



Resolve To Make A Better Resolution

People make a lot of New Year's resolutions. Like, a lot. But they don't seem to vary much. People generally want to lose weight, eat healthier, stop a bad habit or develop better ones. But our focus is generally pretty narrow. When I was in youth ministry I wanted to help youth grow closer to God, but I realized that simply developing this one area of their life wasn't going to be enough. People are more complex than that. Having one area of our lives in order helps, but not much. If three or four other areas of our life are falling apart it still feels like our entire life is, regardless of the fact that that one important area is firing on all cylinders. So, this year, when you are making your New Year's resolutions perhaps you could focus on more areas of your life than just your physical weight or health.

The second thing to consider is that, as Christians, Christ needs to be at the center of who we are. That means, as Christians, we should be striving to put Christ in the center of each of these aspects of our life. We are working to build His kingdom not ours. So as we try to improve ourselves in these various areas we need to be thinking about how to put Christ in the center of them. This will not only make us more effective for His kingdom, but will better our lives as well. So, if you're having difficulty thinking of goals to set for this next year here are some areas of life that you should be considering and some suggestions to help get you thinking.

Spiritual Life- How can my personal relationship with God get stronger?

PRAY!!!!

Fasting

Getting out in nature and spend time with God

Set aside time simply for silence, reflection, and/or rest (no cell phones allowed)

Reading a spiritually uplifting book (choose wisely, there are some crazies out there)

Devotional Life- How should I approach God's word this year?

Read through the entire Bible (if you're feeling particularly ambitious)

Read through a particular section of the Bible (the New Testament, wisdom books, the gospels, Pentateuch, etc.)

Study a particular book, chapter, and/or verse for the entire year (how deep can you go?)

Read a devotional book, study guide, and/or commentary

Personal Life- How can I improve myself to better serve God's kingdom?

Physically (lose weight, eat healthier, exercise more, quit smoking, yada yada yada. It is of some value 1 Tim. 4:8)

Financially (give, save, spend better)

In language, thought, and/or purity

Develop healthy, constructive habits

Do I need to confess a sin in my life?

Familial Life- How can I improve my relationships with those I'm closest to?

Spend more time with just my spouse

Spend more time with each of my children individually Pray together as a couple

Pray together as a family

Call/spend more time with parents and/or siblings

Ecclesiastical (fancy word for church) Life- How can I better interact with God's people?

Pray for our church

Attend church more often

Invite a friend to come with you to church

Join a small group

Start a small group

Give a full tithe (10% of income) Mal. 3:10

Give more than 10% of your income

Lk. 6:38; 2 Cor. 9:7

Join one of the church committees

Social Life- How can I better interact with my community?

Develop or deepen your relationship with your neighbor (eventually invite them to come with you to church)

Join a social club (rotary, lions club, bowling league, find a way to meet new people)

Go to community events

Talk to someone you don't know at community events

Serve your neighbor. Rake their leaves, mow their yard, shovel their driveway when it snows

Visit a nursing home (bonus points for developing a new relationship with a resident)

Global- How can I better interact with the world?

Find a mission to support for a year (in prayer, in raising awareness, or giving financially)

Pray for unreached people groups in the world

Go on a mission trip

Pray for a different culture/country all year. Research what their needs are spiritually, economically socially, etc...

These are just some suggestions to get you thinking in a more broad way concerning improving yourself and generally "doing better" this year. Now, coming up with the greatest resolutions won't help you keep them. You still have to do it. But that's an article for February. Have a happy New Year! In Him, Ben

JANUARY 2017

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1 HAPPY NEW YEAR	2 OFFICE CLOSED	3 ADMIN MEETING 6:00 PM	4 PRAYER HOUR 5:30 PM ADULT BS 6:30PM	5 WORSHIP MEETING 6:30PM	6	7
8 SS 9:30AM WS 10:30AM	9	10	11 LADIES BS 9:30AM PRAYER HOUR 5:30 PM ADULT BS 6:30PM	12 ELDERS 6:00PM DEACONS 6:30PM BOARD 7:00PM	13	14
15 GS 4:00PM SS 9:30AM WS 10:30AM	16	17 FSG 6:00PM	18 LADIES BS 9:30AM PRAYER HOUR 5:30 PM ADULT BS 6:30PM	19	20	21
22 SS 9:30AM WS 10:30AM	23	24	25 LADIES BS 9:30AM PRAYER HOUR 5:30 PM ADULT BS 6:30PM	26	27	28
29 GS 4:00PM SS 9:30AM WS 10:30AM	30	31				

Happy New Year

Serving In January

January 01

Meditation: Rick Weinkauf
Com Servers: Bob McGuire, Carol Carson
 Elisabeth White, *Shawn Cullen
Nursery: Sarah Skiles, Wanda Jones
Children's Church: Roma Weinkauf
AV Booth: Tyler Tidwell
Greeters: Bob Clark/FD, John Signorelli/FHD
Com Prep & Clean Up: Bob & Jane Clark

