



First Baptist Church

Growing Toward Christ

Whiteville, NC

THE CONTACT MONTHLY NEWSLETTER DECEMBER 2021, VOLUME 56, NUMBER 12



*Chancel Choir Presents "Were You There
on That Christmas Night?"*

11:00 a.m., Sunday, December 19, 2021



*Christmas Eve
Candlelight Communion*

5:00 p.m. December 24, 2021

Events At A Glance

- December 5 - Morning Worship, 11:00 a.m.
Christmas Parade, load up at 2:00 p.m.,
parade starts at 3:00 p.m.
- December 6, 13 - Children's Music Activity, 5:15 p.m.
- December 1, 8, 15 - Chancel Choir Rehearsal,
4:30 p.m.
- December 8 - Prayer Meeting, 6:30 p.m.
- December 11 - Community Band Concert, 3:00 p.m.
- December 12 - Missions Breakfast, Guest Speaker
Rev. Mason Smith, 9:00 a.m.
- December 18 - Chancel Choir Dress Rehearsal,
2:00 p.m.
- December 19 - Chancel Choir Christmas Music During
Morning Worship, 11:00 a.m.
- December 20 - Finance Meeting, 9:30 a.m.
- December 21 - Deacons' Meeting, 6:30 p.m.
- December 24, Christmas Eve Candlelight Communion,
5:00 P.M.
- December 25 - Christmas Day
- December 23 & 27 - Office Closed for Christmas

Complete monthly calendar on back.

To add an event to our calendar,
please contact the church office:

(910) 642-2139

PASTOR'S CORNER



We have enjoyed a very busy and productive autumn at First Baptist Church of Whiteville and now we have celebrated Thanksgiving together . . . decorated our sanctuary beautifully as we shared the “Hanging of the Greens” in our Morning Worship Service . . . and we look forward to all the special and meaningful opportunities for worship, praise, and activities together surrounding the December holidays! I hope and pray you had a very “Happy Thanksgiving” and truly will be blessed with a “Merry Christmas” as we celebrate the birth of Jesus, the Promised Messiah—the Savior of the world!

We acknowledged with emphasis in our sermons in November the blessed privilege we have of CELEBRATING OUR DIFFERENCES! We also affirmed that we are “brothers and sisters in Christ,” united together because of our love for—and devotion to—Jesus. You may have heard me quote at various times, a statement by Geoffrey F. Fisher that I have often used at weddings when encouraging the bride and groom: *The ever-living Christ is here to bless you. The nearer you each stay to Him, the nearer you will stay to each other!* In the Body of Christ, His Church, this statement also is true . . . and it definitely can apply to all of us! The closer we each stay to Jesus, the closer we will stay to each other! As we enter this special season of “gift-giving,” as we intentionally and un-selfishly think of others, may we draw close to Jesus and share His love not only in our deeds, but also in our words and actions. As part of the sermon on the Sunday before Thanksgiving, I shared ***A Short Course in Human Relations*** which included the following:

The six most important words: ***I admit that I was wrong.***

The five most important words: ***You did a great job.***

The four most important words: ***What do you think?***

The three most important words: ***Could you please . . .***

The two most important words: ***Thank you.***

The most important word: ***We.***

The least important word: ***I.***

Those two words, “**we** and **I**” truly are powerful! And . . . also very powerful is one of my favorite writings of all time which I would like to share with you as a “Christmas gift” . . . here and now! I sincerely hope and pray this writing, attributed to a pastor, Dr. James Allan Francis, will bless you as it always does me . . . and that you will have a very meaningful and spirit-filled “Merry . . . Happy . . . and Blessed Christmas” . . . celebrating Jesus Christ, God’s only begotten Son, the Messiah of the world!

ONE SOLITARY LIFE

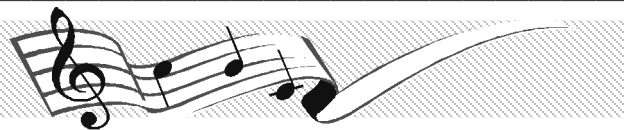
He was born in an obscure village, the child of a peasant. He grew up in another village, where he worked in a carpenter shop until he was 30. Then, for three years, he was an itinerant preacher. He never wrote a book. He never held an office. He never had a family or owned a home. He didn’t go to college. He never lived in a big city. He never traveled 200 miles from the place where he was born. He did none of the things that usually accompany greatness. He had no credentials but himself. He was only 33 when the tide of public opinion turned against him. His friends ran away. One of them denied him. He was turned over to his enemies and went through the mockery of a trial. He was nailed to a cross between two thieves. While he was dying, his executioners gambled for his garments, the only property he had on earth. When he was dead, he was laid in a borrowed grave, through the pity of a friend. Twenty-one centuries have come and gone, and today he is the central figure of the human race. All the armies that ever marched, all the navies that ever sailed, all the parliaments that ever sat, all the kings that ever reigned—put together—have not affected the life of man on this earth as much as that ONE SOLITARY LIFE!

