



# The First Baptist Church of Dover

301 Walker Rd., Dover, DE 19904

December 2023 Newsletter



## Contact Us

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Calendar - last page

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

**The First Baptist Church  
of Dover**  
will gather in  
the sanctuary  
for worship  
on Sunday,  
**at 11 AM.**



**Church Office Hours**  
**Monday 8:00 - 2:00**  
**Tuesday - Friday 9:00 - 3:00**



*For unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given; and the government will be upon His shoulder. And His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.  
Isaiah 9:6*

Isaiah 9:6 ESV, “<sup>6</sup> For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.”

A child is born, a son is given. A child can be considered something born, offspring or fruit of the womb. In other words, something brought forth. A son carries more identity and purpose for the reason of being brought forth. Some examples are builder of the family name, anointed or appointed one. Scriptures tells us that Jesus is the Christ, Messiah or Anointed One (Matthew 16:16).

During the holiday season, we often view Jesus as a child being born in a manger, but we are encouraged to remember Him as the son, the anointed one. This is how King Herod saw Jesus, and thus the reason he wanted all male children in Bethlehem and in all that region who were two years old or under to be killed (Matthew 2:16). Herod saw Jesus as a threat to his kingdom, because he heard Jesus was born a king!

During the month of December, each time you view a manger scene, reflect upon who that child was sent to be in your life: Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace!

Jesus is the King, Who reigns forever!

Isaiah 9:7a, “Of the increase of His government and of peace there shall be no end...”

Peace and Blessings,  
Rev. William A. Guy



## *“The Real Meaning of Christmas”*

The Christmas season has already appeared in stores, on television, and in many places throughout the city of Dover and surrounding areas. There were also Christmas in July sales as well as Christmas movies on TV at that time too. They sometimes even show new Christmas movies on TV by October. I often wonder how many people actually know how this time of year became so well known. I'm concerned if they are truly celebrating the real reason for this amazing season, Jesus. I'd like to see more advertising telling people to read about that reason in the Bible beginning in Luke before preparing for the festivities.

Television and movie producers have made many truly wonderful movies about some of the stories from the Bible. They often take creative liberties, though, which sometimes changes some of the truth from the presentation. Recently several of us visited the theater to view the movie “The Journey to Bethlehem.” It was an enjoyable and captivating movie that was written for all ages, including children. With some explanation about why the changes were made, the children could understand and follow the Biblical story that was told about the birth of Jesus.

Dear parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles, and all friends; please talk to your little ones about the real meaning of Christmas this year. Read the story in Luke about Jesus' birth with them, explaining why God sent His precious Son to earth as a baby. Talk

about why gifts are given and what they mean. Pray together and celebrate together remembering the real reason for Christmas.

Sue Moore



## **God, Gifts, Gratitude, Sharing, Serving, Giving Outside of the Box**

Thanks to our congregation for your participation and making our Stewardship events successful. Your attendance at the luncheon and the return of your cards on Commitment Sunday were just overwhelming. Your continued support of our ministries with your time, gifts and resources are much appreciated. Thanks again for serving to do God's work and to show love and compassion towards one another.

With A Grateful Heart,

Gerri Lee & Stewardship Committee



**Dear Circle Sisters:**

Happy December! Let us keep the birth of our Lord, Jesus Christ, in the center of all that we are doing this month. If all went as scheduled, the Chrismon Trees are up, and the Church is decorated for the Christmas season. Thank you to all who helped, especially those gentlemen who always set up the trees for decorating and pack them away after they are taken down following Epiphany in January.

In November we celebrated Baptist Women’s World Day of Prayer and were able to send an offering of \$61.12. Thank you, ladies. The program was informative, and it was great learning about the needs of women all over the world and being able to share in prayer with them on Nov. 6<sup>th</sup>.

Sue and I attended a Zoom call with ladies in the ABCOPAD Region regarding the change in Love Gift to Over & Above Giving. Many questions were asked and answered. It is now better understood why the change has taken place. Information will be given to all of you regarding this. It was a good meeting.

All the Circles are celebrating the Christmas season with a special luncheon at their December meeting. The Reed Circle is meeting on December 2<sup>nd</sup> at 11:30 a.m. at PiazzaMia, the Bonar Circle is meeting at the home of Joyce Buckley at noon on December 5<sup>th</sup>, and the Clemmer Circle is meeting December 7<sup>th</sup> at Franco’s at 1:00 p.m. The Board has a meeting on Tuesday, December 12<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 a.m. in the Conference Room outside the Pastor’s office to work on the Women’s Day of Renewal in February. A busy month, for sure.

