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Dear Church Family,

Happy New Year! I hope this letter finds you all well and eager to charge ahead into 2020 together for the glory of Christ in Hattiesburg. I'd like to offer a word of encouragement and a word of information. First, the encouragement! The passage of time grants each of us an opportunity "to number our days that we may gain a heart of wisdom" (Ps. 90:12) and set spiritual goals. When he turned twenty-years-old, Jonathan Edwards wrote down seventy resolutions. One of those resolutions has always stood out to me: "Resolution 28. Resolved, to study the Scriptures so steadily, constantly and frequently, as that I may find, and plainly perceive myself to grow in the knowledge of the same."

*As you consider your hopes for the new year, won't you consider Resolution 28? Whether you are young or old, a seasoned saint or baby believer, seeking the knowledge of God in Scripture is a worthy endeavor! The Word of God, wielded by the Spirit, is the means by which He saves sinners (Rom. 10:17). In Scripture, God reveals His will for our lives as a light onto our path (Ps. 119:105). The Bible is a bridle that restrains our lusts and preserves our purity (Ps. 119:9). When we resist the devil with the sword of truth, he will flee from us (Mat. 4:11). The Bible is the sanctifying truth of God which shapes us into the holy likeness of Christ (Jn. 17:17). God's Word is satisfying to the soul: more to be desired than gold and sweeter than honey (Ps. 19:10). In times of affliction, the promises of God in Scripture comfort the hurting heart (Ps. 119:50). *Who among us doesn't need more of God's Word? Who among us doesn't need God's Word to more deeply penetrate our minds and hearts? Who among us has sufficiently mastered the content of Scripture? Who among us has been sufficiently mastered by the Scriptures?* May this year be one of basking in the Bible, of fresh insights, of renewed hatred for sin, and rekindled affections for Christ. "Let us know, let us press on to know the Lord" (Hos. 6:3).*

Second, the information: Jesus said to his disciples, "The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest" (Mat. 9:37-38). This year, the Session hopes to send more laborers into the field by hiring a Church Administrator, and then, Lord willing, a Minister of Discipleship.

Though the Session has been seriously considering hiring an Administrator for years, it is a new position in the 138-year history of our church that warrants explanation. The Church Administrator will be a fulltime, unordained man with three chief responsibilities: 1. As *chief of staff*, the Administrator will oversee all nonpastoral staff. 2. As *communications director*, the Administrator will facilitate efficient communication among the staff, Session, Diaconate, & committees. 3. As *chief financial officer*, the Administrator will support the deacons in ensuring the fiscal health of our church. You can read a more comprehensive summary of the Administrators duties on the enclosed job description. Please pray that the Lord would raise up the man of His own choosing. Please pray for the Session as we pray for you.

"Let the favor of the Lord our God be upon us, and establish the work of our hands upon us; yes, establish the work of our hands" (Ps 90:17)!

Your grateful servant,