
First Baptist Church Builder

Volume 79 Issue 12

December 24 2021

FROM YOUR PASTOR

MERRY CHRISTMAS and HAPPY NEW YEAR to you and your families! I hope that you receive this BUILDER in time to be reminded of our Christmas Eve Candlelight Service at 5 p. m. We will also be receiving communion and recommitting ourselves to the Lord in this service. I hope to see you this Christmas Eve Friday.

Writer and humorist Dave Barry once gave his thoughts about the gifts that were brought by the Wise Men to Jesus. He suggested that if one analyzed carefully the story there is an often overlooked theological fact in the story. There is no mention of wrapping paper. Why? First, they were wise. Second, they were men! I will be preaching about the Wise Men and their gifts this Sunday.

When it comes to wrapping gifts, men seem to lack the necessary skills in this area. You can generally tell which gifts under the tree were wrapped by men. The best thing for men that has come along in a long time is gift bags. All we men need to do is put a name card on the gift bag and our work is done.

Each year thousands of tons of Christmas wrapping paper are used and Christmas wrap sales exceed \$2.6 billion annually, according to one website. Much of the paper consumed in the U. S. is used for gift wrapping and decoration. Christmas wrapping paper was first sold by Hallmark in 1917.

At Christmas time, we think about the greatest gift ever given. It was when “God so loved the world and gave His only begotten Son” (John 3:16). I don’t think we could put a number on all the gifts that have been given at Christmas, but there is no question that of all gifts ever given, God’s Gift was the greatest.

And you know, God’s great gift was also wrapped! The Bible tells us when Mary “brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped Him in swaddling clothes” (Luke 2:7). The message of the angel to the shepherds was, “And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes” (Luke 2:12). Thank you, Father, for Your Gift to us, Jesus Christ! Have you received God’s gift to you?

And when we think about a New Year, we often think about resolutions for the New Year. Most all of us have at one time or another made New Year resolutions. Someone has said, “the weakness of most New Year’s resolutions is that they simply go in one year and out the other.” A New Year’s resolution needs to be carried out.

I encourage you to make some resolutions for the New Year and for the Glory of God. Maybe resolve to read through the Bible in 2022. Or to be more intentional in sharing your Christian witness with others. Or to be more active and faithful in church attendance. What will you resolve to do in 2022 for the Glory of God?

When pastor and theologian Jonathan Edwards was just a young man, he made five resolutions and lived by them faithfully:

1. Resolved: to live with all my might while I do live.
2. Resolved: never to lose a moment of time, but to improve it in the most profitable way I can.
3. Resolved: never to do anything which I should despise or think meanly of in another.
4. Resolved: never to do anything out of revenge.
5. Resolved: never to do anything which I should be afraid to do if it were the last hour of my life.

I would suggest to you that the resolutions of Jonathan Edwards would be good resolutions for every one of us, especially as we close out one year and begin a new year.

Again, Merry Christmas and Happy New Year! God bless you and yours, and I look forward to seeing you back in church this Sunday. Pastor

Here by Design

Dr. Bryan Bolton, Minister of Music and Children



Wishing you a Merry Christmas!

As our journey through the Advent/Christmas season comes to an end, I want to express a heart-felt “thank you” to those who made our weekly worship gatherings and the “Peace on Earth” choir program possible. Thank you for your worship and ministry leadership during this month. It has been a real blessing to have worked with each of you.

From the Bolton family, thank you for a wonderful and memorable year as your minister of music and children! We thank you all for the cards, monetary gifts, holiday goodies, and words of encouragement you have presented to us this Christmas. It has been wonderful working and serving these past twelve years with you. God willing, there are many more good years ahead of us, sharing ourselves with one another and with a world so greatly in need of God’s reconciling love. With Christmas blessings, peace, and goodwill from the Bolton family to yours, Merry Christmas!



Looking backward. . .

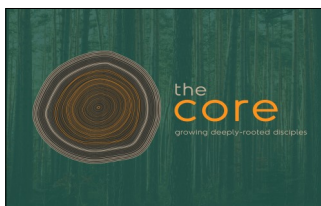
The Student Ministry had the privilege of sending Christmas cards to the residents in the medical facility of Trinity Village Retirement Community.

During the Advent season, The FirstKids and Students Ministry leaders placed “worship sacks” in the Foyer for our kids and students to use during worship each week. The sacks included materials that enhanced their understanding of worship and the Advent candles. It also included some ways to engage as a family during this season. We plan to continue the “worship sacks” in the new year.



Looking ahead. . .

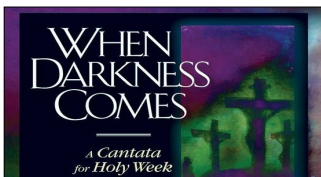
The *Pray for Me Campaign* will continue in the Spring semester. I encourage each of the Prayer Champions to continue to engage with your student during the remainder of the school year.



Utilizing *The Core: A Deep Discipleship* material by Leader Treks, we are encouraging our students, grades 7-12 to grow deep roots of their faith. Our aim is to teach the eight core principles of discipleship through Bible study lessons. Each lesson will teach solid Biblical truth paired with engaging experiences that encourage students to exercise their growing faith. The lessons are

divided into 8 “Roots” (or principles) of discipleship and will begin Sunday, January 2, 2022.

Hey Parents!!! We want to partner with you by creating a monthly email called, *The Parent Connection*. Beginning in January 2022, you will receive a monthly email from the student ministry that will give you some basic information about what is being taught at church through *The Core: A Deep Discipleship* program, along with some helpful tools, suggestions, and questions to help you reinforce this learning at home.



Musically Speaking. . . Save the Date!

