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## Contact Us

Reverend Dan Taylor - Pastor  
Mike Metzger - Moderator  
Debbie Geiser - Newsletter Editor  
Vicky Smith - Church Secretary  
Church Office - 302-674-1980  
Email - [info@fbcdover.org](mailto:info@fbcdover.org)  
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# The First Baptist Church of Dover

301 Walker Rd., Dover, DE 19904

December 2018

## From the Pastor's Desk Reverend Daniel Taylor



### December

It is always a joy to turn the page of the calendar and welcome the month of December. The music of the season, the gatherings with family and friends, the decorations and lights, the Advent worship that we share all bring us feelings of Hope, Peace, Joy and Love that come with the gift of Jesus. Throughout this month we have a number of opportunities to share and celebrate.

On the first Sunday of Advent, December 2, we begin with a day of inviting. One of the most wonderful ways to share the true meaning of Christmas is to invite others to experience it in worship. We encourage members and friends to call or personally invite friends to come to meet them at the church. That will be a special gift to introduce others to Jesus during this time of year. As we begin the Advent season a special part of worship that morning will be the bringing of some of the decorations for our sanctuary – a hanging of the greens. Come, enjoy and worship with us.



**The Christmas Tea** has been an important part of the holiday celebration for this congregation for many years and is sponsored by the Board of Deacons. This year folks will gather on Sunday, December 9 at 4:30 PM in the Davis Fellowship Hall and the theme will be *The Stories and Legends of Christmas*. Home-made cookies, cheese balls, and finger sandwiches are



being requested and volunteers can help provide them – sign up on the poster in the church narthex. Stories and special music will be a wonderful part of the evening.



The Board of Christian Education invites everyone to join in **Christmas Caroling** on Friday, December 14 at 5:30. Gather in the Davis Fellowship Hall and

practice a few carols and then head out to visit some folks who are home-bound and other who are in nursing homes. The happiness of Christmas is so much more joyful when it is shared with others who can't get out to worship. After coming back to the church building there will be cookies and hot chocolate and stories of the visits to share. Come and have fun caroling with others.

Each Sunday there will be special themes for the times of worship and familiar stories and carols will be a part of the shared experience. Plan to be present each Sunday to hear the Good News of Jesus.

A very special treat in recent years has been a Christmas Concert presented by the **Milford Community Band**. This year join with many others on Saturday afternoon, December 22 at 3 PM to hear the music of the season under the direction of Mr. Phil Steinhoff, who also happens to be the choir director and worship leader for the congregation.

Monday, December 24 at 7 PM friends and family will once again gather to share in a special **Christmas Eve service**. Carols, Scripture, and candlelight highlight the evening as together we welcome God's greatest gift to the world, Jesus.

*In the Hope and Peace of Christ,  
Rev. Dan Taylor*

**XYZ**  
(extra years of zest)



Please join us on December 20, 2018 at Where Pigs Fly for our December meeting. We will meet at the restaurant at 11:30 a.m. for a time of fellowship and sharing. If you are available during the day, please sign up at the Welcome Center or call the church office to let us know you are coming. Reservations will be made on December 17th. Looking forward to seeing you. During this meeting we will develop our 2019 schedule - so bring your ideas and suggestions.

**Comfort  
Shawl  
Ministry**



The **FBC COMFORT SHAWL MINISTRY** has continued growing this fall, after our summer break. Our monthly gathering in September was a wonderful time of fellowship and showing the beautiful shawls that were stitched by members during the summer months. We delivered 25 shawls to the Cancer Unit at Bayhealth in October! Our shawl storage closet is in the conference room outside of the Pastor's study. You are encouraged to pick out a shawl and deliver it to a "deserving" "someone you know--illness, bereavement, or celebration. Please sign your name and the name of the shawl recipient on the log-in sheet. Shawls on the shelves are ready for delivery. You may also contact the church or any of the Shawl Ministry members to request a shawl.

We continue to grow in membership and the number of shawls we can stitch. In addition to producing shawls, some members stitch Prayer Cloths and another member is sewing beautiful cloth bags, used to carry a shawl when delivering to a recipient. Embroidered on this lovely white bag are these words: "You are covered in prayer". Also, one of our members has donated cloth printed labels which read:

**"Handmade for you  
Comfort Shawl Ministry  
First Baptist Church  
Dover, Delaware"**



These labels are hand-stitched to each shawl. In addition to crocheting and knitting shawls, we need new members to join us in stitching labels, sewing fleece shawls, bagging shawls and delivering shawls. So-there is a place for YOU! We meet in the church Fellowship Hall on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday each month at 1:00 pm. Come when you can-leave when you must. We hope you can join us!

