



## December 2018

See the first page of this **Informer** for scheduled **Advent and Christmas events**

**Dec 24** - Christmas Eve, Church office closed  
**Dec 25** - Christmas Day, Church office closed

Christmas is the season for giving. Because God gave the world His son and our Savior, we also have the privilege, the blessing, and the responsibility to give our prayers and money to support Baptist Missionaries who seek to proclaim the gospel of Jesus Christ through multiple avenues around the globe. Such a monumental task requires participation from every believer, and at FBC we have the opportunity to support missions through two Baptist groups:

The Global Missions Offering (CBF)  
The Lottie Moon Christmas Offering (SBC)

The goal at First Baptist Church is \$2,000.00. Please designate your gifts to either missions organization.

### Sympathy for the family of ...



Lindie McLain who passed away.  
He is Mack Haigler's daughter-in-law's husband.

Al Moseley who passed away.  
He is Anna Clifton Moseley's father-in-law.



Tommy Melvin who passed away.  
He is Jeannette Melvin's brother-in-law.



William Graham who passed away.  
He is Angela Cockerton's father.

**RADIO SPONSORS:** If you can't be present in the sanctuary for the worship service, listen to the broadcast on WJSG, G-104 on your FM dial. The following area businesses sponsor the broadcast:  
Jenkins Automotive and Industrial Supply, Medical Center Pharmacy and Carter Funeral Home.



### The First Baptist Informer

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December 1 - 31

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# The First Baptist Informer

## Rockingham, North Carolina

"To know Christ and make Him known"

Vol. XLI\* Number 12\* December 1, 2018 - December 31, 2018

#### Resource Recording Team

**Monday, December 3, 2018**

Bonnie Barnes, Joanne Cadieu

**Monday, December 10, 2018**

Mary Joyner, Judy McEntire

**Monday, December 17, 2018**

Charles Harrill, J.C. Lamm, Bill Featherston

**Wednesday, December 26, 2018**

Sally Pierce, Beverly Carnes

**Monday, December 31, 2018**

Judy McEntire, Cynthia Morris

#### Attendance Report

**Sunday, Nov 4, 2018**

Sunday School - 57

Worship Service - 82

**Sunday, Nov 18, 2018**

Sunday School - 66

Worship Service - 81

**Sunday, Nov 11, 2018**

Sunday School - 68

Worship Service - 92

**Sunday, Nov 25, 2018**

Sunday School - 61

Worship Service - 82

#### Serving on Sunday, December 2, 2018

Nursery: Cynthia Morris/Kakki Schertzer

2's & 3s: Angela Cockerton/Leah Melvin

Church Security: Graham Jenkins/Steve McIver

Greeters: Mary Joyner

#### Serving on Sunday, December 9, 2018

Nursery: Carolyn Bridgman/Elaine Wilson

2's & 3's: Debbie Danner/Sally Pierce

Children's Church: Judy Harrelson/Lea Dietch

Church Security: Andrew Danner/Kenneth

Robinette

Greeters: Judy Harrelson/Steve and Cynthia

Morris

#### Serving on Sunday, December 16, 2018

Nursery: Joanne Cadieu/Mary Joyner

2s & 3s: Claudia Robinette/Marjorie Rainey

Children's Church: Bobbie Sue Ormsby/Madison

Jenkins

Church Security: Clay Ewing/Dennis Holloway

Greeters: Frances Godwin/Bobbie Sue Ormsby/

Elaine Wilson

#### Serving on Sunday, December 23, 2018

Nursery: Linda Byrd/Elaine Davis

2s & 3s: Brenda Tyler/Joanna Goldston

Children's Church: Debbie McIver/Kathy Griffis

Church Security: Jerry Davis/Joey Moree

Greeters: Mandy Allen/Dennis Holloway

#### Serving on Sunday, December 30, 2018

Nursery: Vivian Hilton/Bobbie Sue Ormsby

2s & 3s: Melanie Lampley

Children's Church: Crystal and Jason Coen

Church Security: Ron Chavis/Kenneth Robinette

Greeters: Mary Joyner/Steve and Cynthia Morris

### 2018 FBC Advent Opportunities

#### December 2nd

Hanging of the Greens Service, 11:00 am  
A service to prepare our hearts and sanctuary for the  
Advent and Christmas season.

#### December 7th

Children's Christmas Party, 6:00 pm (\$150)

#### December 9th

Adult Choir Cantata, 5:00 pm  
A Christmas Celebration in Song

#### December 15th

Youth Christmas Party, 6:00 pm

#### December 16th

The Christmas Story, Church Fellowship, & Carol Sing, 4:00 pm  
A retelling of the Christmas story by our children in the sanctuary  
followed by refreshments and singing in S150.

#### December 17th

Blue Christmas Service, 6:30 pm  
(at Church of the Messiah Episcopal, 202 N. Lawrence Street)  
A service that acknowledges that many of us find the holidays  
difficult...we worship a God who is with us through it all.

