

## “TOP TEN” WSBC PRAYER NEEDS FOR JANUARY 2012



**Pray** that we fulfill our church purpose each month in the New Year: “To glorify God by helping as many as possible to become fully-committed, lifelong followers of Christ.”

**Pray** for a strong presentation of God’s Word in January. Pastor Scott starts us off with a timely message, “All Things New,” on January 1. Pastor

John brings our first Message Series of the year, “Jesus: Who is This Man?” about the Person and Work of Jesus Christ (January 8-February 26).

**Pray** that everyone becomes part of a Sunday Morning Adult Bible Fellowship or Mid-Week Bible Study in the New Year.

**Pray** that we communicate our church vision well to newcomers at “Lunch with the Pastors” on January 15.

**Pray** for a good turnout at the church membership class, “Welcome to the Team,” on January 21. All new material will be presented.

**Pray** for a strong start to a new fellowship opportunity for adults (40s, 50s, 60s) on January 14 at the Adult Supper Club. These suppers and game nights are being planned throughout the year.

**Pray** for a spiritual break-through in the life of each Middle and High School Student at the “Ignite” Winter Retreat on January 2-4 at Five Pines.

**Pray** for a generous response to our “Super Bowl Canned Food Drive” running from January 8-February 5. Items will be received for our Caring Cupboard Food Pantry and the Harbor Country Emergency Shelter and Food Pantry in Three Oaks.

**Pray** for generous financial support of the “2012 Ministry Operating Budget” as we begin the New Year.

The monthly Prayer Digest is written by Pastor John Bedford and Pastor Scott Brown.

Woodland Shores Baptist Church ~ Bridgman, Michigan  
Website: [www.wsbchurch.com](http://www.wsbchurch.com)

## PRAYER DIGEST WOODLAND SHORES BAPTIST CHURCH – JANUARY 2012

*Jesus said, “Always pray and never lose heart.”*

The prayer below was written by the Reverend Billy Graham for “The Saturday Evening Post” in 2008. It is just as relevant today.

“Our Father and our God, as we stand at the beginning of this new year we confess our need of Your presence and Your guidance as we face the future.

We each have our hopes and expectations for the year that is ahead of us—but You alone know what it holds for us, and only You can give us the strength and the wisdom we will need to meet its challenges. So help us to humbly put our hands into Your hand, and to trust You and to seek Your will for our lives during this coming year.

In the midst of life’s uncertainties in the days ahead, assure us of the certainty of Your unchanging love.

In the midst of life’s inevitable disappointments and heartaches, help us to turn to You for the stability and comfort we will need.

In the midst of life’s temptations and the pull of our stubborn self-will, help us not to

lose our way but to have the courage to do what is right in Your sight, regardless of the cost.

And in the midst of our daily preoccupations and pursuits, open our eyes to the sorrows and injustices of our hurting world, and help us to respond with compassion and sacrifice to those who are friendless

and in need. May our constant prayer be that of the ancient Psalmist: ‘Teach me, O Lord, to follow your decrees; then I will keep them to the end’ (Psalm 119.33).

We pray for our nation and its leaders during these difficult times, and for all those who are seeking to

bring peace and justice to our dangerous and troubled world. We pray especially for Your protection on all those who serve in our armed forces, and we thank You for their commitment to defend our freedoms, even at the cost of their own lives. Be with their families also, and assure them of Your love and concern for them.

Bring our divided nation together, and give us a greater vision of what You would have us to be. Your Word reminds us that ‘Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord’ (Psalm 33.12).

“Help us to humbly put our hands into Your hand, and to trust You and to seek Your will for our lives during this coming year.”

As we look back over this past year we thank You for Your goodness to us—far beyond what we have deserved. May we never presume on Your past goodness or forget all Your mercies to us, but may they instead lead us to repentance, and to a new commitment to make You the foundation and center of our lives this year.

And so, our Father, we thank You for the promise and hope of this new year, and we look forward to it with expectancy and faith. This I ask in the name of our Lord and Savior, who by His death and resurrection has given us hope both for this world and the world to come.”

Amen

Pastor Scott

### SOUND ADVICE

“He who runs from God in the morning will scarcely find Him the rest of the day.”  
—John Bunyan

“The moment you wake up each morning, all your wishes and hopes for the day rush at you like wild animals. And the first job each morning consists in shoving it all back; in listening to that other voice, taking that other point of view, letting that other, larger, stronger, quieter life come flowing in.”  
—C.S. Lewis

“There is nothing that makes us love a man so much as prayer for him.”  
—William Law

If the request is wrong, God says, “No.”  
If the timing is wrong, God says, “Slow.”  
If you are wrong, God says, “Grow.”  
But if the request is right, the timing is right and you are right, God says, “Go!”  
—Bill Hybels

When our children were small and we were trying to teach them to pray, we had three kinds of prayer: “Please prayers,” “Thank you prayers,” and “Sorry prayers.”  
—Stuart Briscoe

### PRAY EACH DAY WITH YOUR CHURCH FAMILY

**MONDAY:** “Dear Heavenly Father, I begin this New Year in faith that You will be my Silent Partner each day, each step of the way. I desire to walk with You through every circumstance and pray that my every thought and every action will conform to Your will. Amen.”

**TUESDAY:** “Eternal Father, I thank You for my family and good friends. Help me to be a good friend to others, too. Help me to speak, listen and act well for their sakes, as well as my own. I pray that those closest to me would experience Your grace and favor. For any who are ill, please heal them; for any who are confused, please guide them; for any who are distant from You, please restore them. Amen.”

**WEDNESDAY:** “Gracious Lord, when You walked on this earth You challenged us to follow Your example: ‘I came not to be served but to serve.’ Please guide me into new ways to give a verbal witness to my faith in You and opportunities to serve others in the name of Christ this week. Help me to be Your clear voice and strong hands. Amen.”

**THURSDAY:** “In the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit I pray for the continuing expansion of the Kingdom of God throughout the world, beginning here in southwest Michigan. May this be a year of spiritual harvest for our church and for each of our global missionaries. Amen.”

**FRIDAY:** “Dear Lord, I pray for Woodland Shores Baptist Church, the local community of faith where I worship and serve. I pray that the Spirit of God would take the Word of God and apply it deep in our hearts and minds this Sunday; that we worship you joyfully with all our heart; that each program would have just the right number of gifted and energetic volunteers; and that You will entrust newcomers to us – the unchurched, and those who do not know Christ in a personal way. Amen.”

*“The LORD has heard my cry for mercy; the LORD accepts my prayer.”*

Psalm 6.9

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*“Prayer is not overcoming God's reluctance, but laying hold of His willingness.”*

Martin Luther  
(1483-1546)