January 08

Meditation: Don Skiles
Com Servers: Dan White, Doug Tritle
 *Iris Felix, Roma Weinkauf
Nursery: Brenda Gibson, Rebecca Cullen
Children's Church: Sarah Skiles
AV Booth: Tyler Tidwell
Greeters: Bob Clark/FD, John Signorelli/FHD
Com Prep & Clean Up: Bob & Jane Clark

January 15

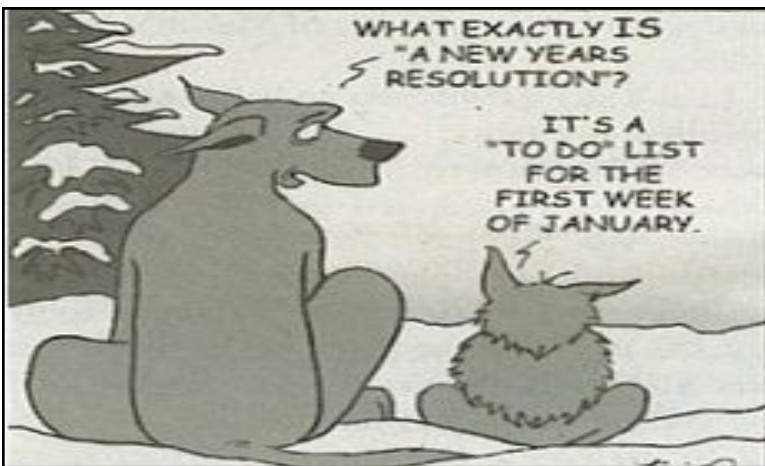
Meditation: Jerry Gibson
Com Servers: Rebecca Cullen, Richard Barnes
 Tara Coffman, *Wanda Jones
Nursery: Jeremy Buxton, Jessica Buxton
Children's Church: Nicole Stanfill
AV Booth: Tyler Tidwell
Greeters: Bob Clark/FD, John Signorelli/FHD
Com Prep & Clean Up: Bob & Jane Clark

January 22

Meditation: Doug Dalton
Com Servers: Brenda Gibson, Jackie Morey
 *John Signorelli, Robert Crawford
Nursery: Kristen Partin, Elisabeth White
Children's Church: Christina Barnes
AV Booth: Tyler Tidwell
Greeters: Bob Clark/FD, John Signorelli/FHD
Com Prep & Clean Up: Bob & Jane Clark

January 29

Meditation: Jim Jones
Com Servers: Dan White, Doug Tritle
 *Iris Felix, Roma Weinkauf
Nursery: ? , ?
Children's Church: Kristen Partin
AV Booth: Tyler Tidwell
Greeters: Bob Clark/FD, John Signorelli/FHD
Com Prep & Clean Up: Bob & Jane Clark



In Our Prayers

Lee Surles - Health issues
 (church member)

Yudell Barton
 (Brenda Risner's friend)

Riek Calje - mental confusion
 (Elisabeth White's grandmother)

Debbie Cleland - cancer
 (Christina Barnes' co-worker)

Dale Martin - bladder cancer
 (Lloyd & Judy Colston's friend)

Mark Embree - bicycle accident
 (Brenda Risner's friend)

Mike Chase - colon cancer
 (Jimmy Geigle's friend)

**Laurie Cullen - salvation/early onset
 Alzheimer's**

(Shawn Cullen's sister)

Periodically the Prayer List will be updated. If we remove someone that you still want on the list, please let us know and we will be glad to put them back on.

If you have a prayer need or know of any changes, please contact the church office.

Birthdays & Anniversaries

01/07 Bob McGuire

01/17 Crystal Crawford

01/18 Robert & Crystal Crawford

01/06 Gabriel White



Sunday Services

Sunday School 9:30 am
 Worship Service 10:30 am

Wednesday Night

Prayer Hour 5:30 pm
 Adult Bible Study 6:30 pm

Secretary's Report December 2016

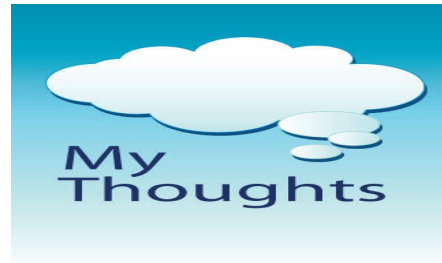
Average Attendance	54
Average Visitors	5
Total Average Attendance	58
Total Offerings	\$9,560.00

Your Elders

Phil Carson, Randall Coffman, Doug Dalton
 Gene Drechsler, Jerry Gibson, Jim Jones

Your Deacons

Richard Barnes, Crystal Crawford, Brenda Gibson
 Wanda Jones, Matthew Palmer, Brenda Risner



**FOR
OUR**



It's a new year! If you have any of the above for First Christian Church please share with us. You can email us at firstchristianaltus@fccaltus.com, comment on our Facebook page, write them down and put in the offering plate on Sunday, bring by the office or give us a call at (580) 482-3815.

We are happy you are a part of our church family and we WANT to hear from you. So tell us what you want, what you like, what you don't like, what you want to change, etc.