

VOLUME 11 ISSUE 12

DECEMBER 2015

# The First Word

Parents' Night Out  
December 4

Celebrators' Banquet  
December 9

"My Heart Longs for Christmas"  
December 13

Candlelight and  
Communion Services  
December 20

Church Office Closed  
December 21-25

*Glorifying God by developing fully devoted followers of  
Jesus Christ motivated by a love for God and a love for others.*





## JOY TO THE WORLD!\*

*“But the angel said to them, ‘Do not be afraid, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people.’” (Luke 2:10)*

As one of the most joyous of all Christmas hymns, this carol omits references to shepherds, angelic choruses, and wise men. It emphasizes instead the reverent but ecstatic joy that Christ’s birth brought to mankind. For centuries hearts had yearned for God to reveal Himself personally. At last it happened as *“the Word became flesh and dwelt among us.”* “Joy to the World” is a paraphrase of the last part of Psalm 98:

*“Make a joyful noise unto the Lord, all the earth; make a loud noise and rejoice and sing praise. Let the floods clap their hands; let the hills be joyful together before the Lord; for He cometh to judge the earth; with righteousness shall He judge the world, and the people with equity.”*

Although it was originally a song of rejoicing for Jehovah’s protection of His chosen people and the anticipation of the time when He would be the God of the whole earth, this psalm was intended by Watts to be a New Testament expression of praise. It exalts the salvation that began when God became incarnate as the Babe of Bethlehem who was destined to remove the curse of Adam’s fall. The text was originally titled “The Messiah’s Coming and Kingdom” when it first appeared in Watts’ hymnal of 1719. The music for this popular carol is thought to have been adapted by Lowell Mason, an American church musician, from some of the phrases used in parts of George Frederick Handel’s beloved oratorio, *The Messiah*, first performed in 1742. May we praise Him with all of our hearts this Christmas season as we sing these familiar words:

*Joy to the world! the Lord is come! Let earth receive her King; let ev’ry heart prepare Him room, and heav’n and nature sing.*

*Joy to the earth the Savior reigns. Let men their songs employ, while fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains repeat the sounding joy.*

*No more let sins and sorrows grow, nor thorns infest the ground; He comes to make His blessings flow far as the curse is found.*

*He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the nations prove the glories of His righteousness and wonders of His love.*

On a personal note, let me take a little space and tell you once again what a blessing it is to serve as the pastor of this incredible First Baptist Family. Wendy and I count it an honor, a privilege and a wonderful source of joy to be part of this precious church family. I am so thankful for you and for all that God is doing in and through our lives together in Him. My hope and prayer is that this Christmas season will be a joyful and meaningful one for you and for your family.

*\*Hymn information from the book, Amazing Grace - 366 Inspiring Hymn Stories For Daily Devotions by Kenneth W. Osbeck*



# Children's Ministry

LIKE us on Facebook @firstbaptist.childrensministry

## Questions or Comments??

Contact FBC: 54-7-2051

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## Celebrate & Build Traditions In December

Children of all ages love the holiday season. Make deliberate plans for special family times while keeping Christ in Christmas!!



\*\*Have a birthday party for Jesus. Make it complete with cake, ice cream, and songs!

\*\*Re-enact the Christmas story with your family. Give everyone a part-even the littlest can be lambs. Use Luke 2:1-20 as narration.

\*\*Wrap a gift for Jesus to put under the Christmas tree. Your gift might be an act of service, a donation to a Christian organization or some other way to show Christ's Love.

\*\*Other ideas will be shared on the FBC Children's Ministry FACEBOOK page during the month!

## PJ Day in Children's Ministry

Sunday, December 13

... keep your eyes and ears open for all the details ...



LIKE US!!

...on Facebook ...

There are some fun "extras" including a great giveaway during December!



## First Step Class

A new Christian class for kids & at least one parent

This one-time class is offered approximately every other month. It is designed for children ages 7 & up (who have already made a salvation decision) and is an FBCFM prerequisite to baptism. Content includes discussion, teaching, Q & A on salvation and baptism.

