

# PRAYER REQUESTS

*And whatsoever we ask, we receive of him, because we keep his commandments, and do those things that are pleasing in his sight. 1 John 3:22*

As always, we pray for our country, our pastor and his family, our members, and our lost loved ones. In addition, we pray for God's blessed hand to touch these precious souls:

Baylee & Timothy	Mike Bess	Ashley Sexson	Shane Hester
Heather and Philip	Shelby Wells	Brandon Sexson	Jean Hester
David Blalock	Eretta Weathers	Dalton Stewart	Eunice Mason
Addie Griffin	Martha Carson	Rusty Stewart	

**These brothers and sisters in Christ are homebound and need our prayers.**

Billie Tessenar	Glyda Godfrey	Howard Hall
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**We must remember to pray for these precious loved ones who are in care homes. They would also love to receive cards and letters.**

**Mrs. Mary Green**  
423 Kirby Street  
Charlotte, NC 28214

**Homer Welch**  
Peak Resources  
2780 X-Ray Drive  
Gastonia, NC 28054

**Millie Fisher**  
103 Burns Mitchell Dr.  
Belmont, NC 28012

- don't become proud or vain, but give God the glory.

*Commit thy way unto the LORD; trust also in him; and he shall bring it to pass. And he shall bring forth thy righteousness as the light, and thy judgment as the noonday. Psalm 37:5-6*

## Announcements

- **Family Ministries** can use **Campbell's soup labels** and "**Box Tops for Education**" found on many items we use in our homes. **Mrs. Gordon** is collecting and preparing them for delivery.
- Our **Prayer Room** is open at each evening service, beginning **15 minutes prior** to the start of the worship service.
- The church bulletin is a good place for your birthday party and other special announcements. See Bill for further information.
- On the first Sunday of each month, we will start our prayer list over. If you want your loved ones on the prayer list, you must give Bill a legibly written list no later than Wednesday.

Mailing address: **P.O. Box 976, Belmont, NC 28012**

Church web site: <http://www.eastbelmontfwb.org>

Pastor Stewart's e-mail address: [pastor@eastbelmontfwb.org](mailto:pastor@eastbelmontfwb.org)



**MAY GOD  
LIGHT YOUR  
WAY IN THE  
YEAR AHEAD**



**East Belmont Freewill Baptist Church**  
**909 Edgemont Avenue, Belmont, NC 28012**

**Phone 704-825-5346**

## Christian New Year's Resolutions

The practice of making New Year's resolutions goes back over 3,000 years to the ancient Babylonians. There is just something about the start of a new year that gives us the feeling of a fresh start and a new beginning. In reality, there is no difference between December 31 and January 1. Nothing mystical occurs at midnight on December 31.

The Bible does not speak for or against the concept of New Year's resolutions. However, if a Christian determines to make a New Year's resolution, what kind of resolution should he or she make?

The more common resolutions are: to lose weight; to exercise more; to quit smoking; to stop drinking; and, to save money. These are all good goals to set and each has its own merit, but we should keep them in their proper places. Sadly, the overwhelming majority of New Year's resolutions, even among Christians, involve physical things. We should remember to keep exercise in perspective: *For bodily exercise profiteth little: but godliness is profitable unto all things, having promise of the life that now is, and of that which is to come.* [1 Timothy 4:8](#).

For many Christians, making New Year's resolutions will involve more spiritual things like the commitment to pray more, to read the Bible more, and to attend church more frequently. These goals are all great but, like the physically-motivated goals, they fail just as often. They fail because there is no power in a New Year's resolution. In other words, there is no magic or extra-help just because it is New Year's. January 1 is simply another day on the calendar. The sun still rises the same way. The earth remains in the same motion. The universe is still the universe. The heavens don't open and pour out "resolution power" on January 1st.

Resolving to start, stop, or change a habit or an activity on New Year's Day, or any other day for that matter, has no credible significance unless you have the proper motivation for the particular change. For instance, let's say your resolution is to read the Bible every day. Why do you want to do that? Do you want to learn more about God's word so you can honor Him, hear from Him, and

We have a VHS and DVD library  
If you would like a DVD of the service, talk to Marty

Sunday, January 1, 2012

Number 1

### Schedule of Services

Sunday School	10:00 am	Sunday Morning	11:00 am
Children's Church	11:15 am	Sunday Evening	6:00 pm
Wednesday Evening	7:00 pm		

### Attendance Last Week

Sunday Morning	42	Wednesday Evening	43
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This week's offering: \$1426.34

know Him more intimately, or is it because it's just a good thing to do? Why do you want to lose weight and exercise more? Is it to better strengthen your body for God's service and to honor God with your body, or is it for vanity, to be "more attractive," and to honor only yourself?

Jesus declared, *I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing.* [John 15:5](#). So, with regard to your New Year's resolutions remember this: If God remains the motivation for your resolution, it has a chance for success, but it totally depends on your commitment to it. If God's will is for something in your life to be fulfilled, you will be enabled by Him to fulfill it. If your resolution is not one that honors God, and is not in agreement with God's will, you will not receive God's help. *Remember, I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me.* [Philippians 4:13](#).

So, what sort of New Year's resolution should a Christian make? Here are some suggestions:

- pray to the Lord for wisdom in regards to what resolutions, if any, He would have you make; *If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him.* [James 1:5](#)
- pray for wisdom as to how to fulfill the goals God gives you;
- rely on God's strength to help you;
- find an accountability partner who will help you and encourage you;
- don't become discouraged with occasional failures; instead, allow them to motivate you further;

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