



JANUARY 2023

Vol. 65 No. 1

The Messenger



FROM THE PASTOR

Electronic devices are famous for needing to be reset at times. A 'reset button' on a computer "clears the computer's memory and causes it to reboot, clearing any pending errors or events and brings the system to normal condition or the initial state." (Cambridge Dictionary) Other things have reset buttons: garbage disposals, Roku devices, a Blink camera, even some air conditioning units.

The Apostle Paul sounds like he's talking about a reset button in Philippians 3:13-14.

Brothers, I do not consider that I have made it my own. But one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.

The new year can serve as something of a reset button in our lives.

In this passage of Philippians, Paul sounds like a motivational speaker whipping the crowd into a frenzy with the words ...

"... one thing I do

It's a joyous shout – "ONE THING!" One ultimate focus in his life. The One thing was something for which he was passionate. Like the sprinter in a photo finish race, muscles bulging, chest out, head tilted forward, focused on the ribbon held across the finish line... Paul points to an aspect of the reset: focus on the prize of Jesus!

"... forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead,"

The Reset Button of focusing on one thing comprises forgetting and straining. The words 'forgetting' and 'straining' rhyme in the Greek language. The rhyming idea in English would be something like 'erasing the past and chasing the future.' To focus on the prize, we can't get distracted by past mistakes nor future distractions.

And here's the one thing...

"I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus."

Paul had determined the focus of his life. That goal is the upward call of God in Christ Jesus. He no longer hears the voice of critics or others who distract. Up ahead of him and above him is another call, the call of that voice he first heard on the Damascus Road.

With the turning of the calendar to 2023, perhaps it's time for all of us to hit the 'reset button' by moving on from the past and pressing on to a deeper faith in Jesus. FBC exists to help.

Happy New Year! I'll see you in church on Sunday,

Don

January

gotofirst.org/sunday
for schedule updates & Bible Study options

JANUARY 1

New Year's Day

10 a.m. Worship Service
Sunday School classes will not meet. No childcare.

JANUARY 2

Church office closed.

JANUARY 4

5 p.m. Fellowship Meal
5:45 p.m. Awana
6 p.m. County Youth Worship Gathering
6 p.m. Prayer Meeting
6 p.m. Choir Rehearsal
7 p.m. Worship Team Rehearsal

JANUARY 8

8 a.m. Worship Service
9:15 a.m. Worship Service/Sunday School
10:30 a.m. Worship Service/Sunday School
5 p.m. Kidzone & Choir
5 p.m. Winter Bible Study
6 p.m. Youth Open Gym



EXPLORER'S BIBLE STUDY

*Our study of I & II Timothy and Titus
continues Jan. 11. Join us Wednesdays!*

JANUARY 11

6:30 a.m. Men's Explorer's Bible Study
9:30 a.m. Women's Explorer's Bible Study
12 p.m. Men's & Women's Explorer's Bible Study
5 p.m. Fellowship Meal
5:45 p.m. Awana
6 p.m. Midweek for Youth
6 p.m. Prayer Meeting
6 p.m. Women's Explorer's Bible Study
6 p.m. Choir Rehearsal
7 p.m. Worship Team Rehearsal



MEN'S MINISTRY WORKDAY JAN. 14

*Email mm@gotofirst.org to sign up!
Meet at the CLC at 8 a.m.*

JANUARY 14

8 a.m. Men's Ministry Workday

JANUARY 15

8 a.m. Worship Service
9:15 a.m. Worship Service/Sunday School
10:30 a.m. Worship Service/Sunday School
5 p.m. Kidzone & Choir
5 p.m. Winter Bible Study

JANUARY 16

Church office closed.

Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

JANUARY 18

6:30 a.m. Men's Explorer's Bible Study
9:30 a.m. Women's Explorer's Bible Study
12 p.m. Men's & Women's Explorer's Bible Study
5 p.m. Fellowship Meal
5:45 p.m. Awana: Can Can Night
6 p.m. Midweek for Youth
6 p.m. Prayer Meeting
6 p.m. Women's Explorer's Bible Study
6 p.m. Choir Rehearsal
7 p.m. Worship Team Rehearsal

JANUARY 19

6:30 p.m. Women's Ministry Book Club

Quarterly Business Meeting

Jan. 22 at 6 p.m.
in the Sanctuary

JANUARY 22

8 a.m. Worship Service
9:15 a.m. Worship Service/Sunday School
10:30 a.m. Worship Service/Sunday School
4 p.m. Adult Sunday School Worker Meeting
5 p.m. Kidzone & Choir
5 p.m. Winter Bible Study
6 p.m. Quarterly Business Meeting
6:30 p.m. Poland Mission Trip Interest Meeting

