

### Last Sunday's Record

Sunday School: 273    Worship: 292

Offering: \$60,213.53

### January 1, 2024

Requirements:        \$1,422,949.05

Receipts:                \$1,375,527.97

Lottie Moon Offering:    \$38,340.00

### DEACON OF THE WEEK

Dec. 22 - Fred Porter    Dec. 29 - David Webb  
Jan. 5 - Mark Williams    Jan. 12 - Jim Williamson

### Sermon for December 22

*"Jesus is Immanuel"*    Matthew 1:18-25

Family Night Supper and all other regularly scheduled activities will resume on

### WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 8.

*(Check out our new time schedule inside this Messenger.)*

### VOLUNTEER MINISTRY - Dec. 22

**GREETERS** - Mandy Hurt, Van Goodman

**PRAYER LINE** - Ben Webb

**PRESCHOOL EXT. Session** - Tyler and Amy  
Covington

**CHILDREN'S CHURCH** - Erika Holloway/Janet Berg

**MEDICAL RESPONSE** - Jimmy Matthews

**SECURITY** - John Calhoun, Brad Henry, Ben Webb,  
Bobby Bogue, Clayton McInnis

### 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 22

9:15 - Sunday School

10:30 - Morning Worship

### MONDAY, December 23

*Church Office will be open*

### TUESDAY, December 24

5:00 - Christmas Eve Candlelight Communion

### WEDNESDAY, December 25

## ***Merry Christmas!***

***Church office will be closed***

***December 24 - 27***

***for Christmas Holidays***

***and will reopen on Monday, December 30.***

### **Schedule for NEXT Sunday, December 29**

**10:30 a.m. Morning Worship Service**

***Please note that we will NOT have our regularly scheduled Sunday School time.***

### **Immediately after morning worship,**

*all who can are invited to stay and help us remove and store all the beautiful decorations that have graced our church during the Christmas season. Help us get our church ready to welcome the New Year.*

## **RE M I N D E R**

***All 2024 contributions must be received in the offering plate by Sunday, December 29<sup>st</sup> or paid ONLINE or postmarked by Sunday, December 31<sup>st</sup> in order to be included in your 2024 contribution statement. Thanks!***



*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 22, 2024 VOLUME 96, NUMBER 40



*Join us for our*  
**Christmas**  
**Eve**  
**Candlelight**  
**Communion**  
**Service**  
**5 o'clock p.m.**



**2025: Rooted in Prayer  
and God's Word**

I hope your Christmas season has been full of joy and blessings so far and that you are eagerly anticipating the coming celebration of the best gift we have ever been given, Jesus Christ! As we look back on 2024 and prepare for 2025, I am so excited about how we are going to experience God at work together in the coming year. Whatever 2025 holds, I am convinced that two practices can make all the difference for you as you navigate the new year: prayer and obedience to God's Word. In fact, 2 of our 4 core values at FBC speak to those very things! I want to encourage you to take advantage of a couple of opportunities we're offering to equip you in both areas.

**FIRST**, if we are going to be obedient to God's Word, we must get into His Word daily. To help you do that, we are offering the 5-Day Bible Reading Plan. This plan to read the Bible through in a year provides you with a flexible schedule of readings for 5 out of every 7 days of the week. Life happens some days, so if you need to skip a day, you have 2 flex days every week to use and not fall behind in the plan. It's the easiest reading plan I've ever done, and I know you can do it too! Copies of the reading plan are available for free at the Welcome Desk or by scanning this QR code, and the reading schedule begins the week of



**December 29 – January 4.**

**SECOND**, please consider joining a small group on Wednesday nights beginning January 8 at 6pm as our church engages in a 40 Day Prayer Challenge called "Draw the Circle". Do you pray as often and as boldly as you want? This prayer challenge is a way for both you and our church to experience a deeper, more passionate, persistent, and intimate prayer life. There will be groups for men, ladies, and couples, as well as Bro.



Will's Pastor's Bible Study group. Sign up now at the Welcome Desk or by scanning the QR code to get into a small group and experience a revolution in your prayer life. The cost of each devotional book is \$5.

**Memorials...**

**Lottie Moon Christmas Offering**

In memory of:

- Mary Evans                      Harry Causey
- Jim Sanders                     Chuck Harmon
- Joe and Betty Ross
- Maureen Jackson
- Allie Ruth Dudley             Maedelle Covert
- Margaret Harrison
- John Culpepper
- In honor of: Wayne and Lynda Anders
- Cornelia Laird     John and Donna Temple
- Shawn Temple                 The Wall Family
- David Bishop                  Miriam Chesney
- Barry Germany                 Jason Brooks
- Noah Greer     Caitlin Braud     Julie Holloway
- Sandra Dennis                 Sherry Snowden
- Tammy Lucas                  Adam Foremen

**Music Ministry**

- In memory of: John Culpepper
- Cecil Johnson     Virginia McGinnis
- Betty Fulcher Long (Beth Jeffares' mother)
- Donnie L. Geddie (Faith Braud's mother)

**Missions and Ministry**

- In memory of: Wayne Edwards
- Betty Williams (Mark Williams' mother)
- John Maloney (Ron Maloney's father)

**Memorial Fund**

- In memory of: Howard and Peggy Lamar

Copies of the 5 Day Reading Plan and a sign up sheet for *Draw the Circle - 40 day challenge* study books (\$5) and small groups can be found at the Welcome Center NOW!

See article  
for QR Codes



**SMALL GROUPS BEGIN Wednesday, January 8.**




*Mr. and Mrs. Riley Moore Garrett, III*  
*request thee honour of your presence*  
*at the marriage of their daughter*  
**Laurel Caroline**

*to*  
**Mr. Charles William Ballou**  
*Saturday, the fourth of January*

*Two thousand twenty five*  
*at six o'clock in the evening*  
*First Baptist Church of Meridian*  
*Meridian, Mississippi*

*Reception immediately following the ceremony*  
*The Riley Center 2200 Fifth Street*  
*Black tie, Black dress*



**Lottie Moon Christmas Offering**  
**Join the Great Pursuit and make**  
**Jesus known among the nations.**  
**FBC Offering Goal: \$75,000**  
**We have given: \$38,340**



**NEW WEDNESDAY NIGHT**  
**SCHEDULE beginning**  
**Wednesday, January 8**

- 5:00 - Family Night Supper/Youth Bells
- 5:30 - Youth Choir/Young Ringers
- 6:00 - Pastor's Bible Study/Adult Small Groups  
- Youth Worship
- 6:30 - G.A.s, R.A.s and Mission Friends
- 7:15 - Sanctuary Choir