



The Beacon

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First Baptist Church website at
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The First Baptist Church of Dover

301 Walker Rd., Dover, DE 19904

December 2017

From the Pastor's Desk

Reverend Daniel Taylor



The Steward's Dinner Party was held on Saturday evening November 11 with a good catered meal and an inspirational and informative program. At this event, sponsored



by the Stewardship Committee, a narrative budget for the ministries of the First Baptist Church of Dover for 2018 and a personalized commitment card were distributed. Those cards were dedicated as a part of worship on Sunday, November 19.

Throughout the Fall empty boxes, wrapped in Christmas paper, were picked up in the Narthex and when they were returned they were filled with toys and gifts for boys and girls. On Sunday, November 12, 101 filled boxes were displayed and dedicated. Through the ministry of Samaritan's Purse Shoebox ministry these boxes will be distributed to children in communities or villages around the world as a way to share God's love in some forgotten corners of the world. Thank you so much to all of those gift-givers who will help light up the eyes of some very special children this Christmas.



Board of Missions – In September, after school supplies were collected and shared with the Big Brothers Big Sisters organization for the children they serve, some additional funds were contributed to help with supplies. In discussion among the board members the money was equally divided and shared with North Elementary, where Tammy Myers teaches, and with Fairview Elementary, that is just up the street on Walker Road from the church. Pictured here is Melissa White, Principal of Fairview and Judy Daniels, chair of the Board of Missions. Thanks again for the generous contributions of both supplies and money.



This month comes to us filled with activities, decorations, celebrations, special times of worship and the anticipation of the birth of Jesus. Decorations will adorn the sanctuary and the rest of the church building on the first day of the month with Chrismon trees, wreaths and the beautiful Nativity figures.

Sunday, December 3, begins the season of Advent, and this year a theme will guide us as together we Experience the Miracle of Christmas. For the four Sundays leading up to Christmas come as we share The Miracle of the Moment - The Miracle of the Message - The Miracle of the Method - and The Miracle of the Manger. Each Sunday we will also light the Advent candles and remember the Hope, Peace, Joy and Love that comes to each of us through God's Son, Jesus.

On Sunday, December 24, the fourth Sunday of Advent, our 11 AM worship service will be filled with music from Chrysalis, the Sanctuary Choir and the Kidz Choir. On Christmas Eve, a service at 7 PM will be complete with carols, scripture, special music and candlelight. Plan to worship with family and friends at both services that day.

Extend a special invitation to those who need to hear and experience the miracle of Christmas.



There are a number of special opportunities throughout the month that will make this season very special for you. Add these to your personal calendar.

Saturday, December 2 - The Messiah
presented by the Delaware Choral Society
7 PM at Dover High School

Sunday, December 3 - Lessons and Carols
5 PM at Bennett Chapel at Wesley College
(the "old church" at Division and Bradford)

Sunday, December 10 - The Christmas Tea
4 PM - Davis Fellowship Hall

Friday, December 15 - Christmas Caroling
5:30 PM - meet in the Davis Fellowship Hall

Sunday, December 17 - Milford Community Band
3 PM - Sanctuary - First Baptist Church of Dover

*May the
Miracle of
Christmas
fill your heart
with joy.*

This is the fifth Christmas season that Rebecca and I have been a part of the church family here at First Baptist Church of Dover. Each year we look forward to the celebration we share of God's gift to us of Jesus. The reason that

we are the church in this place is to celebrate Jesus in our lives and to invite others to share the hope, peace, joy, and love that only comes from God. Together we anticipate the joy of this season and wish each of you the rich blessings of Christmas and hope for the New Year.

In Christ,

Rev. Dan Taylor

December Church Office Hours

The church office will be closed Friday, December 22 and Monday, December 25. Information for both morning and evening bulletins for Sunday, December 24 are due by Tuesday, December 19.



“May Jesus Be Born In Our Heart”

Everywhere we go in this Christmas season we can find a Nativity scene -- Jesus, born in a manger, with Joseph and Mary.



What does it mean if Jesus is BORN in our hearts?

B - Believe that Jesus is the Messiah.

Sadly, John 1:11 is still prevalent in our world -- "He came to that which was His own, but His own did not receive Him." To those of us who believes in Jesus, we are given the privilege and a burden to spread the Good News of Salvation in Jesus Christ.

O - Obey the commands of Jesus.

