



The First Baptist Church of Dover

301 Walker Rd., Dover, DE 19904

December 2024 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



"Christmas Traditions"

This year the Deacons decided to celebrate our annual Christmas Tea with the theme Family Traditions. Did you ever wonder where some of your family traditions came from? Traditions are an integral part of any holiday event for every family. They are passed down from generation to generation and often evolve as time passes and people change. We could write books upon books about different holidays and traditions for each. Therefore, this article will base itself on some of First Baptist's traditions.

Planning for the Christmas season begins early with the Pastor, Deacons, Missions, Trustees and Christian Education Boards preparing for the first Sunday in Advent. Each board and their committees have specific items for which they are responsible.

First, the pastor at the various board meetings tells them what he has in mind for this year. Then the boards talk about how they can accomplish their tasks in the overall presentation of Christmas. Of course, the pastor has his sermons to prepare. Sometimes he also prepares the Christmas Eve Service and/or the Advent wreath. Different pastors through the years have a special written Advent lighting ceremony. Each Sunday in Advent a different group of people or families light the candles and read scriptures for the four different candles of Love, Hope, Joy and Peace. On Christmas Eve, we have readings from scripture of the Bible's version of the birth of Christ, carols and a candle lighting ceremony.

The Deacons are responsible for the Christmas Tea which is usually the second Sunday afternoon in Advent later in the day. This is a festive celebration of some Christian aspect of Christmas in which many of our congregation participate. The Fellowship Hall is decorated with the Christmas theme for the year. Cookies, cheeseballs and crackers are served with spiced tea and hot chocolate.

A program follows the fellowship time with carols and speakers who talk about Christmas. It's a fun time of family, friendship and thoughts of Christ's Birth. A memory garden of poinsettias appears the week before Christmas. The plants are donated in memory of loved ones who have gone to Glory. The Deacons also help the pastor with any part of the worship services on a Sunday morning as needed.

The Mission Board collects for the Church's Christmas Card project. Families participate by donating what they'd spend on postage to send cards to people of the church. All participating families' names are signed in the card which is mailed to all in the church. Proceeds go to the special interest missionaries. During the month of December, including the Christmas Eve service, they will receive the Retired Ministers and Missionaries Offering (RMMO) which provides thank you checks to retired ordained ministers and commissioned missionaries who have devoted 15 years or more to ABCUSA as well as surviving spouses. Mission also provides 25 boxes of Thanksgiving and another 25 boxes of Christmas dinners to those who are in need of meals for the holidays.

The Board of Trustees assist the ABWM ladies in decorating the church. They set up the trees and wreaths that provide extra greenery for the holiday. They also put up tables where needed for the other activities going on. They provide the muscle for the moving of furniture.

Christian Education initiates many activities like Christmas Caroling to our shut-ins. They usually have a time for Christmas activities for the children so that parents may do some much needed Christmas shopping. Sometimes small gifts of eatables are given to the shut-ins. They allow the Kid's Choir practice time for their holiday participation.

Most of these traditions are prepared behind the scenes at the church. But all are based on some Biblical theme from the Bible. They are Christ centered activities to emphasize the true meaning of Christmas, the birth of Christ. We wish all the happiest of Christmas and blessings this season brings to all.

Sue Moore



Dear Circle Sisters:

In November, the ABWM enjoyed a program about World Day of Prayer presented by Margaret Steinhoff. On Monday, November 4th, all ABWM women around the world were praying for each other. We can't imagine how many women prayed together that day for Strength and Courage for those ladies who suffer through abuse, malnutrition, and other vices. A special offering was taken and sent to ABWMUSA to be used to help in many areas of need.

On November 26th at 10:00, the ladies will meet in the Sanctuary to decorate the Chrismon Trees as well as the Narthex and Fellowship Hall. During Circle meetings this month, each group will have a luncheon to celebrate the birth of Christ. The Mary Bonar group will meet at the home of Joyce Buckley. The Ann Clemmer Circle will meet at the Olive Garden. The Joyce Reed group will meet at Piazza Mia. Merry CHRISTmas to all.

