



**Church Attendance**

**December 21st**

Wednesday Night NA

**December 25th**

Sunday School NA

Sunday Worship 107

**W.O.N.**  
White Oak Newsletter  
White Oak Hill  
Free Will Baptist Church



**From  
Pastor Hal**



**HOPE IS HERE**

We wait in hope for the Lord;  
He is our help and our shield.  
Psalm 33:20

I hope each of you enjoyed a wonderful Christmas! If you couldn't attend the Christmas service, we missed you. But the spirit of the Lord could be felt from the beginning to the end. Before the service even began Brother Randy and the Wall family blessed us by singing "Beautiful Star of Bethlehem". Brother Randy would later sing "O Holy Night" for the special music. I thank the Lord we have such gifted people at White Oak Hill FWB Church. Maybe you are following the Daily Bible Reading Calendar for your Bible reading schedule. Then you would have just finished the book of Nehemiah. The David Jeremiah Study Bible (page 640) has this say about the importance of music in the Bible.

"At each defining moment in Israel's postexilic history-when Zerubbabel led the people home, Nehemiah rebuilt the city walls, or Ezra rebuilt the temple itself-music helped the people see the "big picture" of what God had done. There was a song of worship when the new temple was rededicated (Ezra 2:41,65; 3:10-13) and during the revival led by Ezra after the wall was completed. The dedication ceremony at the temple was an occasion of boundless joy. Singers were in full voice and the priest sacrificed great offerings." Our singers were in full voice and the church was praising the Lord Jesus on His birthday. What a beautiful way to finish the Sunday morning services in 2022.

\*BTW-Next Sunday is the first day of 2023. We get to worship the King of Kings on the very first day of the year. HOW EXCITING!



In the foyer of the church are the 2023 Daily Bible Reading Calendars, the remaining uncollected Christmas cards, and the offering envelopes for 2023. Many of you use these envelopes to systematically give your first fruits to the Lord each Sunday. THANK-YOU! I look forward to sharing with you how the Lord has used your faithful stewardship for His glory in 2022.



Our church theme for January 2023 will be "View From The Mountaintop." The theme verse will be Numbers 13:30 "And Caleb stilled the people before Moses, and said, Let us go up at once, and possess it; for we are well able to overcome it." I believe many of you know this passage of scripture is located in a defining moment for the Israelite nation. A moment when they elected to disbelieve God. They chose to refuse what God wanted to give them. And the rest is history. The children of God would wander in the wilderness for forty more years after that decision. But that is not what the Lord wanted for them. God guided them to Canaan and wanted to bless them in Canaan. The Israelites were supposed to walk off that mountain triumphantly. But they walked off that mountain a group of losers. They lost the blessing that was so close to them. And may I say that God also wants us to be triumphant! He wants us to walk on ground He can bless. However (like Israel) we find many Christians are wandering in the wilderness. They have wandered from their Sunday School class. Wandered from a faithful, regular attendance to church. Wandered from the mid-week Bible Study. But what breaks our hearts is they have wandered from family. And we sincerely miss those who have wandered away. Our church family wants you to know it! WE MISS YOU! Next year our church would like to encourage all the ones who are struggling to get back to their vibrant spiritual routine. We want to help you possess that sweet walk with God, and we want to do it with you. We are family and the view from the mountaintop is sweet for those who are willing to walk by faith. Those who are willing to walk where God is leading.

## COUPLES RETREAT

I need your help with something. Every year the church plans a Couples Retreat for those who would like to get away. It's always a fun time of year. But here's where I need your help. I don't want to schedule something just because the church has always done it. Would you let me know if you would be interested in attending a couples retreat next year? It would be the weekend before or the weekend following Valentine's Day. If you are interested in attending the retreat; where would you like to go? The least expensive place is Wrightsville Beach, followed by Nags Head and Myrtle Beach. Please give me some feedback very soon. The hotels are waiting for me to sign a commitment letter. Thank you in advance for your help.



Please don't forget we have a business meeting planned for Wednesday, the 28th. The minutes and recommended motions are in the foyer. I hope you have already picked up a copy and are praying for the Lord's direction. Because we have a lot to discuss, I will give a short Bible study and begin the business meeting at 7:30 p.m. There will still be classes for our youth on Wednesday.