Jesus left his disciples these challenging words found in John 14:15 "If you love me, you will obey what I command." This is a simple yet a very difficult command. We need the empowerment of the Holy Spirit to follow the imperative commands of our Lord.

R - Remember to help those who need you.

If Jesus is in our lives, then our selfishness is in a continuing process of being replaced by selflessness. Jesus is teaching us that in Matthew 25:40 that we need to go out of our way to help others because we are doing it for Jesus -- "The King will reply, I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did it for me."

N - Never let anybody else rule your life except Jesus. Revelations 19:16 declares that Jesus is the King of kings and Lord of lords. If this is so, then why do we want lesser beings to rule our lives. Let us be like the Magi who bowed down and worshipped Jesus.



May this Christmas season be a time to reflect the birth of Jesus in our lives.

May God bless us all!

Contributed by Romeo Limson

Christmas Tea



The First Baptist Church is inviting family and friends to the Christmas Tea, on Sunday afternoon, December 10 at 4:00 PM in the Davis Fellowship Hall. All refreshments are being provided by the Board of Deacons and the Hospitality Committee.

Submitted by,
Irv Culver
Hospitality Chairman



Reserve the Date



Coordinating Committee

Next meeting Saturday,
December 9th, 9:00 AM



Judy Daniels, Chairman Board of Missions

2017 Retired Ministers and Missionaries (RMMO) Annual Offering's theme is Generous Congregations



Retired
Ministers &
Missionaries
Offering
2017

Rev. Dr. Perry Hopper, Associate Executive Director of MMBB Financial Services explains, "A lifetime of low wages, seminary and student loans, failing health and more, can often result in a lack of financial resources as many clergy retire." This offering is an annual campaign through which church congregations provide a much-needed thank you check to former ministers, missionaries, their widowed spouses and elderly clergy within their churches. In 2016, RMMO raised \$1,059,444 and more than 3,443 checks were distributed. Hopper adds, "We hope congregations will be inspired by our theme, '**Generous Congregations**'. The verse is taken from Isaiah 32:8, '*But generous people plan to do what is generous, and they stand firm in their generosity*'." The goal for our First Baptist congregation is \$3200.00 and will be received throughout December including a special offering on Christmas Eve.



**Operation
Christmas Child**
A PROJECT OF SAMARITAN'S PURSE

Many thanks go to all who participated in **Operation Christmas Child**. Percy and Marivic Navarro once again headed up this project. One hundred and one boxes were received and will be given to children all around the world. Each box given will tell the gospel story and we hope that many will hear the Christmas story and respond to God's love.

Thanks also go to Willis Case and those who participated in the "Make a Difference Day ." A ramp was built for a family in Hartly, It was greatly appreciated.



2017 Annual Turkey Request



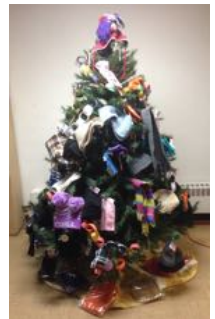
We are thankful to all who donated Turkeys for our Thanksgiving and Christmas baskets. Fifty turkeys were needed, twenty five for Thanksgiving and twenty five for Christmas. Six more turkeys are needed for the Christmas baskets Check with Elaine Jarrell or Willis Case (302-734-2908) if you can help.



Thank you for helping us meet our goal of \$3600.00 for the World Mission Offering. As of November 12th, \$3613.00 was received. Thank you for helping to spread God's Word around the world.

Look for the Giving Tree

During the month of December a Christmas Tree will be placed in the Narthex . We hope that you will help us decorate it with hats, gloves, scarves and other items needed by our homeless community members,



The Code Purple Ministry



Look for the purple box in the Narthex if you wish to contribute. Items needed during the winter season are as follows: socks, scarfs, gloves, hats, hoodies (all sizes), Sweat Pants (all sizes) and pillow cases. Blankets are not needed at this time.

2017 Annual Food Drive



Thanks go to those who helped in the Fall Food drive. A special thank you go to Willis Case, Elaine Jarrell and Bill Myers who faithful work in our church pantry.

Board of Christian Education

Beryl Gerhard, Chairman
Board of Christian Education



Coming Soon!

Get your Fa, la, la, la... on and join us for Christmas caroling on December 15th. We are planning to share the holiday spirit with residents at neighboring nursing homes and shut-ins at 5:30 PM. Cookies and hot chocolate will be served back at the church. All are invited!