Sue Moore



Mary Bonar Circle

**Faye Yarbrough is a missionary
to the South Africa**

Leader: Beryl Gerhard

**December 3rd, 12:00,
Meeting at Joyce Buckley's Home**



Joyce Reed Circle

**Joyce is Global Coordinator of
Spiritual Care**

Leader: Margaret Steinhoff

**December 7th, 11:30,
Meeting at Piazza Mia**

Ann Clemmer Circle

**Ann is a missionary to Eastern
Congo - Goma**

Leader: Lois Glading

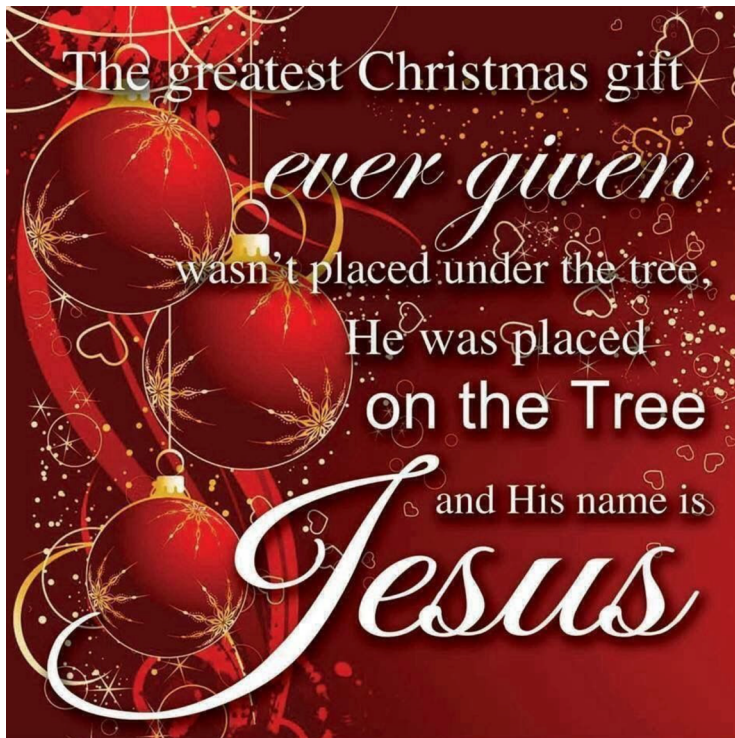
**December 5th, 1:00,
Meeting at Olive Garden**





SEARCH COMMITTEE Update

The Search Committee has been very busy interviewing through zoom or in person with three candidates. We have also had several meetings with Rev. Dan McDowell, the new gentleman in charge of interim pastors and assistant to find new pastors. We are looking forward to meeting with him again with more applicants to review. We are praying for the person God wants us to hire to be among these new ministers.



‘O Come let us adore Him’

FBC Christmas Caroling at local Senior Centers, Assisted Living Facilities, Nursing Homes, and homebound FBC members

Saturday, December 14th, volunteers will be meeting at the FBC parking lot at 4:00 pm, and will be divided in small groups, each group will visit a different location to reach all the places at once. At the end of the evening, all participants would gather at church for hot cocoa and Christmas cookies! Look for the sign-up sheet located at the Welcome Center. Contact Iris Caban at (813) 727-6535, for more information on these events, and thanks for your endorsement!



Retired Ministries and Missionaries Offering

Remember the wondrous works that God has done. – I
Chronicles 16:12

The Retired Ministries and Missionaries Offering (RMMO) celebrates, thanks, and lifts up our servant leaders. Originating in the mid-1930s as the Communion Fellowship Offering, it became known as the Retired Ministers and Missionaries Offering in 1977. The RMMO funds collected by our American Baptist churches are distributed as thank you checks. Recipients include retired ordained ministers and commissioned missionaries who have devoted 15 years or more to American Baptist Churches USA, as well as surviving spouses. A certain portion of funds is also allocated for direct emergency assistance.

