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First Chronicle of First Baptist Church, Oakboro

VOL. XXIX No. 12

December 3, 2018

*Every church.
Every nation.*

imb | LOTTIE MOON
CHRISTMAS OFFERING*

OUR CHURCH GOAL:
\$6,250



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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



There is a common misunderstanding about the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade. If participating in that cultural moment each year is a tradition in your family as it is in ours, you know the very last float to cross in front of the Macy's flagship store in downtown New York City is Santa riding proudly in his sleigh. And when that sleigh crosses the line, we have officially moved from Thanksgiving and Fall to the Christmas season.

Nowadays that is wrong on a couple of levels. The first is that where it once marked the beginning of the retail Christmas shopping season, some stores have stretched that mark all the way back to August. Hallmark stores have their Christmas ornament reveal celebrations in July. It's also wrong in that if we are operating on the traditional seasonal calendar, which itself has traditionally been regulated by the church calendar, the actual season of Christmas doesn't begin until December 25th and lasts for...you guessed it...12 days. Although this year we got a bit of a no-man's land by Thanksgiving's earliest-possible date, the season we are officially entering into this Sunday, December 2, is the season of Advent.

Outside of a church from a highly liturgical tradition, we don't think much about the season of Advent these days. In fact, I suspect many, if not most, of the folks reading this newsletter could not tell me what "advent" even means. You can go look it up if you'd like. I'll wait. Your phone is probably close enough you can shout, "Hey Siri," or "Hey Google," and have your answer in a few seconds. Got it yet? Advent means "coming" or "arrival." The season of Advent is a whole season of arrival. More specifically, it is a season to prepare for an arrival, for a coming. And whose coming would that be? Do I even have to say it?

We're to be getting ready for Jesus' arrival. We are preparing in spiritual solidarity with the Old Testament believers for the first-coming of the promised Messiah. And we are preparing in actuality for His return in power and glory to bring salvation to all those who are His.

Now for the hard stuff. December is a busy month for most of us, isn't it? One of our culture's gods is Nostalgia. In many ways, December has become his primary season of honor. If we're not careful, we can fall to participating in the idolatry as we run around from one activity to another trying to recreate some warm feeling from a Christmas past (which is what Nostalgia offers to his worshipers). In all of this we forget that our goal is not to reawaken pleasant memories from some time before, but to prepare ourselves to receive the glories awaiting us in the days ahead.

So then: What are you doing to prepare yourself and your family for Christ's coming? Think about it. This is a whole season dedicated to getting ready for Jesus. When else during the year do you give any intentional time to getting ready for Jesus? To help you get ready, for the next few weeks we are going to be looking at some of the characters of Christmas as we are reminded that this isn't just some fairy tale made up for good storytelling. This is history. It's also our present—our gift. And how we receive it will determine our future. Let's be ready together to enjoy His arrival both in our hearts now and to claim His kingdom when the day arrives. Blessings on your Advent as you look forward to celebrating Christmas.

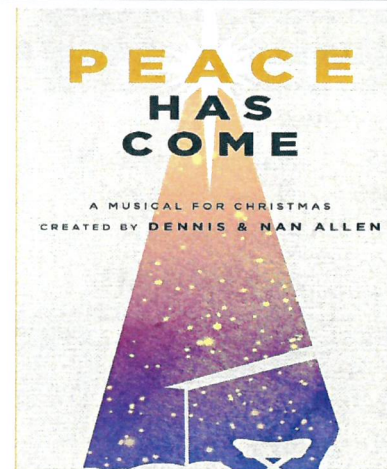
Pastor Jonathan



Introduce yourself to our newest church members (if you don't already know them) and make them feel right at home.

Jeff and Denise Ross

1161 N Main Street
Oakboro, NC 28129
(704) 485-8118.



Worship Choir
Presents on
December 16
At 6:00 p.m.
Handbells will play
Reception Afterward

There are many definitions of the word "Peace," but in Ephesians 2:14, it states that "*Jesus is our peace.*" Peace is a person. There is no absence of or void in Him. He makes us right with God through the sacrifice of His life, and His peace "*surpasses all understanding,*" according to Philippians 4:7. Please join us for a music service on Sunday, **December 16**, at 6:00 p.m. in the fellowship building.