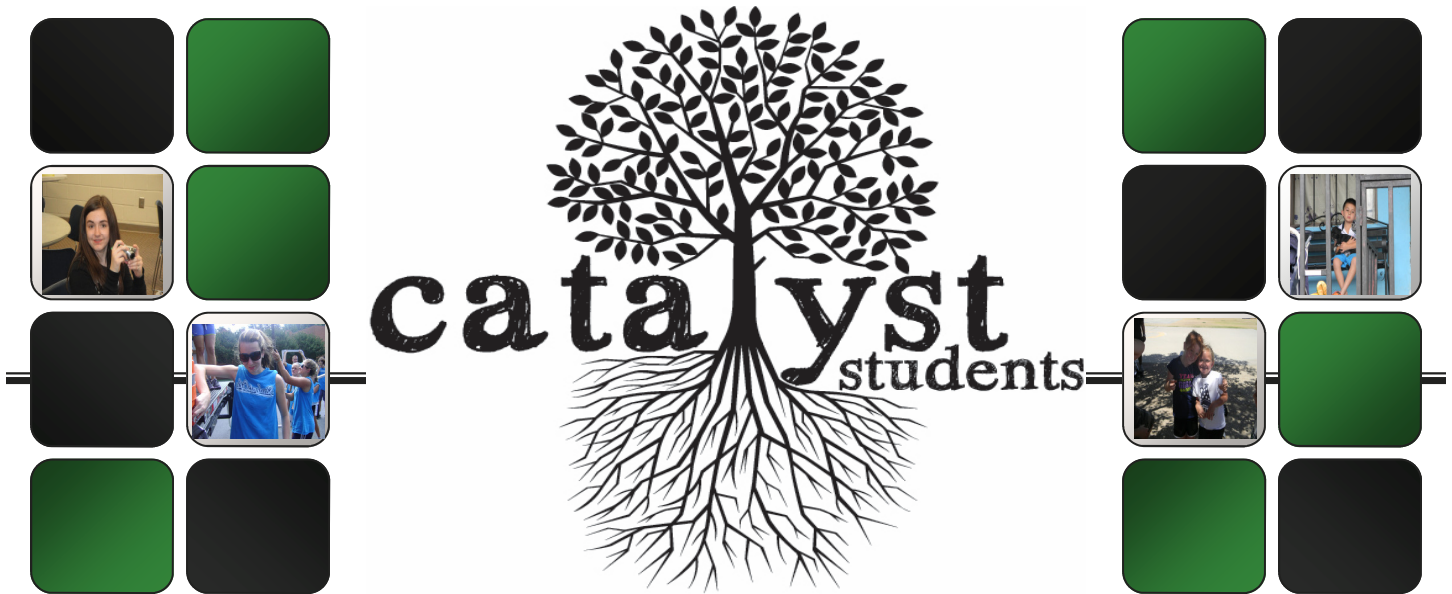
At least one parent should attend with each child. Children are *not* automatically added to the class list ... it is the responsibility of the parent to sign up each child.

Next Opportunity:

Sunday, January 10, 11:00 a.m.

Please call the church office or email Natalie (nsavader@fbcfm.com) by Thursday, 1/7 if your child plans to attend

...there is a sign-up minimum of 3 children.



## Parents' UpRising Meeting

Sunday, December 13, we have a parents' meeting for our UpRising weekend. We will meet in the Fellowship Hall at 12:15 following the 11:00 worship service and 11:00, 180. We will discuss all the details for the UpRising weekend. A \$25 deposit is due at the meeting if your student plans to attend. The cost is going up this year from \$65.00 to \$70.00. There will be a discount for families that have more than one student involved in the weekend.

## Christmas Fellowship

On Wednesday, December 9, we will gather in the Fellowship Hall, 6-8 p.m. for the annual Catalyst Christmas fellowship. Wear PJ's and bring your favorite Christmas food or dessert. We will have prizes for the best dressed!

