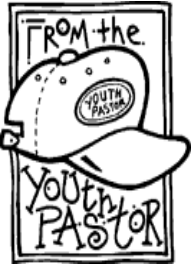


# First Baptist News

Volume LIV No. 12-a

December 14, 2017



Most of you already know all about the Children's Christmas Party but a few of you do not. We ask the school counselors from Lumberton's five elementary schools to provide us with the names of children most in need. Then, we invite over 50 children to our church for the CCP. Once our volunteers greet the parents and check in the child, we pair each child with their special friend for the day, one of our youth. Our youth are handed a gift certificate of \$125 thanks to the generous donations from people from our church and from the community. Volunteers transport the youth and children to Walmart and back. Youth assist each child in selecting over \$100 in much needed clothing, plus a \$20 or so toy.

Upon return to the church, a team of volunteers removes tags from clothing so it will not be returned. They organize each child's purchases plus a Bible, a ham, and a stocking full of treats while our youth and they children play together on the church playground. Afterward, they enjoy pizza and cookies together and finish the morning with a movie that tells the Christmas story.

It is one of the best things we do as a youth group and one of the most cherished memories many former youth have of their time here. In fact, many college students continue to be involved for years after their time in youth. It's a wonderful day.

I've asked parents to make it a priority for your youth to be here. There is a lot pulling at our teenagers' time (schoolwork, sports, clubs, etc.) but none of that is as important as helping children is to the development of young peoples' character and the practice of their faith. I'm also asking each of you to prioritize those in need this Christmas, whether financially or with your time.

Continued, see *From the Youth Pastor*, page 2

## **Budget Vote—December 17th**

**We will vote regarding the 2018 proposed budget at the close of services on Sunday, December 17th.**



*The Friends of Jesus Class will sing for the Adult Classes on Sunday, December 17th during the Sunday School Hour. Please bring refreshments.*



*From the Youth Pastor, Continued from page 1.*

Giving your time and money toward children in need and/or special needs adults is not only a central Christian practice; it is our responsibility as decent human beings. We worship together in a church that gives us multiple opportunities to care for who Jesus calls (with some irony I believe) “the least of these.” Thank you for answering God’s call and stepping up.

My prayer is that we have the help and funds we need to make each of these children we have the opportunity to serve feel loved and valued this Christmas. My prayer is you felt loved and valued as well.

*Doug*

### 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 2

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

### Preparing for Sunday—

#### “With Undivided Attention” I Thessalonians 5:16-24

The Thessalonian Christians were among Paul’s favorites. He “gave thanks for them always” (1:2) but he still expected a lot from them. This Sunday’s text is a list of encouragements. He challenges his friends to “rejoice always, to pray without ceasing and to give thanks in all circumstances” (16-18a). It’s as if Paul thinks the Thessalonians should give their undivided attention to God. Paul’s expectations may seem too high, but when we remember that he is writing about how we relate to God we realize that he is not being excessively demanding. Ponder the wonder and beauty of God and you will not want to turn away. We approach God *With Undivided Attention* not only because God deserves it, but because our joy, hope, peace and love depend on it.



## Dorothy Hunt Retires

For the past 26 years First Baptist has been blessed by the ministry of Dorothy Hunt. Ministry is the appropriate word, for as the leader of our Custodial Staff Dorothy has gone about her work as a gift to God. She has worked tirelessly at the church, going above and beyond her responsibilities to make sure everything was just right for our worship services and fellowship events. Dorothy will be retiring at the end of the year and we are deeply grateful for how she has cared for the Lord's house at First Baptist.



We will honor Dorothy with a reception on **Sunday, January 7 at 3:00 p.m. in the Cherry Fellowship Hall.** Dorothy has served all of us in more ways than any of us know, so please attend as we celebrate her ministry and wish her a happy retirement.

Also, if you know of someone who would be interested in applying for the position of Maintenance Supervisor at FBC, please contact the church office. One warning though, this person will have some huge shoes to fill!

