



The Happenings

First Baptist Church

The Happenings

December

PASTOR'S PERSPECTIVE

"To me Christmas Is..."

John 3:16-18

How do you explain the meaning of Christmas in just a few words? The best way I know is this... *"For God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life."*

No one can outdo what God has done. No one can give a greater gift than God has already given. I would like for us to consider the meaning of Christmas this month. What it should mean to each and every one of us as we celebrate this most holy time of the year.

Christmas means a lot of things to a lot of different people. To some it is a time of shopping and spending, a time of drinking and carousing, a time of traveling and entertaining. But what is the real meaning of Christmas? What message should it convey to every one of us? Let me tell you what Christmas is to me.

To me, Christmas is...

A time of remembering. Remembering the great love that God had for each and every one of us. He loved us so much that He spared not His only Son that we might be saved. Remembering the uniqueness of His life, His teachings, His miracles, His prophecies, His death, His resurrection. Remembering all those humble but great people surrounding the Christmas story. People like Joseph & Mary, Zacharias & Elizabeth, Anna, Simeon, the shepherds, the wise men, and so on.

To me, Christmas is...

A time of loving. People make a special effort to be a little kinder, a little more considerate of others, and a little more generous during the Christmas season. They get involved in such things as Christmas caroling, toys for the needy, meals for the misfortunate, and so on.

It is a time for reaching out to others with love and concern. God so loved the world. Let us never forget that!!! In all of our preaching, teaching, and evangelizing let us always remember that the motivation for all this is the love of God for lost sinners.

Church Times

Sunday

Early service @
8:00 a.m.

Bible Study @
9:30 a.m.

Late Service @
10:45 a.m.

Wednesday

Stitches of Love@
1:00 p.m.

Adult Bible Study@
6:30pm

Jesus Freaks @
6:30p.m.
(JR HS & HS)

Thursday

Midweek
Connections
@1:30 p.m.

Dear God,
Thank you for
the baby brother
but what I prayed
for was a puppy
Joyce

MERRY CHRISTMAS

When you see Jess Lueshen, Laura Bennefield, Judy Anderson, Elizabeth Hays, Heather Blan, or Beth Looney, tell them how festive your church looks..

THANK YOU GIRLS... You did great a great job!!!

Pastor's Perspective continued....

He really cares about us. So should we care as He cares. So should we love, as He loves.

To me, Christmas is...

A time of giving. For God so loved the world that He gave. Love cannot look with indifference on the hungry, and the sick, and the lonely lost souls of this world. Love must give.

God gave all He could give. He gave His only begotten Son. This gift was freely given, lovingly given, & graciously given to all of us who were undeserving sinners.

Christ shared our human nature that we might receive His divine nature. Day by day those who receive Him are being transformed into His image until we all come into the full stature of the perfected children of God washed in the blood of the Lamb.

To me, Christmas is...

A time of forgiving. God was willing to forgive us. He was willing to show mercy to a sinful, lost, and dying world. Do we possess His forgiving spirit? Or is our spirit a judgmental one that looks down upon others? Is there someone we need to forgive?

To me, Christmas is...

A time of rescuing. God rescued us by His love and mercy. He saved us from perishing. Without Christ we are without life and headed for an eternity without God, forever separated from the God who made us and longs to save us.

He wants us to inherit eternal life. We are all descendents of a dying race. But for the grace of God, we would all likewise perish.

To me, Christmas is...

A time of changing. The Christ of Christmas changes us. He makes us new creatures. All things become new for us. We have new goals, new ideas, new direction, new hope. Christ changes people for the better.

To me, Christmas is...

A time of rejoicing. Rejoicing in God's unmerited grace. Rejoicing in the release of forgiveness. Rejoicing in a new life with a new mission.

This is what Christmas means to me. I wonder, what does the coming of Christ into this world mean to you?

Have a very Merry Christmas!

