

THE BRIDGE

JANUARY 2019

OUR CORE VALUES AND DEFINITION

1. **Follow Jesus**

To follow Jesus is to accept the gifts of salvation and grace and to demonstrate the love of God through service to our community and the world by witnessing to the abundant life shared by the children of God.

(Reference scripture: Mark 12: 29-31)

2. **Grow Spiritually**

To grow spiritually is to be receptive to the Holy Spirit working in us and transforming the Body of Christ through the renewing gifts of prayer, study, and Christian fellowship

(Reference scripture: Romans 12: 1-2)

OUR VISION STATEMENT

We are a community of believers welcoming all to worship, pray, grow spiritually and to passionately pursue God's work.

OUR MISSION STATEMENT

Spreading God's way of life through spiritual growth and passionate service.

2500 South Doby's Bridge Rd.
P.O. Box 1028
Fort Mill, South Carolina 29716
Office 803-547-5240
www.DobysBridge.org

Pastor:

Stephen M. Austin
(828) 850-2241
sma254@gmail.com

Office Hours:

Monday & Tuesday
9 am - 12 pm

Wednesday-Thursday
12 pm - 3 pm

Or by appointment

Office/Newsletter:

dbpcsecretary@gmail.com

"The Paper Pulpit"



2018! What a year! As we leave 2018 behind and move into 2019, we should take some time to reflect on what we have experienced, accomplished or endured. Magazines, websites and even Dictionary companies select a singular person, event or word 'of the year' that they think sums up the year. For example, Oxford's Word of the Year is "TOXIC", while dictionary.com selected "MISINFORMATION" and Merriam-Webster chose "JUSTICE". I can't account for how they chose their 'word of the year' but for me it would be "PERSEVERANCE".

To persevere is defined by Merriam-Webster as "*to persist in a state, enterprise, or undertaking in spite of counterinfluences, opposition, or discouragement*". In short to persevere means to overcome. And boy have we overcome. When you think of all the hurricanes, storms, fires, sickness, surgeries, gun violence, political turmoil, traffic accidents, terrorism, anger, hatred, and just down right meanness that fills this world, we have not been defeated. At times we may have been down but we are not out. As believers, we have not given into despair or bitterness but instead kept the faith, remained hopeful, seen the good in spite of the bad, and continued to be a witness to the Love of God. Christians may be passive at times but we can also put up a good fight for what is virtuous, Godly and true.

In short we look beyond all these negative events, misinformation and toxic "ethos, mood, or preoccupations of the passing year" to quote Oxford English Dictionary. We see what is wrong and work towards what is right. We seek to lift up the light of Christ to shine in the darkness. We seek to do what we can to help fulfill what John said in the beginning of his Gospel, "...in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it."

As we shift our gaze toward next 2019 we seek to persevere in whatever life throws at us or in front of us. We cannot stop evil but we can resist it, turn to God and help others do the same. That is why John Calvin added Perseverance of the Saints to his 5 points of Calvinism, which Charles Hodge summed up in these words. "***Perseverance...is due to, the purpose of God, to the work of Christ, to the indwelling of the Holy Spirit, and to the primal source of all, the infinite, mysterious, and immutable love of God.***"

Facing forward in faith,

Steve

2019 Flower Calendar



In 2019 those in the Church family can sign up to place flowers for worship by signing up in the Flower Calendar notebook in the narthex. Signs ups are on a first-come basis.

You will be contacted by the church to remind you of your Sunday and bulletin wording.



Inclement Weather

In case of inclement weather, you can find information about church services and activities by calling the church. The website and answering machine will be updated as necessary.



2nd Sunday Potluck Lunch

Sunday, January 13

following worship



HELP NEEDED! Sunday, January 6 after worship we will take down Christmas decorations in the fellowship hall and sanctuary. Please stay and help if possible. Many hands make quick work!



I wish to thank all of you at Doby's Bridge PC for your kindness and generosity this year. I appreciate all your beautiful cards, gifts and the snack goodies. Even though I have put on a few extra pounds because of all the sweets I can't complain. THANK YOU so much for your love! -Steve



As we regrettably say goodbye to Gretchen Whitesell after 17+ years, we also get to say Welcome to Beth Hayes as our new office secretary. She is very skilled and has already picked up on much of the work that the secretary does. And she hasn't blinked or run for the exit, yet. She is going to be a very helpful addition to our church staff. Please email Beth with any inquiries or comments at dbpcsecretary@gmail.com

SERVICE OF INSTALLATION

On **Sunday, January 6** we will have the Service of Installation for our new elders. The Elders elected to the Class of 2021 are Anne Adkins, Mike Middleton, and John Kimbrell.

A special thank you to Bernie Cooke and Allen Katz for their 3 years of faithful service as elders.