## Holiday Notes:

- ◆ Youth Progressive Dinner—December 20th at 5:00 p.m.
- ◆ If you would like to be reimbursed for purchases made for the Friends of Jesus Christmas Party, Children's Christmas Party, or any other church-related function, your receipts need to be turned in no later than December 29th.
- ◆ Contributions to the 2017 Budget also need to be received or postmarked by December 31st.
- ◆ A devotional service will be held in the Chapel on December 20th at 6:00 p.m. Family Night Supper, Choirs and Activities will not take place. There will be no services on December 27th.
- ◆ We will worship together in a combined service at 11:00 a.m. on New Years' Eve.
- ◆ The ECM & Church Offices will be closed December 22nd, 25th & 26th for Christmas.
- ◆ The ECM & Church Offices will be closed on January 1st in celebration of the New Year.

Merry Christmas!

## This Week. . .

### Sunday, December 17, 2017

8:45 a.m.     **Worship Service**  
 9:45 a.m.     Sunday School  
 11:00 a.m.    **Worship Service**

### Monday, December 18

9:00 a.m.     Staff Meeting  
 6:15 p.m.     Finance Committee Meeting  
 7:30 p.m.     Deacons Meeting

### Tuesday, December 19

7:00 a.m.     Men's Prayer Circle

### Wednesday, December 20

5:00 pm       Youth Progressive Dinner  
 6:00 pm       Chapel Service

### Friday, December 22

**ECM & Church Offices Closed**

## Trinity Episcopal Church

### ADVENT CONCERT SERIES

Includes a short service of Noonday Prayers beginning at 12:05 followed by a concert and lunch.

Dec. 20— "Singing Sisters"

Members: Angie Carter, Harriette Lovin, Bess Harrington, Carole Thomas, Rosemary Long & Meghan Miller

### For the Record

Budgeted 2017 .....	\$685,000.00
Weekly Need (2017) .....	\$12,924.53
Received Dec. 10, 2017.....	\$10,382.78
Need to date .....	\$646,226.42
Received to date .....	\$641,075.15
Over (Under) Budget .....	(\$5,151.27)

#### Friends of Jesus Christmas Party

Goal.....	\$5,700
Received to date .....	\$3,830

#### Children's Christmas Party

Goal.....	\$7,000
Received to date .....	\$5,697

Sunday School Attendance — 196

### **Servants this Sunday—December 17, 2017**

**ETC** —8:45 a.m.— Casey Williamson, Christy Strickland & Alli Branch

**11:00 a.m.**—Casey Williamson & Heather Walters

**Welcoming** — Bruce & Jayne Huggins, Laura Nance

**Collection** —Wayne Stevens & Craig Britt

#### **Entrance Greeters**

Children's Building —Margie Cockrell

Walnut Street—Mildred Kinlaw

6th Street —Shirley Hickman

Senior Entrance — Jim Driscoll

**Security Monitor** — Johnny Strickland

**Sound**—Greg Gibson

**Video**— Nate Cribb

**highLANDER ACADEMY**  
**PRESENTS**

**Christmas at**  
**Flora Macdonald**

**SUNDAY DECEMBER 17TH, 3:00 PM**

**DR. MARK ANDERSEN AT THE NEW ORGAN**  
**IN FLORA MACDONALD AUDITORIUM**

**FEATURING:**  
**MUSIC OF THE SEASON IN TRADITIONAL STYLE**

**ADMISSION BY FREEWILL DONATION**

**Dr. Mark Andersen**  
Organ

**Lisa Rust**  
Soprano

**Dr. Timothy Altman**  
Trumpet

**Lynn Andersen**  
Solo English Handbells



### ***Flower Calendar***

Contact the church office at 739-4336 or [daphnefletcher@fbclumbertonnc.org](mailto:daphnefletcher@fbclumbertonnc.org) to place flowers in honor or in memory of a loved one.

#### **2018**

Jan. 7, 14, 21

Feb. 18, 25

March 25

April 1, 15, 22, 29

May 6, 13, 20, 27

June 3, 10, 17, 24

July 1, 8, 15, 22, 29

Aug. 19, 26

Sept. 2, 9, 23, 30

Oct. 7, 14

Nov. 4, 11, 18, 25



**“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**



### **CHURCH STAFF**

Contact us at 739-4336 or [daphnefletcher@fbclumbertonnc.org](mailto:daphnefletcher@fbclumbertonnc.org)  
[www.fbclumbertonnc.org](http://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

### **Person of the Week**

Scott Pennington  
403 W. 36th St.  
Lumberton, NC 28358

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