Pastor Randy

CHRISTMAS CALENDAR OF EVENTS

December 11th-Christmas Tea

December 11th-You are Wonderfully Made
Service

December 12-18th-Fofca Book Fair

December 16th-Fofca Christmas Play

December 17th-Fofca Christmas Play

December 18th-Christmas Dinner & White
Elephant Gift Exchange

December 22nd-Christmas Outreach

December 24th-Christmas Eve
Candlelight Service

"When we remember a special Christmas, it is not the presents that made it special, but the laughter, the feeling of love, and the togetherness of friends and family that made that Christmas special."

ALL STARS SPORTS

Adult Volley ball starting in late January.

Cost-\$20.00 per person

If you are a freshman in high school, you can play. High competition, low skills, all are welcome.

I don't even know how to express my thanks to all of you. I am so thankful for the church family I have here. From the first time I walked through the door, I was at home.

Everyone has been so friendly and nice, and I have made some awesome friends that I know will be life long friends. I am going to miss my "Stitches of Love" sisters and the group of children that I have been blessed to work with. I am praying I can pass along some of my experiences here to my in North Carolina.

We have a wonderful group of pastors, and it is easy to see that God is blessing them and our church. You all will always be my church family and will always be in my prayers. Again, thank you all so much.

*Sincerely ,
Sue Shepperson*

- Need a stocking stuffer?
- Have that hard-to-buy for person in your life?
- Getting all your gifts at Wal-Mart this year?

See Jenny Schmeltzer about SCRIP cards.

What is a Scrip card? It is simply a gift card that you purchase from us instead of a store. It cost the same. It has the same value. The only difference is you get to help build your new church. For every Scrip you buy, FBC gets a percentage back from the Scrip card program. Scrip has 100's and 100's of company's to choose from. Which ones do you want?



You are invited to a
Christmas Tea
 &
Ornament Exchange
 December 11th
 2:00-4:00 p.m.

Harriett Honaker
 25250 McMillin St.
 Channahon 815-467-4359

Welcome to
 God's
 Kingdom
 Brent Chopp

Question 1: What do snowmen eat for breakfast?

Question 2: What do you call a bunch of grandmasters of chess bragging about their games in a hotel lobby?

Answers: See page 6

CHRISTMAS GIFT SUGGESTIONS

- To your enemy, forgiveness
- To an opponent, tolerance
- To a friend, your heart
- To a customer, service
- To all, charity
- To every child, a good example

Happy December Birthday

Audrey Lueshen -Dec 1st

Shirley Bailey -Dec 9th

Cody Blan-Dec 10th

Joe Blan-Dec 11th

Judy Anderson -Dec 12th

Brett Ayers-Dec 21st

Cyndi Friend- Dec 29th

A Christmas Tree for Pastor Clark

$1 \times 8 + 1 = 9$
 $12 \times 8 + 2 = 98$
 $123 \times 8 + 3 = 987$
 $1234 \times 8 + 4 = 9876$
 $12345 \times 8 + 5 = 98765$
 $123456 \times 8 + 6 = 987654$
 $1234567 \times 8 + 7 = 9876543$
 $12345678 \times 8 + 8 = 98765432$
 $123456789 \times 8 + 9 = 987654321$
 $1 \times 9 + 2 = 11$
 $12 \times 9 + 3 = 111$
 $123 \times 9 + 4 = 1111$
 $1234 \times 9 + 5 = 11111$
 $12345 \times 9 + 6 = 111111$
 $123456 \times 9 + 7 = 1111111$
 $1234567 \times 9 + 8 = 11111111$
 $12345678 \times 9 + 9 = 111111111$
 $123456789 \times 9 + 10 = 1111111111$
 $1 \times 1 = 1$
 $11 \times 11 = 121$
 $111 \times 111 = 12321$
 $1111 \times 1111 = 1234321$
 $11111 \times 11111 = 123454321$
 $111111 \times 111111 = 12345654321$
 $1111111 \times 1111111 = 1234567654321$
 $11111111 \times 11111111 = 123456787654321$
 $111111111 \times 111111111 = 12345678987654321$

Ministry of the Month

Attention, Present Bibles

I have hidden your word in my heart that I might not sin against God.

