



# First Baptist Church

## Growing Toward Christ

Whiteville, NC

### THE CONTACT MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

#### DECEMBER 2022, VOLUME 57, NUMBER 12



**Sunday, December 4**, is our Missions Emphasis Sunday. We will have breakfast at 9 a.m. and a special program featuring guest speaker, Rev. Paula McCosh, Director of the Welcome House in Fayetteville, NC at 9:30 a.m.



**Sunday, December 11**, The Chancel Choir Presents *The Promised Messiah Foretold*, during the morning worship service at 11:00 a.m.

#### Events At A Glance

- December 4** - Missions Breakfast with special guest, Rev. Paula McCosh of Welcome House in Fayetteville, NC
- December 4** - Columbus Community Band Concert in the FBC sanctuary, 3:00 p.m.
- December 4** - FBC Float in the Whiteville Christmas Parade, 6:00 p.m.
- December 11** - The Chancel Choir presents, "The Promised Messiah Foretold", 11:00 a.m.
- December 13** - The Embers Concert at SCC, 7:00 p.m.
- December 19** - Finance Meeting, 9:30 a.m.
- December 20** - No Deacons' Meeting
- December 23 & 24** - Church Office Closed for Christmas
- December 24** - Christmas Eve Candlelight Communion, 5:00 p.m.

*Complete monthly calendar on back.  
To add an event to our calendar,  
please contact the church office:  
(910) 642-2139*



## PASTOR'S CORNER



Perhaps we all have heard phrases like . . . **Little things mean a lot! Little is much when God is in it! What a difference a day makes! The importance of one! Just one rose will do! It is better to light just one little candle than to stumble in the dark! O, little town of Bethlehem!** As we approach Christmas of 2022, may we remember just how very much God loves **each** and **every one** of us . . . and to prove that, in the Gospel of John, **one** verse, John 3:16, proclaims that God sent His **only** begotten Son (Jesus) into the world that **whosoever** believes in **Him** should not perish but have eternal life! May we **once** again really realize and celebrate how important our

**individual** lives are as we try to share our faith **one** by **one** with those whom we meet along life's journey.

**One** card . . . **one** phone call . . . **one** letter . . . **one** text message . . . **one** visit . . . **one** gift . . . **one** thoughtful act of kindness . . . **one** ? . . . can be used by God to make an eternal difference in the life of the **one** receiving our love . . . compassion . . . and concern. We truly are "blessed to be a blessing," aren't we?

In November of 1978, I was privileged to visit the Holy Land. This was the first **one** of three visits I would be blessed to enjoy while traveling in the land of Jesus . . . today's Israel! **One** of the most unforgettable and spiritually moving experiences of my entire life happened there in **little** Bethlehem. We visited the Church of the Nativity, which is built over the cave where historians feel was the place where the Christ Child was delivered to the world through **one** little girl who would be called the Virgin Mary. As my fellow travelers and I stood in that **one** cave singing, *Silent Night, Holy Night*, God revealed Himself to me in a touching and memorable way. As we sang that beautiful and familiar carol, some children of Bethlehem were standing in the cave with us and as we sang, they were trying to follow the words and the melody as they sang with us. As I looked through the lens of my camera to try to capture that **one** profound moment," I saw the face of **one** little brown-skinned Bethlehem boy who lived and roamed in those Judean hills. **He** was smiling broadly at **me** as we kept trying to all sing together. I suddenly thought, that **one little** face literally could have looked very much like Jesus, who was born in that same **little** village where that **little** boy was living! WOW! I was reminded, as we stood in the birthplace of the **ONE** Savior of the world, that **God** became flesh and dwelt among us so **He** could show us how to live . . . and how to love . . . in following the example of His one and only begotten **Son**, Jesus!

Thank you for joining us in all of our December worship services, events, and occasions to celebrate Jesus together!

