

First Baptist Church of Spring Hill

The Messenger

December 2018

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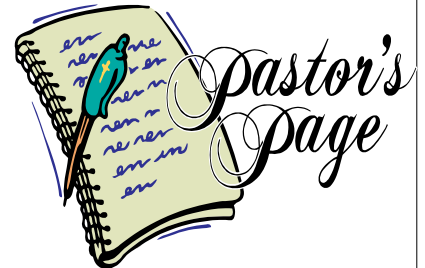
Music & Youth Minister

[Josh Howland](#)

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"Christmas is sleigh bells. Christmas is sharing. Christmas is holly. Christmas is caring." At least that's what Percy Faith once wrote. In his not-so-familiar holiday song, entitled, "Christmas Is," he tried to capture some of the things that make Christmas, Christmas. The sights, sounds, and feelings – apparently that's what Christmas is. And most would agree. Actually, Christmas is about much more than just sharing warm emotions and memories. It's about what God supplies and shares. Christmas is about God's faithfulness made tangible through history. It's about how God has touched our lives with His Love.



Oh, we may have tinsel and toys. Christmas lights and presents. We may have the things that provide temporary pleasure, and we might think that's enough. We may think it's enough to hear Christmas carols on the radio, to see the lights in the trees, to taste Christmas cookies, or receive a peck on the cheek from underneath the mistletoe. But that's not enough. Such things cannot fill our hearts with peace. It's at Christmas that many people feel depressed and alone. It's at Christmas that we miss loved ones who have passed away. The glitter of the holidays just isn't enough to keep peace in our hearts. That is not what Christmas is. For Christmas is nothing and we have nothing, if we don't have God's greeting of "good tidings."

The God of history has made it possible for us to have peace. He gives us everything we need. The angel came to the shepherds that first Christmas announcing, "Peace on earth!" And God has sent his Christmas greeting to you, "Peace on earth and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!" That's what Christmas is all about. And that's just what we need. God gives us a message of hope and love, and he gives us the ability to receive and believe it.

Jesus Christ is what Christmas is all about; the reason for the season. The name "Jesus" means, "He saves," or "he delivers." Christ came to deliver us from the guilt of sin and the fear of death. He came to deliver us safely to his home in heaven.

Every time we hear the Christmas message – God's good news greeting – we are assured that we are not sentenced forever to live in a sinful world. In Bethlehem, God came to assure us that he has a better life in store for us, a life forever in his presence.

Christmas is more than holly, tinsel, sparkling snow, or children's laughter. Christmas is God's good news greeting of peace to a world of sinners. It's the "good news of great joy that will be for all the people," and that "today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord." Now, that's what Christmas is!

From my family to yours, *"Merry Christmas with Love!"*

Bro J



Library News

December Birthdays

December – Merry Christmas!

This was written by Charles Stanley and we thought you might enjoy it...
Do you truly know who Jesus is? Is He more to you than a baby born in Bethlehem? More than just some religious leader in whom you're supposed to believe? Is He your life, your hope, your future?

We can go to church and sing songs about Jesus, but never actually honor Him. We can miss the joy and reverence of relating to Him personally and intimately. So I don't know of a better time to search our hearts than at Christmas.

We know the facts: Jesus was born to Mary and Joseph in Bethlehem and raised in the obscure village of Nazareth. We may even realize the impact of His life. His birth is the event that divides time into BC and AD. He didn't travel far from home, yet He has influenced the entire world. Satan couldn't tempt Him, death couldn't destroy Him, and the grave couldn't keep Him. He is the living God – and we can know Him because He sacrificially gives Himself to us. (Philippians 2:5-11)

But do you really honor Him in the way He deserves? He's certainly worthy of all that you are. So this Christmas, really think about who He is and give Him the gift that truly represents what He means to you.

Isaiah 9:6: 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.

A book from our Library...

The Jesus I Never Knew by Philip Yancey. From the manger in Bethlehem to the cross in Jerusalem, the author presents a character who generates questions as well as answers, a disturbing and exhilarating Jesus who wants to radically transform your life and stretch your faith. The author uncovers a Jesus who is brilliant, creative, challenging, fearless, compassionate, unpredictable, and ultimately satisfying. This honest book will help you discover a different Jesus from the flannelgraph Sunday school figure, the sweetly smiling Victorian Savior, and all the cultural clichés that have tamed Jesus and kept Him in comfortable religious boxes.

Praying God blesses our congregation at First Baptist Church -
 Love in Christ, Mary Robertson & Joan Frank

2	Grant Terrillion
3	Jeff Oakes
4	David Lovely
6	Ashleigh Duncan
8	Doug Williams
	Phillip Pullen
9	Archie Emery
	Rebecca Crawford
11	Sharon Burkhalter
18	Carolyn Hester
20	Vivienne Okma
21	Prentice Moore
22	Ruth Fultz
	Kendall Wright
26	Ann Johnson
27	Tyler Wright
	Tom Holloway
28	Bryan Crawford
	Finley Johnson
31	Deric Keltner
	Gene Duncan
	Vickie Anderson
	Valinda Albert

*Happy Birthday
to You!*



From the Church Office

Welcome to the busy month of December... 'Tis the Season...