Youth Ski Retreat

February 1-3, 2019

Winterplace Ski Resort, Beckley, WV

Deposits Due Soon!

Package includes: Saturday night and Sunday worship featuring the Be Do Tell team and a guest speaker

- Two-nights' hotel lodging & continental breakfasts
- One-day ski or snowboard rental & lift ticket (8 a.m.-10 p.m.)
- Lunch vouchers and Dinner at worship venue

If your child is interested in going, or if you are interested in being a chaperone, please let a member of the youth committee know.

Youth, meet at Wes & April Tucker's house at 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, December 19, to model your favorite (or not so favorite) Christmas sweater. Bring friends and come have tons of fun!



BIG THANK YOU to everyone for all the t-shirts donated and for those who helped to braid some of the jump ropes!! We are starting to make them for children in Honduras and for the Samaritan Purse boxes next year, so please keep the shirts coming in. Remember: they must be no less than 80/20 cotton blend and have no side seam.

Christmas Card Mail Box

The mail box is now open in the fellowship building outside Dana's office for your use. Please consider donating to the Lottie Moon Christmas offering instead of buying stamps and mailing through the postal service. There are alphabetical letters on the shelves, so please place at the respective letter. ALSO, only leave cards for church family members that are ACTIVELY ATTENDING. Otherwise, they won't be picked up. Be sure to check the mail box for YOUR cards each week.



Our Record of Giving

Budget Goals - November	\$ 24,631.60
Budget Receipts - November	21,093.27
Budget Goals - YTD	80,052.70
Budget Receipts - YTD	68,276.19
Budget Variance	-11,776.51
<i>Special Offerings</i>	
Building Fund	1,250.00
NC Baptist Children's Homes Thanksgiving	880.00
Shoe Box Postage	82.00
Wednesday Meals	510.00
Men's BBQ Donations	568.00
Sales Tax Refund Check	4,696.23



Stanly Community Christian Ministries is seeking donations of **canned vegetables** for December. These include green beans, corn, carrots, peas, beans, mixed vegetables, and canned tomatoes. Thank you for bringing your items and placing them in the basement kitchen area.



Merry-Christmas @ 123christmas.com

Breakfast with Santa
Saturday, December 8
 9:00 - 11:00 a.m.
 First Baptist, Oakboro, Youth Center
 \$5 per person for breakfast, 1 photo, & craft
 Story times: 9:30 & 10:30
 Breakfast: bagels, sausage balls, donuts, fruit, orange juice, hot chocolate and coffee.



On **December 4**, we will meet at 8:30 a.m. at the church to travel to Monroe to visit Bonnie Richardson and sing carols. We will have lunch at Hilltop. ALL ages are invited to join in

this ministry. Please bring money for lunch.

HOPE Fellowship Christmas Trip

Join us on **December 13**, as we venture to Shelby and enjoy lunch at Red Bridges Barbecue Lodge. After lunch, we'll head over to The Banker's House to view the beautiful Christmas decorations. Designed by prominent architect G. S. H. Applegate in 1874, it has been the home of prominent members of the banking profession since its construction. There is a \$7 admission fee. On the way home, we may see the McAdenville Christmas lights. Mark your calendars, sign up now, and plan to go along.



