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# *First Baptist Church Builder*

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**Volume 81 Issue 11**

**December 1 2023**

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Merry Christmas church!

We have reached the Christmas season and that is always an exciting time for everyone, but especially believers. As the world around us is swept up in the busyness of the season, I would like to encourage each of you to slow down and reflect on what Christmas is really about.

We enjoy family during the holidays. We participate in gift giving and receiving. We may even have silly traditions like leaving out milk and cookies for Santa Claus. All of that is good, but what is truly great about Christmas is the true reason for it- God the Son took on human flesh on our behalf and for the Father's glory. He was born into this world as a helpless infant so that he could grow into a perfect man who would die for imperfect men.

What we celebrate during Christmas time is the doctrine of the incarnation- that God took on a human body and a human nature. In the days of the early church, this doctrine caused great division as Christians tried to figure out how we should think about Christ's nature. A hero of the faith named Athanasius was convinced from Scripture that Jesus was fully God and fully man, and he stood for this doctrine at great personal cost. Some denied that Jesus was fully God, others denied that he was truly man. Because Athanasius contended for this great doctrine so vehemently, he faced the threat of death and multiple exiles away from his home. But he knew what we know today- that Jesus Christ is God, and that he truly became man.

As we celebrate that truth this season, and specifically reflect on the circumstances surrounding his birth, I simply encourage you to worship him. He is worthy! I hope to see each of you at the Christmas Choir program, at the Carol Sing fellowship, and in the worship gathering on Christmas Eve! If you need anything this Christmas season, don't hesitate to reach out.

Grace and peace,  
Bro Dalton Adger



***Christmas Eve Worship***  
***Sunday, December 24, 2023***  
***11:00 am***

Don't miss our Candlelight Christmas Eve Worship. We will celebrate the birth of Jesus through scripture, songs, candlelight, and the Lord's Supper. Please note, there will be no Sunday school or Evening service on Christmas Eve.

# THE BEATITUDES

## Blessings for a Joyful Journey

Dr. Bryan Bolton, Minister of Music and Children

### Save the Date!!

#### O Come, Messiah King

Presented by  
The Sanctuary Choir  
and Instrumentalists

Sunday, December 10, 2023  
at 5:00 PM in the Sanctuary

Mark the date on your calendars now!

This special evening will feature The Sanctuary Choir, The Sanctuary Bells, and Guest Instrumentalists. The focus will be on those who were present at that first Christmas and will tell the life story of Jesus Christ. Make plans to join us and bring someone with you.



### A Festival of Christmas Carols and Nativities

Make plans to join us on Sunday, December 17, 2023, at 5:00 PM as we prepare for Christmas with a Christmas carol sing. Delicious homemade dessert will also be served around decorated tables. Come early and see the collection of Nativities in the fellowship hall.

#### Share Your Nativity!

Celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ at this wonderful church-wide event! We would love to include any of your Nativities that you are willing to share.

SET-UP: 6-8 pm Thursday, December 14, and 10 am to Noon Friday, December 15.

TAKE-DOWN: Immediately following the festival, Sunday, December 17.

#### Reminders:

- \* Please label all pieces of your Nativity.
- \* You will be setting up your own Nativities so they are displayed how you like them. Please take a picture of your Nativity placement before leaving.
- \* Your Nativities will be checked in and checked out during the above times. We want them to go back to their correct homes safely.
- \* During the event, ushers will watch over all Nativities.

To sign up, please email Bro. Bryan at [bbolton@cablelynx.com](mailto:bbolton@cablelynx.com) or use this online sign up link: <https://fbcpinebluff.org/a-festival-of-christmas-carols-and-nativities-2023/>



### "Like" us on Facebook!

[www.facebook.com/firstpinebluff](http://www.facebook.com/firstpinebluff)

[www.facebook.com/themusicministry](http://www.facebook.com/themusicministry)

### Deacon of the Week

**M. H. BITELY**

December 3, 2023

**KENNY BONDS**

December 10, 2023

**TRAVIS CHISOM**

December 17, 2023

**JOE CLEMENT**

December 24, 2023

**TROY COLE**

December 31, 2023

### First Record

#### November 5, 2023

Budget Needs .....	\$11,508.31
Budget Receipts .....	\$9,133.00
TV Receipts .....	\$555.00
Capital Needs & Repairs .....	\$75.00
Other .....	\$2,665.00
<b>TOTAL .....</b>	<b>\$12,428.00</b>

