

First Baptist News

Volume LIV No. 11-d

November 30, 2017

Hanging of the Green

December 3, 2017 at 6:00 p.m.
First Baptist Sanctuary

A reception will follow in
Cherry Fellowship Hall.



MISSIONS
across the street & around the world

Baptist Women's Luncheon

December 4, 2017

11:45 a.m. in the Activity Building

We will be stuffing stockings with gifts for the
Children's Christmas Party.



Children's Night at Christmas

December 6, 2017

6:00 p.m. (At Family Night at Prayer)

Preparing for Sunday—

"Right in Front of You"

I Corinthians 1:3-9

As Paul writes the Corinthian Christians he says he is thankful for them. There is no reason to doubt Paul's feelings, but what is very obvious as we read our text is that Paul was grateful for what God was doing within the Corinthian believers and church. He is grateful that God has enriched them in every way and has strengthened them. The Corinthians, in Paul's view, are not lacking anything as they await the return of Christ. Paul would say the same of us. God is as generous to us as God has been to any people. In the words of verse seven, according to The Message, *all God's gifts are right in front of you as you wait expectantly for our Master Jesus to arrive on the scene for the Finale.*

The Longest Night

by Joseph M. Martin

Presented by The Sanctuary
Choir

Sunday, December 10th

11:00 a.m. in the Sanctuary

Christmas Memorial Service

Sunday, December 10th

5:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary





Advent 2017 Devotional Schedule

As we observe the Advent season at First Baptist, we're inviting you to study along with us as we read the devotional *Celebrating Abundance* by Walter Brueggeman. Below is the schedule for reading the devotions during the Advent and Christmas seasons. (Please take note of the double devotions on December 24.)

Advent, Week 1

December 3 – p. 4
December 4 – p. 6
December 5 – p. 8
December 6 – p. 10
December 7 – p. 12
December 8 – p. 14
December 9 – p. 16

Advent, Week 2

December 10 – p. 20
December 11 – p. 22
December 12 – p. 24
December 13 – p. 26
December 14 – p. 28
December 15 – p. 30
December 16 – p. 32

Advent, Week 3

December 17 – p. 36
December 18 – p. 38
December 19 – p. 40
December 20 – p. 42
December 21 – p. 44
December 22 – p. 46
December 23 – p. 48

Advent, Week 4 &

Christmas Eve

December 24 – p. 52 & 66

Christmas Day

December 25 – p. 68

12 Days of Christmas

December 26 – p. 73
December 27 – p. 75
December 28 – p. 77
December 29 – p. 79
December 30 – p. 81
December 31 – p. 83
January 1 – p. 85
January 2 – p. 87
January 3 – p. 89
January 4 – p. 91
January 5 – p. 93
January 6 – p. 95



First Sunday Food Drive

Our next food drive is Sunday, December 3rd! The first Sunday of each month we collect canned and non-perishable foods for local food charities. Items may be placed in the collection bins near the church entrances. Donation ideas: canned vegetables, canned fruit, Vienna sausages, bottled water, rice, dry beans, pasta, sugar, etc. Thank you for helping to feed hungry people in Robeson County!



Okay, so I have already been asked if I am ready for Christmas. It was a casual question. I don't think the person really wanted to know.

He was just making conversation. I am sure I will be asked that question a hundred or so more times before December 25 and that is fine, but the question stirs something in me. I admit that the first thing I think of is my gift list. My internal panic alarm goes off as I think about the gifts I need to buy. I enjoy buying gifts for family and friends, when I know what I want to give them. I don't always know however and so every year I spend at least one day wandering around a mall trying to find the "perfect" gift. If purchasing all the gifts is a prerequisite to being ready for Christmas, then I probably won't be able to say "yes" until our Christmas Eve service.

I answered the question the other day with an "I will be" and the more I think about it, the more I like that answer. I will be ready for Christmas when it arrives. I will be ready because you and I are about to begin a season of preparation. Advent is a "ready-ing" time. Sure, we devote a lot of energy and attention (and money) to Christmas parties and activities, but the true purpose of the weeks leading up to Christmas is to make room for Christ in our hearts, minds and spirits. A friend gave me an Advent calendar recently. The heading reads... "Slow down. Quiet. It's Advent!... Twenty-two Days to Make Room in Your Life for Jesus." Each day of the calendar includes a reminder or suggestion for making the most of the season. I am going to find a way to share the calendar with you and the hope is we'll have made room for Jesus so that when Christmas arrives, we'll be able to receive all its joyful blessings.