Submitted by,
Gerri Lee
Christian Education
Representative



We really need people who are interested and qualified to help with children's Sunday School and Paul's Place as well as occasional substitute teaching.



Comments Welcome

Have an idea for a small group lesson? Interested in learning more about a certain topic? The Board of Christian Education welcomes any suggestions for small group study topics, seminars

or programs. Drop your comments in the Christian Education mailbox or at the church office.

Comfort
Shawl
Ministry



You are invited to join us for a time of fellowship that includes knitting, crocheting & sewing shawls and blankets for our shut ins and patients at the Kent General Cancer Center. During the past 12 months we have stitched 150 prayer shawls and distributed most of them to date. No experience is necessary and we have a job for everyone. Meetings are held the 3rd Monday of each month and wrap up no later than 3PM. Perhaps you know someone that needs a little extra TLC? If so, please share the name by calling the office at 302-674-1980. To learn more about this ministry and/or to donate your unused yarn and material, contact Glenda Case or Agnes Robinson (on Sundays).

**Meetings are held in the
Davis Fellowship Hall.**

Bring a friend and Share the LOVE.



It's not too late to return your 2018 First Baptist financial commitment card. Prayerfully consider how the Lord has blessed you, and give from a grateful heart. Our budget goal for 2018 is \$341,173. Your faithful giving will enable us to continue our involvement in ministries in our local community and around the world. You may either mail your commitment card to the church or place it in the offering plate. Thank you for your stewardship of God's resources to you!!

Here's What's Happening at our Church!



Wednesday Evening Bible Study and Prayer Time

Dinner at 6PM in the Fellowship Hall followed at 7PM by Bible Study & a Children's Program.

No Dinner December 27th.

Stuff the Pantry @ First Baptist

Grocery bags are located just outside the sanctuary and include suggested items needed to stock the FBC Food Pantry. Return the bag the next Sunday and place it under the Food Pantry sign in the narthex. This is a mission outreach for our needy residents in the community.



Need a little extra help in monitoring your blood pressure? Check the Sunday Bulletin for screening Sundays and have your pressure checked by one of the FBC nurses. This activity is sponsored by the American Baptists Women's Ministries.



Sanctuary Flower Arrangements

Would you like to honor someone or celebrate a special occasion by providing the worship service flower arrangements? If so, please contact the church office at 302-674-1980.

Service of Healing Prayer

For those who seek healing from God, held in the Chapel immediately following the worship service.

Those who choose, may request anointing by the pastor or deacons during this prayer time.



Prayer Chain

If you have a request for the chain, please call Elaine Jarrell at the church office - 302-674-1980. It will then be passed on to both the phone and email chains.



Stop by the
Welcome Center for
the answers.



If you are interested in directing or just volunteering for a particular event, please contact us. We have a lot of talented people throughout our church that can help in various aspects of our events from planning, publicity, purchasing, set-up and leading. Contact Mike Metzger at 302-674-1980.

We welcome your involvement!

ATTENTION

*Read all about it!
Don't forget the
deadline for
newsletter
submissions is the
15th of each month.*



Please email your articles to Debbie at
debbie_geiser@verizon.net



Our four Circles will be celebrating the Christmas Season at their December meetings. Prior to the meetings, any ladies or gentlemen who would like to help decorate our Chrismon trees are invited to join us on Friday, December 1st, at 10:00 in the Sanctuary. We have a lot of fun and fellowship helping to decorate for the glorious season.

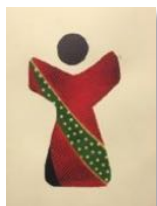


Submitted by,

Sue Moore

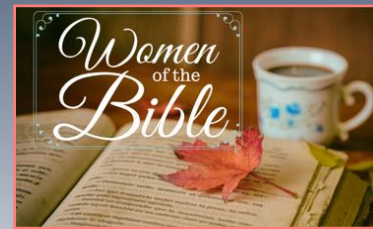
Christmas Card Project

First Baptist Church of Dover helps support our Special Interest Missionaries through our annual Christmas Card project. We ask for members and friends to donate what they would normally spend on sending Christmas Cards to other members and friends of First Baptist. The names of all those who donate are printed in our Christmas Card and that card is sent to all our members and friends. The money that is received through this project is divided equally among our Special Interest Missionaries for their personal use and sent to them with our Christmas Card. This year we are delighted to have four handmade cards created by children in Goma (Democratic Republic of the Congo) where our missionary Ann Clemmers serves. Each week in December our church bulletin will have a story of one of the children that Ann Clemmer works with. You can put your check in the offering plate and mark it CHRISTMAS CARD PROJECT.