## UpRising Weekend

January 15-17 are the dates for our 2016 UpRising Weekend. The cost is \$70.00 per student. There is an important parent meeting on Sunday, December 13 (see other post). Volunteers are needed in several areas:

- Host homes
- Drivers
- Kitchen help (Saturday lunch & dinner)
- Registration
- Sunday Morning

We anticipate having over 250 students for the weekend. Please contact Johnny if you can volunteer in one of these areas.

## Merry Christmas

Trish and I want to wish you and your families a blessed Christmas. Thank you for trusting us with your students. We are looking forward to an awesome 2016.



# Adult Ministries

## Experience It!

### December Schedule

Dec 3 - Celebrators trip to Billy Graham Library  
Dec 4 - Parents' Night Out  
Dec 6 - Midweek Sign-ups begin  
Dec 9 - Celebrators' Christmas Banquet  
Dec 13 - Christmas Musical (5 & 7 p.m.)

Dec 19 - Project Angel Tree delivery  
Dec 20 - Christmas Candlelight Service (5 & 6:30 pm)  
Dec 21-25 - Church office closed  
Dec 27 - Worship Services only (9 & 10:30 a.m.)



### 2016 Midweek Connection Wednesday Classes January 6 – March 23 (6:15 – 7:45)

*\*Sign-up in the Worship Center lobby starting December 6\**

#### Classes include....

1. **Christian Beliefs, Part 2** - Shannon Ford
2. **Spiritual Warfare: Biblical Truth for Victory** - Steve Adams
3. **1 Peter—Precepts (Ladies)** - Trish Caruso
4. **Financial Peace University** - Larry Ashworth & Andy Jones
5. **Marriage 101** - Bart & Pam Nicholson
6. **Apologetics** - Garrett Eckert
7. **First Serve** - Neely Potts
8. **Missions Class** - Brett Freemon

\*\*\* Other classes TBD.



Christmas is rapidly approaching and what better way to spread our love and joy than giving a gift of love to a child.

Project Angel Tree is about making a needy child's Christmas happier.

Please stop by the Angel Tree at the Registration Center in the lobby to pick an angel from the Angel Tree. The Sundays to select angels are 12/6 and 12/13. An Angel Tree team will deliver the gifts on December 19.



### First Baptist Holiday Schedule

1) **Christmas Post Office** (Back Lobby of Welcome Center)  
The Christmas Post office will be open in December to send your Christmas Cards to church members. We ask you to put the money you save on postage in the mail box on the table. This money is donated to our Lottie Moon Christmas offering for International missions.

2) **My Heart Longs for Christmas** (Sunday, December 13)  
The Worship Choir, children's choir, orchestra & drama team will present two performances at 5:00 & 7:00 p.m.

3) **Candlelight Services** (Sunday, December 20)  
Our annual Candlelight and Communion services will be at 5:00 & 6:30 p.m. A benevolence offering will be collected.

4) **Worship Service Schedule** (Sunday, December 27)  
We will have only two worship services at 9:00 and 10:30 a.m. There will be no ABF classes, 180 student classes or Uptown classes. There will be childcare for Lamb - Penguins classes.



## Music ~ Media



***“For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.”  
John 3:16***

### Music News

**Please join us this Christmas season for our Christmas musical and Candlelight services:**

- \* On Sunday, December 13, at 5:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m., the Worship Choir, children’s choir, wind ensemble and drama team will present David T. Clydesdale’s *“My Heart Longs for Christmas.”*
- \* Candlelight services and communion will be held on Sunday, December 20, at 5:00 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. A benevolence offering will be collected at the end of each service.

**Other Christmas events featuring First Baptist music ministry:**

- \* The handbell choir will be featured in the Fort Mill Christmas parade on Saturday, December 5.
- \* The handbell choir will perform at South Park Mall on Sunday, December 6, from 2:00-3:00 p.m.
- \* The Celebrator Choir will perform at the Billy Graham Library on Friday, December 18, at 5:30 p.m.
- \* Alice Baker and Ann Harris will perform four-hand piano Christmas selections on Saturday, December 19, at 7:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Everyone is invited - no ticket required.

