



# Senior Heartbeat



TEMPLE  
BAPTIST CHURCH  
COME GATHER AROUND THE WORD

Dale Oden  
Minister of Pastoral Care  
dale.oden@temple-ruston.org

Fred Benefield  
President  
fredfam2@outlook.com

Eddie Blick  
Editor  
eddieblick@gmail.com

## Pilots for Patients

# Air service speaker set for January meeting

By Dale Oden

What a delightful Christmas luncheon and program we had for our December meeting!

There was a great crowd in attendance and the food was exceptionally good (Christmas food is always good.)

Hannah Parker blessed us with

"Songs of the Season." She is a talented young lady and has such a sweet spirit.

I had the privilege of having her two years in the 5th and then in the 6th grade Vacation Bible School a few years ago. Now she is a college student at ULM. My how time

flies!

The experience of working at the Operation Christmas Child Processing Center in Dallas was a very good one.

Eighteen of our senior adults worked hard for four hours getting the shoeboxes ready for shipment all around the world. The goal for

the Dallas location to pack was 1.7 million. They were already over halfway to that goal the afternoon we worked.

We hope to go back next year to help in this ministry, maybe even work two shifts instead of one.

I am looking forward to our January luncheon, Tuesday, Jan. 21. We will meet as usual at 11:45 a.m.

The program for this meeting will feature a representative from the Pilots for Patients organization out of West Monroe.

This is a group of pilots who fly patients to hospitals all over the county.

It is a nonprofit organization that started in 2008 and recently flew its 5,000th mission.

They have flown patients to hospitals in Houston, Galveston, Memphis and New Orleans. I hope that you will make plans to be here to

hear about this wonderful ministry.

The program for the Senior Adult Luncheon at the Louisiana Baptist Evangelism Conference looks good.

It will be held at the First Baptist Church, Lafayette, on Tuesday, Jan. 28.

Guest speaker will be Chad Williams, former Navy Seal

and author of the book, "SEAL of God."

Music will feature the group, Veritas. This is one of the groups we heard a couple of times in Pigeon Forge.

If you would be interested in going, please let me know. We might even work in a trip over to New Orleans to tour the National World War Museum.

HAPPY NEW YEAR! May God bless you and yours throughout 2020.

## Random thoughts to ponder

•If my body is ever found on a jogging trail, just know that I was murdered somewhere else and dumped there.

•Respect your elders. They graduated from school without the internet.

•I've decided I'm not old, I'm 45 — plus shipping and handling.

•Why do I have to press "1" for English? Did America move?

•We have enough gun control. What we need is idiot control.

•Behind every angry woman stands a man who has absolutely no idea what he did wrong.

•Behind every successful man stands a surprised mother-in-law.

•Let's stop sending money to other countries and let them hate us for free.

•Vegetarian: ancient tribal name for the village idiot who can't hunt, fish or light fires.

•I look at people and sometimes think, "Really? That's the sperm that won?"

•In my defense, I was left unsupervised.

•If guns kill people, then pencils misspell words, cars make people drive drunk and spoons make people fat.

•My decision-making skills closely resemble those of a squirrel when crossing the road.

•Some things are just better left unsaid — and I usually realize it right after I say them.

•We owe illegals nothing. We owe our veterans everything.

•Camping: Where you spend a small fortune to live like a homeless person.

•I thought getting old would take longer.

•A wise man once said ... nothing.

—From Fred Benefield



## Laugh lines

A woman said, "I am known as a backseat driver. Unfortunately, my husband tends to miss exits, stay in the passing lane too long, and not notice signs."

"After one long day's drive, during which we had taken turns at the wheel, I was glad to be home. As I headed up the stairs, I said, 'I am so exhausted!'"

"My husband replied, 'No wonder! You drove, and then you drove when I drove.'"

—

"Dear God, my prayer for 2020 is for a fat bank account and a thin body. Please don't mix these up like You did last year."

—From *The Joyful Noiseletter*

## Resolutions for later years

Written in 1699

- Not to marry a young woman.
- Not to keep young company, unless they desire it.
- Not to be peevish, or morose, or suspicious.
- Not to scorn present ways, or wits, or fashions, or men, or war, etc.
- Not to be fond of children.
- Not to neglect decency or cleanliness, for fear of falling into nastiness.
- Not to tell the same story over and over to the same people.
- Not to be covetous.
- Not to be over severe with young people, but give allowances for their youthful follies and weaknesses.
- Not to be influenced by, or give ear to, knavish tattling ser-

vants, or others.

