



FBC Family News

“The Spirit of the Lord GOD is on Me, because the LORD has anointed Me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives and freedom to the prisoners;” (Isaiah 61:1, HCSB)

Christmas is upon us and fast approaching. I was in Hattiesburg with my wife back in October and was amazed that some stores had begun selling Christmas items before Halloween. A few weeks have passed and now Thanksgiving is behind us. Time flies.

Isaiah, was an 8th century prophet. The book in the Bible that bears his name is the longest of all the prophets. There are passages that address the sins of the nation of Israel and God's impending judgement. Isaiah denounced the sins of Israel's enemies as well. No sin goes unnoticed with God. God's grace and mercy is revealed in Isaiah too. The prophet of God spoke about the coming Servant of the Lord. The Servant of the Lord would be for all people, ***“I, Yahweh, have called You for a righteous purpose, and I will hold You by Your hand. I will keep You and appoint You to be a covenant for the people and a light to the nations,” (Isaiah 42:6, HCSB)*** Gentiles, as well as Jews, would benefit from the Servant's ministry.

Isaiah 61:1 is of particular interest. This is the very passage that Jesus would read from while visiting his hometown synagogue in Nazareth. ***“He came to Nazareth, where He had been brought up. As usual, He entered the synagogue on the Sabbath day and stood up to read. The scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to Him, and unrolling the scroll, He found the place where it was written: The Spirit of the Lord is on Me, because He has anointed Me to preach good news to the poor. He has sent Me to proclaim freedom to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to set free the oppressed, to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor. He then rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant, and sat down. And the eyes of everyone in the synagogue were fixed on Him. He began by saying to them, “Today as you listen, this Scripture has been fulfilled.”” (Luke 4:16–21, HCSB)*** Jesus interpreted Isaiah's words to have been fulfilled through his own ministry. Salvation is found in Jesus Christ. That was the message Jesus preached. It was a message that echoed the ancient writings of the prophets.

Christmas is big business. The average adult will spend between \$700-\$1,000 this year during Christmas. The National Retail Federation estimates spending on gifts and holiday goods to total more than \$465 billion. It is refreshing to see the reminders of signs, memes, and postcards that say something like, ***“He is the reason for the season.”*** But look a little closer to the Scriptures. Examine the words of the ancient prophets and observe that Christmas is not just the birth of the Savior. Christmas is the fulfillment of God's promise. Christmas is one part of God's great plan to provide redemption to those needing to be redeemed from their sin. Christmas is not just the birth of a baby Jesus. The baby Jesus was born with a purpose. He was God incarnate. His ministry was to proclaim the good news (the gospel), to heal the broken-hearted (reconciliation), and to set the captives free (freedom from the bonds of sin).

My expectation of a secular culture getting the true meaning of Christmas is very low. Occasionally, a blind squirrel will find an acorn. Sometimes, they do. One of my favorite Christmas shows was the Peanut gang's ***“A Charlie Brown Christmas,”*** written by the late Charles Shultz. When the movie came out in 1965, Shultz was told it would fail, but it has become a classic. I remember waiting patiently as a little boy to watch it each Christmas season. My granddaughters watch it throughout the year. That little cartoon contains a beautiful recitation from Luke's gospel of the birth narrative.

My expectations of believers are much higher. Christians should know the Scriptures enough to recognize where God has made a promise and interpret its fulfillment. They should be able to appreciate the beauty of the Trinity in such passages when it says, ***“The Spirit of the Lord GOD is on Me*** in Luke's gospel. The Spirit from the Father had rested upon the Son. Jesus interpreted it that way. The Son of God was the premier revelation to all mankind. The Father is spirit and so is the Holy Spirit. No one had seen the Father, but the Son revealed Him to us. It was the Son that became the intermediator between God and mankind. He is the One who has reconciled us to the Father. That was the purpose of his birth.

Dr. Frankie Clark, Senior Pastor

Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for International Missions

*Every church.
Every nation.*

Every Church. Every Nation.

It's more than a catch phrase. It's at the core of what we do. We believe every church—and every church member—has a critical role to play in bringing the gospel to the world. Your participation in the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering is a key part of that.

Your Gifts Transform Lives

Because you give to the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering, IMB missionaries can take the gospel to unreached peoples around the world. Every dollar you give makes a difference, because 100% of the money collected goes to the work of reaching every nation.

The Story of Lottie Moon

In the 1800s, a missionary named Lottie Moon wrote letters from China urging American churches to fund more overseas workers. After Lottie's death on the mission field, an offering was started in her name. The offering was established to empower international missions efforts for Southern Baptists.

NATIONAL GOAL IS \$160 MILLION

OUR CHURCH GOAL IS \$9,000

This offering will be taken during the months of December and January.

**WEEK OF PRAYER FOR INTERNATIONAL MISSIONS IS
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 2—SUNDAY, DECEMBER 9**

Please pray for IMB Missionaries during this time.