Psalms 119:11

If Pastor Randy asked you to look up Nahum 1:7 and he gave you 8 seconds (or even 10 or 12) seconds, could you find it and then stand up in that amount of time?

This and more is what the Bible Drill kids have to do.

It's that time of the year again. Bible Drills are beginning. If you would like to learn all 66 books of the Bible, and numerous verses, and help kids learn them, (all at the same time), would you **please** see Kenton.

What a great way to teach the Bible while learning the Bible.



Question 1 : Snowflakes
Question 2 : Chess nuts boasting in a open
foyer

CHRISTMAS DINNER & WHITE ELEPHANT GIFT EXCHANGE

December 18th @ 6:00p.m.

Dinner Catered by Baby Back Blues

Only \$10.00 per person



Some Possible White Elephant Gifts



www.powerpointdesigns.net

The next business meeting is Dec. 12. Please plan to attend this meeting to discuss the business in your church.

Welcome back Guevara Family Jaime, Marina, Alex, Philip, Katherine

MAXIMIZED MANHOOD

This is the title of the Men's Bible Study. Meet with them Dec. 7th & 21st @ 6:30p.m. to tackle the tough topics that affect men today.

Experiencing GOD

Have you ever experienced God? Do you want to experience God? Do you know the will of God?

Come join our Wednesday Night Bible Study class as Pastor Randy takes us on a God experiencing journey beginning January 5th. Watch and listen for more information.

Help Wanted

Ever wonder how all the information gets on the screen on Sunday mornings? If you have an interest in what goes on "behind the scenes" please see Kenton.

CANDY OUTREACH

*Instead of blessing our community with cookies this year, we want to bless them with Christmas treat bags. **December 22** we are going to gather here at FBC, pick up our candy and head over to our new church where we will bless all our new neighbors. If you would like to pass candy, sing, (yes we need you, Rachal is planning to sing) do childcare, or spend that hour in prayer, we need and want you!!!*

What a great way to reach out to our new neighbors, introduce ourselves and possibly apologize for our dust and noise.

If you can donate individually wrapped candy, we need lots of it, there are over 100 houses in that area. Please bring the candy to the church office.

Any questions, call the church office at 815-467-6846

We will be reaching out to our neighbors this night instead of having Bible Study

Christmas, my child, is love in action...

Every time we love,

Every time we give,

It's Christmas.

CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT SERVICE

There is nothing quite like being in God's house on Christmas Eve. Come prepared to be filled with the Holy Spirit as we worship the New Born King.

Christmas Eve

5:00p.m.



Thanks to Nadine Fafard (See Luke 2:1-16)

12-24-2001

THAT'S THE BEST ONE-STAR HOTEL THAT I'VE EVER SEEN

WEDNESDAY NIGHT BIBLE STUDY

Have you always wanted to know more about the Christmas story? Join us on Wednesday Nights @ 6:30 as we study the miraculous birth of our Lord.



'Twas the Night Before Jesus Came

'Twas the night before Jesus came
and all through the house
Not a creature was praying,
not one in the house.
Their Bibles were lain on the shelf without care
In hopes that Jesus would not come there.
The children were dressing to crawl into bed,
Not once ever kneeling or bowing a head.
And Mom in her rocker with baby on her lap
Was watching the Late Show while I took a nap.
When out of the East there arose such a clatter,
I sprang to my feet to see what was the matter.
Away to the window I flew like a flash
Tore open the shutters and threw up the sash!
When what to my wondering eyes should appear
But angels proclaiming that Jesus was here.
With a light like the sun sending forth a bright ray
I knew in a moment this must be The Day!
The light of His face made me cover my head
It was Jesus! returning just like He had said.
And though I possessed worldly wisdom and wealth
I cried when I saw Him in spite of myself.
In the Book of Life which He held in His hand
Was written the name of every saved man.
He spoke not a word as He searched for my name;
When He said "It's not here" my head hung in shame.
The people whose names had been written with love
He gathered to take to His Father above.
With those who were ready He rose without a sound
While all the rest were left standing around.
I fell to my knees, but it was too late;
I had waited too long and this sealed my fate.
I stood and I cried as they rose out of sight;
Oh, if only I had been ready tonight.
In the words of this poem the meaning is clear;
The coming of Jesus is drawing near
There's only one life and when comes the last call
We'll find that the Bible was true after all!

