



The First Baptist Church of Dover

301 Walker Rd., Dover, DE 19904

December 2019 Newsletter

Visit the
First Baptist Church website at
<http://www.fbcdover.org>



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Calendar - last page





“Bow Down to Jesus Alone”

Whether we like it or not, the Christmas story has been diluted. We have so many traditions and rituals that are based in the Christmas story but sadly, not Biblical. One of these traditions is the worship of Mary and Joseph. Is this tradition Biblical?

Answering that question leads us back to Matthew 2:11. This verse says, "On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold and of incense and of myrrh."

What lessons can we learn from the verse?

First, the verse clearly states that the Magi bowed down and worshiped Jesus. They did not bow down to Mary, to Joseph, to the animals or to anyone or anything except to Jesus only. The records also show that the Magi did not even bow down to King Herod. We need to check ourselves. Is our worship solely focused on Jesus Christ? Or are we worshipping other people, other things or we bow down to others also? These are difficult questions yet we must answer it.



Second, the verse clearly states also that the Magi brought their treasures, and presented their gifts to Jesus. They did not offer the gifts to Mary, Joseph or to others. They did not also present any gifts to King Herod when they passed by Jerusalem.

All of us have been given by God various gifts, and also treasures. Do we offer our gifts to Jesus? Do we offer our treasures to Jesus? For some they offer their gifts to the gods of fame and money. For some they mistakenly offer

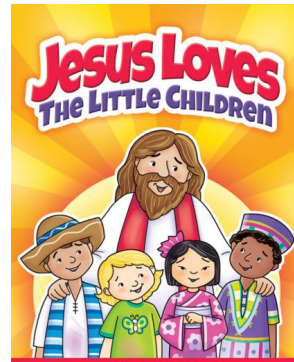
their gifts and treasures to religious ministers thinking that it is for God's glory. Let us check ourselves on this.

May God bless us as we give our Treasures and Gifts to Jesus. Merry Christmas Everyone!

Contributed by Romeo Limson



Total pairs donated: 168
Men: 110 pairs
Ladies: 52 pairs
Children: 6 pairs



Fairview Elementary School's Good News Club

GOOD NEWS CLUB is now meeting every Tuesday afternoon at 3:15 PM. Currently we have 24 children signed up to attend our club. Please keep the GNC Team and the children they minister to in your prayers.

XYZ
(extra years of zest)



You are invited to join us for lunch on December 19, 2019 at 11:30 am. We will be going to The Cantwell Tavern, 109 Main St., Odessa, DE. Please let us know if you are able to attend by signing the reservation sheet at the Welcome Center by Sunday, December 14th or by calling the church office - 302-674-1980. All persons available during the day are invited to attend.



Happy December, Ladies -

It's hard to believe that 2019 is almost over. I hope you had a Blessed Thanksgiving and were able to spend time with family and friends. We have so much to be thankful for as God is so good to us. We need to thank Him daily and never take for granted what He has given us.

The Chrismon Trees are up and the Sanctuary is decorated for Advent. Thank you to the ladies who helped with the decorating. The Circles will each have a special December meeting where they will celebrate

Christmas together. I was privileged to attend each of the Circles in November and be a part of their Baptist Women's World Day of Prayer program. They were all wonderful. Thank you ladies for allowing me to be a part of your meetings, I truly enjoyed them. The Sisterhood is wonderful. The ABWM Board has a meeting on Tuesday, December 10th at 10 am. We will be meeting in the usual place and will be discussing the Women's Day of Renewal on February 8, 2020. Come with ideas.

As we enter this season when we celebrate the birth of our Savior, let's not get caught up in the craziness of December. If we keep our focus on the precious gift that was given and how this child grew up and died for our sins, we will remember the real reason for the season and will have peace, joy and thankfulness in our hearts and souls.

Wishing you all a Joyous and Peaceful Christmas,

Margaret E. Steinhoff

President of ABWM



**Mary Bonar/Rita
Chapman Circle**

Meeting December 3, 11:30 at the
Olive Garden.