*Glenda Case*





## “The Christmas Star”

There is a very interesting prophecy in the Old Testament by a soothsayer from the East named Balaam. The prophecy that includes the story of a star is from Balaam. The Magi knew of this but they were not familiar with Jewish prophecies. This is a reason why they asked where the Messiah would be born. The summoned scribes and priests answered "But you, Bethlehem, though you are small among the clans of Judah, out of you will come one who will be ruler over Israel, whose origins are from of old, from ancient times."

**What can we learn from the Magi? Here are four lessons using the acrostic STAR:**

***Seek - Seek God even if it is difficult.***

The Wise Men left the comfort of their homes. They continued to be persistent even if it was uncomfortable. Assuming that the East is Persia or Babylon, then they have to travel about 960 miles. It would take about 30 days of travel by camel if they traveled 32 miles per day. It could be more than 1 month. How about us? Are we willing to get involved in God's ministry even if it would bring personal sacrifices?

***Trust - Trust the revelations of God even if we do not understand it at the moment.*** What the Wise Men saw was only a star. But they had faith on what they saw. They traveled based on faith. What about us? What more proofs should we ask from God before we trust Him? The Bible is full of stories that give us proofs that our God is trustworthy. What are the things that are happening in our lives right now that we cannot understand? Surrender our life to God and trust Him.

***Allow - Allow detours for it may teach us valuable lessons.*** The Wise Men in their detour in King Herod's palace are teaching us about discernment. The Wise Men discerned where to ask questions, and they also discerned the evil intent of King Herod. We should know how to ask the right questions and who to ask. We should always pray that God will endow us with the gift of

discernment so that we may know the character of people who we will meet in our journey.

*Remember - Remember that God will always be there to guide us.* God guided the Wise Men through the star. God in the exodus experience also guided the Israelites through a pillar of fire and a pillar of cloud. These are visible reminders that God will find a way to guide us in our lives if we just commit ourselves fully to Him.

*May God bless us all as we celebrate a joyful and a Merry Christmas.*

*Our Lord Jesus is the reason for this Season.*

*Contributed by Romeo Limson*



I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Stewardship Committee for allowing me to plan the decorations for the Stewardship Dinner! I have enjoyed working with the Committee on this project and had a lot of fun. I am so thankful that the Lord has given me the talent and opportunity to bless the people who attend First Baptist Church of Dover. Since we are “Celebrating Generosity”, I wanted the feeling of the dinner to be one of a joyful celebration of what the Lord has allowed you all to do for those in our community. I hope I accomplished this goal.

I would like to thank the individuals whom, without their sacrifice of time, input and effort, would not have allowed me to complete all of the decorating. These individuals put in many volunteer hours on Saturday and Sunday.

They are:

**Donald and Ramona Scott**  
**Trustees-Chris Cottrell**  
**Harry Anthony**  
**Sal Manno**  
**Richard Smith**  
**Brenda Smith Stary**  
**Michelle England**  
**Keni Zheng**  
**Willis Case**

(whom I wrangled in for some last minute decorations)

Words cannot adequately express my sincerest appreciation for these individuals who helped me but I am truly, truly thankful of their help!

*Vicky Smith*



## Meals for the Men's Homeless Shelter



Thank You to the approximately forty (40) First Baptist families who helped with meals at the Dover Interfaith Men's Homeless Shelter, November 4-10. This completed our commitment of providing the evening meals for three weeks in 2018. We actually provided a total of eighteen (18) meals for 40-50 people each evening. Stay tuned for our plans for 2019!



## STEWARDSHIP

*Managing God's Gifts To Us*

**2019 Vision of Ministry:** Our goal is \$327,096.00. If you have not returned your Stewardship Commitment for 2019, it is not too late. Fill out the card, place it in the enclosed envelope, and place it in the offering plate or mail it to the church. How will you respond to God's many blessings to you?

## Coming Soon!



Get your Fa,la,la,la,la... on and join us for Christmas caroling on December 14, 2018. We are planning to share the holiday spirit with residents

at neighboring nursing homes and shut-ins from 5:30-7:00pm. We will meet at the church and later return for hot chocolate and cookies. All are invited!

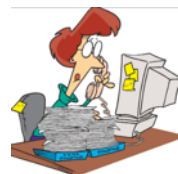
*Submitted by Gerri Lee  
Christian Ed Rep*

The food pantry provided 25 Thanksgiving baskets for local families in need. A big thank you to all who provided turkeys.



## Birthdays

Jerusha	Yarsiah	12/01
Suzanne	Murr	12/08
Karen	Henry	12/10
Rennie	Quibble	12/14
Gabriella	Moscrip	12/16
Kweeta	Lenyere	12/20
Jerome	Rogers	12/22
Amber	Kelley	12/24
Sam	Geiser	12/25
Jacob	Septer	12/27
Jim	Kerr	12/28
Maureen	Cannon	12/30
Emily	Saunderson	12/31



## A Reminder from the Secretary's Desk

In order for your announcement to be included in the monthly newsletter, please submit it to the Secretary's Office no later than the 15th of the month. Newsletters will be posted the last week of the month.