•Not to be too free of advice, or trouble any but those who desire it.

•To desire some good friend to inform me which of these resolutions I break or neglect, and wherein, and reform accordingly.

•Not to talk much, nor of myself.

•Not to boast of my former beauty, or strength, or favor with ladies, etc.

•Not to hearken to flatteries, nor conceive I can be beloved by a young woman.

•Not to be positive or opinionative.

•Not to set for observing all these rules, for fear I should observe none.

—From *Friendly Words and Golden Thoughts*



from *JoyfulNoiseletter.com*  
©Martha Campbell  
Reprinted with permission

## The husband finally got the message

A man feared his wife wasn't hearing as well as she used to. Not quite sure how to approach her, he called the family doctor to discuss the problem.

The doctor told him there was a simple, informal test the husband could perform. "Here's what you do," said the doctor, "stand about 40 feet away and in a normal conversational speaking tone, see if she

hears you. If not, go to 30 feet, then 20 feet, and so on until you get a response."

That evening his wife was in the kitchen cooking. He thought, "I'm about 40 feet away." Then in a normal tone he asked, "Honey, what's for dinner?" No response.

So he moved about 30 feet from his wife and repeated, "Honey, what's for dinner?" Still no

response. He went to about 20 feet and called to her. Again no response.

Next, at the kitchen door, about 10 feet away: "Honey, what's for dinner?" Again there was no response. So he walked right up behind her: "Honey, what's for dinner?"

"For the fifth time, chicken!" she shouted.

—From *The Joyful Noiseletter*

## Revelation

*I knelt to pray when day was done,  
And prayed, "O Lord, bless every-  
one;*

*Lift from each saddened heart the  
pain,*

*And let the sick be well again."*

*And then I woke another day*

*And carelessly went on my way.*

*The whole day long I did not try*

*To wipe a tear from any eye;*

*I did not try to share the load*

*Of any brother on my road;*

*I did not even go to see*

*The sick man just next door to me.*

*Yet once again when day was done*

*I prayed, "O Lord, bless everyone."*

*But as I prayed, into my ear*

*There came a voice that whispered*

*clear:*

*"Pause, hypocrite, before you pray,  
Whom have you tried to bless today?*

*God's sweetest blessings always go*

*By hands that serve Him here*

*below."*

*And then I hid my face, and cried,*

*"Forgive me, God, for I have lied;*

*Let me but see another day*

*And I will live the way I pray."*

—Whitney Montgomery

## Our plan, God's way

# Make plans — not resolutions — for 2020

By Ann Clark

*"A man's mind plans his way, but the Lord directs his steps and makes them sure. (Prov. 16:9; Ps. 37:23; Prov. 20:24; Jer. 10:23)*

Have you made plans or even resolutions in the past that never came to pass? Perhaps you didn't follow through yourself, or things just didn't work out. If so, make the decision today that you're finished with fixing your mind on things that are in the past — things that you have repented about, that have been erased by the blood of Jesus, and that you can't do anything about now.

You have the power right now to turn away from yesterday and start focusing on what is in front of you today. Yesterday is a done deal! The clock cannot be turned back. Living in regret will only keep you from moving forward into the future.

If you've been thinking about the promises you made to yourself that you've broken, it's time to leave it all behind and say hello to the fabulous future that lies before you!

So, let's not focus on resolutions so much as plans themselves. We have all made plans — day to day plans, vacation plans, and heart longing plans. Perhaps there is a special plan in your heart right now and you are all excited and just know your special hope and plan must be God's plan for you as well. But then you are overwhelmed by circumstances which seem to refute the validity of your plan and doubt rears its ugly head.

This is when we know we need to begin seeking God in prayer. Because He holds the future, and who else are you going to trust? Through praying, reading God's Word and listening to the Spirit's prompting, you find that God will never leave you in doubt. Through prayer, study and patience, you can be sure that in His time He will reveal "His Plan," and His plan will be the best plan!

As you begin meditating, praying and studying, three things come to mind. Is your own plan not coming to

pass, are you listening to the promptings of the Holy Spirit, are you struggling with doubt, or is your belief level just wavering? This is where God's Word comes into play.

Your plan is like a seed sown in the ground, and you began to water it with the Word of God. God's Word is impregnated with life, wisdom, truth, power, and potential.

