



Elm Grove Baptist Church
8180 Barksdale Boulevard
Bossier City, LA 71112

Address Service Requested

White Steeple Banner

Elm Grove Baptist Church

January 2018, Volume 17, #1

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Dr. Brian D. Prucey, Pastor
Charles Anderson, Music/Ed Minister
James Snyder, Youth Minister



==== *Pastor's Pen* ====

In February of 2016, the New York Post published an article reporting how long it takes for people to abandon their New Year's resolutions.

Based on data from the online grocer FreshDirect, customers' liquor and wine consumption picked up by about 40 percent in the first two weeks of February—while juice-cleanse sales dropped by 25 percent. Shoppers also bought 15 percent more ice cream and desserts, and 35 percent more pizza, in early February than during the first two weeks of January.

A study by the cell phone apps Foursquare and Swarm shows that February 4th (35 days into the New Year) is the day people are most likely to fall off the wagon. The apps analyzed users' check-ins and found that date marks an uptick in visits to fast-food joints and a downturn in trips to the gym.

What began with good intentions falters. Those who made such grand commitments abandon them in short order.

I guess there is something about we humans that leans us heavily toward failure. I supposed that's why we celebrate victories with great enthusiasm. Winning is so foreign to us.

We see that truth in our lives. We have all made New Year's resolutions and abandoned those lofty goals before Valentine's Day. We make commitments to be better in our relationships, and we fail. We make commitments to be better stewards of what God has given us—our bodies, our time, our talents, and our treasures—and we fail.

We make commitments to serve our church; to be more faithful in attendance, in giving, or in service—and we fail. We make commitments to read the Bible more, to pray more, to witness more—and we fail.

Our spiritual failures tend to sting the most. We sense we have let God down; that we've disappointed Him.

The truth is, God knows how we are. Psalm 103:14 says, "For He Himself knows our frame; He is mindful that we are but dust." The hymn writer expressed it this way:

Frail creatures of dust,
And feeble as frail,
In Thee do we trust,
Nor find Thee to fail

It is because of our failures we need grace. It is because of our failures we need mercy. It is because of our failures we need redemption. It is because of our failures we need Christ.

We should always strive to give God the best we can. We should never let our tendency to fail Him stop us from striving to put forward our best effort.

But we take comfort in knowing that God's grace is greater than all our sins.

Happy New Year!
Pastor Brian

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

Sherry Hudson	3rd
Beth Rice	8th
Lawson Womack	12th
Kevin Lott	13th
Sheila Rushing	14th
Kelly Spearman	15th
Karen Lee	16th
Beverly Lee	20th
Jackson Franklin	21st
Joe Tyler	26th
Ruby Barnes	29th
Betty Durland	30th
Lynda Flowers	31st

ANNIVERSARIES

David & Darlene Hay	14th
Jonathan & Beverly Lee	25th



FELLOWSHIP

Saturday, January 13

from 12 to 2 p.m.

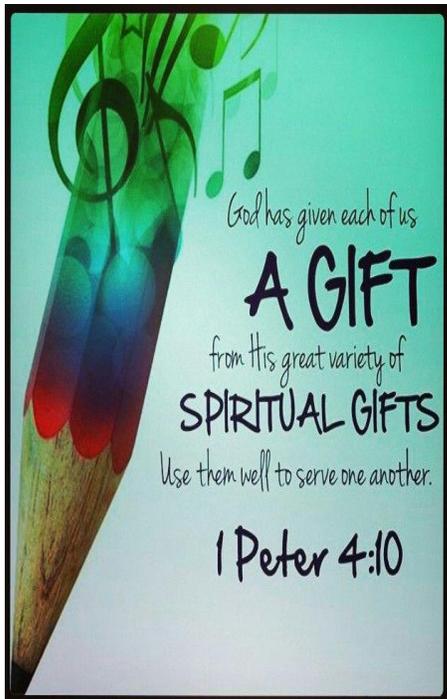
in the Fellowship Hall

**CHURCH
ONLINE**



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CHARLIE'S CHATS

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of you who participated in the Praise Choir in 2017. Your commitment and support are such a blessing to me.

I would also like to thank Nancy, Ricky, Elaine, John, the Fox boys and Jere for their faithfulness in playing the instruments, working the computer and running the sound each week. We couldn't do it without you!!

We hope you were blessed by the Christmas Eve Service. Thanks to all of you who attended.



**FOR NURSERY,
TODDLERS &
CHILDREN'S CHURCH
DURING
SUNDAY WORSHIP**

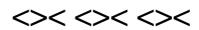
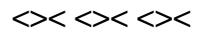
See Peggy Grice
if you would like to help



**SUNDAY
SCHOOL**

Make the Connection

at 9:30 a.m.



Wednesday
Night
Worship
6:30 p.m.

*Adult Prayer
Youth/Children Bible Studies
Praise Choir Practice*

Church Council

January 3rd at 5:15 p.m.
Monthly Business Meeting
January 17th after Morning
Worship

**Don't forget God
in your
New Years
Resolutions!**