Our Family

JANUARY 24

5:30 p.m. Outreach

JANUARY 25

6:30 a.m. Men's Explorer's Bible Study

9:30 a.m. Women's Explorer's Bible Study

12 p.m. Men's & Women's Explorer's Bible Study

5 p.m. Fellowship Meal

5:45 p.m. Awana: WUTS Up Night

6 p.m. Midweek for Youth

6 p.m. Prayer Meeting

6 p.m. Women's Explorer's Bible Study

6 p.m. Choir Rehearsal

7 p.m. Worship Team Rehearsal

JANUARY 27-29

DiscipleNow Weekend for Youth

JANUARY 29

8 a.m. Worship Service

9:15 a.m. Worship Service/Sunday School

10:30 a.m. Worship Service/Sunday School

5 p.m. Kidzone & Choir

5 p.m. Winter Bible Study

6 p.m. Spud Night

JANUARY 31

5:30 p.m. Outreach

FBC Library

**Open Sundays 8-11 a.m.
and Wednesdays 5-7 p.m.**

downstairs next to the Old Fellowship Hall

*What better New Year's
Resolution than to commit
to a daily devotional time?*

Check out our display of adult and family devotionals in the Library.

gotofirst.org/library
for a list of available devotionals



Budget November 2022

Budget	\$186,089.97
Building	\$1,992.00
Designated	\$52,408.23
Total	\$240,490.20

Budget December 1-4, 2022

Budget	\$ 48,123.28
Building	\$445.00
Designated	\$8,424.81
Total	\$56,993.09

imb

LOTTIE MOON
CHRISTMAS
OFFERING®

**FBC Oxford Goal: \$105,000
Given to Date: \$32,222.62**

Deacons of the Week

Jan. 1-7 Thomas Herrington, Jim Rose,
Larry Little

Jan. 8-14 Fred Johnson, Martin Locke,
Bill Rose

Jan. 15-21 Larry Moffett, Wesley Henry,
Tom Dawson

Jan. 22-28 Daniel Denton, Brian Smith,
Kevin Howell

**Jan. 29-
Feb. 4** Lane Wilson, Mike Tomes,
Craig Kirkendall

New Members in December

Brooklyn Burns, Daniel Todd, Noah Todd,
Cooper Glasz

Congratulations

Chris and Meg Cochran welcomed Margaret Myrtis "Maggie Cochran on November 15. Proud big sisters are Kate and Eliza.

Our Sympathy

To Hope Gardner and family after the loss of her mother, Melba Sanford Edwards.

Discipleship

Winter Bible Study: EPHESIANS

for adults and youth

Sundays in January

5 p.m. in the Sanctuary, *beginning January 8*

Study books available for \$8 each in the church office.

Adult Sunday School Worker Meeting

Sunday, January 22 at 4 p.m. in the Sanctuary



January 24 and 31

5:30 pm. Snack supper followed by opportunities to make home visits, phone calls, texts, cards and letters. Childcare provided.

COLLEGE NEWS

Facebook/Instagram: @fbcoxcollege

ENCOUNTER CONFERENCE

February 3-4 at FBC Oxford

SPEECH CRAFT SEMINAR for college students

A six week training program focused on turning fear into excitement and equipping speakers with valuable tools for becoming better speakers.

Wednesday nights at 6 p.m.
First meeting is February 1.

Led by Ruth Frazier, speech coach,
Distinguished Toastmaster

Register with Pam Carter at pcarter@gotofirst.org.

Registration ends January 25.





**Our Goal is 800
in Sunday School
on February 5, 2023!**



Sundays at 5 p.m.

LIFE UNIVERSITY

February 5 - March 26

■ **Theology Class by Jim Propes**

"Attributes of God and Our Sanctification" This arises from my contemplation of two passages from the OT and the NT, Genesis 1:26 and 2 Peter 1:3 -8. The key thought is that we are created in God's image, and that we can participate in his nature. How do we do the latter? Well, we can't in this life, fully, but we can strive to emulate in our daily lives some of the attributes of God, such as mercy, love, justice. The class will examine 3-4 attributes, and see how they are included in teachings of Jesus and of Paul and Peter, to be applied as we live.

■ **Table Talk**

An intergenerational discipleship fellowship designed for all youth and adults, we will be studying New Testament stories.

■ **Fighting Fair: Skills for Managing Life's Everyday Conflict
by Jeff Holeman**

Everybody needs a little conflict. This Gospel-centered training course will equip you with the skills to keep your everyday conflicts healthy. Course will cover the skills you need to have STRONG relationships at home and at work.

Discipleship

GRIEF SHARE[®]

February 1-April 26

Wednesdays at 5:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall

Register online at griefshare.org

or call Barbara Wright at 662-801-1874.

gotofirst.org/grief

SAVE THE DATES: April 17-18

Church Conflict Management Training

All adults are invited to attend. Registration begins soon.

