

### Last Sunday's Record

Sunday School: 249 Worship: 276

Offering: \$28,379.30

### January 1, 2024

Requirements: \$1,337,572.11

Receipts: \$1,282,591.23

### DEACON OF THE WEEK

Dec. 1 - Scott Sills

Dec. 8 - Tommy Allen      Dec. 15 - Greg Snowden

Dec. 22 - Fred Porter      Dec. 29 - David Webb

### Deacon's Meeting - December 1

8:00 a.m. Fellowship Hall

### Sermon for December 1

"How it Happened" Matthew 1:18-25

### FAMILY NIGHT SUPPER - Dec. 4

Baked Chicken Breast, Scalloped Potatoes,  
Sweet and Sour Green Beans, Roll,  
Salad Bar and Dessert

**KIDS:** Pizza and Chips

*ADULTS: \$5 KIDS (12 and under): \$3 Family Maximum \$20*

**SERVERS:** Shayne Garrett, Cheryl Gressett,  
Sylvia Follis

### VOLUNTEER MINISTRY - Dec. 1

**GREETERS** - Leslie and Jill Williams

Jimmy and Rhonda Wilson

**PRAYER LINE** - Helen Webb

**PRESCHOOL EXT. Session** - Leslie and Jill Williams

**CHILDREN'S CHURCH** - Erika Holloway

Kelcey and Clayton McInnis

**MEDICAL RESPONSE** - Pam Maloney

Dana Foreman

**SECURITY** - Van Goodman, Landry Adkins,

Davis Miller, Greg Monsour, Armond Williams

### USHERS FOR DECEMBER

Landry Adkins, Justin Anders, John Anderson,

Tyler Covington, Leslie Dunn, John Ellis, Riley Garrett,

Ryan Haarala, George Hill, Lee Rogers,

Walter Rogers, Jr., Scott Sills, and Brad Williams

## WEEKLY CALENDAR

### SUNDAY, December 1

9:15 - Sunday School

10:30 - Morning Worship

5:00 - FAMILY CHRISTMAS KICKOFF

### MONDAY, December 2

10:30 - Week of Prayer Program/Room 108

### TUESDAY, December 3

7:00 - YOUTH Bible Study/Jack's

6:00 - Prayer Shawl Ministry (*Aldersgate*)

### WEDNESDAY, December 4

5:00 - YOUTH BELLS

5:15 - FAMILY NIGHT SUPPER

5:30 - YOUTH CHOIR/Young Ringers

6:00 - Preschool and Children's Choirs

6:30 - Prayer Meeting and Bible Study

*Lottie Moon Christmas Offering Emphasis with*

*\*Rose and Grover, field workers in Southeast Asia*

- G.A.s, R.A.s, and Mission Friends

- YOUTH WORSHIP

7:30 - Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal

### THURSDAY, December 5

2:00 - WMU to Brookdale

2:30 - WMU to The Oaks

### SATURDAY, December 7

5:00 - YOUTH CHRISTMAS PARTY

**FAMILY CHRISTMAS KICKOFF**

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 1**  
**5PM IN THE FELLOWSHIP HALL**

All families of children & youth are invited to kick off the Christmas season with a night of food & fun in the Fellowship Hall. Come dressed in your Christmas PJ's and enjoy a Christmas pancake feast, holiday family games, and a Christmas devotional time.



Dr. Will Wall, Pastor  
Rev. David Bishop, Associate Pastor for Music  
Dr. Jason Brooks, Associate Pastor for Discipleship  
and Membership

Rev. Noah Greer, Student Minister  
Caitlin Braud, Director of Children's Ministries  
Dr. Raymon Leake, Pastor Emeritus

Rev. David McCubbin, Associate Pastor Emeritus

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First Baptist  
MERIDIAN

# The Messenger

DECEMBER 1, 2024 VOLUME 96, NUMBER 46



## Lottie Moon Christmas Offering

*Join the Great Pursuit  
and make Jesus known among  
the nations.*

Week of Prayer  
for International Missions  
December 1 - 8  
FBC Offering Goal: \$75,000



## Better Get Ready!

*"This day shall be a day of remembrance for you.*

*You shall celebrate it as festival to the Lord."*

*Exodus 12:14a*

**Advent** is the special time set aside by the church for the preparation to celebrate Christmas. A natural question is, "Why all the fuss about preparation? Let's just do Christmas." But preparation is ever so important if celebration is to be meaningful.

The Jewish people of the Old Testament would never think of moving into a time of festivities without giving attention to a time of preparation for that celebration. Remember the eleventh chapter of Exodus that deals with the event of the Passover. The children of Israel always celebrated that great event and sought never to lose sight of what God had done for them through the experience. They learned something that most of us have never discovered: the degree of meaning of an event is very much related to the degree of preparation for that event. God forbid that we move into this season of Christmas in our usual condition of huffing and puffing, frustration and total exhaustion.

Instead, I hope that we will move into this great season with a new sense of commitment, to one another and to God, and that we will open ourselves to new experiences that will add a depth of meaning to this beautiful time of year. The time to begin this preparation is right now!

DTB

**Happy Birthday, Jesus Party**

**SUNDAY, December 8**  
FBC Gym 9:15 a.m.

Don't forget to bring your Lottie Moon \$ dollars for the Christmas tree!

**Lottie Moon Luncheon and Silent Auction**  
Sunday, December 8  
11:30 am Fellowship Hall

Sign up in the Welcome Center to bring your family favorite dessert or frozen casserole  
OR bring your checkbook to bid.  
All proceeds go to our Lottie Moon Offering!

**FAMILY CHRISTMAS CAROLING and S'MORES**

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 8, 4:30 - 7PM**  
MEET IN THE FBC WELCOME CENTER  
HOT CHOCOLATE & S'MORES AT  
RON & PAM MALONEY'S AFTERWARDS!

**Children Sing of Christmas**

Wednesday, December 12th 6:30 pm

Presented by Preschool and Children's Choirs and Young Ringers

Welcome to our newest member...  
Thomas Hardin

### Sympathies to...

The Family and Friends of Nancy Ray

### Memorials...

#### Benevolence

In memory of: John Culpepper  
Cecil Johnson

#### Music Fund

In memory of: Betty Williams  
(Mark Williams' mother)

**FRIDAY, DECEMBER 13**  
6:00 TO 9:00 PM

**Parents Night Out**

FOR KIDS BIRTH TO SIXTH GRADE  
MAKE RESERVATIONS BY CONTACTING  
JULIE HOLLOWAY BY SUNDAY, DECEMBER 8

*The Sounds of Christmas*

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 15**  
6:00 P.M.

presented by  
FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH  
SANCTUARY CHOIR  
AND ORCHESTRA

with  
YOUTH AND CHILDREN'S  
CHOIRS  
ENSEMBLES