Rita is a missionary to the
Democratic Republic
of the Congo

Leader: Jo Rolison



Joyce Reed Circle

Meeting December 7, 11:30 at
the Piazza Mia.

Joyce is a missionary to
IberoAmerica and the Caribbean

Leader: Sue Moore

Ann Clemmer Circle

Meeting December 5th, 1:00 at
Cheddar's Restaurant, Dover

Ann is a missionary to Eastern
Congo & South Sudan

Leader: Lois Glading

**Bring 2 small Christmas ornaments
or decorations to in be included in
the Food Pantry Christmas boxes.**





In the past few weeks the Stewardship Committee has encouraged many of us to discover the gifts God has given us through a Spiritual Gifts Assessment. This was affirming for many of you and maybe eye-opening for others as you began to see how God has provided for you.

With this in mind, the Nominating Committee will be completing their task for 2020 with a proposed list of new members of Boards and Committees for the coming year. Those individuals will be affirmed at the Annual Business Meeting of the Congregation on Wednesday, January 22, 2020. Knowing the gifts that God has given, you may want to put those to use in some very special ways. There are still some opportunities for service available for two-year terms beginning in January. There are openings on the following groups.

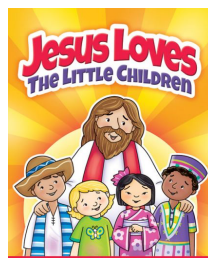
- θ Board of Christian Education (2)
- θ Board of Missions (1)
- θ Board of Trustees (2)
- θ Stewardship Committee (1)

If you want to know more or would like to offer yourself, please contact a member of the Nominating Committee – Judy Daniels, Sue Moore, Jo Rolison, Joan Foster, or Chris Septer.



We'd like to thank our church family for all the cards, prayers, and love given to us this past year as we struggled through the deaths of my mother, Emma, and brother, Daniel. Without their support and God's, we couldn't have made it through this difficult time.

Gene and Sue Moore



Fairview Elementary School's Good News Club

Fairview Elementary School's GOOD NEWS CLUB, sponsored by First Baptist, continues to grow. We now have 25 members on our roster and have outgrown the school library and have moved to a classroom for our meetings. We have nine volunteer workers! The volunteers enjoy challenges each week. It is so exciting to present GOD'S WORD to these children, teach them Bible lessons, memory verses, gospel songs—and of course, there's always snacks (thank you Chris Cottrell for providing so many snacks to so many children each week). We recently finished a 6-week session about the life of Joseph. We now are studying a 6-week session about THE WORDLESS BOOK. This session presents the plan of salvation in language that children ages 6-10 will understand. Because of your donations and our church budget, we can purchase beautiful GOOD NEWS CLUB t shirts for each child and volunteer for a Christmas gift! We will all proudly wear our shirt to our club meetings and show our friends our love for the GOOD NEWS CLUB at Fairview Elementary.

Retired Ministers & Missionaries Offering 2019

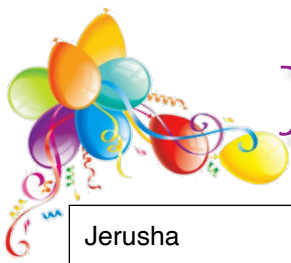


Throughout the month of December, we will be participating in one of the American Baptist Churches Annual Offering called "Retired Ministers and Missionaries Offering."

The roots of the Retired Ministers and Missionaries Offering (RMMO) originated in the mid-1930s, when American Baptist congregations received a Communion Fellowship Offering on the first Sunday of each month to support retired ministers, missionaries, their widowed spouses and elderly clergy within their churches. The long-standing tradition of the RMMO established in 1977 supports ministers, missionaries and their widowed spouses who have devoted 15 years or more to ABCUSA.