Remember, God only had to say, "Let there be" and it was. Every Word He speaks contains the power to create, and every promise He makes contains the seeds of its own fulfillment. Seeds, of course, have a scheduled season for fulfillment in your life and when they are watered with confident, faith-filled prayer, standing equally on the Scriptures and patiently awaiting God's timing — His Word cannot fail.

Once you grasp this truth, the words you say become loaded! Speaking them aloud releases God's blessing and fulfillment into your life. Jesus said "Whosoever says to this mountain, 'Be removed and be cast into the sea,' and does not doubt in his heart, but believes that those things he says will be done, he will have whatever he says."

Jesus continued by saying "Therefore I say to you, whatever you ask when you pray, believe that you receive them and you will have them." (Mark 11:23-24 NKJV) Notice that this Scripture deals with your mountain (your plan), what you say, your doubts and your ability to believe.

So, when discouragement has taken such a strong hold of your heart that you can't imagine a way out of your circumstances, remember your plan and ask the Holy Spirit for His help. The Holy Spirit will supply you with the ability to know God's will and what he is saying. Then not only will He show you what to do, He will empower you to do it and He will bring you into remembrance of the power of God revealed in His Word.

Don't make the mistake of thinking that because you don't know all

you would like to know or you're not making the progress you wish for that nothing is happening. Something is happening right now. Your faith is being stretched, your patience is being developed, your doubts are being confronted and conquered, and your own relationship with God is growing deeper.

The Scriptures reveal that He always prepares us in advance for what He has planned ahead for us. Why? Because it matters to God what you become on the way to where you are going. God is using this journey to teach you faith, refine your character, and equip you for challenges of the future.

**Prayer:** Holy Father, I thank You for Your awesome power that You have chosen to share with Your children. I don't even have to let evil circumstances run freely in my life. By opening my mouth and speaking the Word of God to my situation, Your power can be released to obliterate the enemy's work in my life. Thank you that you are with me even in times of desperation. Thank you for making me Your joint heir and for investing Your great power into my life. Thank you that when I cry out to you, I know you hear me. In Jesus' name, Amen.



"You don't need to make New Year's resolutions if you just follow this."

from [JoyfulNoiseLetter.com](http://JoyfulNoiseLetter.com)  
©Bob Vojtko  
Reprinted with permission

## Temple Baptist Church

1515 S Service Road West  
Ruston, LA 71270

NON-PROFIT  
US POSTAGE  
PAID  
PERMIT # 160  
RUSTON, LA

### Congratulations!!!

#### January Birthdays

1	Gay Carter	9	Ellen Davis	15	Kay Lueg	22	Hedy Norsworthy
1	Betty Lucas	9	Myra Nelson	16	Ronnie Cole	23	Janell Colvin
1	Jean Hall	9	Darene Larance	16	Tony Osbon	23	Bonnie Thomason
2	Jerri Underwood	9	Connie Eagles	17	Trudy Potter	23	Royce Wall
3	Jan Murphy	10	Priscilla Barfield	18	Bennie Loflin	25	Betty Wall
3	Nancy Darland	10	Glenda Robbins	19	Rachel Sibley	26	Mary Miller
4	Susie Woodard	11	Martha Vail	20	Beverly Aswell	27	Bridget Jones
5	Ted McKinney	12	Peggy Bain	20	Tommy Durrett	27	Jeannie McCartney
6	Margaret Hoogland	12	Stephanie Sisemore	20	Donna Ewing	28	Buddy Smith
6	Kay Anderson	13	Joe Lanning	20	Donna Henson	28	Royce Watson
7	Randy Alexander	13	Don Skains	20	Beverly Johnson	29	Diana Grigsby
7	Larry Neal	14	Joan Marie Edinger	21	Charles Winstead	31	Ronald McKneely
8	Francis Carson	15	Jo Farley	22	Alverne Morton		
9	Jack Cox	15	Donna Haight	22	Barney Sumrall		

#### January Anniversaries

16	Betty and Rodney Fuqua (1965 )	27	Margaret and Ed Aston (1957)
18	Shirley and Gerald Cobb (1957)	30	Zilla and Pat Cone (1981)
21	Bernadine and Don Skains (1959)		

*If you would like your birthday and/or anniversary added to the lists published each month in Senior Heartbeat, please call the Church Office (255-3745).*