

First Baptist Church 2016

JANUARY

Happy New Year!

Pastor's Paragraph

How Many New Years?

Did you know that the Jews have four different new years days? Observant Jews really know how to party! The one that we are most familiar with is Rosh Hashana, or the "Feast of Trumpets" which is the first day of Tishrei on the Jewish calendar (usually late September or early October). Rosh Hashana is considered the day that God created the world. During Old Testament times, it was used to calculate the start of Sabbatical years and Jubilee years. It is the religious new year. But, it is not the first one on the calendar. Tishrei is the seventh month on the Jewish calendar. The first day of the first month (Nisan: mid-March to mid-April) is the day that marks a new year of Jewish holy days. It is the Jewish civil new year. It was used to calculate the reign of Old Testament Kings. It is closely associated with the Passover, which is celebrated on the 15th of Nisan. So, this civil new year commemorates the deliverance of God's people from Egypt. These are the two predominant new year celebrations in Israel. One celebrating creation (Rosh Hashana) and one celebrating salvation. There are two other lesser new years days. The first day of the sixth month (Elul) was used in the Old Testament to calculate animal tithes and taxes to the Temple and priests. It is similar to our April 15th tax day! It is one month before Rosh Hashana, and it really is not observed by Jews any more. And, there is one more new years day. The Jews have a religious new year, a civil new year, and a fiscal new year. The final new year is an arboreal new year. (Don't worry, I looked it up!) The 15th day of Shvat (Tu B'shvat) marks the new year for trees! The age of trees is calculated from this day. It lands closest to our new year: usually late January or early February. Observant Jews still celebrate this as a lesser holiday. It is like a Jewish Arbor Day! Our Arbor Day celebrations are great, but they would not be as much fun in January!

Maybe you are not that interested in Jewish calendars or holy days. Perhaps the Jews celebrate too many holy days! But, before you dismiss the idea of four new years days, consider what these four days teach us about God. Our merciful and forgiving God is a God of second chances. He lovingly erases the past and graciously gives us a clean slate for the future. Not just once, but four times! He provides us with a new hope for our church (religious new year), our nation (civil new year), our finances (fiscal new year), and even our trees! Our God specializes in forgiving the past and giving us a fresh start for the future. If you know Christ as your Savior, you have experienced His newness: "Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new." (2 Cor. 5:17) In the midst of Lamentations, the weeping prophet recognized the mercies of God, "Through the Lord's mercies we are not consumed, Because His compassions fail not. They are new every morning; Great is Your faithfulness." (Lamentations 3:22-23) It's like every day is new years day with God's mercies! And, finally, in the closing chapters of the Bible, God gives one more new years day, "Then He who sat on the throne said, "Behold, I make all things new." And He said to me, "Write, for these words are true and faithful." (Rev. 21:5) Sometimes, just one day is not enough! ~Pastor

January 2016

Memory Verse: And God spoke all these words saying; "I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage. You shall have no other gods before Me." Exodus 20:1-3

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 	2 10 AM (Take down Decorations) 
3 Dysart Family Concert 	4	5 Deacons' Mtg 7 PM	6 AWANA 6:30-8:10 PM	7	8	9 Trustees' Mtg. 8 AM
10 Communion	11	12	13 AWANA 6:30-8:10 PM Giant Night	14	15	16 Coffee w/ The King 9-11 
17	18	19	20 AWANA 6:30-8:10 PM	21	22	23
24 Annual Business Meet- ing/and Soup Supper 	25	26 Freda's 90 B-day—Open House 2-4 pm Ambassador	27 AWANA 6:30-8:10 PM	28	29	30 Teen Winter Games! 
31						

Happy Birthday

Freda Golden Dickey will celebrate her 90th birthday on Tuesday, January 26th. An open house will be held from 2-4 pm that same day at The Ambassador. No gifts please. Cards can be mailed to: 1800 14th Avenue, Nebraska City.



Save the Date!!
Teen Winter Games is
Saturday,
January 30th!!

Annual Business Meeting
Soup Supper
The Annual Business Meeting is scheduled for Sunday, January 24th, beginning at 6:00 p.m.

Please note: Communion is moved to the second Sunday this month.
~January 10th~

Changes/Updates for 2016

We will be putting together a new General Information Booklet for the new year. If you have any address changes, new numbers, corrections, etc . . Please write them down and place them in the offering plate or on Susan's desk. Thank you!

-Volunteers Needed-

We will be taking down the church Christmas decorations on Saturday, January 2nd, at 10:00 AM. Many hands make for light work!

Ladies!
Our next Coffee with The King is Saturday, January 16th, @ Hol-lie's, from 9-11 AM.



Is your life a shining witness
With a testimony true?
Could the world be won to Jesus
Just by what they see in you?
Georgia B. Adams



November Finances

Balance Forward 11/1/2015

Deacon's Fund	\$730.92
Designated Fund	\$1,322.90
General Fund	\$31,621.96
Checking Account	\$33,675.78
November Income	\$13,952.25
November Expenses	\$12,416.80
Net Gain	\$1,535.45

Balance 11/30/2015

Deacon's Fund	\$730.92
Designated Fund	\$822.90
General Fund	\$33,657.41
Checking Account	\$35,211.23