During the month of December, we will receive your gifts for the RMMO. Offering envelopes will be in the pew racks. Checks should be payable to First Baptist and marked “RMMO”. Mail or place your gift in the offering plate.

For those who celebrate the wondrous works of Christ, in worship, in service, in mission. Together, we remember!

Board of Missions



STEWARDSHIP MONTH – 2024

Stewardship Month started with a delicious luncheon catered by Missions BBQ on November 3rd. We were pleased to have served thirty-eight guests a mouthwatering meal of pulled pork, beef bisque, seasoned green beans, creamy mac 'n cheese, a tossed salad, fresh veggies and dip, cornbread/ dinner bun. The dessert table displayed cake, brownies and a fruit bowl. Also, there were hot and cold drinks to quench your thirst. Believe me, everyone left with a full tummy and a carry out box of leftovers. We were blessed to have collected six hundred sixty dollars.

A sincere thank you to all who participated, shared their talents, time and treasures to setup, cleanup and to socialize while enjoying this fun afternoon.

More to come during Stewardship Month 2024 is Commitment Sunday when the church members pledge to financially support our church with this event scheduled for November 17th. Also, a couple of hands on activities regarding tithing have been planned for the Kids Konnect time during the morning services on November 10 and 24th.

As November may be set as our month to observe giving and sharing our gifts, really this spiritual habit is encouraged to be practiced for all twelve months from January – December.

Remember: To Whom Much Is Given, Much Will Be Required (Luke 12:48)

Again, thank you for being good stewards!

Blessings to All,

Gerri Lee, Chairperson

Stewardship Committee



The Christmas Tea



"Family Christmas Traditions"



Photo Op will be available

Sunday, December 8th @ 4:00 pm

The Davis Fellowship Hall



*Please sign-up at the Welcome Center &
Food sign-up is on the poster in the Narthex*

The Annual Christmas Tea is scheduled for Sunday, December 8th at 4:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall. It will be beautifully decorated. There will be Cheese Balls & Crackers, Christmas Cookies, Spiced Tea and Hot Chocolate. The Theme this year is "Family Christmas Traditions." We will have stories, songs, and lots of fellowship and fun. A special event at the Tea will be a Photo Opportunity with a Christmas backdrop. So, bring your family and have a picture taken together. There is a sign-up sheet at the Welcome Center and a food sign-up board in the Narthex. Please see both locations.

This is always a special event during the Advent Season at our church. So put on your Holiday Finest (or whatever your family wants to wear for their picture 😊), mark your calendars, and join us for this festive occasion.



The Mission Display cabinet in Fellowship Hall now features nativities from Germany, Philippines, Kenya, Pakistan, and the hand carved one from Bethlehem that Ray Schellinger gave to First Baptist last month. Check it out!

Pointsettias for the Sanctuary



It is already time to be thinking of the upcoming Advent Season and ordering Poinsettias to help decorate the Sanctuary for the holidays. Order forms will be available at the Welcome Center starting November 17th.

The last day to place an order for a Poinsettia will be Dec.

15th. The cost this year is \$15.00 per plant. Directions are on the order form.

Thank you

We wish to thank the following:

- 1) All our volunteers who did a good job at our Annual Food Drive on Nov. 8 & 9, 2024.
- 2) Our faithful Food Pantry Volunteers on Tuesdays & Thursdays.
- 3) Our Church Congregation for their food & money donations.
- 4) Our Church Secretary Vicky Smith for making phone calls & printing church bulletin inserts. Also, Margaret Steinhoff in her absence.
- 5) Adelle & Ernie Aloï for taking care of our Blessings Box

We sincerely appreciate all your hard work in this Ministry. To God be the glory!!!!