Special videos will be posted to our church facebook page throughout the week.

Special offering envelopes will be available.

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY VOLUNTEERS

	NURSERY	2-3 YR OLDS	4-5 YR OLDS	1-4 GRADE
Dec 2	Melissa Evans	Rosalyn Glenn	Gwen Creel	Wendy Walley/Mary Ann Hill
Dec 9	Nancy Blakeney	Kristy McCord	Darlene Booth	Rosalyn Glenn/Darlene Jordan
Dec 16	Gwen Creel	Jamie Robinson	Lynn Stringer	Sarah Jones/Judy White
Dec 23	Mary Ann Hill	Deon Garris	Rebecca Holder	Kenny & Kristy McCord
Dec 30	Susan Pierce	Emily Evans	Gwen Creel	Joe & Delia Flynt

IF YOU ARE UNABLE TO VOLUNTEER ON THE DATE LISTED, PLEASE CONTACT GWEN CREEL, PRESCHOOL DIRECTOR, AT (601) 517-1117.

DEACONS OF THE MONTH:

Joe Flynt & Mark Cassell

OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE

Dec 1 and Dec 15—Clothes Closet—8-Noon am

Dec 20—Food Pantry—4-5:30 pm



WEDNESDAY NIGHT MEALS

Dec 5 (Nancy Blakeney' group)—Hamburger steak, mashed potatoes, green beans, roll, dessert

Dec 12 (group) Fried Chicken, rice/gravy, peas, cornbread/roll, dessert

Dec 19—No supper

Dec 26—No activities



*Following our **Children's Christmas Musical** on Sun, December 16 at 6 pm, we will have a Christmas Fellowship in the Family Life Center. We ask everyone to bring finger foods. There will be a sign up sheet located outside the church office for you to indicate what you will bring. We will be having guests with us that night so we want to have a time of fellowship and make them feel welcome. This will be a great time and opportunity for outreach. Thank you for your help!*

CHRISTMAS FELLOWSHIP

PRAYER REQUESTS

“The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective.”

Cole & Taylor Avera & unborn baby with spina bifida	Jason Walley	<u>Cancer/Long Term cont</u>
Dick Blakeney	West Laurel Baptist Church	Jamie Duvall
Dodie Blakeney-cancer & broken hip	Jane White	Eddie Ray Glenn- Pancreatic cancer
Trevor Blakeney	Judy White	Joe Griffith
Cynthia Boykin	Anna Marie Williamson	Barbara Hegwood
Clayton Brady	Ashlyn Williamson and unborn baby, Mary Grace	Rosemary Higgins
Patsy Bryant—Roy Moss' sister	Jimmy "Snuff" Wilson-Rachel's son	Jason Horn
Doug Bynum Family	Sharon Yates Family	Freda Hutcherson
Sherry Cockrell Family	<u>Homebound</u>	Cole Jackson-Acute Leukemia
Anderson Evans	Daisy Blakeney	Dennis Johnson-cancer
Mike Evans	Marion Dollar	Betty Jones—cancer
Bobbie Gambrell	Burl and Geraldine English	Kaye Keeton—cancer free
Danielle Garrison	Elizabeth Lee	Ed Kennedy
Patricia Hanks	<u>Nursing Home/Assisted Living</u>	Jamie and Sandra King
Sue Blakeney Herrington	Carl Arnold	Dakota McMinn
Wade & Melissa Hummer	Sheila Bowman	Brenda Myers—pancreatic cancer
Shane Irvin	Bobbie Butler	Amanda Prince
Sherry James	Mary Evans	Kathy Rayner—cancer
Dorothy Rogers King Family	Janell Holifield	Mickey Robinson
Ray & Pat Lancaster	Peggy King	Sandra Scott—cancer
Gloria Lucas	Sue King	Chase Sims
Law Enforcement Officers	Jimmy Dale Phipps	Kaden Smith
Angela Lyle-Lynn Williamson's cousin	Maurine Sitz	Terri Sullivan
Frank McGill	Mollie Stringer	Katie Sumrall Sims
Ray Prine-began chemo Monday	Joe Daniel Stringer	W. L. Sykes-cancer
Tristan Scott	Sharia Stringer	Keith Thompson—prostate cancer
Brenton & Danielle Shelby- NYC Missionaries	Vida Yeager	Marlene Townsend—lung cancer
Bob and Sandra Sims	<u>Cancer/Long Term</u>	Gina Tucker—cancer
Edie Stringer-cancer	Cindy Austin	Melanie Odom White
Joseph "Dan" Stringer	Bill Bassett -cancer	<u>Military</u>
Sandra Stucky	Peggy Black	Harry Blakeney (Active)
Sherry Parker Sullivan	Noel Carter	Zack Howell (Active)
Martha Walker	Anita Cochran	Patrick Kelly (Active)
Billy Harold Wallace-cancer	Carolyn Stringer Craig	Erik & Josie Nix
	Teresa Driskoll	Mike White (Active)