Women's Bible Study Group

Leader: Suzanne Murr



Meetings are every Thursday at 2PM with an indepth study of Women of the Bible. All women are invited to attend. (Location: Rennie's Classroom). Last meeting of the year, Dec. 7th. Next year, Jan. 4th, 2018.

Susan Harding Circle

December 12th,
11:00 AM

Covered dish at home of
Joyce Buckley
Susan is a missionary
to Alaska.

Leader: Norma Jean



Ann Clemmer Circle

December 7th, 1:00 PM
Piazza Mia Restaurant

Ann is a missionary to Eastern
Congo & South Sudan
Leader: Lois Glading



Joyce Reed Circle

December 2nd, 11:30 PM
Olive Garden Restaurant

Joyce is a missionary to
IberoAmerica and
the Caribbean

Leader: Margaret Steinhoff

Bonar/Niles Circle

December 5th, 11:00 AM
Olive Garden Restaurant

Katherine is a missionary to the
Democratic Republic
of the Congo

Leader: Agnes Robinson



What does Christmas mean to you?



The Advent season is a magical time of year. The traditions at this time of year has been established and expected, and without them we would lose some of the allure we all have come to expect. The decorations, movies, the carols, cookies, presents and other special foods bring back special times of Christmases past.

Just like the Charles Dickens', A Christmas Carol, Scrooge was visited by an old partner and three ghosts: Christmas past, Christmas present and Christmas future. He found out that he had a good time in the past, good memories and even love. Somewhere along the line, things changed to what he currently lived and what the future could be if he didn't change his situation.

And just like Scrooge, we maybe on a path to "Christmas future" that he was, unless we change our path. As we look at the Beacon, our church newsletter, the calendar shows many opportunities to celebrate the 'Christmas present' and start making new traditions that will not only encourage you, but also for those who follow you such as family, friends and neighbors.



Dec. 1st - We will be decorating the Christmas trees in church.

Dec. 10th - The annual Christmas Tea in Fellowship Hall.

Dec. 15th - We will meet at the Church and go Christmas Caroling.

Dec. 24th - We will have Christmas Eve candlelight service.

Start making your Christmas's traditions this year. Many younger families have used the *Elf on the Shelf* as the mischievous Elf gets into trouble each night, so the kids look forward into getting up in the morning to see what the Elf did this time. A tradition for us was Hershey Chocolate bars on Christmas Eve morning. If Santa was coming, his elves would leave a chocolate bar on the Christmas tree for each child. I'm sure that each family has their own traditions, if not, change your 'Christmas future' right now to the celebration of the 'Christmas present'. The old cliché of 'the reason for the season',

is still true today as it was so many years ago. If it wasn't for celebrating the birth of our savior and Lord, this time of year would just be another cold month looking for the new year. Maybe, this year, you read the Christmas Story to your family and start (or continue) a new tradition for 'Christmas present' to make the future better.

Luke 2

The Birth of Jesus

In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world. ² (This was the first census that took place while^[a] Quirinius was governor of Syria.) ³ And everyone went to their own town to register. ⁴ So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. ⁵ He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child. ⁶ While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, ⁷ and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no guest room available for them.

⁸And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. ⁹ An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰ But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. ¹¹ Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. ¹² This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger."



¹³ Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying,

¹⁴ "Glory to God in the highest heaven,
and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests."

¹⁵ When the angels had left them and gone into heaven,

the shepherds said to one another, "Let's go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about."

¹⁶ So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger. ¹⁷ When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, ¹⁸ and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them. ¹⁹ But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart. ²⁰ The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told.

Blessings
Mike Metzger



You are invited to join us for lunch on December 21, 2017 at 11:30 am. We will be going to the Olive Garden. Please let us know if you are able to attend by signing the reservation sheet at the welcome center by Sunday, December 17th or by calling the church office. All persons available during the day are invited to attend. Wishing you and yours a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Meals for the Men's Homeless Shelter



Approximately 40 First Baptist families helped in some way, and we appreciated everyone's help. The men are always most appreciative of our meals. Also thanks go to Lois Glading and Nancy Culver who once again helped us coordinated meals at the homeless shelter November 7th to 12th. Thanks also go to those who cooked, served and provided food during the week.

