
First Baptist Church Builder

Volume 79 Issue 11

December 3 2021

FROM YOUR PASTOR

I trust that you had a very wonderful Thanksgiving, and that you are now having another wonderful week! God has been so very good to all of us. We have much to be thankful for.

Thanksgiving and Christmas are my favorite holidays (holy days) of the year. On Thanksgiving Day, we are reminded in Scripture that in our prayers, we are to let our requests, by prayer and supplication, be made known unto God WITH THANKSGIVING.

One dear saint said, "I won't be unhappy. It is all I have to give to God, and I will praise and thank and glorify Him by a happy face and a radiant life." What a great and Godly attitude! May this attitude of gratitude be with each of us of this holiday season.

And Christmas is just around the corner! I am already listening to Christmas music. This past Sunday, 28 November, was the first Sunday of Advent. The last day of Advent is Christmas Eve.

You noticed this past Sunday we had an Advent wreath with candles in which one candle was lit in the morning worship service. Advent means, "the arrival of a notable person, thing, or event. The Latin word "adventus" means, "coming".

For Christians, the season of Advent anticipates the coming of Christ from two different perspectives. First, it shares the ancient longing in the Old Testament for the coming of the Messiah. And He has come!!

But second, it reminds us to be alert for His Second Coming. For four weeks, we "re-enact" what believers went through thousands of years ago. Similarly, we, too, are experiencing the anticipation and longing of Christ. And while we celebrate the first coming of Christ at Christmas, we also long for His return, where He will set everything right again!

Churches around the world are celebrating Advent with decorations, music (such as "O Come, O Come Emmanuel), fasting, candles, and worship centered around the coming of Christ. (A special "Thank You" to all who helped decorate the church this year.)

Advent is a time of preparation for the Lord's coming, and His Return. It is a time to reflect on what our world and our lives would be without God, without Jesus. Advent is a time for us to focus our attention on God in a special way. I hope you will join your church family in worship each Advent Sunday this year as a special opportunity for worship. And please be safe if you are travelling this time of year.

A huge "THANK YOU" to all who rang the bells for Salvation Army at Walmart this year.

Deacons will meet this Sunday, December 5, at 4 p. m. due to the holiday schedule.

We will have a brief business meeting following the morning worship service on Sunday, 12 December, in which we will consider our church budget for 2022, a report from the Committee on Committees, a recommendation from the Deacons, election of two new trustees, and a recommendation from the Admin Board.

This Sunday evening, December 5, at 5 p. m. we will see the special Christmas episode of "The Chosen" video series. The new episode entitled "The Messengers" will feature the familiar story of the birth of Christ as told from the perspective of Mary and Joseph. This will be the last planned showing of "The Chosen" for 2021. Let's plan on refreshments and fellowship again. Thanks to all who have brought food for the fellowships.

Christmas "Peace on Earth" by FBC Sanctuary Choir on Sunday evening, December 12 at 5 p. m. Candlelight Service with Communion on Christmas Eve at 5 p. m.

I ran across these thoughts the other day that I thought were very appropriate to share. As church attendance numbers fade across the nation and online services become very convenient it's important to remember why church attendance for you and your family matters so much.

You can't serve from your sofa. You can't have community of faith on your sofa. You can't experience the power of a room full of believers worshipping together on your sofa.

Christians aren't consumers. We are contributors. We don't just watch. We engage. We give. We sacrifice. We encourage. We pray by laying hands on the hurting. We do life together.

The church needs you. And you need the church. Thoughts well worth considering.

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



Peace on Earth

*Presented by The Sanctuary Choir
Sunday, December 12 at 5:00 PM*

The year 2021 has deeply affected all of us in different ways. So many voices today tell us this world is lost to strife, anger, and suffering. What the world needs right now is peace. In fact, what you need right now is peace. This year's Christmas presentation is going to remind you of a powerful truth. The music you will hear announces the birth of the Prince of Peace.

Two-thousand years ago, God came into this world to bring a peace that transcends our understanding. Angels declared that first Christmas, "Peace on earth!" What could they have meant?