Wishing you all the most Blessed Christmas Season!

Margaret Steinhoff (for Sue Moore)



**Mary Bonar Circle**

Faye Yarbrough is a missionary to the South Africa  
Leader: Beryl Gerhard  
December 5<sup>th</sup>, 12:00,  
Meeting at Joyce Buckley’s

**Ann Clemmer Circle**

Ann is a missionary to Eastern Congo - Goma  
Leader: Thelma Schaller  
December 7<sup>th</sup>, 1:00,  
Meeting at Franco’s



**Joyce Reed Circle**

Joyce is Global Coordinator of Spiritual Care  
Leader: Margaret Steinhoff  
December 2<sup>nd</sup>, 11:30,  
Meeting at Piazza Mia





# Birthdays

|                   |       |
|-------------------|-------|
| Jerusha Yarsiah   | 12/1  |
| Cynthia Rogers    | 12/5  |
| Suzanne Murr      | 12/8  |
| Vicky Smith       | 12/9  |
| NeShiya Guy       | 12/11 |
| Rennie Quible     | 12/14 |
| Norman Clendaniel | 12/14 |
| Tetee McIntosh    | 12/15 |
| Thomas Ward       | 12/15 |
| Kweeta Lenyee     | 12/20 |
| Jerome Rogers     | 12/22 |
| Amber Farrow      | 12/24 |
| Hope King         | 12/25 |
| Sam Geiser        | 12/25 |
| Jacob Septer      | 12/27 |
| Jim Kerr          | 12/28 |
| Ernie Aloï        | 12/29 |
| Emily Saunderson  | 12/31 |

# Anniversaries

Ray and Alice Murphy      12/19      37 years



**Poinsettias for the Sanctuary.** Order forms will be available at the Welcome Center and in your bulletin. The last day to place an order for a Poinsettia will be Dec. 10th. Directions are on the order form. A form is also in this newsletter on Page 10.



**Join our Church Services Online**

YouTube.com at  
First Baptist Church of Dover DE



Wednesday, 7:15pm  
Telephone Prayer Meeting

**Men's Shelter Meal  
Wednesday,  
December 13, 2023**



Men's Shelter Meal on Wednesday, December 13, 2023

The December meal contribution for the Dover Interfaith Mission Shelter at Bagley Hall is scheduled for Wednesday, December 13, 2023. With the colder weather, the number of residents in the shelter has grown from 30 to 40 men. Your help provides a meal for those in need at the shelter.

Marie, the shelter's Administrative Coordinator, shares these words with our church family: Thank you so much for your continuing help to get meals to the men at the shelter!"

Look for the meal contribution sign-up sheet at the Welcome Center in the Narthex. Please deliver your contributions directly to the shelter at 1155 Walker Road, Dover, between 4:00pm and 5:00pm on Wednesday, December 13, 2023.

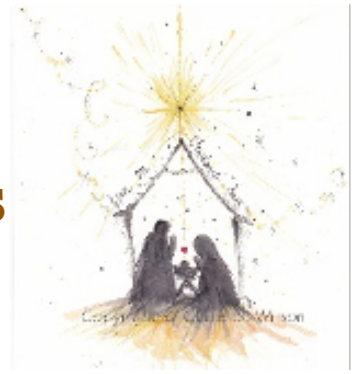
Everyone's help for this needed service is greatly appreciated!



## *Sanctuary Flowers*

Starting Sunday, December 17th, order forms for Sanctuary Flowers for 2024 will be available at the Welcome Table. The cost will be \$50.00 for two vases. When you pay for your flowers, write “Flowers” and the date they are for in the memo section of your check. It can be placed in the offering box. Please complete ALL sections on the order form and place it in the designated box at the Welcome Table or mail it to the church office. You will be contacted if the date you request is already taken. Every effort will be made to give you the date requested. This is on a first come, first served basis, so please do not wait to place your request. Also, please complete a separate sheet for each date requested. Your gift of flowers is a contribution to the church and is greatly needed and appreciated. FYI: Some flowers are more expensive (i.e., roses).