As Tiny Tim says in Charles Dickens’ beloved *A Christmas Carol*, ***God bless us everyone!*** Joy and all our family join me . . . gratefully and prayerfully, in Jesus’ love,

Wayne Brown



Music Notes



The Chancel Choir and friends will present ***Were You There on That Christmas Night?*** on Sunday morning, December 19, 11:00 a.m. The

title and theme are built around the song by the same title, *Were You There on That Christmas Night?*

The music arranger Lloyd Larson has this to say about the presentation: "Obviously, time and location remove any of us from actually being present on the night of Christ's birth. Yet, in the mystery of God's holy ways, all of us in a sense were there."

"God chose ordinary people, Joseph and Mary, as the vessels for fulfilling the incarnation plan—God becoming human. God also chose to reveal the fulfillment of that plan after Christ' birth to shepherds (the most common of people) and to Magi (sophisticated and educated individuals). One can only speculate about the fullest meaning of that strategy, but I (Lloyd Larson) believe it was to convey to us that the Messiah was a gift for all people, regardless of where we reside on the socio-economic scale. And I believe that the inclusion of Joseph and Mary in such a significant role underscores the importance that each of us have as

vehicles for sharing the message of Christ's birth to our world."

"I think the answer to the question is, 'Yes, I was there.' And so were you! The eternal and timeless nature of God places us in Bethlehem on that Christmas night as we experience anew its joy through the eyes of children, aged saints, enduring carols, and holy scripture: *Unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.*"

The Children's Music Activity will sing on Sunday December 12 during the morning worship service. Warm up will be at 10:20 a.m.

The Community Band will present a Christmas concert on Saturday, December 11, at 3:00 p.m. here at First Baptist. The band will perform numerous holiday favorites that you are sure to enjoy.

Remember our **Christmas Eve Candlelight Communion** will begin at 5:00 p.m. and will last under an hour.

The Hanging of the Greens was a most meaningful service. We thank each and every person who helped in any way.

Merry Christmas!

Eddie

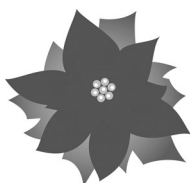


December 5, 2021

Second Sunday of Advent
The Prophets Told Us!
Isaiah 7:14; 9:6-7; Zechariah 9:9

December 12, 2021

Third Sunday of Advent
The Place Was Bethlehem!
Micah 5:2; Luke 2:1-7; John 1:1-5; 14-18



December 19, 2021

Fourth Sunday of Advent
Were You There on That Christmas Night?
Presented by The Chancel Choir

December 26, 2021

First Sunday After Christmas
The Angels Sang for Him!
Matthew 1:18-25; Luke 1:26-38; 2:8-14

DECEMBER SERMONS

DECEMBER MEMBERS IN MINISTRY

CHILDREN'S CHURCH

5 Grayanna Young
12 Gina Morningstar
19 Tina Sauls
26 Tricia Sanderson

DEACONS OF THE WEEK

5 Kate C. Lee / John Sauls
12 Brad Johnson / Janice Young
19 Ron Walters / Haywood Corbett
26 Lauren Cole / Hilda Ray

HOSPICE SNACKS

SOUND & VIDEO

5 Mitchell Sauls
12 Bryce Kronenwetter
19 Kirby Sanderson
26 Eric Kronenwetter

SUNDAY SCHOOL GREETERS

5 Clint and Carolyn Grainger
12 Genie Carter
19 Rose Langston / J. C. Hyatt
26 Bill and Jolene Lewis

USHERS (Chairman: Charlie Duncan)

5 Buster Carter / Glenn Waters /
David Heath / Clint Grainger /
J. C. Hyatt
12 Bill Floyd / David Carter / Mitchell
Sauls / Willis Pinnell / Johnny Britt
19 Travis Harrison / John Sauls /
Mel Ray / Kenwood Royal /
Chris Blackmon
26 Harry Ward / David Tedder /
Haywood Corbett / Kevin
Williamson / Kyle Cook

SUNDAY SCHOOL ATTENDANCE FOR NOVEMBER

October 31, 2021 - 35
November 7, 2021 - 32
November 14, 2021 - 46
November 21, 2021 - 26
November 28, 2021 - 36

Average attendance for November
Sunday School is 35.

Please join us each week for Sunday
School at 9:45 a.m.

