



**First Southern**

Invite someone to FSBC

**January  
2018**

## **News & Views @ FSBC**

### **LOOKING FORWARD...**

There is something uplifting about starting something new. We are faced with the greatest opportunity as we face the new year. Can you feel it? Our God is the God of new beginnings. Over and over in the Old Testament we read where Israel got it wrong and God would start all over again showing them how to live in His grace. No matter what has happened to you in this past year we are starting over. "For we live by faith, not by sight. 2 Cor. 5:7. God is challenging us to give it all to Him. Sometimes we get the notion that we have learned it all only to discover that there is more ahead. God in His graciousness does not pile it on all at once. He spreads it out over a lifetime so we can learn without being overwhelmed. Many times I hear someone say, "It isn't easy growing old." That is true but it is also true that it isn't easy trying to do something you are not prepared to do. One of the biggest lessons we have to learn is: 2 Cor. 4:7; "But we have this treasure in jars of clay to show that this all-surpassing power is from God and not from us." What do you think God has in store for FSBC in 2018? In Romans 12:12 Paul writes: "Be joyful in hope; patient in affliction; faithful in prayer." That is a good way for us to journey through 2018. The future is in the hands of the Lord and we are ready to serve as He shows us the way.

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Joy Club-11th  
Biz Meeting-31st

## A Stewardship Moment



Subject: Government Leaders Calling the Nation to Prayer - Join the Movement

Dear First Southern Baptist Church,

An extraordinary, nationwide prayer initiative was birthed on March 7, 2015 at the LIFFT America Religious Liberty Summit in Charlotte, North Carolina, convened by the Congressional Prayer Caucus Foundation, along with Congressman J. Randy Forbes and Senator James Lankford, co-chairs of the Congressional Prayer Caucus.

Representing 25 states, 16 members of Congress and 36 state legislators gathered to coordinate a tactical strategy to effectively challenge the growing anti-faith movement in our country. The consensus among participants was that people of faith can no longer sit idly by and passively watch as our nation's history and Judeo-Christian heritage are being rewritten with a false narrative.

In a solemn and historic ceremony, all who were present signed a Call to Prayer for America Proclamation.

Now, like-minded national and state elected officials around the country are mobilizing to sign the Proclamation, circulate it, and read it aloud in churches across America. They are calling on God's people to join with one heart and one voice to pray for the United States and her leaders. Citizens everywhere will be able to stand up and add their names to the document.

We invite you to host a signing ceremony in your church! A downloadable Church Kit provides everything you need to plan and promote the ceremony.

Together, our signatures—demonstrating a commitment to pray for America—will make a bold and public statement, not only in the marketplace of ideas, but also in the halls of power.

Go to [www.PrayUSA.com](http://www.PrayUSA.com) or to the back page of this notice to read the Proclamation.



## January Events

Joy Club-11th

Business meeting-31st



## January Celebrations



Wanda Ebberts	8
Emery McKimmy	18
Bucky Hitchcock	22
Mary Jane Kennedy	28

# First Southern Baptist Church

Seek His kingdom first.  
Matthew 6:33

We're on the web!  
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## THE CONGRESSIONAL PRAYER CAUCUS FOUNDATION, INC. A CALL TO PRAYER FOR AMERICA



Throughout the history of the United States, its citizens and inhabitants have drawn strength, hope, and guidance from prayer. From the very first Continental Congress through every form of adversity and blessing, Americans have fallen to their knees and implored God Almighty to protect their families and to heal their land.

The freedom upon which America is founded affords the right to any individual to decline to pray if he or she so desires. However, that same freedom allows those who believe in the power of prayer to utilize that great opportunity to ask God to bless and sustain our nation.

That freedom is not diminished merely because one is elected to public office. Quite the contrary, the cloak of authority placed upon the shoulders of a public servant should be an inspiration for those who believe in the power of prayer to use that great power to ask God to bless and sustain the nation they love and serve.

Centuries ago, the Bible records in 2 Chronicles 7:14 that God told King Solomon:

*"If my people who are called by my Name will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, will forgive their sin and will heal their land."*

In early 2005, a small group of members of the U.S. House of Representatives began meeting in Room 219 of the U.S. Capitol to pray for our nation. The location was not important, nor were the names of those who gathered there to pray. The gravity of their meeting was derived from the humble sincerity of their belief that God could heal America.

Soon thereafter, these Members formed the Congressional Prayer Caucus to vigilantly watch and to protect the right of individuals in America to pray. Their vision for the Caucus inspired them to form the Congressional Prayer Caucus Foundation, Inc. which is a non-partisan, non-profit organization designed to support the call of America back to prayer.

On the 7th day of March, 2015, members of Congress and State Legislators from all across America gathered for the purpose of calling the nation back to prayer. They realized the need to call America back to prayer, not for a single day or a single month, but to pray "without ceasing." Accordingly, this day we respectfully and humbly issue this "Call to Prayer for America" and invite you to join us in this call by adding your name, and further join us by praying for God's continued blessing on this country.

Thank you for your faithfulness and for standing with us. It is our sincere belief that God will hear the prayers of His people and heal this land. May God bless you and may He continue to bless and sustain the United States of America.