#### December 19th

Dinner and Christmas Caroling, 5:45 pm  
A light meal at 5:45 in S150 followed by Christmas caroling  
in the community.

#### December 23rd

Festival of Lessons and Carols, 11:00 am  
A service of scripture and music to celebrate Jesus' birth.

#### December 24th

Christmas Eve Service, 6:00 pm  
A time when we usher in the birth of Christ with candlelight,  
communion, and music.

*We hope you will join us for these wonderful opportunities  
of worship and fellowship during this  
Advent and Christmas season!*





And just like that, Advent is here! I hope this newsletter finds you doing well and having a good start to December. As you can see by the front cover of this month's Informer, we have many exciting and good things happening in the next weeks. It is my prayer that you will each take advantage of these opportunities as you are able and feel led, but that you not see this as an exhausting list of things you feel like you have to do. In the midst of the busyness that is so often December, I pray that each of us will be able to find time to breathe deeply and remember this time of year especially

is about the birth of a tiny baby who changed our world forever...a precious Savior who will one day return...a God who is worthy of all our worship. In their own unique way, each of these opportunities is meant to help us do just that.

While each of these opportunities is special, I want to draw particular attention to the afternoon of December 16<sup>th</sup>. Our children have been working diligently to prepare a meaningful portrayal of the Christmas Story. A big shout-out to Judy Harris, Judy Harrelson, and Brenda Tyler for all their good work with our children's choirs. This Christmas Story will be presented in our sanctuary, and it will be followed by a Church Fellowship in S150 (courtesy of our Hospitality Committee), and a Carol Sing. Many of you came out in July for a Hymn Sing. This was a fabulous evening of singing enjoyed by lots of people! We decided it was time to sing together again, and what better season than Christmas when there are so many beautiful Christmas carols to sing? We hope you will join us on the 16<sup>th</sup> at 4:00pm!

Lastly, while I have shared this poem with you before, I want to share it again. It is written by Ann Weems, and in a powerful way, speaks to the fact that God has not ever been bound by time or place. It is up to us to be attentive to the ways God is continually showing up in our lives. I pray God richly blesses each of you this December.

### The Coming of God

Our God is the One who comes to us in a burning bush, in an angel's song, in a newborn child.

Our God is the One who cannot be found locked in the church, not even in the sanctuary. Our God will be where God will be with no constraints, no predictability.

Our God lives where our God lives, and destruction has no power and even death cannot stop the living.

Our God will be born where God will be born, but there is no place to look for the One who comes to us.

When God is ready God will come even to a godforsaken place like a stable in Bethlehem.

Watch...

for you know not when God comes.

Watch, that you might be found whenever

wherever

God comes.



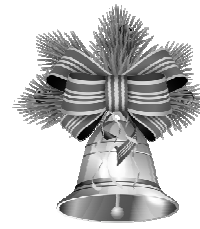
### White Christmas Bags

White Christmas Bags are located throughout the church. Pick up a bag with a list of suggested needs and return it by Sunday, December 16th. Items will be given to Our Daily Bread Food Ministry that helps to serve those in need throughout our local community. Please fill your bag as you are able. All items will be greatly appreciated. Questions: contact Mandy Allen or Christy Warren.

### Operation Christmas Child



Thank you to everyone who contributed gifts to Operation Christmas Child all year long. Thanks to each one of you who prepared boxes and volunteered during the "drop off" week. We had 15 volunteers that put in 62 hours to make this happen. Thank you to Rick Byrd for the use of a truck to transport the boxes to Monroe. Also, thanks to John and Beth Ray for driving the truck. Please keep praying for the 2,070 boxes that passed through our church doors that week. Merry Christmas!! Inell Allen



On October 17<sup>th</sup>, our adult choir began a seven week journey of preparation toward Advent. With the word "PREPARE" being our central theme, each Wednesday a letter from "PREPARE" became the first letter of our word for the upcoming week. Continuing from last month's Informer, week three challenged us to evaluate ("E") – evaluate where our focus, time and energy are spent in preparation for Advent. Week four called us to plan ("P") – plan, based on our evaluation, how to maintain our focus on the true meaning of Christmas, not getting distracted by the commercialization of the season. In week five, we began to anticipate ("A") – anticipate or look forward with excitement to the beauty the Advent season holds. Our sixth week encouraged us to rest ("R") – rest in the knowledge that, with Christ-centered preparation, God would bless our efforts. In our final week we are now encouraged to experience ("E") – experience the hope, love, joy and peace of the Advent and Christmas season.

"Sing Joy to All the World!" is a Christmas celebration our adult choir will be sharing on Sunday, December 9<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 pm. In the foreword of the musical, Lloyd Larson, the composer, writes "My father used to say to me that '... with privilege comes responsibility.' Jesus made a very similar statement. To whom much is given, much will be required. (Luke 12:48b) We who have been the recipients of this great news have the privilege and responsibility to share it. To celebrate it. To sing it. That is the reason for this Christmas musical."