#### November 12, 2023

Budget Needs .....	\$11,508.31
Budget Receipts .....	\$6,888.00
TV Receipts .....	\$5.00
Capital Needs & Repairs .....	\$75.00
Other .....	\$9,862.85
<b>TOTAL .....</b>	<b>\$16,830.85</b>

#### November 19, 2023

Budget Needs .....	\$11,508.31
Budget Receipts .....	\$6,941.00
TV Receipts .....	\$5.00
Capital Needs & Repairs .....	\$50.00
Other .....	\$1,035.06
<b>TOTAL .....</b>	<b>\$8,031.06</b>

#### November 26, 2023

Budget Needs .....	\$11,508.31
Budget Receipts .....	\$7,795.00
TV Receipts .....	\$405.00
Capital Needs & Repairs .....	\$300.00
Other .....	\$2,693.00
<b>TOTAL .....</b>	<b>\$11,193.00</b>



Sunday, December 17, 2023  
will be



**SUNDAY**  
*Undesignated offering  
will go to  
Neighbor to Neighbor.*

## **CHURCH CLOSING**

The church office will be closed on Monday, December 25 and Tuesday, December 26 in observance of Christmas.

### **SYMPATHY**

To Cindy Blackstock and family, in the loss of her father-in-law, Robert "Red" Blackstock.

### **Special Called Business Meeting on December 17 Following Morning Worship**

Recommendations from Committee  
on Committees

Approval of 2024 Budget

Recommendation to approve Deacon  
Nominations

### **Financial FYI**

The 2024 offering envelopes are in. They will be in your Sunday School classrooms.

Are your financial contributions up to date? If you wish to check what you have given so far this year, contact the church office.

Your 2023 contributions must be turned in Sunday, December 31 or postmarked by Saturday December 30 to be on your tax contribution statement.



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. Dalton, Bro. Bryan

Katie, Renee, Ann

Vincent

### ***Thank You***

FBC of Pine Bluff

Words cannot express how Joe felt about the church and all the people in it. It was never a doubt that the service would be held there, as it was such a special place in Joe's heart.

Thank you for all of your support, meal and the kindness you have shown.  
Joe Nealy family



To everyone who helped with Operation Christmas Child 2023, THANK YOU! We packed 218 boxes plus 14 online for a total of 232!! Everything you do (praying, shopping, packing, delivering, making donations) is most important to this ministry. We shop year round so any time you can pick up a needed item or make a donation, it will be used to lead more children and families to Christ.



INTERNATIONAL  
MISSION BOARD



**REACHING  
THE NATIONS,  
TOGETHER.**

**100%** of your gifts go to the  
Lottie Moon Christmas Offering®  
to enable gospel transformation  
among the unreached.

National Goal \$200 million

State Goal \$5.5 million

Church Goal \$10,000

**[imb.org/lottiemoon](http://imb.org/lottiemoon)**

Lottie Moon Christmas Offering® is a registered trademark of WMU®

## Regular Schedule for Weekly Services

### SUNDAY:

6:00 am	TV Broadcast on KARZ 42 (one week delay)
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 Handbells Rehearsal (
6:30 pm	Bible Study Fellowship Women and Men

### TUESDAY:

6:00 pm	Griefshare, Rm. #202 TBD
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### WEDNESDAY:

12:00 pm	Prayer Meeting
6:30 pm	Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal

## Deacons 2023

M. H. Bitely	718-3764	James House	692-7921
Kenny Bonds	540-7001	Billy Kittler	550-8910
Travis Chisom	489-3881	Bruce Morgan	370-8318
Joe Clement	692-2659	Mac Norton	718-2895
Troy Cole	540-7393	Jim Simpson	692-3282
Buster Crook	692-3976	Billy Stone	692-1191
Larry Daniel	540-7534	Marc Stratton	329-6906
Tommy Fowler	501-517-0490	Vernon Walker	489-2683

# News from the Pews

Zack and  
Meredith Boyce  
welcomed Jesse  
Edward Boyce  
on October 25,  
2023

## STAFF PHONE NUMBERS

**Dalton Adger**  
(318) 489-3106  
**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](http://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.



## Our 169th Year

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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](mailto:fbcpinebluffar@gmail.com)