



First Baptist Church of Spring Hill

The Messenger

December 2016

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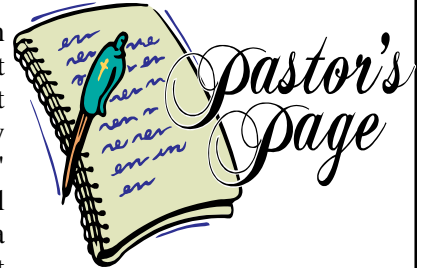
Ministry Assistant

[Paula Zimmer](#)

Custodian

Rhonda Purtle

Many songs we sing during the Christmas season are reminders that Christmas is supposed to be the most wonderful time of the year. Songs like "It's the Most Wonderful Time of the Year," "Have a Holly Jolly Christmas," "Chestnuts Roasting on an Open Fire," "Jingle Bells," and "Walking in a Winter Wonderland" all communicate loud and clear that Christmas time is to be a joyous season. But let me ask you honestly; Is that what you are expecting this season?



For some of you there are personal problems that will keep you from experiencing the joy of the season. You've lost a loved one or are ill and you have a hard time feeling that this is the most wonderful time of the year. For others of you, you feel like one crisis after another has run you over. The car broke down, the furnace needs repairing, the refrigerator died. And with such an avalanche of problems it is hard to have a "holly, jolly Christmas." Some of you are so busy and working so hard that there is no time for sitting around a fire roasting chestnuts. Or maybe there is not anything really wrong, but for some reason you just don't enjoy Christmas. It doesn't provide the emotional lift that you expect it to. In fact, it is almost depressing. The world at this time of year does not look like a winter wonderland. It just looks like winter.

Disillusionment at Christmas is not an unusual thing. We get so hyped up with expectations about what Christmas is supposed to be that often the real thing doesn't measure up, and we are disappointed. What can you do this Christmas to avoid disillusionment? How can you improve your level of joy this Christmas?

The problem is not Christmas. It is in our expectations. We are looking for the wrong thing. What we need to be looking for and expecting this Christmas season is an experience of worship, a fresh glimpse of Him who was born King of the Jews. If our goal this Christmas is to worship Jesus, then I doubt very seriously we will be dissatisfied with our experience. I promise you, when you look for the right thing you will have joy at Christmas.

From my family to yours, Merry Christmas with love!

Bro J

Church Library News

December Birthdays

December - Merry Christmas

This month we celebrate the birth of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. That first Christmas night went unnoticed by most of the world, but no event in human history was more significant. When all the presents have been opened, when the dinner is cleared away, the wrapping paper is discarded, and the lights turned off, this will stay with us - the remarkable love of the one who made us.

May God bless us, every one.

Here are a few books from our Library:

This Christmas Night by Billy & Ruth Graham. Reflections from our hearts to your home. Christmas is the most thrilling season of the year. Most of all, Christmas is when our minds go back to that lowly manger in Bethlehem, and we see the tenderness of a mother with her firstborn Son. Amid the glitter and busyness of the season, we pray that you will experience anew the miracle and meaning of that Christmas night!

Because He Loves Me by Elyse M. Fitzpatrick. The author seeks to help you embrace and apply God's love in every area of your everyday life. When you do, she says, the truth found in this book will become not merely your entrance into Christianity, but the ambience of your entire Christian life. This is a moving exposition of gospel truth showing how the content of our faith is not merely dry, but wonderfully personal and practical truth.

The Gift of the Blessing by Gary Smalley & Dr. John Trent. The authors detail five elements of the blessing: Meaningful touch, the spoken word, the expression of high value, the description of a special future, & the application of genuine commitment. And then they show you how to apply these important elements to your life and experience life-changing peace.

Yours in Christ,

Mary Robertson, Vivienne Okma, & Joan Frank

2	Grant Terrillion
3	Jeff Oakes
	Cutler Capley
6	Ashleigh Duncan
8	Doug Williams
	Phillip Pullen
9	Archie Emery
11	Sharon Burkhalter
	Brittany Gilchrist
20	Vivienne Okma
21	Prentice Moore
22	Ruth Fultz
	Kendall Wright
26	Ann Johnson
27	Tyler Wright
	Tom Holloway
28	Finley Johnson
31	Gene Duncan
	Vickie Anderson
	Valinda Albert

*Happy Birthday
to You!*



From the Church Office

New Offering Envelopes are on the way! *Everyone* will receive a new box AND most likely a new number. Since it has been many years since renumbering and we have many new members, we are going to start "fresh"! We hope they arrive by the end of the year. Watch for bulletin announcements for updates!

Year-end giving ... Remember that all year end giving must be postmarked or turned in to the church by December 31st. Online and Text giving are great ways to get those last minute contributions made to the church before the deadline. Call the church office if you need assistance. Lottie Moon Offering Contributions can now be made by text and online giving.

Holiday Worship Schedule: Sunday, December 18th, Adult Choir musical presentation in the morning worship service. There will be NO Nursery Care or children's Worship. Christmas Day, there will be NO Sunday

School or Evening Activities. We will have Morning Worship at 10:00 am. There will be No Nursery Care or Children's Church. There will be NO ESL Classes on December 28.