Based on what God revealed to me anew in **little** Bethlehem, I wrote the song on page 7 of the newsletter, which I hope can express to you the deep gratitude I have for His matchless and marvelous **gift** whom we celebrate at Christmas . . . and always! Merry . . . happy . . . blessed . . . and joyful Christmas to **you** and **all** of your loved **ones** . . . in Jesus' name and love . . . *Wayne Brown*

### December 4, 2022

Second Sunday of Advent

Isaiah 11:1-10; Matthew 3:1-12; Romans 15:12-13

*The Blessed Gift of God's Peace*

### December 11, 2022

Third Sunday of Advent

The Chancel Choir Presents:

*The Promised Messiah Foretold*

### December 18, 2022

Fourth Sunday of Advent

Isaiah 7:10-16; Matthew 1:18-25; Romans 1:1-7

*Jesus: The Love of God Dramatically Revealed!*

### December 24, 2022, 5:00 p.m.

Christmas Eve Candlelight Communion Service

Luke 1:-20

Jesus: The Savior of the World Is Born

### December 25, 2022

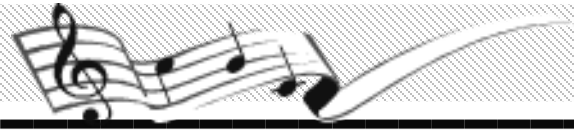
Christmas Day

*Isaiah 9:2-7; 52:7-10; Luke 2:1-20; John 1:1-18*

*Happy Birthday to Jesus; the Blessed Son of God!*

DECEMBER  
SERMONS

# Music Notes



The Children's Music Hymn for the month of December is *Joy to the World! The Lord Is Come*.

Once there was a man named Isaac Watts. He was born in 1674 in England. His parents taught him how important it was to go to church and have a strong faith in Jesus.

As a young boy Isaac was already very smart. He began learning Latin at four years old, and later he learned Greek, Hebrew, and French. He was also very good at making rhymes. Once, during a family worship time, Isaac was heard giggling. When the worship time was over his father asked him why he had laughed. Isaac replied nervously, "I saw a mouse climbing up the bell rope by the fireplace and it made me think of this rhyme: There was a mouse for want of stairs, ran up a rope to say his prayers."

Isaac went on to become a pastor and hymn writer. He was unhappy with many of the hymns of his day, because they were all from the Old Testament. When people sang them, they did not feel anything in their hearts. He wrote over 600 new hymns.

*Joy to the World! The Lord Is Come* started as a poem. Interestingly, Isaac's words to *Joy to the World* are his interpretation of Psalm 98. In 1836 Lowell Mason, a musician in America, read the words and put them to music. From that time it has become one of our most beloved Christmas carols.

(copied from *God Loves the World* Fall-Preschool ©2022 Celebrating Grace, Inc.)

**The Chancel Choir** will present *The Promised Messiah Foretold* on Sunday, December 11, during our morning worship at 11:00 a.m. Dress Rehearsal will be Tuesday, December 6, 1:00 p.m.

The **Children's Music Activity** (for age 4 through 2nd grade) will meet on Monday, December 5 and 12 at 4:00 p.m. Thank you for helping us celebrate The Hanging of the Greens in such a joyful way!

**The Community Band** will present a Christmas concert on Sunday, December 4, 3:00 p.m. in our sanctuary. You are invited to attend the concert and

stay around town for the Christmas parade at 6:00 p.m. We have two from our church playing in the band.

**The Southeastern Oratorio Society** will present the Christmas portion of George Frideric Handel's MESSIAH Monday, December 5, 7:30 p.m. at the Whiteville Presbyterian Church. We have several singers participating in the concert.