Birthdays

Glenda	Perry	12/01
Jerusha	Yarsiah	12/01
Abby	Ford	12/06
Suzanne	Murr	12/08
Karen	Henry	12/10
Rennie	Quible	12/14
Diane	Szego	12/15
Gabriella	Moscrip	12/16
Bobby	Miller	12/17
Kweeta	Lenyere	12/20
Elizabeth	Gampp	12/21
Jerome	Rogers	12/22
Frances	Lewis	12/23
Amber	Kelley	12/24
Winona	Miller	12/25
Hope	King	12/25
Sam	Geiser	12/25
Jacob	Septer	12/27
Randy	Grunden II	12/28
Jim	Kerr	12/28
Maureen	Cannon	12/30
Emily	Saunderson	12/31






Anniversaries

Ray & Alice Murphy	29 yrs.	12/19
Doyle & Nelma Owen	54 yrs.	12/25

Annual Report

Attention Boards, Committees, Officers and groups: Information and reports for the Annual Report should be submitted to Vicky Smith, church secretary, by Wednesday, January 3, 2018. Time is needed to prepare the printed report prior to the Annual Business Meeting on January 24, 2018.

Here's what's happening in December!

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 10:00 Decorate Christmas Trees 	2 8:00 Children's Choice - Fellowship Hall 11:30 Joyce Reed Circle (Olive Garden Restaurant)
3 9:10 Prayer 9:30 Sunday School 11:00 Worship 7:00 Chrysalis	4 7:00 Deacon's 7:00 Visitation Teams	5 11:00 Niles/Bonar Circle (Olive Garden Restaurant) 7:30 Narcotics Anon	6 9:00-200 Community Bible Study 6:00 Fellowship Dinner 7:00 Bible Study & Prayer Time - Adults & Children	7 1:00 Ann Clemmer Circle (Piazza Mia) 2:00 Women's Bible Study (Rennie's SS Classroom) 7:00 Narcotics Anon 7:00 Sanctuary Choir	8	9 9:00 Coordinating Committee 10:00 Children's Choice - Fellowship Hall
10 9:10 Prayer 9:30 Sunday School 11:00 Worship 12:00 Blood Pressure Screening 4:00 Christmas Tea  7:00 Chrysalis	11 7:00 Visitation Teams	12 11:00 Susan Harding Circle (covered dish at home of Joyce Buckley) 7:30 Narcotics Anon	13 9:00-200 Community Bible Study 10:00 ABWM Board Meeting 6:00 Fellowship Dinner 7:00 Bible Study & Prayer Time - Adults & Children	14 7:00 Narcotics Anon 7:00 Sanctuary Choir	15 January Newsletter Articles Due  5:00 MS Support Group 5:30 Christmas Caroling	16
17 9:10 Prayer 9:30 Sunday School 11:00 Worship 12:30 Service of Healing Prayer 3:00 Milford Community Band Concert 5:00 Trustees 7:00 Chrysalis	18 1:00 Comfort Shawl Ministry 7:00 Visitation Teams	19 4:30 Missions 7:30 Narcotics Anon	20 9:00-200 Community Bible Study 6:00 Fellowship Dinner 7:00 Bible Study & Prayer Time - Adults & Children	21 11:30 XYZ Olive Garden Restaurant 7:00 Narcotics Anon 7:00 Sanctuary Choir	22 Church Office Closed	23
24 9:10 Prayer 9:30 Sunday School 11:00 Worship 7:00 Christmas Eve Candlelight Service 	25 Merry Christmas (Office Closed) 	26 7:00 Visitation Teams 7:30 Narcotics Anon	27 9:00-200 Community Bible Study No Dinner	28 7:00 Narcotics Anon	29	30
31 9:10 Prayer 9:30 Sunday School 11:00 Worship	<h2>Survey Question</h2> <p>How would you prefer to receive your newsletter? In vivid color on the website (http://www.fbcdover.org) or black & white in the mail. To respond, one may contact the office (302-674-1980) if the preference is by mail. Please be sure we have your current email address.</p>					