



From Your Resident “Friar”

HAPPY NEW!!! I have never anticipated the turning of the calendar as much as I have waited to welcome 2021. This past year has presented many challenges. We have struggled with isolation from community, separation from family, and disruptions to the patterns of our lives. And now, we eagerly wait for an end to the COVID-19 pandemic.

As this new year begins, we see signs that “life as we knew it” will return. But patience and perseverance will continue to be needed. Although vaccines are beginning to be distributed, the CDC anticipates inoculation to proceed in three phases. These phases of distribution are dependent on supply availability and the prioritization of who receives it. A broad-based vaccination campaign, or the third and final phase, is not anticipated before May 2021. It will then take several months to reach the threshold of herd immunity. From a public health understanding, herd immunity is the goal. When this threshold is reached, we will begin to see many of the protocols—put in place for our protection—altered.

What does all this mean for how we do church? It means that our current level of interaction and opportunities to be together will not last forever. There is a day on the horizon, yet still unknown, when we will be able to gather in closer proximity, with increased intimacy, and greater frequency. This means such opportunities like Sunday School, choirs, and fellowships will gather again. While we don’t know when this will take place, we do know that it will.

At the December Deacons Meeting, a process of resuming activities was discussed. Although dates for implementing each step are uncertain, there was agreement on what the process would look like in general. The Deacons envision steps of returning to activities to be somewhat in this order:

- Children’s Moment in Worship; Nursery during Worship;
- Children’s Church during Worship; Adult Mission Groups;
- Children and Youth Sunday School Classes; Adult Sunday School Classes; Choir in Worship; fellowship gatherings.

However, resuming these activities will depend on circumstances beyond our control which may not change until the end of the summer. This prospect of the above activities not taking place until the fall may not be desirable. But it is a reality for which we should be prepared.

For many months now, there has been more white space on the church calendar than what we would like. I expect there to be several more months of this being the case. Yet, when we look at

an empty calendar, our reaction is a matter of perspective. We have spent most of this past year lamenting “what has been lost.” But the New Year brings possibilities of “what can be.” May we see opportunities to begin something new, discover new ways of connecting with God and each other, and desire something greater than “how things were.”

It is worth reiterating, “I don’t know what the future holds, but I know Who holds the future.” Whatever this year brings, may we seek first the Kingdom of God and respond faithfully to the leading of the Holy Spirit.

— *Tim*

Special Gift Received

RDBC has received a financial gift from the Estate of Ken Spears. The note addressed to the church is posted on the bulletin board in the hallway.



Church Council Meeting

Sunday, January 10,
5:00 p.m.
In the Sanctuary



New Offering Envelopes Are Now Available

Offering envelopes are on the hall table. Please note that they are non-dated and there are no assigned numbers. To receive a contribution report you will need to write a date, your name, and amount on each envelope.

Volunteers Needed

For several years, RDBC has delivered meals in Six Mile, on Fridays for Meals on Wheels Pickens County. Now some of our volunteers are unable to continue. Meal deliver begins every Friday at 11:00 a.m. If you can volunteer, to assist with this vital ministry in our community, please contact the church office.



The Ridgeland Express

www.ridgelanddrivebc.org

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TIM FRIAR
PASTOR

DEBBIE KELLEY
MINISTER OF MUSIC

RHONDA GRANT
SECRETARY



Happy New Year!

Thank You

In a year that presented many challenges to being together, we are thankful for everyone who played a role in our celebrations of Advent and Christmas. For your role—small or great, behind the scenes or out in front, on the platform or in the pew—“Thank You” for making the season a worshipful experience for us all.



Jan 10 Lucas Kelley
 Jan 17 Anne Galloway

Worship Schedule

- Jan 3 **Matthew 2:1-12**
"Gifts"
- Jan 10 **Mark 1:4-11**
"The Baptism of Jesus"
- Jan 17 **I Samuel 3:1-10**
"Hearing God's Call"
- Jan 24 **Mark 1:14-20**
"Follow Me"
- Jan 31 **Mark 1:21-28**
"A New Teaching"

Offering Counters

Bailey Friar, Billy Galloway, Debbie Kelley



January 2021



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<u>REGULAR SCHEDULE</u> 10:00 am, Worship			<u>REGULAR SCHEDULE</u> 2:00 pm, WATT (Wednesday Afternoon Time Together)		1 	2
3	4 6:00 pm Deacons Meeting	5	6 EPIPHANY	7	8	9
10 5:00 pm Church Council	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18 Martin Luther King Jr. Day	19	20	21	22	23
24 31	25	26 Newsletter Information Due!	27	28	29	30

Looking Ahead

- Feb 17 Ash Wednesday Service, 7:00 pm
- March 7 Quarterly Business Meeting
- March 14 Daylight Savings Time Begins
- April 4 Easter Sunday
- April 21 Administrative Professionals Day



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Ridgeland Drive Baptist Church is . . .

*A welcoming family of faith,
 With Jesus our example,
 Discipleship our goal,
 And love our action.*