Walter Brueggemann, author of Celebrating Abundance, is going to help us make room for Christ this Advent season as well. Brueggemann is one of the most brilliant biblical scholars of our day. He has divine gift of communicating the power and relevancy of scripture. In the Celebrating Abundance devotional (of which I have a few more copies available for purchase), he will help us learn that while Advent is a preparing time, we have the love, joy and peace we yearn for now. In this spirit, perhaps I should have answered the person who asked me if I am ready for Christmas with "I am and I will be!" I am looking forward to our Advent this year and hope you will join us as we prepare.

Peace,
David

This Week. . .

Sunday, December 3, 2017

- 8:45 a.m. **Worship Service**
- 9:45 a.m. Sunday School
- 11:00 a.m. **Worship Service**
- 4:00 p.m. **Friends of Jesus Sunday School**
- 6:00 p.m. **The Hanging of the Green (Reception following)**

Monday, December 4

- 9:00 a.m. Staff Meeting
- 11:45 a.m. Baptist Women's Luncheon

Tuesday, December 5

- 7:00 a.m. Men's Prayer Circle

Wednesday, December 6

- 4:00 pm Young Musicians Bells
- 4:45 pm Music Makers Choir
- Young Musicians Choir
- 5:15 pm Family Night Supper—Pork Loin/Hot Dogs
- 6:00 pm **Children's Night at Christmas**
- 7:00 pm Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, December 7

- 8:15 a.m. ECM 2s & 3s Christmas Breakfast

For the Record

Budgeted 2017	\$685,000.00
Weekly Need (2017).....	\$12,924.53
Received Nov. 26, 2017.....	\$7,661.51
Need to date.....	\$620,377.36
Received to date.....	\$610,357.79
Over (Under) Budget.....	(\$10,357.79)

Friends of Jesus Christmas Party

Goal	\$5,700
Received to date.....	\$1,625

Children's Christmas Party

Goal	\$7,000
Received to date.....	\$3,010

Sunday School Attendance — 141

This Sunday, December 3rd our youth group will be the speakers at FBC Whiteville's Missions Breakfast at 8:30 a.m. Anyone who wishes to attend will be able to be back by 11:00 a.m. in time for worship in Lumberton.

Give to the Children's Christmas Party & Friends of Jesus Fund!

Beginning in October each year, we work with area schools to gather names of children in need. The Youth of First Baptist then invite 50 of these children to our annual Children's Christmas Party. Each child who attends this event will shop with one of our youth for a few necessities and a toy, then enjoy a fun time at the party, and leave with a few items for the whole family. We hope to spend about \$125 per child who attends. The Friends of Jesus Class is also accepting donations to buy gifts for their annual Christmas Party.

Please give generously to help us make these gifts possible. The Children's Christmas Party is December 16th. The Friends of Jesus Party will be held December 11th.

Servants this Sunday—December 3, 2017

ETC—8:45 a.m.— Casey Williamson, Glenda Osborne

11:00 a.m.— Casey Williamson, Pattie Ramsaur

Welcoming— Tony & Becky Thompson, Billie Dail

Collection— Wayne Stevens & Craig Britt

Entrance Greeters

Children's Building —Jimmy & Billie Dail

Walnut Street—Layton & Dianne Britt

6th Street — Mickey & Johnny Johnson

Senior Entrance — Jim Driscoll

Security Monitor — Sam Britt

Sound—Greg Gibson

Video—Nate Cribb



December 14, 2017 at 11:00 a.m.

In the Activity Building

Tim Little will share with us a program of music and a meal will be served.

Called Church Conference—December 13th

**For presentation of the 2018 Budget & Committee on Committees
6:00 p.m. (at Family Night At Prayer)**

CHURCH STAFF

Contact us at 739-4336 or daphnefletcher@fbclumbertonnc.org
www.fbclumbertonnc.org

Mrs. Nancy Bass—Financial Coordinator

Rev. Erin Collier—Minister to Children

Dr. David Elks—Pastor

Mrs. Daphne Fletcher—Administrative Assistant

Ms. Dorothy Hunt—Building Superintendent

Rev. Tim Little—Minister of Music

Mrs. Kandace Ramsey—Administrative Assistant

Rev. Doug Reedy—Minister of Youth

“The Wonder of Nativity”

View 20+ unique nativity sets displayed in the sanctuary of Chestnut Street United Methodist Church.

Friday, December 15th
11:00 am to 8:30 pm
Saturday, December 16th
11:00 am to 2:00 pm

Free Admission



Family Night Supper Menus December 2017

December 6—Red Ticket: Pork Loin, Sweet Potato Fries, Grilled Vegetables, Salad, Banana Pudding
Blue Ticket: Hot Dogs, French Fries, Fruit

December 13—Chicken & Rice, String Beans, Rolls, Salad, Chocolate Cake

Person of the Week

Marguerite Branch
4924 Pinedale Blvd.
Lumberton, NC 28358

Send a card, letter, or other remembrance to our special person this week.