*"Dear First Baptist family,
Thank you so much for the calls, cards,
attendance at the visitation and kind words
during the recent passing of my mother. You
all are very special to me."
Delinda Huneycutt*

*"Dear FBC Oakboro Deacons, Thank you all for the gas card. I can really use it with all the driving I'm doing every day. Most of all, thank you for the prayers, texts, phone calls and visits. We are so blessed to be a member of such a loving church family. Thank you again.
In Christian love,"
Jeff & Sandra*

*"Dear Church family, Writing this note has been one of the hardest parts of losing mom, this makes everything so final. However, the cards, visits, calls, prayers and hugs all are to be acknowledged for the caring and love each one represents. Thank you; we appreciate each of you for all that has been done for the love of our mom. May God receive all the glory for the things done.
Sincerely,"*

Rita, Mark & Caitlin: The family of Teen Crisco

It is written: "I believed; therefore, I have spoken." Since we have that same spirit of faith, we also believe and therefore speak, because we know that the one who raised the Lord Jesus from the dead will also raise us with Jesus and present us with you to himself. All this is for your benefit, so that the grace that is reaching more and more people may cause thanksgiving to overflow to the glory of God.

*Therefore, we do not lose heart. Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day. For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all. So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen, since what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal.
II Corinthians 4:13-18*

*Merry Christmas!
Dana B. Jenkins*


Poinsettia Dedications



Sheets are on the bulletin boards for you to sign up to dedicate poinsettias during Christmas in honor or in memory of loved ones. They are \$15 each; money may be turned in through the offering in an envelope marked "poinsettia." Money and dedications should be made by **December 12**.

Boxed Offering Envelopes

This year, we are trying a new style of giving envelopes. Over the next few weeks, the Stewardship Committee and office will be distributing your boxed sets of weekly offering envelopes. If you do not receive one by the end of December, please call or email the church office. Reminder: only the envelopes are forwarded to Delinda in the office, so they should be completed with your name and/or envelope number AND the amount enclosed. If this information isn't present, then your contribution statement at year-end will be incomplete.

We also offer online giving, which you may reach by going to our website at www.fbcoakboro.org, clicking on this link  and following the prompts.

In honor of **Gladys Helms**, the Worship Choir and Blessed Assurance class made donations to the Building Fund.



A donation was made by Mae Brooks to the Building Fund in honor of **Shelbie Davis**.

A contribution was given to the Building Fund by the Worship Choir in honor of **Dianne Hudson**.

In honor of **Deborah Tucker's birthday**, Ted & Jewell Parker made a donation to the Building Fund.

The Blessed Assurance Sunday School class made donations to the Building Fund in honor of **Bertha Rogers and Margie Helms**.



In memory of **Ruby "Teen" Crisco**, a donation was given to the Meals on a Mission by Leo & Karen Barbee.

Contributions were given toward the Building Fund in memory of **Teen Crisco** by
 Linda Clark
 Wayne & Rebecca Hayes
 Mae Brooks
 Annie Hartsell
 Eddie & Linda Arrowood
 Ted & Jewell Parker
 Carolyn & Mark Hinson
 Chip & Dot Alsobrooks
 Kim & Bea Goodman
 Marilyn Huneycutt
 James & Dianne Hudson
 First Baptist Church, Oakboro.

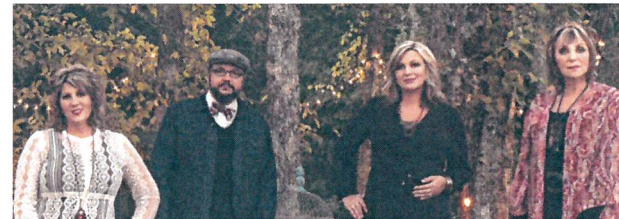
Earl & Sue Greene made a donation to the Building Fund in memory of **Melvin & Marlene Hartsell**.

Church Volunteers

Date	Greeters	Nursery/Children's Church
Dec 2	Mandy Smith – Sunday School Wiley Little - Worship	Lisa & Tracy Lowder Sandra Chance
9	Gerald & Bonnie Lee – Sunday School Mickey & Vera Robinson – Worship	Cheryl Cameron, Sheila Hinson, Meredith Broadaway
16	Mike McClellan - Sunday School Matt & Melanie Hudson – Worship	Marilyn Huneycutt, Renée Watkins, Matt & Melanie Hudson
23	Rita Crisco – Sunday School Deborah Tucker – Worship	Ashley Morton, Sandra Chance
30	Sue Greene – Sunday School Gerald & Bonnie Lee - Worship	Lori & Allison Efrid
Jan 6	Doug & Sheila Hinson – Sunday School Mary Nelms - Worship	April & Sophie Tucker

