

Last Sunday's Record - November 29, 2020

Offering: \$12,878.18

January 1, 2020

Requirements: \$1,255,625.76

Receipts: \$1,135,967.83

Deacon of the Week

12/6 - Jim Williamson 12/13 - Lee Rogers
12/20 Reed Scarbrough 12/27 - Brian Sellers

Deacon's Breakfast

Sunday, December 6
8:00 a.m. Fellowship Hall

Sermon for December 6

Dr. Jim Futral
Week of Prayer

Menu for Wednesday, December 9

(for Noon Lunch Only - Cost: \$5.00)

Bacon Wrapped Chicken Breasts with Rice,
Green Beans, Yeast Roll,
Chocolate Swirl Cheesecake

VOLUNTEER MINISTRY - December 6

Preschool Extended Session

Clifford and Erika Holloway

LAUNCH

John and Kristin Anderson

Worship Welcome

Landry and Fay Adkins
Larry and Sheila Roberts

Security Team 4

Van Goodman Landry Adkins Davis Miller
Michael Thompson Greg Monsour

WEEKLY CALENDAR

SUNDAY, December 6

10:30 - Morning Worship
6:00 - The Sounds of Christmas

*(will also be livestreamed on our Facebook page
and available on our website)*

WEDNESDAY, December 9

12:00 - Sr. Adult Noon Day Prayer Meeting, Bible Study
and Lunch (Fellowship Hall)

*All Wednesday Night Activities
have been temporarily suspended.*

F260 WEEK 50 READING beginning 12/06/20

Monday - 1 Timothy 1-3

Tuesday - 1 Timothy 4-6

Wednesday - 2 Timothy 1-2

Thursday - 2 Timothy 3-4

Friday - 1 Peter 1-2

Memory Verses: 2 Timothy 2:1-2, 2 Timothy 2:15

Dr. Nathan VanHorn, Pastor
Rev. David Bishop, Associate Pastor for Music
Zach DePriest, Minister of Youth Caitlin Braud, Director of Children's Ministries
Dr. Raymon Leake, Pastor Emeritus
Rev. David McCubbin, Associate Pastor Emeritus
701 26th Avenue Meridian, MS 39301 601.484.4600 www.fbcmeridian.org

THE MESSENGER



FBCM

First Baptist Church
Meridian

December 6, 2020

Volume 92, Number 48

**THE SOUNDS
OF
CHRISTMAS**
at
First Baptist Church
**DECEMBER 6TH
6 O'CLOCK P.M.**
presented by the
**SANCTUARY CHOIR
ENSEMBLES
AND ORCHESTRA**



I had a hospital visit before work this morning, so I got to the office around 7 AM (of course, David Bishop was already here as well...). Being in no particular rush, I went into the sanctuary for some private prayer and worship and began to reflect on recent happenings.

Haley put up our Christmas tree two weeks earlier than last year. I have joked about this, but at a deeper level, I know that the lights and decorations contribute a modicum of merriment that cuts through the gloomy fog of this year.

We are so blessed. We know that that we are blessed. Some of us literally counted (or re-counted, no election pun intended) our blessings around the table last week in the midst of scaled back Thanksgiving festivities. And yet, if we are honest, many of us are struggling to feel blessed. Emotional exhaustion and numbness have spread even more pervasively than the viral threat. Otherwise festive celebrations of the Advent season feel muted and grey this year. All of this was on my mind in the sanctuary this morning. God knows I wish I had the answer for every situation. I don't. So I prayed to the Father of Light. I prayed for people I know who have fallen back into addictions and patterns of sin, their flesh weakened and their best intentions thwarted or insufficient. I lifted up some who are battling isolation and anxiety, trying to glorify and serve God the best they know how in the midst of it. I prayed for a middle-aged woman from our former church in Louisiana who is battling for her life in ICU as her body and her medical caregivers combat this awful virus. I prayed for a friend who will preach his grandmother's funeral this afternoon among family members who have not embraced the Gospel. Selfishly, I prayed for myself-

that I would not be discouraged but rather focus on the hope I have because Christ came into this dark world and will, one day, come again. As John tells us, "The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness cannot overcome it." Then I lit a candle in our sanctuary Advent wreath. I was reminded of God's presence by this tiny flame. The light did not shine brightly, or even boldly, but it did shine persistently. The darkness did not overcome that humble little candle. So, lastly, I prayed for all of the men, women, and children who make up the FBC Meridian church family. I wish I had the best, most applicable advice for whatever season of life you are traversing at present. But I am praying that God's light would shine to you and through you in this season—perhaps not as boldly or as brightly as you would like, but as persistently as His promises endure. Our hope is the Christ who came for us and is coming again—the light that will never be overcome by the darkness, even when the days feel grey.

Yours in Christ, Nathan

Christmas Poinsettias

Poinsettias will again grace our sanctuary during the Christmas season in honor or in memory of someone special. Please send in this order form with your payment. **(\$10.00 each)**

Given by: _____

Number of Poinsettias: _____

In Memory of: _____

In Honor of: _____

Please pick up your poinsettias after the Christmas Eve service.

○ Holy Night!
Christmas Eve
Communion
Service

Thursday,
December 24
5:00 p.m.



Memorials...

Lottie Moon Christmas Offering

In memory of: Margaret Harrison
Charles Braddock Jim Sanders

Trinidad Ministry

In memory of: Ellen Rogers



LOTTIE MOON
FBC Goal: \$50,000
WEEK OF PRAYER
for International Missions

Sunday, December 6

Lottie Moon Emphasis
in Morning Worship
10:30 a.m.

Special Guest - Dr. Jim Futral
*Pastor and former Executive Director/Treasurer
of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board.*



Monday, December 7

Week of Prayer Program FBC Chapel 10:00 a.m.

Tuesday, December 8

Homebound Visitation