**If interested in joining the music ministry in 2016, please contact Alice Baker or Diane Dulin. Wishing you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.**



### Media News

#### Audio & Media Needs

~ Training will be provided for those willing to serve in the areas of audio, ProPresenter and camera. Contact Tim Gale (tim@tmgale.com), Bryan Trotter (btrotter@fbcfm.com) or Diane Dulin (ddulin@fbcfm.com).

# WORSHIP

# ARTS

by Bryan Trotter

## A Christmas Wrapped in Praise

Dwayne Moore

[www.worshipleader.com](http://www.worshipleader.com)

Let's start with a question: What is the one thing God made sure Jesus got the best of, when He arrived on earth?

Was it our riches? No. Jesus was born in a cave used to keep animals. There was nothing rich about it.

Was it our royalty? No. Jesus' parents were a shepherd boy and a hand-maiden. They weren't kings and queens.

Was it our 5-star resorts? Absolutely not; in fact, there was no guest room or lodging place of any kind available to Mary and Joseph in Bethlehem.

No, it wasn't any of the luxuries we tend to think are important and valuable. There was one thing, however, that God made sure Jesus received in abundance. When Jesus was born into this world, He was welcomed with praise. The entire event of Jesus' birth was wrapped in pleasing and powerful acts of worship. No less than ten times, joyful and spontaneous praise was offered to God because of Jesus' advent into our sin-cursed world.

### Extraordinary Praise

Nine out of the ten praise-events occurred in the first two chapters of Luke...

First, there was Gabriel's announcement that Jesus would be born. He told Mary that Jesus would be great, the Son of the Most High. Then there was John the Immerser. He had not even been born. Yet, when Mary came to tell his mother, Elizabeth, about Jesus, John leapt for joy in Elizabeth's womb. Elizabeth responded by saying to Mary, *"Blessed are you among women...Blessed is the Child you will bear"* (Luke 1:42). Then, listen to how Mary started her song of praise. *"My soul glorifies the Lord and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior..."* (Luke 1:46-47).

Want more praise? Then look at Zechariah. John's father worshiped God when his son was born because he knew John would prepare the way for the Messiah, the Lord Jesus Christ. As soon as Mary delivered her infant King, the angels got in on the praise as well. They appeared to the Shepherds out in a field not far from the manger. They were keeping watch over their flocks by night. Do you remember what they sang? Say it out loud right now: *"Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace, good will to men"* (Luke 2:14). Can you imagine how those shepherds must have felt as they hurried to the stall and first laid eyes on God incarnate? Their stunned silence in His presence quickly led to loud and amazing proclamations of praise to anyone who would listen to their story.

Eight days later, Mary and Joseph brought Jesus to the temple where Simeon took Jesus in his arms and praised his God, saying, *"My eyes have seen your salvation...a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel"* (Luke 2:30). At that very moment, a prophetess named Anna came up to them and gave thanks to God as she spoke about the Child, our Redeemer.

And of course we can't forget about the Magi. They came from the East following a star that eventually led them to Bethlehem some months later. Matthew 2:11 chronicles their amazing sacrifice of praise. It reads, *"When they saw the Child..., they fell down and worshiped Him. Then they presented unto Him their treasures..."*

### From Extraordinary People

Clearly Jesus was showered with praise when He arrived here on earth. But notice it didn't necessarily come from people who were famous or outstanding in society. No, the praise Jesus received came mostly from ordinary folk. Yet, then again, these people were actually quite extraordinary. They all had hearts that were passionately in love with their God.

### Our Extraordinary Privilege

In light of all the worship surrounding Jesus' birth, here's one final question for us: Now that we see the huge priority God put on people giving His Son praise and honor, what do you think He wants our highest goal this Christmas to be?

# created for connection

# GroupLINK

## GroupLINK Is Coming!

You have heard us mention that we really want you to be part of a Life Group. We think God has a plan to use other brothers and sisters in your life to grow you to be more like Him. Being part of the life changing community offered in a Life Group can help you take that next spiritual step that God has for you.

Enter GroupLINK. It's like eharmony for Life Groups! GroupLINK is a two-hour event designed to help connect those interested in Life Groups with a group. It's a night full of food, fun and friends that will hopefully end with you finding the right group to try. We will eat, introduce the available groups, mingle a little and attempt to help you connect to the right group.

