

The Siluria Messenger

February 2024

Going forward together . . .



Siluria Baptist Church

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Alabaster, AL 35007
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siluriabaptist.com**

A Visit with the Pastor . . .

We've come a long way from churches buying ads in the yellow pages. Most churches now have a website or a Facebook page serving as primary locator. More recently we've seen the growth of another locator.

Google calls it a "business profile" and it's becoming increasingly important to churches. For example, people search for "churches in Alabaster" or "Baptist churches in Alabaster" or the like. In December our profile had 229 views and 27 people went to our website from there.

I read also that email is now "old school," and many churches are investing in texting announcement programs. Studies show emails are read within two-three days and texts are read within minutes.

Two interesting snippets lately from Baptist Press.

The first was about the new Methodist

denomination, the "break-away" Global Methodist Church, which has asked to partner with the Southern Baptist retirement and insurance program known as GuideStone. I think this is a tribute to how GuideStone is managed since it purposely avoids investing in funds that promote liquor, gambling or abortion.

The second was a study finding 74% of American churches use the calendar year for their budgets. I remember when it was more common to have church budgets commence Oct. 1. The study found that a minority of churches use July 1 as the beginning of their budget year.

We met our 2023 budget plan and had a small surplus of \$1500. This overage means that we gave about \$200 additional to the four mission funds that we engage on a percentage basis (13 percent of our receipts). So, we're indebted to so many faithful supporters of our work at Siluria.

Now we face a new budget year and a new challenge to "excel in the grace of giving," as Paul

exhorted the Corinthians (2 Cor. 8:7). I encourage everyone to develop good giving habits in the new year. We ask God's wisdom that we not love things more than people, and that we honor the Lord with the first and finest of our incomes.

I've begun listening more to podcasts than music when driving and was struck by a recent "Revitalize and Replant" podcast from the North American Mission Board that focused on attitude. Paul is very clear that we must "do everything without grumbling and complaining" since we are to "shine like stars" in a world of darkness (Philippians 2: 14-15). Grumbling reminds us of the Hebrews in the wilderness who complained about everything, it seems. We don't want to be like them. As our public-school teachers use to tell us, "Work on your attitude." With God's help we can be people who reflect the agape love of Christ.

Devotedly,
Michael J. Brooks

Birthdays	
5	Marvin Hancock
7	Donna Brooks
8	Maggie Bryars
9	Jane Joiner
10	Everett Cofer
10	Ayana Lomax
13	Bruce Barbee
15	KayKay Seals
18	Stanton Morlan
21	Vickie Gibbs
27	Lynn Page

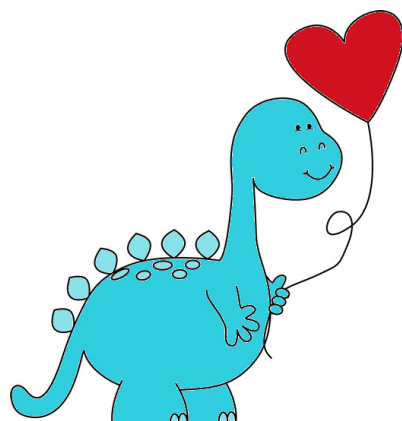
Church Staff	Michael Brooks, Pastor	michaeljbrooks2020@gmail.com
	Cindy Wingate, Interim Music Director	cindywingate4@gmail.com
	Cody Seals, Youth Minister	codyseals215@gmail.com
	Katie Abney, Ministry Assistant	siluriabaptist@gmail.com
Visit our website at siluriabaptist.com		

Dates to Remember	
4	Deacons Meeting
11	Valentine's Meal
19	President's Day
20	MinistrySafe Conf.

Students of the Month
Ayana Lomax
Homebound of the Month
Dana Burrow



On February 11, we will gather in the Fellowship Hall after the morning service for our Valentine's Meal. Please bring a covered dish and join us.



"So now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; but the greatest of these is love." 1 Corinthians 13:13

"Dear children, let us not love with words or speech but with actions and in truth." 1 John 3:18