STEWARDSHIP

November 7, 2021

Budget Gifts Plan 1 \$880.00
Budget Gifts Plan 2 \$4,674.66
Budget Gifts Operational \$225.00
Total Budget This Week \$5,779.66

Designated/Other Funds \$779.50
Total Collections This Week \$6,559.16

Under Budget This Week \$814.90

Budget Need to date \$39,567.36
Budget Rec'd to date \$40,803.66
Over Budget to date \$1,236.30

November 14, 2021

Budget Gifts Plan 1 \$100.00
Budget Gifts Plan 2 \$5,582.00
Budget Gifts Operational \$950.00
Total Budget This Week \$6,782.00

Designated/Other Funds \$150.00
Total Collections This Week \$6,782.00

Over Budget This Week \$37.44

Budget Need to date \$46,161.92
Budget Rec'd to date \$47,435.66
Over Budget to date \$1,273.74

November 21, 2021

Budget Gifts Plan 1 \$210.00
Budget Gifts Plan 2 \$3,872.00
Budget Gifts Operational \$2,001.00
Total Budget This Week \$6,083.00

Designated/Other Funds \$920.83
Total Collections This Week \$7,003.83

Under Budget This Week \$511.56

Budget Need to date \$52,756.48
Budget Rec'd to date \$53,518.66
Over Budget to date \$762.18

November 28, 2021

Budget Gifts Plan 1 \$200.00
Budget Gifts Plan 2 \$6,232.00
Budget Gifts Operational \$275.00
Total Budget This Week \$6,707.00

Designated/Other Funds \$715.00
Total Collections This Week \$7,422.00

Over Budget This Week \$112.44

Budget Need to date \$59,351.04
Budget Rec'd to date \$60,225.66
Over Budget to date \$874.62

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

2 Vann Underwood
Katherine Scott
Jillian Young
3 Jeannine Sellers
4 Hannah Clark
6 Lonnie Williams
8 Philip McCulloch
12 Joe Hooks
Laurie Batten
13 Roger Chestnutt
16 Anna Elkins Smyth
17 Don Peacock
Sally Grace Cook
21 Lauren Lynn
24 Peggy Walters
28 Sandra Floyd
29 Myrtle Corbett
Charles Austin
Jennifer Bowling
Kate C. Lee

World Hunger Offering 2021-2022

Goal—\$700.00
Received—\$2,065.00



OFFICE CONTACT INFO

Ministerial Staff

Dr. Wayne Brown, Interim Pastor
843-796-0397, interimpastor@fbcwhiteville.com

Rev. Eddie Fort, Minister of Music
efort@fbcwhiteville.com

Mrs. Patricia Slomanski, Organist

Ministry Assistant Staff

Mrs. Teresa Malpass, Ministry Assistant
office@fbcwhiteville.com

Mrs. Dinah Reaves,
Financial Ministry Assistant
fbcwhite@fbcwhiteville.com

OFFICE HOURS

Church Office Hours 8:30 A.M. — 4:30 P.M.,
Monday—Thursday
Phone: 910-642-2139 Fax: 910-642-5874

ANNOUNCEMENTS

WMU

Date: Missions Breakfast, December 12, 9:00 A.M. Fellowship Hall

Hospice Snacks for December: Myrtle Corbett

Mission Project: Christmas Missions Offerings

Goals: Global Missions - \$5,000; Lottie Moon - \$2,000



Envelopes are included in your packet and will be inserted in the December 5 bulletin.

The WMU will not meet in December but will participate with the Missions Committee in the Missions Breakfast on December 12.

Thank you to everyone who contributed to the Families First project. Domestic Violence tends to increase during the holidays and the items we provide are very much needed and appreciated.

As we prepare our hearts and homes for the holidays, may we do it as a gift to our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, God's gift to us.

MERRY CHRISTMAS

2021-22 Watchword: *But we do not belong to those who shrink back and are destroyed, but to those who have faith and are saved.* Hebrews 10:39

Our Mission

... is to inform and inspire Christians to influence their world for Christ.

Myrtle Corbett

WMU Director

FBC FLOAT IN THE CHRISTMAS PARADE

If you would like to ride the FBC float in the Whiteville Christmas Parade on **Sunday, December 5**, please meet at the church at **2:00 p.m.** so we can line up for the parade which begins at 3:00 p.m. We need volunteers and riders. If you would be interested in riding the float, please contact Kate C. Lee at 910-234-0261 or the church office at 910-642-2139.