NIGHT *to Shine*

SPONSORED BY THE **TIM TEBOW**
FOUNDATION™

sponsored by the Tim Tebow Foundation and Grace Bible Church

Night to Shine is an unforgettable prom night experience, centered on God's love, for people with special needs, ages 14 and older. This in-person event will be hosted on Friday, February 10, 2023, at the Oxford Conference Center.

Volunteer, Donate, Share:

gracebibleofoxford.com/connect/nighttoshine

WOMEN'S MINISTRY NEWS wmin@gotofirst.org

Monthly Book Club Thursday, January 19 at 6:30 p.m.

Our book for January is "Mrs. Harris Goes to Paris" by April Gallico.

Email wmin@gotofirst.org for more info.

Oaxaca Mission Trip

February 10-16

Evangelism, Medical team

- Cost is \$650 plus airfare.
 - Contact Jeff Holeman at wigtake@gmail.com if you are interested.
-

LIMA, PERU Spring Break Family Mission Trip

March 11-17 for families (kids ages 10 and up!)

Help start a sustainable, Bible-based church in an impoverished area of Lima, Peru. Ministry will include street evangelism, sports ministry, and youth and children's ministry.

Trip Leaders: Jeff and Liesa Holeman

Missionary Partners: Mijail and Amber Urruchi (Frontera Missions)

- Security Training is required for this trip.
 - Training meetings are required for this trip.
 - \$500 deposit per person due now.
\$500 due Jan. 15. Balance due Feb 15.
 - FBC Oxford members receive \$750 discount.
-

Poland Ministry Trip

May 29-June 7, 2023

Evangelism, Children's Ministry, Adult Discipleship

This trip is for adults and youth age 16 and up!

Cost is \$850 plus airfare. Contact Jeff Holeman if you are interested.



Interest Meeting Sunday, Jan. 22

6:30 p.m. in Choir Room

Missions



BRAZIL 2023 Mission Trip

June 23-July 2 for adults and youth

Construction team, Medical team, and Family Ministry team

Trip Leader: Michael Meurrier

Missionary Partner: Tony Gray (Pioneer Missions)

- Security Training is required for this trip.
- Training Meetings are required to go on this trip.
- Cost is \$900 plus airfare. \$250 deposit per person due now. \$500 due Feb 1. \$500 due March 1. Balance due May 1.
- FBC Oxford members receive \$750 discount.
- FBC will write support letters for you. Give Pam Carter your list of names and addresses before Feb 1.
- Chapel Construction Fundraiser is January 29.

Amazon River (Peru) Medical Team

October 11-18 for adults and college students

Evangelism Medical team. Cost is \$900 plus airfare.

Pray for Oaxaca Team January 4-17.

Jeff Holeman, Liesa Holeman, Nezhiah Smith, Lauren Davis, Olivia Bacon, Olivia Gray, Hunter McBride, Caleb Rippé

PRESCHOOL & CHILDREN'S NEWS

Pray for Upward Basketball

Please pray for over 170 kids and adults involved in Upward Basketball this year. Games begin January 7!



for kids age 2-6th grade
Wednesdays at 5:45 p.m.
starts back January 4!



KIDZONE & CHOIR

for kids age 3-6th grade
Sundays at 5-6 p.m.
starts back January 8!

SAVE THE DATE FOR VBS 2023!

JUNE 5-9

Following Jesus
Changes the Game.

Open to all kids currently in K-6th grade.



Check out the theme at gotofirst.org/vbs

FBC Weekday Education Job Openings

Part-time and full-time positions available, Monday-Friday.
If you enjoy working with young children, come by the Weekday desk to apply. For more info, call (662) 234-3517.



**Priority registration will
be open for FBC families
January 24-31 for the
2023-24 school year.**

Enrollment form available at www.gotofirst.org/mmo

Contact Brenda Norman for more information,
bnorman@gotofirst.org or 662-816-3128.

STUDENT NEWS

[@Studentsgoto1st](https://www.instagram.com/Studentsgoto1st) [@studentsgotofirst](https://www.instagram.com/studentsgotofirst)

County Youth Worship Gathering

Jan. 4
6 p.m. at The Orchard

Midweek Topic:

Jonah

Jan. 11-Feb. 1
Wednesdays at 6 p.m.
on the Third Floor



Disciple Now Weekend

Jan. 27-29

Hosted by North Oxford Baptist Church

Cost: \$35. Register online at

gotofirst.org/students by Jan. 22.

SAVE THE DATES:

Super 7 Adventure June 11-14

Camp Living Stones June 19-24

\$200 per person. \$50 deposit (non-refundable) will be required
(due by Sunday, Jan. 29). Remaining \$150 due by Sunday, April 2.

FBC OXFORD STAFF

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Brady Wood

YOUTH MINISTRY INTERN

Alyssa Lee

COLLEGE MINISTRY INTERNS

Kaitlyn Traylor Emily Smith
Eli Flowers

BUILDING

Maria Thompson W.C. Certion
Carl Pettis

How may we pray for you?

Scan the QR code and let us know.





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