Holiday Office Schedule: Please note that the church office will be closed on Friday, December 23rd, and Monday, December 26th.



*I pray you have a
blessed Christmas.
Thank you for the
privilege to serve you - -*

Paula

December 2016



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 9 am Sr. Adult Bible Study	2	3
4  SECOND SUNDAY OF Advent Deacons' Mtg. 5:30 pm KidsPraise! 6 pm AWANA - Christmas Sweater Night	5	6 10 am Ladies' Prayer Group	7	8 9 am Sr. Adult Bible Study	9	10
Week of Prayer for International Missions / Lottie Moon Christmas Offering						
11  THIRD SUNDAY OF Advent 5 pm Trustees' Mtg. 5:30 pm KidsPraise! 6 pm AWANA	12 January Newsletter Items due	13 10 am Ladies' Prayer Group	14 10:15 am Cracker Barrel Fellowship 6 pm ESL Classes 6:30 pm Business Mtg	15 9 am Sr. Adult Bible Study 6 pm Youth Christmas Party	16 6 pm Family Connection Christmas Party 5:30-8 pm Parents' Night Out	17 10 am Adult Choir Rehearsal
18  FOURTH SUNDAY OF Advent 10 am Adult Choir Christmas Musical 5:30 pm KidsPraise! 6 pm AWANA	19	20 10 am Ladies' Prayer Group	21 6 pm ESL Classes 6:30 pm Prayer Mtg.	22	23 Office Closed	24  Christmas EVE
25 No Sunday School Morning Worship at 10 am <u>No Evening Activities</u>	26 Office Closed	27	28 6 pm ESL Classes 6:30 pm Prayer Mtg.	29	30	31 10 pm Slavic Church using facilities
 Schedule of Services: <u>Sunday</u> Worship - 10:00 am Sunday School - 8:45 am Adult Choir Rehearsal - 4:30 pm KidsPraise! Children's Choir - 5:30 pm AWANA - 6:00 - 7:00 pm (Sept.-May) Worship - 6:00 pm			Wednesday ESL Classes - 6:00 pm Children in Action & Mission Friends 6:30 pm Prayer Meeting - 6:30 pm Youth Service (In Youth House) - 6:30 pm Business Mtg. (2nd Wednesday) - 6:30 pm Instrumental Rehearsal - 7:30 pm			

The Church in Action



Cracker Barrel Fellowship
Wednesday, December 14
10:15 a.m.
Everyone is welcome!
 (at The Crossings in Spring Hill)

**English as a Second
 Language Classes**
Each Wednesday
6-7:30 pm

In the fellowship hall

We will soon be scheduling another time for training for anyone who would like to teach English to our precious international friends living in our community. Please see Pat Springer for more details.



Adult Choir Presentation of
"A Candlelight Christmas"
December 18
10:00 am

LMCO

**Week of Prayer
 for International
 Missions**
December 4-11

**LOTTIE
 MOON
 CHRISTMAS
 OFFERING®
 2016**

**Lottie Moon
 Offering Goal:**

\$3,800.00

**Coming in January - W.O.W. Sunday School
 Class (Women of the Word)**
 Year long Chronological Study through the entire Bible.
 Preview study begins December 4.
 Questions? See Pat Springer



Future Growth Funding
 \$38,880.76 in a Construction Acct.
 at First Farmer's & Merchant's Bank
 \$381,938.32 in a Building Fund
 at the Tennessee Baptist Foundation.



**Children's
 Ministry
 NEWS**

email address: fbcschchildrensministry@gmail.com

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY NEWS

There is a new bulletin board outside the KidsCentral Office for information, registration and announcements. To request access to the online calendar, register for events, or for information, please use our new

****Note:** So everyone can enjoy the holiday services, **Nursery Care & Children's Church are cancelled for December 18 and 25.**

Children's Church Worker Schedule:

Dec. 4: Brent & Christie Johnson

Dec. 11: Adam & Crystal Vaughn

Dec. 18 & 25: No Children's Church

Family

Connection

Family Connection / Sunday School Christmas Party

Join us Friday, December 9, in the Fellowship Hall at 6:00 pm. Pizza will be provided - you bring a finger food or dessert! ALL FBC families are invited! The kiddos will have an ornament exchange. If your child(ren) would like to participate, please bring a wrapped ornament for each of your children (\$5.00 limit).

PARENTS' NIGHT OUT



Join us for some Christmas Fun while parents finish up last minute shopping or enjoy a supper that doesn't come with a toy!! Hosted by the College and Career Class to raise money for Passion2017.

Cost: \$10 per child (Tips/donations greatly appreciated!)

Friday, December 16, 5:30 - 8:30 pm

Kids, ages birth - 2 years old will be in nursery care. Kids, ages 3 years old (and potty trained) to 6th grade will enjoy pizza, games, a craft, cookie decorating and a Christmas store to shop for Mom and Dad.

****Registration REQUIRED by December 14th****

Email fbcschchildrensministry@gmail.com or sign up outside the KidsCentral Office.

**KidsPraise! Choir performs
 Sunday, December 11th.**

(Please note: KidsPraise! Practice follows the AWANA schedule)