THANK YOU

Perhaps you sent a lovely card,

Or sat quietly in a chair.

Perhaps you sent a funeral spray,

If so, we saw it there.

Perhaps you spoke the kindest words,

As any friend could say,

Perhaps you were not there at all,

Just thought of us that day.

Whatever you did to console our hearts,

We thank you so very much,

whatever the part.

The family of Charlie Joiner would like to thank this AWESOME church family for every act of kindness shown us during this sudden loss of our beloved husband, Dad, and Pa.

God Bless You All

Recipe of the Month

Crock Pot Candy Shirley Bailey

16 oz unsalted peanuts

16 oz salted peanuts

12 oz milk choc. chip

4 oz Germans sweet

choc. bar

24 oz chocolate bark

Put all ingredients in this order in crock pot. Let melt on LOW for 2 hours. Mix well and drop by teaspoon onto wax paper. Let cook; store in refrigerator.

Need Exercise???

Take a walk with Jesus every day.

WHATS GOIN ON ???

MEN'S MINISTRY

Band of Brothers will meet on Tuesday Dec. 14th and Tuesday Dec. 28th at 6:30p.m. They are studying Maximized Manhood!!!. You won't want to miss strategies for tackling the tough issues that men face daily.

For more info call
Jeff Toepper @ 815-467-8144.

DIVORCE CARE

For divorce care, please contact Judy Anderson at 815-942-8437

Living Manna Food Pantry is open Tuesday & Thursday @ 1:00 –2:30 p.m. , Saturday @ 9:30-11:00 a.m. & Sunday at 4:00p.m. for those who have attended

ADULT BIBLE STUDY

Adult Bible Study meets 6:30-8:00 p.m. on Wednesday nights at FBC. Come study the Christmas Story with us.

Childcare is available.

SMALL GROUPS

Small Groups are provided to meet your Bible Study needs. Please check them out. There are several that meet on different days & times.

MIDWEEK CONNECTIONS

All ages welcome! Are you retired, a senior citizen, shift worker or homemaker? Every Thursday at 1:30pm we have a traditional worship service that offers hymns, biblical preaching, testimony, and fellowship. We are well connected! If you would like to connect and transportation is an issue, please contact our church office at 815-467-6846

PRAYER MINISTRY

We would love to pray for you! Contact Audrey Karr @ 815-467-7883, email Karen Blan @ Blan2@netzero.net, or write it on the Prayer Warrior sheet in Sunday School. If you would like to be added to the prayer net, contact Karen.

SPECIAL NEEDS

YOU ARE WONDERFULLY MADE

YAWM provides an opportunity for persons with special needs to grow emotionally, socially, and spiritually. Families of those with disabilities can come together and be a natural part of church life; enabling everyone to use their gifts for God's glory. See the calendar online at www.fbcchannahon.org. Join us for the next service, Dec 11th at 5:00pm.

Additionally, a Bible Study for those with special needs meet the **1st Wednesday** of each month at 6:30pm.

WOMEN'S MINISTRY

STITCHES OF LOVE

Meets Wednesday's at 1:00 to create beautifully crocheted items for a variety of ministerial purposes.

