

Celebrating a Birthday

December 23

Shirley Calhoun

Celebrating an Anniversary

December 23

Mr. & Mrs. Jack Newman

Serving Our Church This Sunday

Ushers

(Ushers, please arrive 20 minutes before service)

Chuck Austin, Tony Bragg, Mike Durkin,
J. D. Dyches, Joe Jackson, Crawford Leonard,
Terry Nappier, Larry Olliff, Jay Walea

Counters

Gerald Ethridge, Chmn.,
Robert Riley



Sympathy

As a church family we express our deepest Christian sympathy to Elaine Barnard and family. Her daughter, Sandra Barnard Harrison went to be with the Lord Sunday morning, December 13. Please keep the family in your prayers.

OPPORTUNITIES THIS WEEKEND

Join Us this Sunday!

December 20

9:30am – Church Library Open

10:00am – Sunday School Fall Groups

11:00am – Special Christmas Music Celebration
(in-person or at FBCGC.live)

VITAL SIGNS

Budget Gifts Sunday\$12,860.05
Budget Gifts to Date\$17,328.05



Lottie Moon Christmas Offering

Given to Date: \$1,818

MULTIPLE WAYS TO GIVE:

- **In-Person on Sundays**
You can give using the offering plates at each Sunday service.
- **Online Giving**
Give easily and securely at any time on our website: www.FBCGC.net/giving
- **Text-to-Give**
Using your smartphone, text the Amount You Want to Give to [84321](tel:84321)
- **Mailed-in Giving**
Mail your gift to the church office at:
35 Nelson Ave, Garden City, GA 31408



35 Nelson Avenue, Garden City, GA 31408
912-964-1448 | office@fbcc.net
www.FBCGC.net

Office Hours: 10:00am to 2:00pm Monday - Thursday
Closed on Fridays

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Tommy Duke — Senior Pastor
Randall Frantz — Associate Pastor
Debbie Traywick — Worship Leader

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GOD IN THE WILDERNESS

This past Sunday's message was about how we can experience "God with Us" in the difficult, "wilderness" seasons of life – when we're spiritually dry, circumstances are depressing, and we just don't know what to do next.

When we began, I shared something that I've found true in my own life:

- **We enjoy God on the mountaintops of life.**
- **We get to know Him intimately in the valleys.**
- **We truly experience God's presence in the wilderness.**

These wilderness seasons often come after the mountaintops. For example, you experience the mountaintop of a great visit with family, only to find out shortly thereafter that one of them has died unexpectedly... That bewilderment and uncertainty is what many of us feel in the wilderness.

Or maybe you're coming off of a productive season at work and a few weeks later you're scratching your head because you were "downsized." Then comes the wilderness.

The wilderness can be caused by any number of similar experiences in any area of life, but they are marked in our lives by trials, hardship, wandering, and uncertainty.

During these wilderness seasons, we are more likely to feel stuck, paralyzed, confused, and afraid.

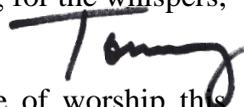
While I won't repeat Sunday's message (you can watch/listen at FBCGC.live if you missed it), I would

like to share with you a few of the key steps to experience God's presence in your personal wilderness:

- **Look to God for spiritual refreshment.**
In the wilderness, it's common to feel exhausted and worn out. Some of the need is physical, but more often than not, we are in need of the nourishment that comes from God. Devote time to spending time in God's word and in prayer to allow Him to refuel you.
- **Depend on God's help with your thoughts.**
During difficult times, our minds have a tendency to wander. If you're not careful, you'll begin harboring negative thoughts that lead to negative attitudes and actions. Ask God to help you "take every thought captive" to be sure they're in line with His will for you.
- **Listen for God's whispers.**
In the midst of the chaos of hard times, the loud noises of our circumstances tend to drown everything out. Remember that God is so close to you in these times that He will speak to you in a whisper. Make sure you're quiet enough to hear what He's saying.

Remember, Jesus was sent to be "God with us," no matter what type of wilderness you're facing today.

Listening for the whispers,



P.S. Join us for a very special time of worship this Sunday, December 20, at 11am, either In-Person or at FBCGC.live. Our Worship Team will lead us with a special Christmas presentation and the message will be about how to experience God in the storm. You don't want to miss it!

Special Christmas Music Celebration Sunday, December 20th at 11:00am

"THE GREATEST CHRISTMAS CARD"

One of the most exciting things about the Christmas season is to open Christmas cards and letters from the people that we love!

It fills our hearts with Joy to know that someone is thinking of us and is celebrating with us the Gift of Messiah!

But the greatest Christmas Card we have is from The Father! Every page of His Word is filled with His Love and His plan for our Salvation through His Son Immanuel!

So, go ahead and open it! Come and See what God has done!
~Debbie~