The voices of children sharing the Christmas story have a special way of touching our hearts and bringing smiles to our faces. Our cherub choir and music makers hope to touch your heart as they present the Christmas story on Sunday, December 16<sup>th</sup> at 4:00 pm in our sanctuary.

May you and your family experience the hope, love, joy and peace of Christmas!



|                      |                         |                           |                      |
|----------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|----------------------|
| 12/1 Sarah Auman     | 12/2 Nan Bates          | 12/3 Virginia Auman       | 12/6 Benjamin Ewing  |
| 12/7 Pat Buckner     | 12/9 Joanne Cadieu      | 12/12 Diane Stokes        | 12/12 Leah Melvin    |
| 12/13 Gene Barnes    | 12/14 Kenneth Robinette | 12/15 Bloddie Featherston | 12/16 Susan Wheeler  |
| 12/22 Carol Chappell | 12/22 Scott Emerson     | 12/23 Jacob Coen          | 12/24 Deborah Knight |
| 12/25 Helen Cox      | 12/30 Alex Cockerton    | 12/31 Randy Warren        |                      |



| Giving Summary         | October 2018  | November 2018 |
|------------------------|---------------|---------------|
| General Fund           | 16,460        | 17,194        |
| Senior Adults          | 133           | 0             |
| Memorials & Honor      | 910           | 10            |
| Radio Ministry/Sound   | 800           | 800           |
| Baptist Men/Ramp Min.  | 0             | 100           |
| Fellowship (Wed Meals) | 226           | 202           |
| Heating and Air Cond.  | 580           | 500           |
| Local Benevolence      | 100           | 200           |
| Poinsettias            | 12            | 168           |
| Lottie Moon            | 0             | 100           |
| Senior Adults          | 0             | 405           |
| <b>Total Gifts</b>     | <b>19,221</b> | <b>19,679</b> |

|                             |          |
|-----------------------------|----------|
| Budget req. to date         | 347,579  |
| Gifts to date               | 293,245  |
| YTD req. under actual gifts | (54,334) |
| % giving to req.            | 84%      |



### Happy Anniversary!

- 12/24 Harvey and Hilda Auman - 65 yrs
- 12/24 Hunter and Laurene Ennis - 68 yrs
- 12/24 Clay and Melissa Ewing - 23 yrs
- 12/29 Norvin and Ellen Forester - 52 yrs



We hope everyone has a safe and joyful Christmas season.  
FBC Staff.



\$227.60 was received during our Community Thanksgiving Service and given to Our Daily Bread. Please keep this ministry in your prayers during this holiday season. If you would like to donate food, specific needs are listed on the White Christmas bags available at the church, or you can call the church office.

**Sunday Schedule**

|                             |                |
|-----------------------------|----------------|
| Praise Singing              | 9:30 am        |
| Sunday School               | 9:45 am        |
| Radio Broadcast on G-104 FM | 10:45 am       |
| Worship Service             | 11:00 am       |
| Music Makers Practice       | 6:00 - 6:45 pm |

# DECEMBER 2018

TO KNOW CHRIST AND MAKE HIM KNOWN

| Sun  | Mon  | Tue  | Wed  | Thu | Fri  | Sat                                |
|--|--|--|--|-----|--|------------------------------------|
|  |  |  |  |     |  | 1                                  |
| 2<br><b>1st Sunday of Advent</b><br>-Hanging of the Greens Service, 11 am<br>Cherub Choir, 5:30 pm | 3<br>-Boy Scouts, 6:30 pm  | 4<br>-WMU Circle #1, 10 am<br>-Girl Scouts, 5:30 pm  | 5<br>-Fellowship Meal, 6 pm<br>-Bible Studies/Activities for all ages, 6:30 pm<br>-Adult Choir, 7:15 pm  | 6   | 7<br>-Children's Christmas Party, S150, 6 pm | 8                                  |
| 9<br><b>2nd Sunday of Advent</b><br>-Adult Choir Cantata, 5 pm                                     | 10<br>-WMU Circle #2, 10 am<br>-Boy Scouts, 6:30 pm                                  | 11<br>-Girl Scouts, 5:30 pm                          | 12<br>-Fellowship Meal, 6 pm<br>-Bible Studies/Activities for all ages, 6:30 pm<br>-Adult Choir, 7:15 pm | 13  | 14   | 15<br>-Youth Christmas Party, 6 pm |
| 16<br><b>3rd Sunday of Advent</b><br>-Children's Christmas Story Presentation, S150, 4 pm          | 17<br>-Blue Christmas Service, 6:30 pm, Episcopal Church                             | 18   | 19<br>-Light Fellowship Meal, 5:45 pm followed by Caroling in the community at 6:30                      | 20  | 21   | 22                                 |
| 23<br><b>4th Sunday of Advent</b><br>-Festival of Lessons and Carols, 11 am                        | 24<br><b>Christmas Eve</b><br>(Church Office Closed)<br>-Christmas Eve Service, 6 pm | 25<br><b>Christmas Day</b><br>(Church Office Closed) | 26   | 27  | 28   | 29                                 |
| 30   | 31   |  |  |     |  |                                    |