Many of you are low on offering envelopes...New offering envelopes are scheduled to arrive before the end of the month and will be available for the new year. If you do not currently have numbered envelopes and would like some, please email or call the church office and we'll prepare them for you.

Please note that all receipts for 2018 must be received by Monday, December 31st, to be recorded on this year's contribution record.

Lottie Moon Offering contributions may be given online, through the Church Life app, or by texting FBCSH to 73256, as well as in the offering plate on Sundays.

Please note the Church Office will be closed on Monday & Tuesday, December 24 & 25.

I pray you see God's love through His Son in special ways during this Christmas season. Thank you for the privilege to serve you. -- Paula



Bro J Paula Jr



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 12 pm Gene Legg's SS Class Party @Catfish Campus
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Deacon's Meeting	Week of Prayer for International Missions, Lottie Moon Offering Emphasis – Goal: \$3,750.00					
6 pm AWANA-Superhero/Princess Night		10 am Ladies' Prayer Group	6 pm ESL Classes 6:30 pm Prayer Mtg., Mission Friends, Children in Action	9 am Sr. Adult Bible Study 6:30pm Facility in Use-Cub Scouts	Maury Bapt. Assoc. Staff Christmas Party-Riverside Baptist Church	11 am Facility in Use City of Spring Hill Christmas Parade (Church lots in use)
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
6 pm AWANA-5 Verse Night		10 am Ladies' Prayer Group	10:15 am Cracker Barrel Fellowship 6 pm ESL Classes 6:30pm Business Mtg., Mission Friends, Children in Action	9 am Sr. Adult Bible Study		11 am Facility in Use (Tom Moore) 6-9 pm Young Adult SS Christmas Party @ the Youth House
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
10 am Adult Christmas Musical 6 pm Double Reed Ensemble 6 pm AWANA Christmas Party		10 am Ladies' Prayer Group	6 pm ESL Classes 6:30 pm Prayer Meeting, Mission Friends, Children in Action	9 am Sr. Adult Bible Study 6:30pm Facility in Use-Cub Scouts-Christmas Party		
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
No Evening Activities	 Christmas EVE Church Office Closed	 Christmas DAY 11am Facility in Use - Russian Church Svc Church Office Closed	6:30pm Prayer Mtg.			
30	31					
No Evening Activities	10 pm Facility in Use-Russian Church Service					

Our Church in Action



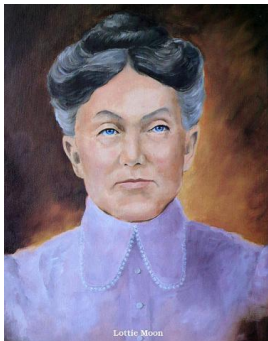
Cracker Barrel Fellowship
Wednesday, December 12,
10:15 am
Everyone is Welcome!
 (at The Crossings in Spring Hill)

English as a Second Language Wednesdays at 6:00 pm

More trained leaders are needed for this ministry. Please contact Pat Springer (patspr2@juno.com) for more information.



Please remember to let the church office know about your class or organization gatherings celebrating the season so they can be noted on the church calendar! Thank you!!



Lottie Moon Café

Open each Sunday morning, December 2nd through December 30th, in the fellowship hall prior to Sunday School. Stop by and enjoy some Lottie Moon Christmas Cookies. There will be a basket on the table for donations; all proceeds go toward our Lottie Moon Offering for International Missions. **Calling all Cooks!** We need your help donating cookies for the Café. All leftover cookie donations will be shared with ESL and/or the Spring Hill Police Department. There is a sign-up sheet at the Welcome Center, so please sign up! We assure you "no Cookie will be left behind!"

Week of Prayer for International Missions
Lottie Moon Christmas Offering Emphasis
December 2-9, 2018
Lottie Moon Offering Goal: \$3,750.00



Future Growth Funding
 \$13,692.65 in a Construction Acct.
 at First Farmer's & Merchant's Bank
 \$338,116.82 in a Building Fund
 at the Tennessee Baptist Foundation.

KidCentral News...

Schedule



December 2: Brent & Christie Johnson
December 9: Adam & Crystal Vaughn
December 16: No Children's Church
December 23: Hester Family
December 30: No Children's Church

Calendar:

December 2: Superhero/Princess Night
December 9: 5 Verse Night
December 16: Christmas Party
No AWANA on December 23 & 30



Background Checks



Everyone who works with children age birth through 18 years old must have a completed background check. Please contact the church office so that you may be sent the link to complete the check online. Thank you.

FBCSH Christmas Card Post Office



The Post Office is now open in the lobby through Sunday, December 30. Please place your cards in the folder **BEHIND** the letter corresponding with the last name of the recipient. Place money you would have spent on postage in the donation container. All proceeds will benefit **Operation Christmas Child 2019**.

Special Music of the Season You Don't Want to Miss!



Sounds of the Season

Sunday, December 16
10:00 am

"Let Earth Receive Her King"
 presented by the Adult Choir

6:00 pm
Double Reed Ensemble
 (Tom Moore & Friends)