollars in North Carolina, 13.9 billion dollars in Florida, 6.46 billion dollars in Georgia, 1.48 billion dollars in South Carolina, and 1.35 billion dollars in Tennessee. I-40 through the North Carolina mountains is still hardly passable with one-lane traffic each way for nearly 50 miles. It destroyed 126,000 homes, 6,000 miles of roads were damaged, and there were 1,400 landslides. It is unbelievable. It was solely an act by God.

TCS Alumni Game

The TCS alumni game was scheduled for Friday, January 30. Although this worked very well for the school with an open Friday, it was difficult for some of the alumni. We are now looking at Friday, February 20. We will let everyone know more information in the next week or two.

Death

The Jordan family had a 19-year-old young, godly friend who was killed in a wreck on Tuesday morning in Iredell County. Brianna Brown played the piano in church and tent revivals, wrote over 100 songs, and sang with her family since childhood. Please pray for this family and those who knew her.

Upcoming Events

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January 4 am pm	Brother Tony Mangum Brother Scott Couick
January 18 pm	Youth Night
February 15	Terry Stevens <i>Don't Break My Heart Sunday</i>
February 28 (10 am – 1 pm)	Whispering Pines Ladies' Meeting (Hartsville)

Sunday Ushers for January

Robert Baker, Derek Burnette, Tommy Hinson, Mark Jenkins, Jr., John Minter, and Rolf Storz

Substitutes: Job Mangum and Craig Mills

Wednesday Ushers for January

Reagan Griffin, Benjamin Hood, Elliot Howard, Rhett Ratliff, Lincoln Richardson, and John Royal

Birthdays

January 6 Debbie Stevens
Nursery

January 4 am Debbie Stevens
pm Eden Mangum

Toddler Church

January 4 am Madison Howard
pm Ginger Couick

***There will be no more Wednesday night Toddler Church until further notice.

TODAY IS THE FIRST DAY OF THE REST OF YOUR LIFE!