*Tis' the Season!*

*Eddie*



*Children's Music Activity Group  
Singing for Hanging of the Greens*

## DECEMBER MEMBERS IN MINISTRY

### CHILDREN'S CHURCH

4 Tina Sauls  
11 Gina Morningstar  
18 Tricia Sanderson  
25 Grayanna Young

### DEACONS OF THE WEEK

4 Kate C. Lee / John Sauls  
11 Janice Young / Mell Ray  
18 Ron Walters / Betty Jo Prevatte  
25 Merle Worley / Hilda Ray

### HOSPICE MEALS

Myrtle Corbett

### SOUND & VIDEO

4 Mitchell Sauls  
11 Bryce Kronenwetter  
18 Kirby Sanderson  
25 Eric Kronenwetter

### SUNDAY SCHOOL GREETERS

4 Clint and Carolyn Grainger  
11 Genie Carter  
18 Rose Langston / J. C. Hyatt  
25 Jolene Lewis

### USHERS (Chairman: Charlie Duncan)

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



## STEWARDSHIP

### November 6, 2022

Budget Gifts Plan 1 \$360.00  
Budget Gifts Plan 2 \$3,576.00  
Budget Gifts Operational \$2,380.00  
**Total Budget This Week \$6,316.00**

Designated/Other Funds \$2,251.00  
**Total Collections This Week \$8,567.00**

**Under Budget This Week \$350.58**

Budget Need to date \$39,999.48  
Budget Rec'd to date \$31,821.00  
Under Budget to date \$8,178.48

### November 13, 2022

Budget Gifts Plan 1 \$0.00  
Budget Gifts Plan 2 \$4,162.00  
Budget Gifts Operational \$435.00  
**Total Budget This Week \$4,597.00**

Designated/Other Funds \$410.00  
**Total Collections This Week \$5,007.00**

**Under Budget This Week \$2,069.58**

Budget Need to date \$46,666.06  
Budget Rec'd to date \$36,418.00  
Under Budget to date \$10,248.06

### November 20, 2022

Budget Gifts Plan 1 \$125.00  
Budget Gifts Plan 2 \$3,343.00  
Budget Gifts Operational \$205.00  
**Total Budget This Week \$3,673.00**

Designated/Other Funds \$413.00  
**Total Collections This Week \$4,086.00**

**Under Budget This Week \$2,993.58**

Budget Need to date \$53,332.64  
Budget Rec'd to date \$40,091.00  
Under Budget to date \$13,241.64

### November 27, 2022

Budget Gifts Plan 1 \$1,429.47  
Budget Gifts Plan 2 \$2,890.00  
Budget Gifts Operational \$300.00  
**Total Budget This Week \$4,619.47**

Designated/Other Funds \$2,352.86  
**Total Collections This Week \$6,972.33**

**Under Budget This Week \$2,047.11**

Budget Need to date \$59,999.22  
Budget Rec'd to date \$44,710.47  
Under Budget to date \$15,288.75

## DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

2 Benlyn Sauls  
Katherine Scott  
Vann Underwood  
Jillian Young  
3 Jeannine Sellers  
4 Hannah Clark  
8 Philip McCulloch  
12 Laurie Batten  
Joe Hooks  
13 Roger Chestnutt  
16 Anna Smyth  
17 Sally Grace Cook  
19 Kiesha Crawmer  
21 Lauren Lynn  
24 Peggy Walters  
28 Sandi Floyd  
29 Charles Austin  
Jennifer Bowling  
Myrtle Corbett  
Kate C. Lee

## SUNDAY SCHOOL ATTENDANCE FOR NOVEMBER

November 6, 2022 - 43  
November 13, 2022 - 48  
November 20, 2022 - 47  
November 27, 2022 - 46

Average attendance for November  
Sunday School is 46.

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

## OFFICE CONTACT INFO

### Ministerial Staff

Dr. Wayne Brown, Interim Pastor  
843-796-0397, [interimpastor@fbcwhiteville.com](mailto:interimpastor@fbcwhiteville.com)

Rev. Eddie Fort, Minister of Music  
[\[efort@fbcwhiteville.com\]](mailto:efort@fbcwhiteville.com)

Mrs. Patricia Slomanski, Organist

### Ministry Assistant Staff

Mrs. Teresa Malpass, Ministry Assistant  
[\[office@fbcwhiteville.com\]](mailto:office@fbcwhiteville.com)

Mrs. Dinah Reaves,  
Financial Ministry Assistant  
[\[fbcwhite@fbcwhiteville.com\]](mailto: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

## PARADE THANK YOU

To Our Church Staff and Congregation,

I greatly appreciate all of your generous donations, your time, and the creativity it took to make our recent church floats in various parades a true success. I look forward to this continued tradition and may God continue to bless us with the joy of spreading His word.