December 2018						
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30	31					

1 Clothes Closet open from 8 am until noon

2 Special Offering for Staff Appreciation

Soup/Sandwich Lunch Fundraiser for NYC Summer Mission Trip—following morning worship

Children's Christmas Musical rehearsal—3-6 pm

Ensemble practice 6 pm

2-9 Week of Prayer for International Missions—
Lottie Moon Christmas Offering emphasis begins

9 2019 Budget adoption

A Night of Christmas @ 6 pm—Sign up to participate on or before Wed, Dec 5

Deacons meeting following Night of Christmas

12 Business meeting 6 pm

Students' Christmas Party—Bring \$5 gift wrapped

13 Christmas in the Park following Town Christmas Parade at 5 pm

14 Dress rehearsal for Children's Christmas Musical—6-9 pm

15 Clothes Closet open from 8 am until noon

16 Children's Christmas Musical—6 pm Fellowship to follow in Family Life Center

18 Faith & Grace Christmas Party @ The Creel's 6 pm

19 Candlelight Service 6 pm—Supper will not be served.

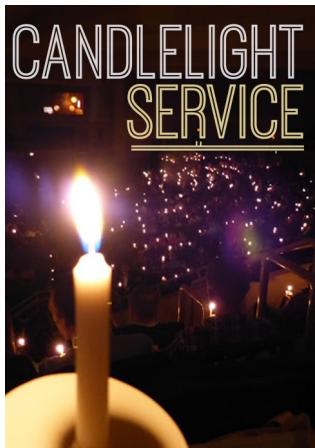
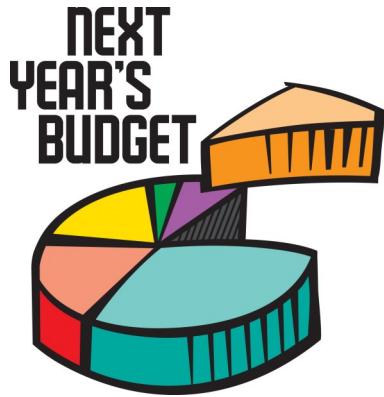
Winter Xtreme Parent Meeting following worship in Student Bldg

20 Food Pantry open from 4-5:30 pm

23 Regularly scheduled activities

26 No Wednesday evening activities

29-31 Student trip to Winter Extreme, Gatlinburg, TN



Budget Vote, Sun. Dec 9

There will be a vote on the Budget Committee's budget proposal for 2019 prior to morning worship on Dec 9 at 10:30 am. This vote will be without discussion.

Night of Christmas, Dec 9, 6 pm

This has become an annual event each Christmas season. It is a wonderful night of Christmas music. Our ensemble will sing, as well as our children. If you would like to participate by singing, reading, playing and instrument, etc., please sign up. There is a signup sheet on the bulletin board by the church office.

Christmas in the Park, Dec 13, 5:30 pm

The Taylorsville Christmas Parade will be Dec. 13, at 5 pm. Local churches and businesses will have tents set up in the park behind City Hall. There will be caroling, food, pony/buggy rides, hay rides, and more. Invite your friends to come join in this festive event.

Candlelight Service, Dec. 19, 6 pm

Each year, just before Christmas, our church gathers for a candlelight service to commemorate the birth of our Savior and His purpose for coming. We will also observe the Lord's Supper during the service. Bring your family. It is a joyous celebration.



I'd like to take this opportunity to thank you as our church family. My surgery and month's long recovery has been difficult, and you all have been a bright spot during this time. Your visits, phone calls, cards, prayergrams, and thoughts have been encouraging to me and Wendy (she's been a great nurse)! The love offering you gave was very generous and kind! Please continue to pray as I heal and regain strength. I hope to see you soon!

Jason Walley



FACT OR FICTION
CHILDREN'S MUSICAL
REHEARSAL SCHEDULE

Fri, Nov 30 from 6-9 pm
Sun, Dec 2 from 3-6 pm
Fri, Dec 7 from 6-9 pm
Sun, Dec 9 from 3-6 pm
Fri, Dec 13 from 6-9 pm (Dress Rehearsal)

All rehearsals will be held in the sanctuary.

CHILDREN WILL SING A SELECTION FROM THE MUSICAL ON THE FOLLOWING DATES:

*Sun, Dec 2—10:30 am—FBC—meet in choir room at 10

*Sun, Dec 9—6 pm FBC (following practice)

*Thurs, Dec 13—Christmas in the Park (Time TBD)

****Children will wear their team t-shirts on all these occasions.***

The musical will be presented on Sun, December 16 at 6 pm. Children will need to be here at 4 pm.

If you have questions about any of these dates, please see Lisa Shelby or Gwen Creel.