GroupLINK will be held on January 23 at 5th Quarter at Beef O'Brady's in Baxter from 5-7 p.m. Please RSVP to Angie Hayman ([ahayman@fbcfm.com](mailto:ahayman@fbcfm.com)) so we can order the right amount of food and make sure we have enough babysitters for your sweet little kids! We will begin sign-ups for GroupLINK in January. You will be able to sign up in the lobby, online or on your Connect Card. So don't wait any longer! Now is your time to get connected and experience life changing community!

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Want to learn more about Life Groups, the Host Team, or our Link Team?

Contact Matthew Gavin at:

[mcavin@fbcfm.com](mailto:mcavin@fbcfm.com)



# IN OUR FELLOWSHIP

## Welcome New Members



Stephen & Carol  
Wright



Jacquelin Evans



Scott & Meghan  
Linkous



## December Top 5 Ministry Opportunities

1. Moppets Volunteers
2. Sunday Night Kitchen Team
3. Monogrammer
4. February Appreciation Month Team
5. CM Midweek Teachers

More information about these positions is on the church's website and in the Worship Center lobby.

Articles for the January *First Word* are due in the church office by December 14.

The church office will be closed December 21-25 for the Christmas holiday.

## In Sympathy

Our fellowship of faith extends the deepest love and sympathy to the following who have lost loved ones during the past month:

Jennie Buchanan on the loss of her brother  
David Cornish on the loss of his mother  
Catherine Decker on the loss of her mother  
Bill McDonald on the loss of his brother  
Rachel Miller on the loss of her brother  
Tom Ferguson on the loss of his father



## Are You Experiencing Christmas Blues?

The joy of Christmas can turn into a time of painful loneliness and emptiness for those who have suffered a loss or who are going through a difficult time. But help is available. Our Stephen Ministers are ready to provide confidential, one-to-one Christian care. They will listen, care, encourage, pray with and for you, and support you through the holidays and as long as your need persists. If you or someone you know is hurting, find out more about Stephen Ministry by talking with one of our Stephen Leaders listed below:

Jerry Lape, 704-219-1626      Carolyn Lape, 704-989-0284  
Sam Treadaway, 803-802-3025      Tony Bishop, 803-548-4109  
Ken Terry, 727-512-0920      Bill Tumlin, 803-554-2530  
Karen Morrow, 803-547-2051

*Our Stephen Ministers are there to care!*

## Congratulations To:

**Tommy & Kimber Jenkins on the birth of their son, Nate, on October 25.**

**Grandparents are Frank & Peggy Reitz**

**Jeter & Carla Santos on the birth of their daughter, Karis Natalia, on November 2.**  
**Grandparents are Carl & Maxine Catoe.**

**Paul & Carol Taggart on the birth of their great-granddaughter, Katelyn Meredith Fishero.**

## December Deacons

Sunday, December 6 ~ Dave Kirby & Ron Reynders

Sunday, December 13 ~ Paul Taggart & Danny Jugan

Sunday, December 20 ~ Scott Motsinger & Bobby Woodson

Sunday, December 27 ~ Ron Whitmire & Shawn Swicegood

### Regular Sunday Schedule

8:15 a.m. ~ Blended Worship  
9:30 & 11:00 a.m. ~ Contemporary Worship/ABF and Serving Opportunities