STUDENT MINISTRIES

Jesus Freaks meets Wednesday nights at FBC from 6:30-8:30. For more information contact Andy Terry at 815-325-1788

A Christmas Carol

(with Apologies to Mr Dickens)

Come see the FOCCA students as they perform a modern day version of the famous classic "A Christmas Carol". You will be delighted as you watch the students dramatize the importance of keeping Christ in Christmas in a world that rushes to excess and instant gratification. Ronnie learns to see the holiday in a new light and realizes the impact he can make.

You have 2 opportunities to watch the play.
Thursday 16th @ 1:30 or Friday 17th @ 6:30

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F
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A

Do give books - religious or otherwise - for Christmas. They're never

**SCHOLSTIC
BOOK FAIR**



**BOOK FAIR
DECEMBER 13-17**

Remember!!!

Please, Please, Please

Do not put cardboard in the recycling bin.

We would like to welcome our new 5th grader Kyla Acosta, our new 6th grader Alex Guevara, and our new 3rd graders Phillip and Kathrine Guevara. We pray you that you will be filled with knowledge.

Want to make a difference to your school???
Don't have the funds??? You can make a difference by

CAN USE

- Newspaper
- Catalogs
- Magazines
- Junk Mail
- School Papers
- Office Papers
- Soft Cover Books

RECYCLING



CANNOT USE

- Cereal Boxes
- Shoe Boxes
- Soda Cartons
- Food Cartons
- Corrugated Cardboard
- Phone Books

Helping at “The Hiding Place Ministries”

Recently, several of our workmen made a trip to the Hiding Place women’s shelter near Branson, MO. The facility houses women who are in crisis situations and ministers to them in the name of Christ. Our guys helped with many construction projects in their building and learned about the care their program provides. Not only were we able to bless them, but they also encouraged and prayed for our missionaries. The trip gave our men a fresh insight into the hurts of those in this fallen world – and the wonderful possibilities for healing that an open heart surrendered to Christ can provide. Look for more information about the Hiding Place & upcoming opportunities to join them in ministry.



MEN-Save the Date

February 26th is a one day conference sponsored by Iron Sharpens Iron & Focal Point Ministries.

Dads, Sons, Grandfathers all are welcome.

More details to come.



Not yet. But for the first time in history, we can identify the people groups that remain untouched by the Gospel. We can get there in our generation – if we are obedient.

We need **your** help. For every Christmas card you put in the foyer mailbox, please put .44 in the Lottie Moon Offering envelope so that we can **GET THERE.**

CHRISTMAS CARDS

Your Christmas Cards can be delivered to the mailbox in the foyer.



December Schedules

8:00	<u>USHERS</u>	10:45
G.ubbins Fam	Dec 5	Blan Fam
Kim T. & Sue R,	Dec 12	John C. & Cathy B.
Sue G. & Sue R.	Dec 19	Hedrick fam & Brett & Sarah A.
Rivera Fam	Dec 26	Zach & Paige T., John P. & Luke S

8:00	<u>NURSERY</u>	10:45
Sue Gubbins	Dec 5	Donna & Connie R/ Amanda H/ Julia C.
Juanita McCoy	Dec 12	Harriett H., Tammy B./Jenn T, Kierra & Cori.
Kim Toepper	Dec 19	Mary H., Karen B./ Chris B & Kim K.
YOU???	Dec 26	Bonnie J. & Angie B./ Jodi S.

Leader	<u>CHILDREN'S CHURCH</u>	Helper
John Carr	Dec 5	Livey D./ Josiah B
James	Dec 12	Mindy/Cody B
No Childrens Church	Dec 19	No Children's Church
Mindy C.	Dec 26	Jennifer C./ Trisha C

Men	Sunday Morning Prayer Warriors	Women
John C./Andy	Dec 5	Audrey K./ Kay
Wayne/Andy	Dec 12	Karen/Kay
Gabe/Joe	Dec 19	Karen/Jenn
Mike B./Joe	Dec 26	Jenn/Donna