

Sunday
 9:25 AM Adult Choir Practice
 10:00 AM Bible Teaching Hour
 11:00 AM Morning Service
 2:45 PM Adult Choir Practice
 3:00 PM Youth Choir Practice
 3:30 PM Adult Prayer Group
 4:00 PM Afternoon Service

Saturday 9:00 AM Men's Prayer Group

Wednesday 7:00 PM Prayer and Bible Study

For more information about Berean,

Please visit us online:



Services for Sunday, December 17, 2017

10:00 a.m. Celebration Assembly

One Day
 Jesus Is The Sweetest Name I Know
 Opening Prayer
 God Leads Us Along
 Seekers Of Your Heart
 Announcements
 Offertory
 The Wonder Of It All
 Name Of All Majesty

Brian Petro
 Pastor V. Mark Smith

Sunday Morning Forum Class

Pastor V. Mark Smith

11:00 a.m. Morning Worship Service

Call to Worship: **Ezekiel 36:33-38**
 I Sing The Mighty Power Of God
 Mighty Is Our God
 Blessed Be The Lord God Almighty
 BBC Adult Choir
 Announcements
 Scripture Reading: **Isaiah 9**
 Special Music

Brian Petro

The Solid Rock
 Offertory

Gary Moline

The Sweetest Name Of All

Sermon: The Spirit Speaks to Seven Churches The Blessed Church, pt. 2

Pastor V. Mark Smith

Scripture: Revelation 3:7-13

Tis So Sweet to Trust in Jesus
 I Will Bless The Lord

4:00 p.m. Afternoon Worship Service

15th Anniversary Dinner
 following the 11 a.m. service

The will be no afternoon service today.

FIFTEEN YEARS AND COUNTING

In five days, I will reach a personal milestone in the ministry of Berean Baptist Church. On December 22, 2002, the church called me to be the pastor. Last year, after 14 years, I became the longest serving pastor of Berean, and this year I complete 15 years in the pastorate. I thought I might give some background information of the decision to become pastor, and what I was doing before.

My entire adult life has been in the work of ministry. At 18 years, I became the youth minister at the Northside Baptist Church in Lexington, KY and held that position for the next 12 years. Near to the same time, I became the music director. At the ripe old age of 25, I was ordained as a deacon, and then at the age of 30, I felt the Lord's call to step up into the leadership of the adult department of the church. From the time I was 18, I began to amass a library for study, believing a teacher of God's word needed to be well informed in the doctrines of the faith. Before ordination, my church required I must know the New Hampshire Baptist Confession of Faith in its entirety with its supporting proofs. I learned these which provided my doctrinal foundation and was ordained to my office. In the following years until my fathers' retirement in 1994, I worked closely with him building on that doctrinal foundation.

After his retirement, another pastor came to our church, but he was not in agreement with the doctrines we were taught, which made it impossible for me to continue working in that church. I felt the Lord was leading me elsewhere and was expanding my opportunities for service. I came to California in January of 1997 intending to take a position in a Baptist Church in Napa, but soon found the Lord was not in that move. I began another search which led me to this church on the last Sunday of July 1997.

After interviewing with the former pastor of Berean, I felt the Lord would have me become a member here, and did so in October. It was only a brief time later that I was asked to become the music director, and so assumed that position in May 1998. I was also asked to be a teacher, and in the same year we began the long running Sunday Morning Forum Class. Again, the church called on me and I was asked to become a deacon. In those days, Jim Parker was the board chairman, but soon gave up the position. It was then I was asked to become chairman of the board.

Not wanting to dwell on negative issues, I must quickly pass over the details of a pastoral failure that made it necessary for me to head a search committee to install a new pastor. During the search, the deacons asked that I consider becoming the pastor. They also asked I become the interim pastor during the search. I assumed those duties in November of 2002 and told the board that I would pray and consider whether the Lord would have me candidate.