We just donated 25 Thanksgiving Food Baskets to Dover Division of Family Services and now, in the process of preparing 25 Christmas Food Baskets. At this time, we need your help for the following items as listed, due by Dec. 17, 2024. Thank you very much in advance.

Matthew 25:35 & 40- "For I was hungry & you gave me food; I was thirsty & you gave me drink. And the King said, "Assuredly, I say to you, Inasmuch as you did it to one of the least of my brethren, you did it unto me."

Blessings,

Romeo & Milda Limson, Food Pantry Coordinators

Food needed for the 25 Christmas Food Baskets:

-
Boxed mashed potatoes
Boxed stuffing
Packages of gravy
Canned cranberry Sauce
Canned green beans
Canned corn





2024 Holiday Concerts

Free Admission

3:00pm Sunday December 1, 2024

Milford High School Auditorium

1019 N. Walnut St.

Milford DE

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**3:00pm Saturday December 7, 2024**

**First Baptist Church of Dover**

**301 Walker Road**

**Dover DE**



# 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 |



**Join our Church  
Services  
Online**

YouTube.com at  
First Baptist Church of Dover DE



**Wednesday, 7:15pm  
Telephone Prayer  
Meeting**

# Anniversaries

Ray and Alice Murphy      12/19      38 years



## Operation Christmas Child

“Gift-filled Operation Christmas Child shoeboxes are delivered together with the Good News of Jesus Christ as expressions of God’s love for a child.” This year, First Baptist Church collected 65 shoeboxes which were dedicated during the November 10<sup>th</sup> morning worship service. Thank you for all who donated and a big thank you to Percy Navarro for donating the Samaritan Purse shoeboxes this year.





## *Sanctuary Flowers*

Starting Sunday, December 15th, order forms for Sanctuary Flowers for 2025 will be available at the Welcome Center. 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 plate. Please complete ALL sections on the order form and place it in the designated box at the Welcome Center 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). Form on p.10.



If you are available during the day, XYZ will be meeting on Wednesday, December 11th at 11:30am at The Palace in Milford. Please register on the sign-up sheet at the Welcome Center or call the church office to let us know you will be attending. We have a lot of fun and fellowship. Please join us!

## **CHRISTMAS IS COMING!**



Each Year a Christmas Card is designed by a member of our church and is sent out to everyone. If you would like your name to appear on 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 your envelope # and place it in the offering. The money received is sent to our 5 Special Interest Missionaries, whose names will appear inside the card, as well. There will also be envelopes for this project available at the Welcome Center starting Nov. 17th. Please be sure to indicate how you would like your name to appear on the card when making your donation. **The deadline for participating in this project is on December 1st.**

## **Men's Shelter Meal Wednesday, December 11, 2024**



Men's Shelter Meal-December 11, 2024. Thanks for everyone's help with meals at the Dover Interfaith Men's Shelter! Our next scheduled meal contribution is Wednesday, December 11, 2024. The meal contribution sign-up sheet is located at the Welcome Center. December's menu includes: Pierogis, Boiled Cabbage, Dinner Rolls and Assorted Pudding Cups. Please deliver your contributed food item directly to the shelter at 1155 Walker Road, between 4:00pm and 5:00pm on Wednesday, December 11, 2024.

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

# SANCTUARY FLOWERS



Anyone wishing to give flowers for the church worship services for the year **2025** may complete this form and mail it too the church office or place in the designated box in the Narthex. **You must fill out a separate sheet for each date you request.** *The cost for the two vases is \$50.00.*

If you have any questions, contact Margaret Steinhoff at 302-228-9301.

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).

