

HEART

SOUL

MIND

STRENGTH

THE TIE

DECEMBER 2016

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH LAURENS

THE PEOPLE
WALKING IN
DARKNESS

HAVE SEEN A

GREAT LIGHT

ISAIAH 9:22



DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS AND CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 Melissa Crow Jennifer Garrett Anna Mitchum Keegan O'Connor	2 Anna Brink	3 Anna Brink
4 8:45am Blood Pressure Checks 9:30am Sunday School 10:30am Hanging of the Greens 5pm Youth Christmas Party 5:00pm Women's Ministry Holiday Traditions Maxie Burns Amber Lacey	5 10am Senior Adult Game Day 2:30pm Week of Prayer for Int'l Missions @ Rasor Chapel 4pm Prayer Team Tom Kenmore Jeff Mitchum	6 10am Staff Meeting 11am Women's Study 3pm 1-5 Grade Handbells 7pm Volleyball Rosa Margaret Thompson Weston Coggins	7 6pm Birthday Party for Jesus (preschoolers) 6pm Christmas Caroling (1 st -5 th Grade) Last Family Night Supper for the year	8 Becky Crow	9 Charlene Stroud	10 A Charlie Brown Christmas 12 PM Evan Taylor
11 9:30am Sunday School 10:30am Worship 7:00pm Dennis Swanburg Peggy Luiz, Faye Terry Mike Stroud	12 10am Senior Adult Game Day 4pm Prayer Team Louise Barton	13 7pm Volleyball	14 Cheryl Topping	15 2pm Knitting 6pm Senior Adult Drop-In @ The Rogers' home Jan Harman	16 Bob Fletcher	17 Patsy Marchman Martha Garrison Emily Dasher
18 9:30am Sunday School 10:30am Worship 3:00pm Deacon/Spouse Drop In @ the Letson's 5:00pm Youth Cookout & Bonfire @ the Rogers' Mandy Tumblin Julie Mitchum	19 10am Senior Adult Game Day 3pm Drop-in for FBC Members @ Martha Franks 4pm Prayer Team Bill Howell, Ray Patterson Jim Sumerele, Frances Kesler Jeff Horger	20 7pm Volleyball Henry Rogers Will Burroughs	21 No Wednesday Night Activities Joy Tumblin	22 Mary Charles Traynham Chandler Fleck	23 Christmas Eve Service 5 PM Wayne Meadows	24 Christmas Eve Service 5 PM Wayne Meadows
25 10:30am Worship only Mary Collins Lib Bolt Roger Cash	26 Mildred Lynch Church Office Closed December 26-28 Merry Christmas!	27 Jim Bryan, Sam Ricard Jim Cothran	28 No Wednesday Night Activities Bill Tumblin Gina Smith	29 Logan Gault	30 Maria Kennedy Renee Underwood	31 Maria Kennedy Renee Underwood
		Sundays 4:15pm Youth Handbells 5pm Women's Study 6pm Adult Study			Wednesdays 5pm Supper 6pm Adult Studies 6pm Kids on Mission 6pm Children's Choirs	

Embrace Christmas...

Believe it or not, we are now officially in the Christmas season. Black Friday has come and gone and Cyber Monday is in full gear even as I write these words. Trees and decorations are finding their way into our homes while in churches, Advent wreathes and other signs of the season now remind us that we have entered an incredibly special time of the year.

As is the case every year, these will be days of joy, stress, laughter, tears, fun and worry. In essence, most all of our emotions will be expressed at one time or another over the course of these next four weeks. And before we know it, the season will have come and gone with the signs of Christmas tucked back into our attics until time to do it all again next year.

In these early days of the season, I would invite you to join me in embracing some disciplines of the holidays that will help us to fully experience Christmas this year.

First, prioritize worship, scripture and prayer. Above all else, don't let the busyness of these days rob you of the spiritual enrichment that comes through drawing near to the Christ child through being in church, working through an Advent devotional, praying each day and enjoying the special times of Christmas together as a family of faith.

Second, find someone to love who may go unnoticed this holiday. Whether it is a neighbor who lives alone, someone you know who is down on their luck or a ministry that could use your assistance, find a way to keep the holiday from being completely self centered.

Third, do something fun. All of us have only so many Christmas seasons to live through. So, don't miss the chance to create a memory that you will cherish forever.

Finally, enjoy your family and special friends. In the midst of all that needs to be done, carve out and guard the days and evenings with the most important people in your life.

It truly is the most wonderful time of the year. Christ is Born! Let us embrace the season fully! *Rickey*

Get Connected in Sunday School! FBC Laurens can sometimes feel like a big place, but Sunday School provides a wonderful opportunity for us to connect and study the Bible together in a smaller community. We offer a wide variety of Sunday School classes for people of all ages. If you are looking for a Sunday School class, please contact Tommy Cox at (864)984-7500 or tommy@fbclaurens.org. We would love to help you find a place to connect!

Attention Adult Sunday School Leaders! We will not meet during the month of December, but our next meeting will be Sunday, January 8 at 8:45am in the Conference Room

DENNIS SWANBURG

Our Family Christmas program this year will be centered around Christian comedian, Dennis Swanburg. If you haven't heard Dennis before, you're in for a real treat! The Sanctuary Choir, The Adult Bell Choir and The Corridor Brass Quintet will provide some beautiful and fun Christmas music as part of this service. The program is Sunday evening, December 11, at 7:00pm in our sanctuary. Tickets are free but you WILL need to pick up a ticket to help us keep track of how many people we can expect. You can pick up tickets in the church office.