On Sunday, January 1st we will get together at 5:00 to take down the Christmas decorations. I have changed my mind regarding the meal. If it's ok with everyone, the church will order two HUGE SUBS for dinner. Thank you to everyone who put the decorations up in the church before Christmas. They were such a blessing! But there's a season for everything. Let's take the decorations down on January 1 and get ready for another wonderful year. We are grateful to everyone who purchased a poinsettia. You could take them home now. Thank you for helping us to remember and honor what is close to your heart.



Mark your calendars! Lauren and Salvador's big day is just around the corner (Jan. 7th @ 3 p.m.). Our good friend Rev. Timothy Deans will be officiating the wedding. Everyone in the church is invited. Let me encourage you to pray for this sweet couple as they plan their "once in a lifetime" event.



Of course, we know Ms. Glenda Carroll has resigned from her position as the church's Office Administrator. She has graciously agreed to stay in her current position until her replacement can be trained. If you or anyone you know might be interested in serving the Lord full-time in her position at the church; please contact the pastor or a deacon. Ms. Glenda is such a sweet, gifted person. The church will miss her sitting in the office each week. Her position will be hard to fill. But we know God will bring the right person at the right time. Let's pray for the Lord to open hearts and open doors. Let's also pray for God's healing hand to be on her and her family.



Listed below are our prayer needs this week.

- Kay Dew- Please continue to pray for our dear brother as he battles cancer. The chemotherapy isn't working to reduce the size of the cancer. The doctors are going to try something different.
- Gregg Wall- Let's continue to pray for Gregg. He is back at work, but he not 100% healed.
- Patricia Register- Ms. Pat continues to need our prayers as she battles poor health. She had surgery on Tuesday for a port placement.
- Tim Riggs- Please pray for our former pastor. His kidneys are not working, and he is undergoing dialysis.
- Melisa Belcher- Melisa is much better. Thank you for your prayers. But let's continue to pray until she is completely healthy.
- Billy John Dew- Let's keep praying! His hemoglobin count is very low. As a result, he has no energy.
- Bailey Christian Childcare
- Sheryl Nelson Family- Please continue to pray for the Nelson family. They are still trying to find their footing after losing so many in the family this year.
- Dottie Massey- Ms. Dottie is getting better, but it's a slow recovery process.
- Lucille Beasley- Ms. Beasley is having some health problems.
- Joyce Batchelor- She is not feeling well.
- Ronnie Hill- Ronnie is still in Wilson Medical Center, but he is improving.
- Grace Fullerton- Bonnie Joyner's granddaughter is having some serious medical issues and the doctors are trying to diagnose the problem.
- Tyler & Alexandra Jefferis- Let's pray for the Lord's will for this family.

Love in Christ,

*Rev. Hal W. Jones III*  
Pastor Hal

# MISSIONS CORNER!

Please pray for these missionaries!



REACHING | PREACHING | DISCIPLINE

Dear Friends,

November 2022

It is with great heaviness of heart that Becki and I write this last newsletter for 2022. Bro. Carlton, who had been pastoring Faith Church, Agra, in my absence, passed away suddenly on Oct. 10. He was only 41. Please pray for his wife, Jenny, and their 4-year old daughter, Caren. (See attached picture) Jenny's brother, Raju, and I flew to Agra as soon as we could to bring some comfort to them; he is her only living family member. Caren only knows, "Daddy went to Jesus' house". Her words, although she doesn't fully understand, has profound meaning to those of us who do. Jesus said in John 14, "I go to prepare a place for you, and if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you unto Myself, that where I am, there ye may be also". We rejoice that Bro. Carlton is at Jesus' house with the Savior he loved and served, but our hearts grieve the loss of his presence here with us.

Not only is this a great loss for Jenny, it is also a great loss for Faith Church, who is now without a pastor. Someone once said, "Loving God is laying down your life in service to the Creator so that He can give it back to you." So the truth is, Bro. Carlton has never been more alive than he is right now. Raju plans to stay for a while to see the church and his sister through this difficult time. His wife, Shiya, and their 3 children recently flew out to join him and to serve as a family and be an encouragement to Jenny. We covet your prayers for this precious family and the family of Faith Church during this season of sadness and loss.



Thanksgiving is just weeks away, and it serves as a day to remember all the many blessings God has showered upon us. He has been a God Who provides, a God Who sees, a God Who hears, a God Who heals, a God Who saves, a God Who is near. . . a God Who is personal and intimate. He is everything He promises to be in His Word. For all that He is and all that He does, we praise His name (Ps. 150:2)! On a personal note, we welcomed the newest addition to the Patel tribe on Oct. 1. Jason and Stefanie's baby girl, Jailyn Renee Patel, entered our world and our hearts; and for all of God's goodness, we'll never be the same. So, on behalf of our family, we wish you and yours a very Happy Thanksgiving!

