

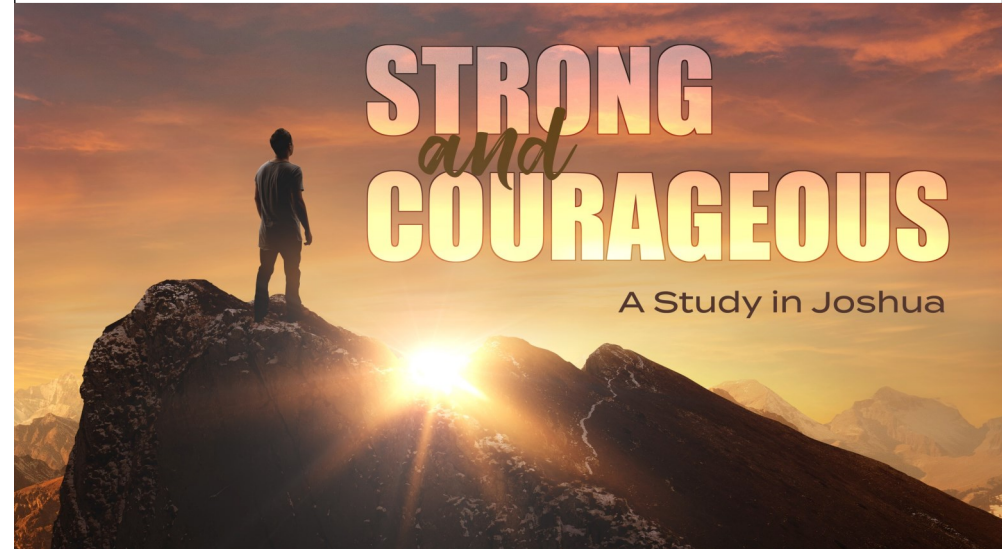
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MAULDIN FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
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The Herald

Volume 2023 Issue 1 January 2023



love. share.
serve. make.

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From Your Senior Adult Pastor:

Happy New Year! I trust your Christmas was blessed, mine certainly was. It was such a blessing having many of you at my open house. You were so kind to take time out on a busy Sunday afternoon to encourage me with your compliments of the decorations and the food. I loved – I love the blessing of fellowship each time we get together.

Talking about fellowships, remember for January we will not have Sonshine Fellowship. Our Sonshine Fellowship for February will be a bit different as well. February Sonshine Fellowship will be held on the SECOND Tuesday as we observe our annual Senior Adult Valentine Luncheon. The meal will be prepared by our own JJ. The program, beginning at 10:30 will be presented by The Carolinians Senior Jazz Band (of which our own Donny Coggins is a member).

Because JJ will be providing the meal for Valentines Day, it is essential for sign up (on the Senior Adult Board) no later than February 5. JJ has to order food by the 7th.

Have a great day in The Lord,
Bill



**We will not have Sonshine Fellowship
in January 2023.
Be sure to join us in February!**

From Your Discipleship Pastor:

It's hard to believe its 2023! I pray it will be a blessed year for you and yours. We resume our Sunday Night Bible Studies the 8th of this month with 2 classes being offered. John Jones will be leading "Weird Stuff in the New Testament." I think you'll find it interesting as topics such as Hell, The Devil, Miracles and others will be offered for 7 weeks.

Amanda Gregory will be teaching a 13 week study on "Experiencing God" a tremendous study. If you haven't been through it yet, you won't want to miss it. The ladies group is going to take a hiatus through the winter months, so ladies, come and join one of the other offerings. Sign up sheets are in the coffee bar area.

Have a great day in The Lord,



Family Night Bible Studies

Sundays at 4:30 PM

■ **Weird Stuff in the New Testament**
Facilitator: John Jones • Six Weeks

■ **Experiencing God**
Facilitator: Amanda Gregory • Thirteen Weeks

**WINTER
SESSION!**

Beginning
JANUARY

8

SIGN UP IN THE COFFEE BAR AREA

From Your Senior Pastor:



December 19, 2022

Dear Mauldin First Baptist Family,

The end of 2022 is nearly here! While we can always find things in this world difficult and frustrating, the Christmas season should always be a time to give thanks to God and to remember His great love for us was demonstrated by giving Jesus to us as the greatest gift of all.