## **CHRISTMAS IS COMING!**



Each year, a Christmas Card is designed by a member of our church, and it is sent out to everyone. If you would like your name to appear in the card, it is suggested that you take the money you would use to send cards to those in the church and donate it to this project. A check can be made out to First Baptist Church, indicating in the memo “Christmas Card Project” and placed in the offering box. The money received is sent to our Special Interest Missionaries as a Christmas Gift. Their names will appear on the card, as well. There is an envelope available at the Welcome Center where you can print how you would like your name to appear on the card and place your donation. This can be placed in the offering box, as well. **The last day to participate in this project is Dec. 3rd.**



## **Christmas Poinsettias**

The end date is close for ordering Poinsettias to help decorate the Sanctuary for Christmas. Order forms are available at the Welcome Center. **The last day to place an order for a Poinsettia will be Dec. 10th.** The cost this year is \$12.50 each. This is the same price as last year. Money for the Poinsettias can be placed in the offering box indicating “Poinsettias” in the memo section of the check or, if paying cash, can be placed in an envelope marked Poinsettias and your name. The forms and money can be turned in at the Welcome Table or placed in the offering box. Poinsettias can be picked up following the worship service on Christmas Eve.

**XYZ**  
(extra years of zest)



If you are available during the day, XYZ will be meeting on Wednesday, December 14<sup>th</sup> at 11:30am at The Palace in Milford. Please sign up on the sign up sheet or call the church office to let us know you will be attending.

*Here's What's  
Happening at  
our Church!*



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

## ***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](mailto: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!**



Sermons are now available on the church's website, [fbcdover.org](http://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.



## **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.

## Retired Ministers & Missionaries Offering – 2023 (RMMO)

*The theme: “Good will come!”*

“Good will come to those who are generous and lend freely, who conduct their affairs with justice.”  
Psalm 112: 5 (NIV)

RMMO is always about celebrating, thanking, and lifting up our servant leaders. The offering originated in the mid-1930s as the Communion Fellowship Offering and since 1977 has been known as RMMO. The RMMO funds we collect during the month of December are distributed as thank you checks to retired ordained ministers and commissioned missionaries who have devoted 15 years or more to ABCUSA, as well as surviving spouses. A certain portion of funds is also allocated for direct emergency assistance. In addition to the monies donated throughout the month, the entire offering received on Christmas Eve goes to the RMMO.

Goodness came from the pastors, missionaries, and leaders who have served ABCUSA churches and ministries. Through your giving to RMMO 2023, goodness will come back to each of them in the form of a thank you check—a tangible expression of our enduring gratitude for their service.

Here are some of the comments received from those who have benefitted from these “thank-you” checks:

*Good will come from community.*

“So many servants of God gave all that they have but were not compensated enough during their active ministry day. I have been the beneficiary of their dedication and know of many who are struggling to make ends meet after their retirement.

I think we are morally responsible to support them.”

— Rev. Sebastian Ong, First Chinese Baptist Church of San Francisco

*Good will come from caring.*

“It is a blessing to know that our ministry has made a difference in the lives of the people and churches we have served for the past 50 years.”

— Pastor Bill of Ohio

*Good will come from giving.*

“I am sure I represent many widows who are happy to receive this [thank you check] from the churches we served.”

— Widow of Florida pastor

Good came from the pastors, missionaries, and leaders who have served ABCUSA churches and ministries. Through your giving to RMMO 2023, good will come back to each of them in the form of a thank you check—a tangible expression of our enduring gratitude for their service.

Please consider contributing to RMMO during the month of December. Envelopes will be available at the Welcome Center and can be placed in the Offering Boxes at the back of the Sanctuary. Checks should be payable to First Baptist Church, marked RMMO, and received by December 31.



# MILFORD COMMUNITY BAND

## CHRISTMAS CONCERT



**Sunday, December 10, 2023, 3:00 PM**

Milford High School Auditorium  
1019 N Walnut Street, Milford, DE

**Saturday, December 16, 2023, 3:00 PM**

First Baptist Church of Dover  
301 Walker Road, Dover, DE

**Free Concert | Donations Welcome and Appreciated**  
**[www.MilfordCommunityBand.org](http://www.MilfordCommunityBand.org)**



This organization is supported, in part, by a grant from the Delaware Division of the Arts, a state agency, in partnership with the National Endowment for the Arts. The Division promotes Delaware arts events on [www.DelawareScene.com](http://www.DelawareScene.com).