FBC MISSIONS - NOVEMBER & DECEMBER

- We assisted Laurens Co Habitat for Humanity in finishing their most recent house in Laurens. During our work this Fall, over 40 members of FBC participated on at least one workday.
- On November 17, we served a holiday meal to the staff & patients of Good Shepherd Clinic.
- In November, we collected over 250 shoeboxes for Operation Christmas Child.
- In November, we held a second fundraiser for our Haiti Mission team with over \$14,000 collected this Fall toward January's trip.
- In December, we will wrap up another successful semester with our backpack program at Laurens Elementary. We will also be packing a special Christmas box for each family represented in the program.

Advent Calendar of Devotion booklets are available for you and your family. The guides are located outside the main office and on the information table in the Rotunda. One per family please!

2017 PROPOSED FBC BUDGET

Inserted in this issue of *The Tie*, is the proposed 2017 FBC Operating Budget. We invite you to prayerfully study this important financial guide for our church in the new year. On the back side of the budget, you will find notes about significant changes in terms of many specific line items that are going up or down. On *December 7*, we will offer a discussion of the proposed budget at 6pm in Bobo Hall. On Sunday, *December 11*, we will vote to affirm this budget at the beginning of Worship.

DECEMBER WORSHIP AT FBC

December 4	The Hanging of the Greens	
December 11	Elizabeth's Joy	Luke 1:39-56
December 18	Joseph's Peace	Matthew 1:18-25
December 25	Christmas Morning Worship	Luke 2:1-20

Christmas & New Years at First Baptist

- December 4 Second Sunday of Advent/Hanging of the Greens, 10:30 am
Youth Christmas Party, 5pm
Where Mom's Connect-Christmas Celebration of Holiday Traditions, 5:30pm
- December 7 Last Family Night Meal, 5pm
Happy Birthday Jesus Party, Children Caroling, 6pm
- December 10 Family Trip to *A Charlie Brown Christmas*
- December 11 Third Sunday of Advent
Grief & The Holidays, 9:30am
Dennis Swanberg, FBC Sanctuary Choir, Corridor Brass, 7pm
- December 14 Adult Study Only, Bobo Hall, 6pm
- December 15 Senior Adult Drop In at The Rogers
- December 18 Fourth Sunday of Advent
Deacon Christmas Gathering, 3-5pm
Cookout & Bonfire for Youth at The Rogers', 5-8pm
- December 24 Christmas Eve Worship, 5pm
- December 25 Christmas Day Worship Only, 10:30am
- December 26-28 FBC Offices Closed for Christmas
- January 1 New Year's Day Worship Only, 10:30am
- January 2 FBC Offices Closed for New Years

Grief & The Holidays - December 11

On Sunday morning, December 11, Kathy Chamblee from Baptist Hospital Easley will offer a one day class in Bobo Hall called *Grief & The Holidays*. For some, the holidays are a particularly difficult time of year due to a recent death or other difficult experiences. Consider joining Kathy as she discusses ways to respond to our grief during the Christmas season. The class will meet from 9:30-10:30am.

December 7 - Birthday Party for Jesus from 6-7pm (preschoolers) and **Christmas Caroling** from 6-7pm (1st-5th Graders). Bring an unwrapped toy for a boy or girl (age infant to 17 yrs) to donate. This year we hope to donate to the Christmas for Kids Toy Drive at the Sheriff's Office and to the Laurens County Safe Home. This is also our last Wednesday night of the year for Preschool and Children's activities.

December 10 - A Charlie Brown Christmas for families who signed up! We'll meet at the church at noon and head to the Gunter Theatre for the 1:30pm showing. Don't forget to pay Lucy for your tickets! Adults are \$24, Children are \$16 (12 yrs & under). For children who are going without a parent, we will ride the Mini Bus together. All others may carpool together, follow the bus, or meet us there.

Hanging of the Greens

Our annual Hanging of the Greens service will be part of our worship service on Sunday, December 4, at 10:30am. Our children's choirs will sing in this beautiful and meaningful service as we decorate our sanctuary in preparation for the coming of the Messiah!

CWA

Comfortable With Age, our Senior Adult group, will have their Christmas Drop-in at the home of Alex and Adair Rogers on Thursday, December 15, from 6:00-8:00. We hope you'll join us for this time of fun and fellowship together!

MINISTER ON CALL:

One of our ministers will be on call every weekend, so if you have a need, please don't hesitate to call us! The minister on call schedule is:

Nov 28-Dec 2	Tommy Cox	864-684-7424
Dec 5-9	Carl Tolbert	229-798-0620
Dec 12-16	Adair Rogers	864-923-1631
Dec 19-23	Tommy Cox	864-684-7424
Dec 26-30	Carl Tolbert	229-798-0620

THE TIE NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION

First Baptist Church	U.S. Postage Paid
300 West Main St	Permit No. 70
Laurens, SC 29360	Laurens, SC 29360

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

For the Record - FBC in November

Average November Sunday School: 380
Average November Worship:
Sanctuary: 446
Sanctuary & Extended Session: 468

Offering Totals

as of November 30, 2016 YTD

General Fund Goal	\$973,866.33
General Fund Receipts	\$965,956.44

Deaths

Paul Madden, Louise Sexton, Wesley (Buddy) Brown

DIVERGE Student Ministry

Sunday, December 4

5:00-8:00 PM

Youth Christmas Party at Dawn Reynolds