In His service,  
Kate C. Lee

## MISSIONS BREAKFAST

**December Missions Breakfast and Mission Emphasis—Sunday, December 4, 2022**, Breakfast 9:00—9:30 a.m., Program 9:30-10:30, Speaker: Rev. Paula McCosh, Director of the Welcome House in Fayetteville. Everyone is welcome to join us for breakfast and to hear this CBF missionary speak about mission work in our area. We also will be collecting our December Offering for Global Missions. You have special envelopes in your packet for this offering. Let us remember that, “It is more blessed to give than to receive!”

## FBC FLOAT IN CHRISTMAS PARADE

Our First Baptist Church float will carry a manger scene this year in the Whiteville Christmas Parade on **Sunday, December 4 at 6:00 p.m.** We invite you to come out and enjoy the parade with us.



## THANK YOU



Dear Kind Gentlemen,  
Thank you so much for building my ramp. I've enjoyed getting out of the house to experience this beautiful fall weather. You helped make my getting out possible. My family and I are forever grateful.

Your friend,  
Lois Batten

Dear First Baptist Church Family,

My family and I would like to thank each of you for your prayers, calls, messages, visits and all the expressions of condolences extended to our family. The flowers were beautiful and helped brighten our days. Your thoughtfulness reminded us that we were loved and not alone during the passing of our sister, Tonya. We are grateful for our friends and church family.

Butch, Beverly, and the family of Tonya Pridgen

# ANNOUNCEMENTS (CONT'D)

## WMU

**WMU Meeting:** No December Meeting  
**Mission Project:** Lottie Moon and Global Christmas Offerings  
**Hospice Meal:** Myrtle Corbett (Contact Karen: 910-642-9051)



The WMU will not meet in December but will assist the Missions Committee with the Missions Breakfast on Sunday, December 4, at 9:00 A.M. The missions project for this month is the Christmas Missions Offering for Lottie Moon (Goal \$2,000) and Global Missions (Goal \$6,000). Envelopes are included in members' offering envelope package or you may use a plain envelope and designate your offering in writing.

On November 14 several WMU members and Dr. Brown visited the Matthew 25 House in Tabor City. We were treated to a delicious lunch, enjoyed a video and presentation about the House from its inception to the completion. It was truly a spiritual experience, and we all received a blessing.

**The 2022-24 Watchword is:** *Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer.* --Romans 12:12

### Our Mission

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

Myrtle Corbett  
WMU Director

## CHRISTMAS WITH THE EMBERS



Please join The Sunshine Group of First Baptist Church, and come hear a Christmas musical performance featuring The Embers on **Tuesday, December 13, 7:00 p.m.** at Southeastern Community College. Please meet at the church at **6:30 p.m.** to car pool to SCC. If you pay in the church office by December 8, the Cost is \$35 per person. After December 8, tickets will be available at SCC for \$40. If you are interested in attending, please call the church office at 910-642-2139, or Mary Alice Stanley at 910-640-7503.

## WEDNESDAY NIGHT SUPPER

We resumed our monthly Wednesday Night Supper on the third Wednesday of the month in September. We will continue through May 17th, 2023 with the following Cooking Group schedule. We invite you to join us for the meal at 5:45 p.m. and Prayer Meeting and Bible Study beginning at 6:30 p.m.

December 21, 2022**	No Meal	Prayer Meeting TBD
January 18, 2023	Group 5	Mary Alice Stanley, Chair
February 15, 2023	WMU	Meal and Program/Heck-Jones Offering Emphasis—Guest Speaker
March 15, 2023	Group 6	Fred and Martha Senter, Co-Chairs
April 19, 2023	Group 7	Peggy Norosky, Chair
May 17, 2023	Group 3	Myrtle and Haywood Corbett, Co-Chairs

\*\*We will not have a WNS for December since December 21 is only 4 days before Christmas Day.