To ensure place of your announcement for the Sunday bulletin it must be submitted by 3:00PM Wednesday.

If possible, please submit articles and announcements by email to [secretary@fbcdover.org](mailto:secretary@fbcdover.org) or place in the Secretary's mailbox.

## DON'T MISS GAME DAY!!!



Gather together for fun and fellowship on the first Tuesday of each month at 3:00 pm. Our next get together is Tuesday, December 4, at 3:00pm. Please come join us for lots of fun and laughs as we enjoy playing different games and having fellowship with one another. If you have any questions, please contact the Secretary, Vicky Smith. We look forward to having you join us! 302-674-1980





## Joyce Reed Circle

### December 1st, 11:30 AM

Meeting at Piazza Mia Restaurant

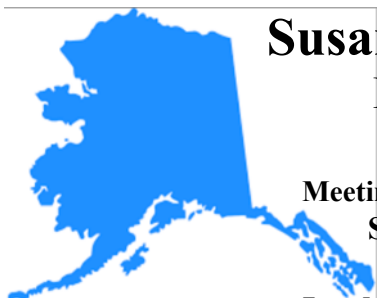
Joyce is a missionary to  
IberoAmerica and  
the Caribbean  
Leader: Sue Moore

## Bonar/Niles Circle

### December 4th, 11:30 AM

Meeting at the Olive Garden  
Restaurant

Katherine is a missionary to the  
Democratic Republic  
of the Congo  
Leader: Jo Rolison



## Susan Harding Circle

### December 4th, 11:00 AM

Meeting at Joyce Buckley's Home  
Susan is a missionary  
to Alaska.

Leader: Norma Jean Courtney

## Ann Clemmer Circle

### December 6th, 1:30 PM

Meeting at the Countrie Eatery  
Ann is a missionary to Eastern  
Congo & South Sudan  
Leader: Lois Glading



Hello Ladies – In December, each Circle has a Christmas Luncheon on their Circle Meeting day. It is a time to gather and celebrate the birth of Christ with your Church sisters. Be sure to check the Church calendar for the location/time of your December meeting. Thank you to those who came out and helped to decorate the Chrismon Trees in the sanctuary. They always help to make the Sanctuary so beautiful during the Advent Season.

Reminder – there is a Board Meeting on December 12<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 a.m. We will meet in the room outside the Pastor's office. It is important for all Board members and Circle Leaders to attend as we will be deciding on the theme for the Women's Day of Renewal in February. Please be thinking of ideas for the Day of Renewal and come prepared to share them. We will also be talking about our Chocolate Egg making (the fundraiser for the A B W M Regional Project).



*Merry Christmas*

I hope you all had a wonderful Thanksgiving. Remember that Jesus is the Reason for the celebrations in December. Don't forget to invite a friend to church on Dec. 2<sup>nd</sup> (and each Sunday thereafter 12). Also, be thinking about inviting someone to come to your circle meeting and hopefully join. I know that some of the circles have added new members to their circle since September. Remember your Special ABWM Sisters, especially during the Advent Season. Their birthdays are listed in your Circle Book under their name.

Wishing you all a Blessed Christmas!

*Margaret E. Steinhoff*

*President of ABWM of FBC*



What is your New Year's Resolution for 2019? Lose weight? Stop smoking? Exercise? All good and noble items to do. But, what should a Christian strive for in 2019 or any other year? Knowing our Lord. And how can we do that? Read His Word. Already did that? Do it again – or were you able to memorize it and know all that He gave you to know? Then you are in the wrong place – for most of us mortals cannot do that. There are 4.6 million hits on Google for Bible reading plans. I just chose one website that has many different options: Bible translated versions, languages, and plans.

At the website: <http://www.bibleplan.org> you can find many different ideas on how to read your Bible:



There are many, many other plans out there. All the plans in the world will not get the Word into you. You must take the effort and follow your plan. If you have read the Bible from cover to cover, GREAT! Try it in a different way this year. Would you like to read through the key stories of the Bible in chronological order, tracing the development of God's plan from Adam and Eve to the

church of the New Testament?

The main thing is get into the Word daily. Get into a habit, a good habit this year. Make your New Year's resolution to better yourself and others around you by reading the Bible.

Maybe you are a techie? There are also many free eBible downloads out there also.

