



# The First Family

"To be found faithful as God's People."

## DECEMBER 2020

### FROM YOUR PASTOR

#### *Thanks be to God!*

Why did the Lord allow I Thessalonians 5:18 into the canon of Scripture!? "In everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you." There are times, many times, that I fail to fulfill this verse. I know it does not say give thanks *for* all things but *in* everything. I also know this means that I can give thanks that God is Sovereign even when my situation is dire and discouraging. We have certainly been amid difficult situations this year that makes practicing this verse a challenge. Well, we only have one good choice, do it! Join with me in this final month of 2020 by practicing this command daily. We will benefit mightily if we do.

Now for some easy words of giving thanks:

Thank you for blessing the Seth York family with a special offering of over \$2,600 as they have been on furlough from their position at Crossings Camp the past five months.

Thank you for blessing several families and holiday workers with upwards of 200 meals on Thanksgiving Day.

Thank you for surpassing our record with 1,221 shoeboxes packed for Operation Christmas Child.

Now for the difficult news that still requires a thankful heart. Our ministerial staff and deacons have decided on the following protocol that will continue till January 1. We will continue in-person worship each Sunday at 9:00am and 11:00am with Live Streaming of the 11:00am service. We will cancel Sunday School, Sunday evening services, and the 11:00am Nursery until January 1. The Wednesday mid-week service will be canceled till Wednesday, December 16 when we will meet at 6:45pm for a special prayer service and our end of year business meeting. We will continue to maintain physical distancing by taping off every other pew and masks will be strongly encouraged when entering and departing the building and when physical distancing cannot be maintained. The wearing of a mask will not be mandated once sitting on a pew, but it is completely acceptable to wear even when seated. Much thought is going into these matters as it relates to our church corporately and as we consider the many opinions individually. Let us not only give thanks *in* this time but above all demonstrate grace, love, and kindness toward one another as family.

Back to the easy thanksgiving. Thanks be to God for His marvelous grace and wonderful salvation that was provided by our Savior, Jesus. Let us celebrate His incarnation, His becoming a man, throughout this month. I hope you will prayerfully consider giving a gift in His honor to the Lottie Moon International Mission Offering that will be received throughout the month of December.

Blessings Church Family and Merry Christmas,  
Bro. Brad



imb | LOTTIE MOON CHRISTMAS OFFERING

During the month of December, we will receive this very vital offering that supports over 3,500 of our Southern Baptist missionaries. Every dollar gives directly to their support and needs.



#### FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH STAFF

BRAD BANKS-PASTOR

WESLEY HADDEN-FAMILY MINISTER

CHUCK HARRIS-MUSIC AND MEDIA PASTOR

SUSAN STOWE-MINISTRY ASSISTANT

## FAMILY MINISTRY NEWS

### HOPE FOR THE SINNER

“For you, O LORD of hosts, the God of Israel, have made this revelation to your servant, saying, ‘I will build you a house.’ Therefore your servant has found courage to pray this prayer to you. And now, O Lord GOD, you are God, and your words are true, and you have promised this good thing to your servant. Now therefore may it please you to bless the house of your servant, so that it may continue forever before you. For you, O Lord GOD, have spoken, and with your blessing shall the house of your servant be blessed forever.” – 2 Samuel 7:28-29

David was a man after God’s own heart. He served the Lord with all his strength and sought to build a temple for him. The response David received must have surprised him at first; he was not going to build the temple, but his seed would. How easy would it have been when David fell into sin with Bathsheba to respond “I built you a temple to dwell in.” David didn’t have that luxury when confronted with his sin, he was laid bare and had no work to justify his wrong.

The only thing he had to hold on to after his sin was the fact the Lord was going to bless his house forever. The Lord knew David before he was born and knew he would fall into sin, yet he promised to bless his house forever. The Lord ultimately does bless his house forever through Christ who comes from the line of David, who completely establishes the kingdom of God. The Lord always keeps his promises; he never fails to uphold his end of the deal. He even upholds our end too because he knows we will fail. The Lord secures his people, and not one thing can separate us from him.

How sweet it is to read in Hebrews 13:5 that the Lord will never leave nor forsake us. The Lord has promised us salvation in Christ for all who believe. He is going to keep his promise, Christ will not lose one of his sheep. Take courage in the promises of God we find in God’s word. Don’t miss out on the encouragement God’s word gives us. The goodness of God’s words encouraged David to pray and rest in the Lord. May we also find courage in his true words and store them up in our hearts.

In love,  
Wesley



## MUSIC AND MEDIA

Welcome to December, church family!

This is probably the strangest December I’ve experienced in my ministry. By this time in the year the choir would be putting polishing touches on our Christmas Cantata, and getting ready to present it to our church family. Unfortunately, just like much of this year already, we find ourselves being hindered because of Covid-19.

While I am disappointed in having to cancel cantatas, services, activities, and ministries, I still find myself hopeful and encouraged because our God is still in control. He is never-failing! Despite all the things going on in our world right now, the Lord still reigns and He promises to never leave us or forsake us. When our faith is shaken to its core, our God remains faithful!