And as we all move forward into the Christmas holiday season, may God touch our hearts and homes with a sense of His glorious presence and a heart-felt desire to worship the King of kings and Lord of lords, for He alone is worthy! Merry Christmas and Happy New Year 2023!

By God's grace and for His glory,

*Hemant and Becki Patel*

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*"We never know how God will answer our prayers, but we can expect that He will get us involved in His plan for the answer. If we are true intercessors, we must be ready to take part in God's work on behalf of the people for whom we pray. You are someone else's miracle!" - Carrie ten Boom*

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Join the Patel email list by contacting us at [hpatel@faithfwbc.com](mailto:hpatel@faithfwbc.com) | Your financial support is greatly appreciated. Please send it to: Faith Free Will Baptist Church - Patel's Mission Account 1200 West Grantham St. Goldsboro, NC 27530 | Online giving available at [faithfwbc.com](http://faithfwbc.com) - Patel's Mission Account



# The Jones Family

*Jeff, Johanna, Daryelys, Jatinel & Jeffrey*

## Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year from the Jones family here in Panama! This is such a special time of year for all of us. We truly miss family and in friends during these days. We pray that each of you have a very Merry Christmas.

Since our last newsletter, we have had our ups and downs, and we ask for your continued prayers. In October, we had two birthdays in our family: my wife Johanna and our daughter Daryelys. Daryelys turned 18, and she decided to move back to her home town of David, Panama. We ask that you pray as she seeks God's guidance in her life.

November is a patriotic month here in Panama. During these days, Panama has at least four holidays, in which nothing gets done. On Thanksgiving, we invited another family to share a delicious meal together with us. We are so thankful for all the Lord has allowed us to do for HIM in these days. We are now in the month of December, which also has many activities and opportunities to reach others. December 8 is Mother's Day in Panama. On Sunday, December 4, we honored our mothers in our Sunday morning service. We gave a gift to each mother and honored the oldest mother, the mother with the most children present in the service, and the newest mother. We have been praying for one of our neighbors Bladimir for some time. He and his wife Karina have one month old baby girl named Victoria. Karina won the newest mother award; but even better, she came to know Jesus as her Savior! Please continue to pray as I believe the Lord is working on Bladimir's heart also. This year, we also gave the Woman of the Year award to Sister Brunilda Ponezo. Sister Brunilda helps in every way she can. She helps in our Sunday school class; she cleans the church; and almost every Saturday, she is there to go scavenging. Many times, she has made more than one trip in her car to bring children to church. She is very deserving of this award.

We would like to share with you some of our prayer requests. As you may recall, last year this time we were able to purchase a personal van to be able to use mainly for church. The van is a 2009 Nissan Urvan (small) 15 passenger van. We have had it since 2014, and it has been a good, but we have had to work on the fuel pump twice during this time, each time costing between \$2500 to \$4000. We recently had the scare that the pump was out again. Thankfully, it was fixed for a couple hundred dollars. We feel it is time to upgrade. If we can sell this van, we will still need between \$10,000-\$12,000 to upgrade to a more reliable van. Please pray about helping us with this upgrade. You can send your gift to our supporting church marked VAN.

If you or your church would like to help support the work on Panama, your support can be sent to Faith Church or give online at [www.faithfabc.com/give.html](http://www.faithfabc.com/give.html) by designating to the Jones' Account. We thank each of you for your prayers and financial support that makes it possible for us to serve the Lord here in Panama. We LOVE YOU in CHRIST JESUS!

## The Jones Family

*Jeff, Johanna, Daryelys, Jatinel and Jeffrey*

### Prayer Requests:

1. Health Issues
2. Immigration papers.
3. Van purchase
4. Land Fund
5. Family

Thank You So Much For Your Faithful Support!

Please send Contributions to:

Jeff Jones  
Mission Account

Faith FWB Church  
1200 W. Grantham  
St. Goldsboro, NC  
27530

100% of your gift will go directly to our account.

You can also give online at [www.faithfabc.com](http://www.faithfabc.com)

For more updates, please follow us on FACEBOOK at Church Planters/ Missionaries to Panama.