As you and your family prepare your gifts for the end of the year, we would like to ask you to continue to remember your year-end gifts to Mauldin First Baptist Church. Many of our families give generously and sacrificially during December and we count on those gifts to meet our budget goals and to help us replenish our missions and benevolence funds for the next year. Meeting our budget goals enables us to continue supporting our missionaries, providing resources for our family ministries, and maintaining and improving our facilities. We are very close to reaching our annual budget goal of \$1.3 million. Meeting our budget is always important, but given the extreme increase in inflation during 2022, our need to reach and exceed our budget is vital to continuing our efforts. If you have any questions about year-end gifts of any kind, please call our church office and we'll be happy to provide you with any information you need, especially if you have questions about non-cash gifts like stocks, bonds, or property donations.

Our church office will be open until 5 p.m. on Friday, December 30th to receive your year-end gifts. Thank you so much!

As you continue your regular tithes and offerings, you may want to consider giving a designated gift. For example, some of you have continued this type of giving toward our future sanctuary renovation. Due to your steady and faithful giving, we have already made great progress toward this effort. We will be giving you some additional updates early next year, so stay tuned! But if you feel led to do so, you can make a year-end gift toward our sanctuary renovation.

And of course, don't forget our annual Lottie Moon Christmas Offering! December is the time of year when we collect a special offering that goes directly to supporting our international missionaries all around the world. We are already very close to our goal of \$20,000, which will help send missionaries to places where people have not yet heard the good news of Jesus. We pray that we will exceed this amount for 2022 and continue to be faithful to God's Great Commission to go and make disciples of all nations! Please be in prayer about this. Talk about it with your family. Pray together for the Lord to lead you and open the door. You've been so generous and sacrificial already... THANK YOU for this! Thank you for giving and giving in such a sweet spirit!

Christmas is a great time to give and remember how Jesus came to give His life for all of us. And He has come to bring us "good news that will cause great joy for all the people!" Luke 2:10. Let's continue to make sure "all the people" have a chance to hear this good news!

Loving, Sharing, Serving, Making,

Wade Leonard
Senior Pastor, Mauldin First Baptist

From Your Worship Pastor:

New Hymn!

Pastor Wade and I have been talking about his new sermon series beginning on January 8 titled, “Be Strong and Courageous.” This series focuses on the story of Joshua and how his story can impact us as followers of Jesus. I believe that all of us can attest to the need for God’s courage and strength in today’s post-modern culture. That’s where worship can play a big part in that goal. When we authentically connect with God and His revealed attributes, our need for God’s touch can be strengthened. As we learn together from Joshua, I’d like for us all to learn a new hymn that’s been written in the last few years that will strengthen this connection with God and his purposes for us. When our days are darkest and our strength wanes, imagine singing these lyrics together:

The night is dark, but I am not forsaken
For by my side, the Savior He will stay
I labor on in weakness and rejoicing
For in my need, His power is displayed

To this I hold, my Shepherd will defend me
Through the deepest valley He will lead
Oh the night has been won, and I shall overcome
Yet not I, but through Christ in me
 (“Yet Not I But Through Christ I n Me,” 2018 CityAlight Music)

There are other verses, of course, and they are all significant. I can even see eventually where this song might be requested at funerals because it brings the whole human experience full circle – from the beginning of salvation to finishing this race here on earth.

So can we learn this together?! I am fully aware that no one can make anyone listen to music, but I am making this specific request of you – our multi-generational MFB family. Worship is powerful because we do it . . . together. We affirm God together, we lament our struggles together. What if our worship services in January with filled with people who came knowing this song? Maybe it could be our January theme song!? (of a sort . . .) It is a new hymn that has impacted many throughout the body of Christ, including many SBC churches. It’s not hard to sing at all and it is a joy to sing!

So at this point, you might ask . . . how? (you may even be saying, “please don’t send me to Spotify – I can’t figure it out!”) No – this won’t be a Spotify suggestion – trust me! Several of you have mentioned during this past year that we “don’t know the new songs.”

So, here’s your chance to learn this new hymn during our Joshua series in January.

So to share this new song, our own Tom Adams has reduced all the barriers to any 3rd party app or website and created a custom tool just for the family of MFB! I couldn’t be more excited about this! It’s a labor of love on Tom’s part and super easy! All you have to do is click on the link (once it’s included in an email for the entire church) and when you click on this link there will be a list of songs where each individual song has “play, rewind, forward” icons. You simply select the play icon for the song you want – that’s it!

The link will be coming but it’s not included just yet! (Wait for the church-wide email in a week or two)

Let’s do this together! Let’s take the “listen to it once a day” challenge beginning January 2nd. It will be enriching, and significant enough to use as a supplement to any daily devotion.

Stay tuned!

Howie