So what's your excuse? **Time?** Make it – is there really anything more important for a Christian than to know God? ***Don't have a Bible?*** Ask me or one of the other Gideons in our church – that's what we do is give Bibles and New Testaments for free to some deserving soul without one. ***A quiet place?*** Do you think that Jesus might have been a little busy during his ministry on Earth. Read [Luke 5: 16](#) "**However, he continued his habit of retiring to deserted places and praying.**" Are you busier than He was? He found the time and place to talk to the Father. So, as you start your Bible reading this year, be sure to start and end in prayer. Pray to let the Word enter you in a new fresh way that will permeate the world around you. It is what the World needs today! May God Bless your prayers and understanding of His Word this year.

*Mike Metzger*



## The Stories and Legends of Christmas

The ***Christmas Tea*** is scheduled for Sunday, December 9th at 4:30 p.m. in the Davis Fellowship Hall. Come hear some of the Stories and Legends of Christmas. The Fellowship Hall will be beautifully decorated for Christmas. Enjoy homemade Christmas cookies, cheese balls/crackers and delicious finger sandwiches, hot chocolate and, of course, wonderful spiced tea. There will be music and singing and great fellowship. I can't think of a better way to celebrate the Reason for the Season than with joining together with you church family and having a party.

Please sign-up at the Welcome Center if you plan to attend. Guests are invited, as well. We just need a number for planning. There is also a poster in the narthex to sign-up to make/bring food for the celebration. Also, there is a place to sign-up the loan large glass serving plates, if you are willing to do so. Mark your calendar! Hope to see you there.



## 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.

## 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.



**About the church or one of our programs? 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.

**We welcome your involvement!**

## ATTENTION *Read all about it!*

**Don't forget the deadline for newsletter submissions is the 15th of each month with the goal of posting the newsletter by the 25th of the month.**



Please email your articles to Vicky Smith at [secretary@fbcdover.org](mailto:secretary@fbcdover.org)

# Here's what's happening in December

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<div>  <div> <b>Invite a Friend to Church</b>  <b>Sunday, December 2nd</b> </div> </div>						
2 9:10 Prayer 9:30 Sunday school 11:00 Worship  7:00 Chrysalis	3  7:00 Deacons (Library) 7:00 Visitation Teams	4 11:30 Bonar/Niles Circle (Olive Garden) 11:00 Susan Harding Circle (Joyce Buckley Home)  3:00 Game Day (Fellowship Hall) 	5 9:30 Community Bible Study (Church) 10:00 Stewardship Committee (Conf. Room) 6:00 Fellowship Dinner 7:00 Bible Study & Prayer Time - Adults & Children (Fellowship Hall)	6 1:30 Ann Clemmer Circle (Countrie Eatery)  7:00 Narcotics Anon (Fellowship Hall) 7:00 Sanctuary Choir		1  11:30 Joyce Reed Circle (Piazza Mia)
9 9:10 Prayer 9:30 Sunday school 11:00 Worship 12:00 Blood Pressure Screening 4:30 Christmas Tea (Fellowship Hall)  7:00 Chrysalis	10  6:00 Christian Education 7:00 Visitation Teams	11  5:00 Missions Mtg (Conference Room)	12 9:30 CBS Meeting (Church) 10:00 ABW Board Meeting 6:00 Fellowship Dinner 7:00 Bible Study & Prayer Time - Adults & Children (Fellowship Hall)	13  <b>3:00 Game Day (Fellowship Hall)</b>  7:00 Narcotics Anon (Fellowship Hall) 7:00 Sanctuary Choir	14	15
16 9:10 Prayer 9:30 Sunday school 11:00 Worship 12:00 Service of Healing Prayer  7:00 Chrysalis	17  <b>January Newsletter Articles Due</b>  1:00 Comfort Shawl Ministry 6:30 Board of Christian Education 7:00 Visitation Teams	18	19 9:30 CBS Meeting (Sanctuary)  6:00 Fellowship Dinner 7:00 Bible Study & Prayer Time - Adults & Children (Fellowship Hall)	20  11:30 XYZ Where Pigs Fly, Dover, DE  7:00 Narcotics Anon (Fellowship Hall) 7:00 Sanctuary Choir	21  5:00 MS Support Group	22   3:00 Milford Community Band Concert (Sanctuary)
23 9:10 Prayer 9:30 Sunday school 11:00 Worship  7:00 Chrysalis	24 <b>Church Office Closed</b>  7:00 Christmas Eve Candlelight Service	25 <b>Christmas</b>  <b>Church Office Closed</b>	26 <b>Church Office Closed</b>	27  7:00 Narcotics Anon (Fellowship Hall) 7:00 Sanctuary Choir	28	29
30 9:10 Prayer 9:30 Sunday school 11:00 Worship  7:00 Chrysalis	31  7:00 Visitation Teams					

## Survey Question

### 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 at 302-674-1980

if the preference is by mail. Please be sure we have your current email address.