This year's theme, Honoring the Service of God's Servants uplifts the generosity, grace and tireless work of retired ministers, missionaries and their widowed spouses and families who have dedicated their lives to serving the body of Christ. We hope you will join us in honoring God's committed servants.

For this year, no goal was set. Please give as the Lord leads you. RMMO envelopes are in the pews. Thank you for your continued support.



Birthdays

Jerusha	Yarsiah	12/01
Suzanne	Murr	12/08
Rennie	Quibble	12/14
Thomas	Ward	12/15
Gabriella	Moscrip	12/16
Kweeta	Lenyere	12/20
Myra	McDermott	12/20
Jerome	Rogers	12/22
Frances	Lewis	12/23
Amber	Kelley	12/24
Hope	King	12/25
Sam	Geiser	12/25
Jacob	Septer	12/27
Jim	Kerr	12/28
Maureen	Cannon	12/30
Emily	Saunderson	12/31

Comfort Shawl Ministry



What a blessing it has been for the members of this group to gather on the 1st Monday of each month in the Fellowship Hall. We pray over the shawls we create, fellowship and deliver shawls to individuals needing and wanting a soft, warm wrap; as well as delivering shawls to cancer patients at Dover Bayhealth. Two of our members delivered 20 shawls to the oncology unit at Bayhealth In October. We were humbly honored to speak to, pray with and deliver shawls, personally, to four patients! We hear so many comments from recipients, family and friends of the love and warmth they feel when wrapping up in one of these lovely shawls. Please notify a member of this group if you or someone you know could use a prayer and a "Shawl Hug"!



Operation Christmas Child

Number of shoe boxes available: 159
 Number of shoe boxes not taken: 71
 Number of shoe boxes taken: 88
 Number of shoe boxes not returned: 15
 Number of shoe boxes returned: 73
 Number of shoe boxes returned (Girls): 39
 Number of shoe boxes returned (Boys): 34

2019 Annual Turkey Request



The food pantry will provide 25 Thanksgiving baskets and 25 Christmas baskets for local families in need. Baskets will include all the items needed for a holiday meal, **including a turkey** and dessert.

Non-perishable food for the baskets is provided by the food pantry. Frozen turkey donations are requested, please begin looking for sale prices of turkeys during November and December and donate 1 or 2 turkeys (**12-16 lbs.**) to help fill the baskets. Call Willis Case with any questions 734-2908.

Sermons



Sermons are now available on the church's website, fbcdover.org under the title "Sermons". Or, if you prefer, you may request a CD

copy of a Sunday's sermon by contacting the church office.

Coming Soon!



Get your Fa, la, la, la, la... on and join us for Christmas caroling. We are planning to share the holiday spirit with residents at neighboring nursing homes and shut-ins. We will meet at the church and later return for hot chocolate and cookies. Stay tuned for details. All are invited!

Christian Education Committee

COMMITMENT

Definition of *commitment* per Webster

a: an agreement or pledge to do something in the future *commitment* to improve conditions at the prison *especially* an engagement to assume a financial obligation at a future date

b: something pledged the *commitment* of troops to the war

c: the state or an instance of being obligated or emotionally impelled a *commitment* to a cause

Being committed in the church can mean even more. Commitment Sunday has already passed where we commit our financial giving for the year to come. Maybe you took an appointment/nomination from the Nominating Committee for next **year** **Going** forward to get baptized or join the church is another big commitment. Taking an office in the church, being a teacher, being an usher, trustee, choir, Wednesday evening dinners/prayer & Bible study, and it goes on...

But I really want you to think about what are you committed to do? Do you read your Bible daily? Do you prepare for church on Sunday by praying for the pastor to give his inspired sermon; study your Sunday School lesson as a student or as a teacher; being early to church if you are an usher (by 20 minutes); practicing with the choir on Thursday evening or Sunday evening for Chrysalis; attending the church business meeting; bringing a friend to church; dedicating yourself to God and devoting your time to Him on Sunday?