After determining the Lord would have me do this, I asked the church to vote to either accept or reject me, so I would not have a conflict of interest in heading the search committee. In the Lord's sovereign plans no more searching was needed. On Sunday night, December 22, 2002, I became the pastor of Berean. I didn't know how long the pastorate would last, but in God's good graces, our relationship has continued for 15 years. I do not desire to do anything but continue here. For as long as the Lord allows, and the good people of Berean desire, I am most happy and content to be your pastor.

The Church and the Lord have been good to me. I have no complaints and could not ask for more love, help, and goodwill than I have felt over these many years. By God's grace and His pleasure, I serve, and this is enough. Thank all of you for your kindness to me and my family.

Pastor V. Mark Smith

Romans Group Bible Study

Wednesdays at 7:00 p.m.

Men's and women's groups separate for an in-depth study of the book of Romans.

Thanksgiving Offering 2017

This year our Thanksgiving offering will be continued through December. Funds will go towards remodeling the platform area. Our plans are for new flooring, pulpit, and background visuals.

Please give generously. Christ is our head and we are His body!

Ladies Christmas Fellowship December 19 at 6:30 p.m.

All ladies and teen girls are invited to the home of Pauline DeWitt for an evening of fun, food, and fellowship.

Bring your favorite main dish or a dessert and a gift, (\$10 or less), for gift exchange.

Please contact Charlotte or Pauline with any questions.

Berean Baptist Members

Happy Birthday and Anniversary!

December 17—December 23, 2017

Chuck Endicott December 22

Anniversaries

No Anniversaries this Week

Prayer and Counseling

Prayer Room 9

For information on: salvation, baptism, membership in Berean Baptist Church, or to pray with someone concerning your specific needs, go to room 9 immediately following any of our preaching services.

Opportunities for Prayer

Adult Prayer Group

Sunday afternoon, 3:30 p.m., Room 9

Men's Prayer Group

Saturday mornings, 9:00 a.m.

New Years Eve FAKE Campout December 31 at 9:00 p.m.

Teens come join in the fun here at BBC!
New Years Eve FAKE Campout begins
December 31, 2017 at 9 p.m. and goes
until 7 a.m. January 1, 2018.

Each camper is asked to bring:

- * a sleeping bag & pillow
 - * a flashlight
 - * *and* \$5 for pizza and drinks
- See you there!

Bible Trivia

Who said—"O earth, earth, earth, hear
the word of the LORD." ?

See the answer next week.

Last Week's Answer:

David—1 Chronicles 29:14

Nursery Schedule

Sunday, December 17, 2017

10 am Infants/Toddlers Shelley Dudley
11 am Toddlers

Upcoming Sermon Titles

Sunday, 11:00 a.m.

December 24—Paradise Regained
December 31—The Blessed Church, pt. 3
January 7—The Blessed Church, pt. 4
January 14—The Blessed Church, pt. 5
January 21—The Blessed Church, pt. 6
January 28—The Sickening Church, pt. 1

Sunday, 4:00 p.m.

December 24—6 PM Candlelight Service
December 31—Dalton A. Abshire, Sr.
January 7—The Lord's Supper
January 14—The Garments of the Priest, pt. 4
January 21—The Garments of the Priest, pt. 5
January 28—The Garments of the Priest, pt. 6

Wednesday, 7:00 p.m.

December 20—Romans Bible Study
December 27—No Service
January 3—No Service
January 10—Romans Bible Study
January 17—Romans Bible Study
January 24—Romans Bible Study
January 31—Romans Bible Study

Church Calendar

December 19—Ladies Christmas Fellowship
December 24—Christmas Eve Candlelight
Service - 6 P.M.
December 27—No Service
December 31—Teen's Fake Campout

Tithes and Offerings

Week of: November 30—December 6, 2017

General Offering	\$ 5429.53
Budget Surplus	\$ 19604.51

*For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given:
and the government shall be upon his shoulder:
and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counselor,
The mighty God, The everlasting Father,
The Prince of Peace.*

Isaiah 9:6