~2023~

# Christmas Poinsettias



If you would like to place poinsettias in the church for Christmas, please complete the information below and place the form in the designated box at the Welcome Center or mail to the church office. **The last day to order is Sunday, December 10<sup>th</sup>.**

**Cost: \$12.50 for each plant.** *Make checks payable to “First Baptist Church”, noting on the check “for Poinsettias”.*

For further information, please contact Margaret Steinhoff at 302-228-9301 or the church office at 302-674-1980.

**Total No. of Plants:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Given in memory/honor of** \_\_\_\_\_

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**Plant(s) are to be picked up by the donor after the Christmas Eve Service on December 24<sup>th</sup>.**

**Given by:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone #:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Email:** \_\_\_\_\_



## XYZ - 2024

2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of the month  
11:30am

January 10<sup>th</sup> - Longhorn Steak House, Dover

February 14<sup>th</sup> - Hollywood Diner, Dover

March 12<sup>th</sup> - Pizza Delight, Dover

April 10<sup>th</sup> - Ruby Tuesday's, Milford

May 8<sup>th</sup> - Outback Steakhouse, Dover

June 12<sup>th</sup> - Green Turtle, Dover

July 10<sup>th</sup> - Mission BBQ, Dover

August 14<sup>th</sup> - Smyrna Diner, Smyrna

September 11<sup>th</sup> - McGlynn's, Dover

October 9<sup>th</sup> - Restaurant 55, Camden

November 13<sup>th</sup> - Franko's, Camden

December 11<sup>th</sup> - The Palace, Milford

Please Join Us

# Annual Christmas Tea

December 10, 2023



*Fellowship Hall*  
**4:00 PM**



301 Walker Rd.  
Dover, DE 19904

Call (302) 674-  
1980



Dress in your  
Christmas  
Finery!







**Cookies, cheese balls, crackers, spiced tea,**

**hot chocolate, and Christmas carols**

**With lots of fellowship!**



# Here's what's happening in December

| Sunday   | Monday  | Tuesday  | Wednesday  | Thursday  | Friday  | Saturday   |
|--|---|--|--|---|---|--|
|  |   |  |  |   | 1   | 2<br>9:00 Kid's Event (Fellowship Hall)<br>11:30 Joyce Reed Circle (Piazza Mia)              |
| 3<br>9:30 Advent<br>Sunday School<br>11:00 Worship<br>Kids Konnection<br>  | 4   | 5<br>12:00 Mary Bonar Circle (Joyce Buckley's)                               | 6<br>8:30 Community Bible Study<br><br>7:15 Prayer Call                                  | 7<br>1:00 Ann Clemmer Circle (Franco's)<br><br>7:00 Sanctuary Choir | 8   | 9<br>10:00 Missions (Conference Rm)  |
| 10. 9:30 Advent<br>Sunday School<br>11:00 Worship<br>Kids Konnection<br><br>4:00 Christmas Tea (Fellowship Hall) | 11  | 12<br>10:00 ABWM Board Meeting (Conference Rm)<br><br>4:00 Deacons (Library) | 13<br>8:30 Community Bible Study<br><br>11:30 XYZ (Olive Garden)<br><br>7:15 Prayer Call | 14<br><br>7:00 Sanctuary Choir                                      | 15<br>January Newslette Articles Due  | 16<br>9:00 Coordinating Committee (Library)<br>3:00 Milford Community Band Christmas Concert |
| 17<br>9:30 Advent<br>Sunday School<br>11:00 Worship<br>Kids Konnection<br>                                       | 18<br><br>1:00 Prayer Shawl Ministry (Mike & Mel's)   | 19   | 20<br><br>7:15 Prayer Call   | 21<br><br>7:00 Sanctuary Choir                                      | 22  | 23   |
| 24<br>9:30 Sunday School<br>11:00 Worship<br>Kids Konnection<br>6:00 Christmas Eve Service<br>                   | 25<br>Merry Christmas<br><br><br>Church Office Closed  | 26<br><br><b>CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED</b>  | 27<br><br>7:15 Prayer Call   | 28  | 29<br><br>Church Office Closes at 12:00 PM  | 30   |
| 31<br><br>9:30 Sunday School<br>11:00 Worship<br>Kids Konnection   | <p align="center"><b>How would you prefer to receive your newsletter?</b></p> <p align="center">In vivid color on the website (<a href="http://www.fbcdover.org">http://www.fbcdover.org</a>) or black &amp; white in the mail.<br/>To respond, one may contact the office at 302-674-1980 if the preference is by mail.<br/>Please be sure we have your current email address.</p> |  |  |   |   |  |