God committed His Son to live with us on Earth and He taught us so very much. Think where you would be without Jesus coming to earth and teaching us and God giving us His word in the Bible? Jesus committed himself by dedicating His life to teach His disciples, healing the sick and lame, the blind and trying to show people who and how God is. And then He made the ultimate commitment by sacrificing His very life on the cross and rising again on the third day for the sake of our souls.

We can never live up to His commitment. But there is time, treasure and talents that we can offer. Spend daily time reading the Bible and in prayer. Our church attendance has fallen off. Look around to see who might be missing, you might give that person(s) a call to see what is going on with them, you might be the only one that can re-ignite that person's life with God again. Bring someone with you to church, make a date to pick them up. We have a very friendly congregation and they would love to make new friends, and the very special friend as in Jesus and their Savior and Lord.

We will be celebrating Jesus' birth this month. Think of His commitment. As the new year is coming rather than making a resolution, make a commitment. Think of at least one commitment you will do this year for God. And do it! Be praying about this commitment, keep it on your mind, speak to the Holy Spirit about it, He will give you the direction. Are you willing to let another year slip by and not committing yourself? What if it is this year that your name is called up yonder, or if He comes back to take us all home?

Mike Metzger



Here's What's Happening at our Church!



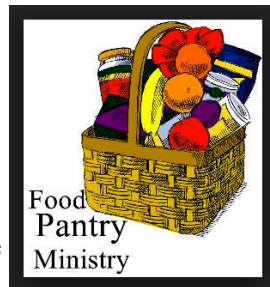
**Wednesday Evening Bible
Study & Prayer Time
Dinner at 6PM**
in the Fellowship Hall
followed at 7PM by Bible
Study and a Children's
Program.



**About the church or one of our
programs? Stop by the Welcome
Center for the answers.**

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.



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



Please email your articles to Vicky Smith at
secretary@fbcdover.org



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!

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.




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.

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.



Here's what's happening in December

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 9:10 Prayer 9:30 Sunday school 11:00 Worship	2 7:00 Deacon's Meeting (Library) 7:00 Visitation Teams	3 11:30 Bonar/Chapman Circle (Olive Garden) 3:00 Game Day (Fellowship Hall)  3:00 Good News Club	4 9:30 Community Bible Study 6:00 Fellowship Dinner 7:00 Bible Study & Prayer	5 1:00 Ann Clemmer Circle (Cheddar's Restaurant) 7:00 Sanctuary Choir	6	7 11:30 Joyce Reed Circle (Piazza Mia) 3:00 Milford Community Band
8 9:10 Prayer 9:30 Sunday school 11:00 Worship 12:00 Blood Pressure Screening 4:00 Christmas Tea (Fellowship Hall)	9 7:00 Visitation Teams	10 9:30 CBS Luncheon Set-up 3:00 Good News Club 5:30 Missions Mtg.	11 9:30 Community Bible Study 6:00 Fellowship Dinner 7:00 Bible Study & Prayer	12 7:00 Sanctuary Choir	13	14 9:00 Coordinating Committee (Library) 4:00 Frontline Ministries Event
15 9:10 Prayer 9:30 Sunday school 11:00 Worship 12:00 Service of Healing Prayer 12:30 Trustees Meeting (Library)	16 1:00 Comfort Shaw Ministry 6:00 Board of Christian Education 7:00 Visitation Teams	17 January Newsletter Articles Due  3:00 Good News Club	18 9:30 Community Bible Study 6:00 Fellowship Dinner 7:00 Bible Study & Prayer	19  11:30 XYZ (The Cantwell Tavern, Odessa) 7:00 Sanctuary Choir	20	21
22 9:10 Prayer 9:30 Sunday school 11:00 Worship	23 7:00 Visitation Teams	24 Church Office Closed 7:00 Christmas Eve Service	25 Church Office Closed	26 Church Office Closed	27	28
29 9:10 Prayer 9:30 Sunday school 11:00 Worship	30 7:00 Visitation Teams	31 12:00 Church Office Closes				

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.