Friday, April 15, 2022

The Sanctuary Choir and guest instrumentalists will present “When Darkness Comes” for our annual Good Friday Worship.



January 2, 2022

To the glory of God
and in memory of
Sam and Marla
Eifling

by

One of Sam’s buddies

January 9, 2022

To the glory of God
and in honor of their 12th
Anniversary with FBC
Bryan and Erin Bolton

by

FBC Sanctuary Choir

January 16, 2022

To the glory of God
and in honor of his 90th birthday
and for their anniversary

Bob Smith

by

Sue Smith and family



First Record

December 5, 2021

Budget Needs	\$11,151.75
Budget Receipts	\$10,370.00
TV Receipts	\$310.00
Capital Needs & Repairs	\$100.00
Other	\$2,197.00
TOTAL	\$12,977.00

December 12, 2021

Budget Needs	\$11,151.75
Budget Receipts	\$14,451.00
TV Receipts	\$950.00
Capital Needs & Repairs	\$50.00
Other	\$4,654.00
TOTAL	\$20,105.00

December 19, 2021

Budget Needs	\$11,151.75
Budget Receipts	\$20,730.00
TV Receipts	\$70.00
Capital Needs & Repairs	\$4,050.00
Other	\$7,449.00
TOTAL	\$32,299.00

Deacon of the Week**BLASIOUS AWONSANG**

January 2, 2022

M. H. BITELY

January 9, 2022

KENNY BONDS

January 16, 2022

JOE CLEMENT

January 23, 2022

BUSTER CROOK

January 30, 2022

Financial FYI

ARE YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS UP TO DATE? If you wish to check what you have given so far this year, contact the church office.

2021 CHURCH CONTRIBUTIONS

To claim a church contribution on your 2021 taxes, your contribution must be turned in to the office by closing at Thursday, December 30. It can also be turned in on Sunday, December 26. If mailed, it must be post-marked by Friday, December 31, 2021. Checks must be payable to **First Baptist Church** to appear on your contribution statement—which will be available in mid-January.

SYMPATHY

To Linda Ard and family, in the loss of her brother in law, Larry Wallace.

To Jo Chambliss and family in the loss of her son, Dean Chambliss, who passed away in Pine Bluff, AR.

To M. H. Bitely and family, in the loss of his cousin, Norman McPherson

CHURCH CLOSING

The church office will close at noon on Thursday, December 30. We will also be closed on Friday, December 31.



Wishing you the gift of faith, the blessing of hope, and the peace of His love at Christmas and always.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year from your First

Baptist Church Staff

Bro. Ken, Bro. Bryan

Katie, Renee, Ann

Vincent

Thank you

Dear Friends and Family at First Baptist Church,

Thanks, most of all for all the prayers, visits, and phone calls during my recent heart surgery. All was very much appreciated.

Lewin Dunlap

Sunday, January 16, 2021
will be



SUNDAY

*Undesignated offering
will go to
Neighbor to Neighbor.*

**NEW DEACONS**

As a confirmation of God's calling and gifting, an ordination of Bruce Morgan will be on Sunday, January 9 at 5 PM.

The Deacons' Meeting will be Sunday, January 9 at 4:00 pm.

The Admin. Board will meet Sunday, January 16 at 4:00 pm.

Regular Schedule for Weekly Services

SUNDAY:

9:00 am TV Broadcast on FOX 16
(one week delay)
9:00 am Prayer room open
9:45 am Sunday School
11:00 am Morning Worship Service

MONDAY:

6:00 pm Sanctuary Choir
8:30 pm Night Basketball

TUESDAY:

12:00 pm Adult Prayer Ministry
5:30 pm Student Ministry
5:45 pm Sanctuary Choir
6:45 pm Rehearsal

Deacons 2022

Blasius Awonsang 318-278-4208
M. H. Bitely 718-3764
Kenny Bonds 540-7001
Joe Clement 692-2659
Buster Crook 692-3976
Dan Crowder 501-944-1236
Tommy Fowler 501-517-0490
Tommy Grace 866-0916
James House 692-7921

Lawrence Kenney 413-2599
Lynn King 540-7400
Billy Kittler 550-8910
Bruce Morgan 370-8318
Mac Norton 718-2895
Rodney Rodgers 543-9936
Bill Ross 329-9763
Billy Stone 692-1191
Marc Stratton 329-6906

News from the Pews

Our own Vincent Pryor's wife, Sandra, graduated from UAPB with a Bachelor of Arts in English.



Our website is live and online giving is available again. Listed below are the steps you should follow.

1. Click the GIVE button on our church website: www.fbcpinebluff.org
2. Click the Give Now button.
3. Enter the amount you want to give.
4. Give to the fund pre-selected for you or choose a different fund from the drop-down menu.
5. Select a frequency.
6. Enter your email address.
7. Click CONTINUE.
8. Select your account type:
Credit/Debit Card
ACH/Checking Account

Enter your payment information to complete the transaction. You'll receive email confirmation of your gift.

If you choose ACH, be prepared to give the routing number of your bank and the account number.

STAFF PHONE NUMBERS

Ken Thornton
1-501-425-7097
Bryan Bolton
489-8970



Our 168th Year

Periodicals Postage Paid at
Pine Bluff, Arkansas 71601

PUBLISHED BIWEEKLY BY THE FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
PINE BLUFF, ARKANSAS 71603-7823
(UPS 774-580) 6501 S Hazel Street, Pine Bluff, AR 71603-7823

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to
First Baptist Church Builder, 6501 S. Hazel St., Pine Bluff, AR 71603-7823
Office: 870-534-4741 FAX: 870-534-4743 E-mail address: fbcpinebluffar@gmail.com