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**Name**\_\_\_\_\_

**Address**\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Telephone #**\_\_\_\_\_

-----

**Date Preferred**\_\_\_\_\_

**Type/Color of Flowers**\_\_\_\_\_

**What you would like your dedication to say**\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\*\*\*You will be contacted if the date you request is already taken. Every effort will be made to give you the date requested. Please complete a separate sheet for each date requested.  
**Thank you!**



2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of the month

11:30am

|             |                      |
|-------------|----------------------|
| January 8   | Hollywood Diner      |
| February 12 | Longhorn Steakhouse  |
| March 12    | Chaiyo               |
| April 9     | Chedder's            |
| May 14      | Smyrna Diner         |
| June 11     | Boondocks Restaurant |
| July 9      | Restaurant 55        |
| August 13   | Vincenzo's           |
| September 9 | McGlynn's            |
| October 8   | The Palace           |
| November 12 | Franco's             |
| December 10 | Mike & Mel's         |



*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@fbcdoover.org](mailto:secretary@fbcdoover.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!**



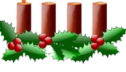





Sermons are now available on the church's website, [fbcdoover.org](http://fbcdoover.org) under the title "Sermons". Or, if you prefer, you may request a CD copy of a Sunday's sermon by contacting the church office.



## **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.

# Here's what's happening in December

| Sunday                                                                                                                                                                                            | Monday                                    | Tuesday                                                                           | Wednesday                                                                                                                                               | Thursday                                                                  | Friday                                 | Saturday                                                                                                                                                                                          |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1<br>9:30 Advent<br>Sunday School<br>11:00 Worship<br>Kids Konnection<br>                                         | 2                                         | 3<br>12:00 Bonar Circle<br>(Joyce Buckley's home)                                 | 4<br>7:15 Prayer Call                                                                                                                                   | 5<br>1:00 Clemmer<br>Circle (Olive<br>Garden)<br>7:00 Sanctuary<br>Choir  | 6<br>5:00 Children's<br>Baptism Class  | 7<br>11:30 Joyce Reed<br>Circle (Piazza<br>Mia)<br>3:00 Milford<br>Community Band<br>Christmas<br>Concert                                                                                         |
| 8<br>9:30 Advent<br>Sunday School<br>11:00 Worship<br>Kids Konnection<br> 4:00 Christmas Tea<br>(Fellowship Hall) | 9                                         | 10<br>10:00 ABWM<br>Board Mtg.<br>(Conference Rm)                                 | 11<br>11:30 XYZ (The<br>Palace, Milford)<br>4:00 DIMH Dinner<br>7:15 Prayer Call                                                                        | 12<br>3:00 Christian<br>Education<br>(Library)<br>7:00 Sanctuary<br>Choir | 13<br>5:00 Children's<br>Baptism Class | 14<br>January<br>Newsletter<br>Articles Du<br> 10:00 Missions<br>(Conference Rm)<br>4:00 Christmas<br>Caroling |
| 15<br>9:30 Advent<br>Sunday School<br>11:00 Worship<br>Kids Konnection<br>                                      | 16<br>1:00 Prayer Shawl<br>(Mike & Mel's) | 17                                                                                | 18<br>4:30 Deacons<br>(Library)<br>7:15 Prayer Call                                                                                                     | 19<br>7:00 Sanctuary<br>Choir                                             | 20<br>5:00 Children's<br>Baptism Class | 21<br>9:00 Coordinating<br>Committee<br>(Library)                                                                                                                                                 |
| 22<br>9:30 Advent<br>Sunday School<br>11:00 Worship<br>Kids Konnection<br>                                      | 23                                        | 24<br><b>Church Office<br/>           Closed</b><br>6:00 Christmas<br>Eve Service | 25<br>Merry Christmas<br> <b>Church Office<br/>           Closed</b> | 26<br><b>Church Office<br/>           Closed</b>                          | 27                                     | 28                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| 29<br>9:30 Sunday<br>School<br>11:00 Worship<br>Kids Konnection                                                                                                                                   | 30                                        | 31<br><b>Church Office<br/>           Closes at Noon</b>                          |                                                                                                                                                         |                                                                           |                                        |                                                                                                                                                                                                   |

## 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.