### Regular Wednesday Schedule

7:30 p.m.— Adult Choir/Wind Ensemble Rehearsal

# December 2015

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	
		<b>1</b> 9:30 ESL & Bible Study Classes  8:00 AA/Al-Anon	<b>2</b> 6:30 Prayer Meeting  5:15 Handbell Rehearsal 6:45 Children's Choir 7:15 Orchestra Rehearsal 7:30 Choir Rehearsal	<b>3</b> 8:30 Prayer Meeting 11:00 Celebrators' Trip to BGEA Library  8:00 AA	<b>4</b> 9:30 MOPS  6:00 Parents' Night Out 7:00 NA	<b>5</b> 9:00 Handbell Performance in FM Christmas Parade 11:00 Blood Drive  6:00 Taggart/Davis ABF	
<b>6</b> 9:30 Welcome to the Family Class 2:00 Handbell Performance at South Park Mall	<b>7</b> 6:30 Men's Prayer Group 9:30 Mission's Prayer Group 10:30 Celebrator Choir	<b>8</b> 9:30 ESL & Bible Study Classes 10:30 Priscilla Group  6:30 SM Supervision Group 7:00 First Ladies/Titus Two 8:00 AA/Al-Anon	<b>9</b> 6:30 Prayer Meeting 11:30 Celebrator's Lunch 5:15 Handbell Rehearsal 6:00 Catalyst Student Christmas Fellowship 6:45 Children's Choir 7:15 Orchestra Rehearsal 7:30 Choir Rehearsal	<b>10</b> 8:30 Prayer Meeting  7:00 Choir/Drama Rehearsal 8:00 AA	<b>11</b> 7:00 NA	<b>12</b> 9:30 Christmas Musical Rehearsal  1:45 Agape ABF BGEA Trip 2:00 Piano Recital	
<b>13</b> 11:00 Start Here Class 12:15 Catalyst Parents' Meeting  5:00 Christmas Musical 7:00 Christmas Musical	<b>14</b> 6:30 Men's Prayer Group	<b>15</b> 9:30 ESL & Bible Study Classes  8:00 AA/Al-Anon	<b>16</b> 6:30 Prayer Meeting  5:15 Handbell Rehearsal 6:00 Walnut Grove Rehearsal 7:30 Choir Rehearsal	<b>17</b> 8:30 Prayer Meeting  6:00 CM Volunteer Drop-in 6:00 Walnut Grove Christmas Musical 8:00 AA	<b>18</b> 9:30 MOPS 4:00 Celebrator Choir Trip to BGEA Library  6:30 Celebrator Choir Dinner 7:00 NA	<b>19</b> 1:00 Neal Family Reunion  7:00 Christmas Concert—Alice Baker/Anne Harris	
<b>20</b> 11:00 Overflow Volunteer Orientation  5:00 Candlelight Service 6:30 Candlelight Service	<b>21</b> 6:30 Men's Prayer Group 9:30 Mission's Prayer Group	<div style="border: 2px solid black; padding: 5px; display: inline-block;">Church Office Closed for Christmas Holiday ~ 21st-25th</div>					
		<b>22</b>  8:00 AA/Al-Anon					
<b>27</b>  9:00 Worship Service 10:30 Worship Service	<b>28</b> 6:30 Men's Prayer Group	<b>29</b>  8:00 AA/Al-Anon	<b>30</b> 6:30 Prayer Meeting	<b>31</b> New Year's Eve 8:30 Prayer Meeting  8:00 AA			

# DOLLAR\$&CENTS

## FINANCIAL SNAPSHOT Through October 2015

We are celebrating God's faithfulness through His stewards within the First Baptist Family! We are so thankful for the many folks who week by week honor God with the first fruits of all that God has entrusted to them. Your continued faithfulness is making an eternal difference! Here's a quick financial snapshot through October 31, 2015.

	<u>2015</u>	<u>2014</u>
Budget	\$ 2,034,910.10	\$ 1,987,728.30
Budget Income	\$ 1,830,263.65	\$ 1,927,191.77
Budget Spending	\$ 1,834,172.78	\$ 1,921,313.98

You can monitor your year-to-date gifts by going to the church website and clicking on "member login."  
Follow the instructions for creating a username/password if you don't have one.  
Contact Karen in the church office if you need assistance.

### 2015 Year-End Contributions

All contributions received in the church office by December 31 will be included in the 2015 contribution statements. Gifts that are **mailed** must be postmarked no later than December 31, 2015. Any gift postmarked after December 31 will be posted as a 2016 gift. *2015 Contribution statements will be sent via email by the end of January 2016. If you would like a paper copy of your statement please contact Fran in the church office.*



### The First Word

*Published Monthly by the First Baptist Church*  
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