Make plans to join us on Sunday, December 12 at 5:00 pm to find out, and to bring that peace into your life. Seating will be limited. The balcony will be available for overflow. The following social distancing protocols will be implemented:

- We strongly encourage you to wear a face mask when attending this special program. Choir members and musicians will be wearing face masks as well. Face masks are available at all entrances (as well as hand-sanitizer) for anyone in need of one.
- We are placing festive decorations on the ends of the pews to help identify which rows you are to use and to create safely-distanced seating.
- We are asking each family unit to sit together while maintaining at least 6 feet from others.

Please help do your part to keep yourself and others healthy, and to ensure that we can continue to gather in-person.

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

Friday, December 24 at 5:00pm

Let us worship together this Christmas Eve at 5:00 pm, as we focus our attention on the real meaning of the season. Through scripture reading, poetry, prayers, carol singing, and the Lord's Supper, we will celebrate the birth of our King!



Deacon of the Week

JIM MCBURNETT

December 5, 2021

MAC NORTON

December 12, 2021

RODNEY RODGERS

December 19, 2021

BILL ROSS

December 26, 2021



"Like" us on Facebook!

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www.facebook.com/themusicministry

First Record

November 7, 2021

Budget Needs	\$11,151.75
Budget Receipts	\$9,875.00
TV Receipts	\$1,180.00
Capital Needs & Repairs	\$220.00
Other	\$893.50
TOTAL	\$12,168.50

November 14, 2021

Budget Needs	\$11,151.75
Budget Receipts	\$18,901.00
TV Receipts	\$200.00
Capital Needs & Repairs	\$150.00
Other	\$4,037.82
TOTAL	\$23,288.82

November 21, 2021

Budget Needs	\$11,151.75
Budget Receipts	\$9,405.43
TV Receipts	\$100.00
Capital Needs & Repairs	\$150.00
Other	\$950.82
TOTAL	\$10,606.25

November 28, 2021

Budget Needs	\$11,151.75
Budget Receipts	\$8,187.00
TV Receipts	\$180.00
Capital Needs & Repairs	\$175.00
Other	\$913.00
TOTAL	\$9,455.00

SYMPATHY

To Kathryn and Tommy May, in the loss of her brother, John Norris, who passed away in Florida.

To Dan and Cindy Crowder, in the loss of his mother, Imogene Crowder, who passed away in Pine Bluff, AR.

CHURCH CLOSING

The church office will close at noon on Thursday, December 23 and be closed Friday, the 24th. We will also be closed on Friday, December 31.

The Deacons' Meeting will be Sunday, December 5 at 4:00 pm.

The Admin. Board will meet Sunday, December 19 at 4:00 pm.

Sunday, December 19, 2021
will be



SUNDAY

*Undesignated offering
will go to
Neighbor to Neighbor.*

Special Called Business Meeting

A Business Meeting will be held Sunday, December 12, immediately following the morning service. Discussion will be the 2022 church budget, report from the Committee on Committee, election of 2 new Trustees, a recommendation from the Deacons, and a recommendation from the Admin. Board.

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.



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



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
6:30 pm Youth Night Basketball

TUESDAY:

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

Deacons 2021

Blasius Awonsang 318-278-4208
Kenny Bonds 540-7001
Travis Chisom 489-3881
Joe Clement 692-2659
Buster Crook 692-3976
Dan Crowder 501-944-1236
Larry Daniel 540-7534
Tommy Grace 866-0916
John Hayden 510-0546

Earl Keaton 535-6298
Lawrence Kenney 413-2599
Lynn King 540-7400
Jim McBurnett 692-8132
Mac Norton 718-2895
Rodney Rodgers 543-9936
Bill Ross 329-9763
Jim Simpson 692-3282
Marc Stratton 329-6906

News from the Pews

Let's keep the church family up to date. If you have anything new and exciting to share, please let us know and we will put it here.

STAFF PHONE NUMBERS

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



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.



BUILDER

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Our 168th Year

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