# "IN BETHLEHEM"

## *In Bethlehem*

*The place was small, and yes, quite innocent!  
The place was calm, and yet magnificent!  
In Bethlehem, God chose to walk with man.  
In Bethlehem, He showed His loving plan.*

*The place was dim, yet Light shone brightly there.  
The Light was Him, what else could compare?  
God in the Flesh now with us to dwell.  
His love proclaim . . . the great glad news we tell!*

*Emmanuel, God is with us here!  
Emmanuel, in laughter, or in tears!  
How can it be?*

*The Lord of history came as a Babe in simple love for  
me!*

*I stand amazed just to think of Him.  
In His love and grace, I am not condemned.  
And Bethlehem led Him to Calvary.  
On the cross He gave His life for me!*

*I thank You, Lord, for all You've done for me.  
I lift my praise, You deserve all majesty.*

*Now use me, Lord, and help me live for Thee,  
As Bethlehem, a vessel for Nativity!*

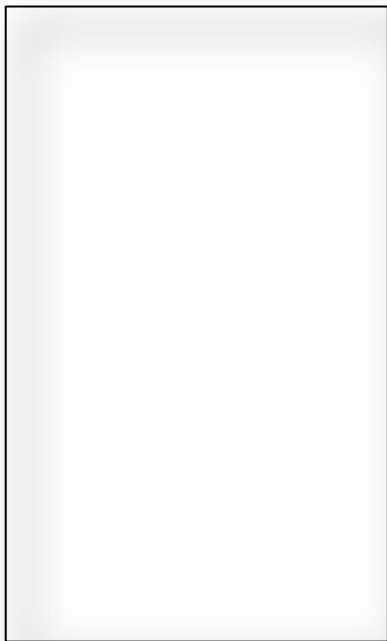
*The place was small, and yes, quite innocent!  
The place was calm, and yet magnificent!  
In Bethlehem, God chose to walk with man.  
In Bethlehem, He showed His loving plan.*

*Emmanuel, God is with us here.  
Emmanuel, in laughter or in tears.  
How can it be?*

*The Lord of history came as a Babe in simple love for  
me!*

*The place was small, and yes quite innocent!  
The place was calm, and yet magnificent.  
In Bethlehem, God chose to walk with man.  
In Bethlehem, He showed His loving plan.  
In Bethlehem . . . sweet Bethlehem!  
In Bethlehem . . . Bethlehem!*

Lyrics and Music by Wayne Brown  
Arranged by David Kesterson



Chrismon Tree 2022



	2022					
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 6:00 Bible Study	2	3
4 <b>Missions Emphasis</b> 9:00 Missions Breakfast 9:30 Missions Program with Rev. Paula McCosh 11:00 Morning Worship 3:00 Col. Community Band Concert in FBC Sanct. 6:00 FBC Float in Whiteville Christmas Parade	5 4:00 Children's Music Activity	6 1:00 Chancel Choir Dress Rehearsal	7 6:30 Prayer Meeting	8 6:00 Bible Study	9	10
11 9:45 Sunday School 11:00 Morning Worship with Chancel Choir Music <i>The Promised Messiah Foretold</i>	12 No WMU Meeting 4:00 Children's Music Activity	13 7:00 The Embers Christmas Concert at SCC	14 6:30 Prayer Meeting	15 6:00 Bible Study	16	17
18 9:45 Sunday School 11:00 Morning Worship	19 9:30 Finance Meeting	20 No Deacons' Meeting	21 6:30 Prayer Meeting	22	23 <b>Church Office Closed</b>	24 5:00 Christmas Eve Candlelight Communion Service
25 Christmas Day 9:45 Sunday School 11:00 Morning Worship	26 <b>Church Office Closed</b>	27	28 6:30 Prayer Meeting	29	30	31

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

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