Date	Deacon of the Week	Stewardship
Dec 2	Thomas Meadors	Betty Huneycutt
9	Shea Morton	Kevin Floyd
16	Nick Wadkins	
23	Chip Alsobrooke	Usher
30	Doug Burgess	Jimmy Cople
Jan 6	Jim Cameron	

**Karen Peck &
 New River
 And
 The Isaacs**



**March 30, 2019
 at 6:00 p.m.**

Stanly County Agri-Civic Center
 Tickets: \$22 for Orchestra; \$17 for General Admission
 (Group pricing for 10+) – See Delinda for tickets
 Relay for Life Benefit Concert



December

First Baptist Church
 PO Box 10
 322 N Main Street
 Oakboro, NC 28129
 (704) 485-4313
 www.fbcoakboro.org

- December
- 1 Butch Poplin
 - 1 Carter Miller
 - 1 Nicole Kippes
 - 2 Harry Foster
 - 4 Audrey Teeter
 - 4 Nate Kirby
 - 5 Presley Poplin
 - 5 Jeff Chance
 - 6 Mikayla Lincoln
 - 8 Allison Efird
 - 10 Ted Parker
 - 10 Stacie Stoker
 - 10 Tracie Miller
 - 12 Brad Efird
 - 13 Danny Queen
 - 14 Emerson Eury
 - 15 Tucker Whitley
 - 15 Heather Cople
 - 16 Aidan Kirby
 - 17 Clint Long
 - 17 Cody Hoffman
 - 18 Barry Beatty
 - 18 Georgia Harvey
 - 18 Kathy Hoffman
 - 19 Hannah Washburn
 - 20 Bertha Rogers
 - 21 Olivia Harris
 - 25 Joyce Little
 - 25 Leslie Carter
 - 25 Rebekah Crisco
 - 29 Betty Huneycutt
 - 30 Monica Harris
 - 30 Case Smith
 - 31 Teresa Smith
 - 31 Zach Washburn
- January
- 1 Abigail Funderburk
 - 2 Julie Poplin
 - 2 Wendy Phillips

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Week of Prayer for International Missions & Lottie Moon Christmas Offering: December 2-9						
3:00 p.m. Church Council Meeting 4:00 Deacons' Meeting 6:00 p.m. Children's Choir Musical	8:30 a.m. Two or More Prayer @ Mae Brooks's		5:45 p.m. The Gathering Place 6:45 p.m. Missions Night for ALL Ages 7:45 Worship Choir			Meals on a Mission 9:00 - 11:00 a.m. Breakfast with Santa in Youth Center
12:00 p.m. Youth - 9 Lunch Then to Deliver Fruit Baskets 5:00 Proverbs 31 Wannabes @ Ma Mae's	8:30 a.m. Two or More Prayer NO Children's Choir		5:45 p.m. The Gathering Place 6:45 p.m. Preschool Choir, TeamKid Christmas Party, Youth & Business Meeting 7:45 Worship Choir	HOPE Fellowship 13 to Red Bridges Lodge BBQ & Banker's House 	6:30 p.m. Deacon Christmas Party	
6:00 p.m. Worship Choir Musical Presentation	8:30 a.m. Two or More Prayer NO Children's Choir		@ Wes & April Tucker's No Services			8:00 a.m. Deacon Breakfast
Deacon Fruit Baskets	NO Two or More NO Children's Choir 5:00 p.m. CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE	Office Closed				
11:00 a.m. The Lord's Supper 	8:30 a.m. Two or More Prayer NO Children's Choir New Year's Eve 					
Weekly Sunday Schedule 9:45 a.m. Sunday School 11:00 a.m. Worship						

Handbells Rehearse December 2 & 16 at 9:00 a.m. Warm-up on the 16th at 5:00 p.m. Will play in both 11:00 a.m. Worship & 6:00 p.m. Musical Presentation on 16th.