DECEMBER MISSIONS EMPHASIS

Our annual Missions Breakfast will be **December 12 at 9:00 am**. Our speaker will be Rev. Mason Smith. We are sure most of you know Mason, so we encourage you to plan to be present and support his efforts. You will find in your church envelopes a special mission designated envelope. Please pray about what you give and let it be your material gift to Jesus this Christmas. Please don't put this gift at the bottom of your list. Our menu will be: breakfast casserole, grits, mixed fruit, muffins, milk, juice and coffee. There is NO charge for the breakfast.

LIVE NATIVITY

It is time for our Live Nativity! **Wednesday, December 22**, First Baptist Church Whiteville will host our "Live Nativity." There will be three show times: **6:00 p.m.**, **6:45 p.m.**, and **7:30 p.m.** We are looking for volunteers to participate in the Nativity, to make donations for renting the animals and miscellaneous supplies, and to feed the cast and crew. If you would be interested in helping with this year's Live Nativity, please contact Kate C. Lee at 910-234-0261 or the church office at 910-642-2139.

THANK YOU



Dear Church Family,

Thank you for your kindness, visits, and most of all your prayers.

Marie Sellers

Hello, Church Family,

As Chairman of the Drama Committee, I wanted to extend a sincere "Thank You." I really appreciate all of our participants on the church float in the Pecan Harvest Festival Parade. We were, in fact, the only church that had a presence in the parade, and that is wonderful to make an appearance. I am nothing without my committee, so I also want to express a huge "Thank You" to my committee members and Mrs. Wendy Hensley and Mrs. Tricia Sanderson.

Many thanks,
Katherine Carter Lee

Dear Church family,

It is with deep appreciation that we thank you for your prayers and support during the illness and passing of our dear Wendy. She had a full and giving life for which we are thankful and for the kindness shown by you, dear friends, we are grateful.

Our timetable is not always God's timetable.

In His love and ours too,
Barbara Whitson and family

PLEASE NOTE

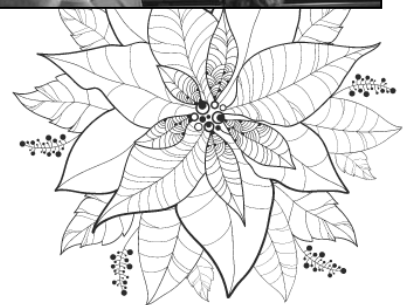
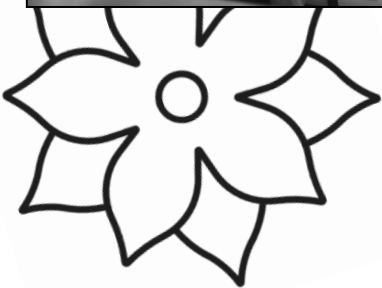
Please note that there will be no Children's Music Activity or Chancel Choir Rehearsal during the weeks of **December 19 and 26**. Thank you for all the hard work you have put into making our Christmas music wonderful.

The office will be closed for Christmas on **December 23 & 27**, and **January 1**, for New Year's Day.

We hope and pray you will have wonderful and safe holidays!



HANGING OF THE GREENS



What a wonderful worship service we enjoyed on November 28 for *Hanging of the Greens*. We would like to thank all the volunteers who participated, in the open and behind the scenes, for their work in making this a worshipful experience for everyone. There are many more pictures of the *Hanging of the Greens* service on our website at www.fbcwhiteville.com under the *About Us - Our Gallery*.

	December 2021					
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 4:30 Chancel Choir	2	3	4
5 9:45 Sunday School 11:00 Morning Worship Christmas Parade: 2:00 load the FBC Float , parade begins at 3:00 p.m.	6 1:30 Staff Meeting 5:15 Children's Music Activity	7	8 4:30 Chancel Choir 6:30 Prayer Meeting	9	10	11 3:00 Columbus County Band Concert
12 Missions Emphasis 9:00 Missions Breakfast 9:45 Sunday School 11:00 Morning Worship	13 1:30 Staff Meeting 5:15 Children's Music Activity	14	15 4:30 Chancel Choir	16	17	18 2:00 p.m. Chancel Choir Dress Rehearsal
19 9:45 Sunday School 11:00 Chancel Choir Program "Were You There on That Christmas Night?"	20 9:30 Finance Meeting 1:30 Staff Meeting	21 6:30 Deacons' Meeting	22	23 	24 5:00 Christmas Eve Communion	25 Christmas
26 9:45 Sunday School 11:00 Morning Worship	27 	28	29	30	31 New Year's Eve	Jan 1 

FBC contact information: Phone - 910-642-2139, Email - office@fbcwhiteville.com, Web - www.fbcwhiteville.com
 Sunday Morning Worship Live on WTXY AM 1540, FM 103.9, kool1039radio.com—*Listen Live*,
 and First Baptist Church Whiteville Facebook page

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Whiteville, NC 28472-3298
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