Our song for the month of December is titled, “Sing We the Song of Emmanuel,” by Matt Boswell, Matt Papa, Stuart Townend, and Keith Getty. These four men are some of the great minds and songwriters of many of the new hymns we’ve been learning as a congregation. This is a hymn that combines the mystery of the Christmas story with the joy, jubilation, and majesty that we celebrate at Christmas.

I am looking forward to singing this wonderful new Christmas hymn with you this month, church family!

*Soli Deo Gloria,*

Bro. Chuck



### MEMORIALS

Allison Pelletier—Donna McDonald, Dave and Susan Stowe

Edna Gibson—Rodney and Debbie Parker, Dave and Susan Stowe



**OWENTON**  
FIRST BAPTIST




SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Glory to God on the highest</i> <small>Luke 2:14</small></p>		1	2	3	4	5
		6	7	8	9	10
<p>9:00 and 11:00 Morning Service</p> <p>“His Birth”</p> <p>Matthew 1:1-17</p>						<p>12</p> <p>Gray/Osborne Wedding</p> <p>Banks/Keeton Wedding</p> 
<p>13</p> <p>9:00 and 11:00 Morning Service</p> <p>“His Birth”</p> <p>Matthew 1:18-25</p>	14	15	<p>16</p> <p>5:30 p.m. Trustees Meeting</p> <p>6:45 p.m. Business Meeting</p> <p>7:30 p.m. Deacon’s Meeting</p>	17	18	19
<p>20</p> <p>9:00 and 11:00 Morning Service</p> <p>“His Birth”</p> <p>Matthew 2:1-12</p>	<p>21</p> 	<p>22</p> <p>Meeting the Needs</p> <p>11:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.</p> <p>6:00-8:00 p.m.</p>	<p>23</p> <p>No Midweek Service</p>	<p>24</p> 	25	26
<p>27</p> <p>9:00 and 11:00 Morning Service</p> <p>“His Birth”</p> <p>Matthew 2:13-23</p>	28	29	30	31	<p>1</p> 	

**PRAYER CONCERNS**



GLENDAL ALLNUTT	BEVERLY MILLER
JERILYN ANDERSON	HAROLD MILLER
LORENE BYRD	MICKEY MILLER FAMILY
NANCY CASTLE	CRYSTAL NEW
GLENNA COLEMAN	LASHONDA OLDS
CHAD CONDRA	LUCY PARKER
PEGGY DAVIS	DENISE PERKINS
DORIS DAWSON FAMILY	KEN PERKINS
JERRY ELLARD	BERNIE POE
LOIS ESTERLE	JUDY POE
RONNDA FANNIN	DON PRICE
LYNSEY FARRAR	JENNY RICHIE
IVADENE HATFIELD	BILLY SILVERMAN
SHIRLEY HOWARD	VENEDA SMITH
BARBARA HUMPHRIES	LANA SMOOT
DENISE HUMPHRIES	LEVI STAMPER
BILLY LATHREM	LONNIE STEWART
PHYLLIS MALCOMB	VERNA HELEN STEWART FAMILY
MARY MARLOW	JOYCE UTTERBACK
LINDA MCDANELL	JOE WYLES
GRAN MEFFORD	SHELBY YOUNG

<b>12/1.</b> Cara Allnutt Robert Cull, Sr.	<b>12/12</b> Aubrey Craigmyle Beverly Johns L C Lusby	<b>12/23</b> Ben Bess
<b>12/4</b> Abby Osborne	<b>12/13</b> Meg Gamm Sue Sipple	<b>12/24</b> Katelyn Gaines Lee Ann Gamm Julie O'Banion Anna Riddle
<b>12/6</b> G. L. Shryock Sandra Stafford	<b>12/15</b> Jacob Oakes Caroline Smith	<b>12/25</b> Suzanne Bowling
<b>12/7</b> Stephen Coyle Peggy Davis Carson Williams Rusty Williams	<b>12/16</b> Isabella Cammack	<b>12/26</b> Bo Cumberland
<b>12/10</b> Toby Bell Margaret Forsee Martha McGibney	<b>12/17</b> Vanessa Humphries	<b>12/27</b> Michelle Chitwood Matt Greenlee Tracy Hill Kyler Stephens Alaina Williams
<b>12/11</b> Glyptus Grider-Jones	<b>12/18</b> Brooke Kapfhammer	<b>12/28</b> Kristin Marsh
	<b>12/19</b> Scott Risch	<b>12/29</b> Michael Vannarsdall Gabrielle Welsh
	<b>12/20</b> Sidney Ford Ronnie Roberts	<b>12/30</b> Karen Wash
	<b>12/22</b> Janet Wright	

**HAVE A NEED? CALL!**  
**CHURCH OFFICE:**  
502-484-2430  
**BRO. BRAD:**  
901-651-1157

Return Service Requested

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