



 OWENTON FIRST BAPTIST

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

The First Family

DECEMBER 2023

FROM YOUR PASTOR

He Came, He is Coming!

The prevailing thought on the mind of a Christian as we enter the month of December is the birth of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. It is the time we celebrate His virgin birth and His glorious coming into this world to die for the sins of humanity. But it should also be a time that we are filled with thoughts of His coming again. The Scripture said He would come the first time and despite the skepticism of His own, He did come. The same Scriptures state He is coming again and despite the naysayers and skeptics He will be coming again. I hope you anticipate this event as much as you celebrate His birth. This will be our theme for the mornings of December 3rd, 10th, and 17th. Plan to be here and be encouraged by this blessed hope.

This month we will be receiving our annual special offering for the Lottie Moon International Mission Offering. This offering helps us keep over 3,500 missionaries on the field in over 125 nations. Please pray and give as the Lord leads. There are several special emphases taking place this month that will be a blessing to you and your family and would be a great blessing to your friends and family that are not active in a church family. The Children's Christmas Musical will be held on December 2nd and 3rd at 6:30pm and the Adult Christmas Cantata will be presented on Sunday, December 17 during the 11:00am service. The Lord's Supper will be observed during the morning services on the 10th. We are planning a special combined service on Christmas Eve at 10:30am.

Your new deacons, that will begin a three-year role on the active Deacon Fellowship, are Richard Greene, John Lilly, and Lucas Shelton. Pray for these men as they begin their service. We are appreciative of the work of our Trustees and your faithful giving that allowed for the upgrade of our exterior lighting and landscape work. The next phase of work includes upgrading the sound system and spotlights in the auditorium, lettering on the FLC, and remodel work in the upstairs Sunday School area that will be conducive for our children's ministry. Thanks also to the Personnel, Finance, and Nominating Committees for their diligent work over the past month.

God bless you church family and I pray you have a wonderful month celebrating the coming of Jesus and find yourself moved with a great expectation of His coming again!

Bro. Brad



LOTTIE MOON INTERNATIONAL MISSIONS OFFERING

During the month of December we will receive this special offering that goes to the support of our over 3,500 Southern Baptist Missionaries serving all over the world. Please pray and give as the Lord leads!



CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS

Poinsettias will be available to purchase in memory or in honor of a loved one. Envelopes are next to the bulletins in the church hallways and may be placed in the offering plate. The cost is \$16.00.



MUSIC AND MEDIA MINISTRY

IT'S BEGINNING TO LOOK A LOT LIKE...CHRISTMAS?!

Welcome to December, church family!

As I write this article it is currently Monday, November 27. WAYYYY past the time I wanted to get this article in to Susan! If your November has been anything like mine then you understand just how busy you get at this time of the year. Between a short little trip to the mountains of Tennessee, car issues, planning for and cooking Thanksgiving dinner, and the 24/7 tech support I become when the family gathers together, I've barely had enough time to eat a third slice of pumpkin pie!!

All in all, this is my favorite time of year! From the first of November to the beginning of January, especially. It's a time that we celebrate family, friends, and most importantly, the birth of our Lord and Savior. I'm also excited because Christmas music is some of my favorite music (but ONLY after Thanksgiving).

As we move into this month, I want to encourage you to join our FBC Children on Saturday, December 2nd and Sunday, December 3rd at 6:30 pm as we present our Children's Christmas Musical, *Carol and the Belles*. Yes, you read that correctly...TWO chances to see this musical! These kids (and a few adults) have been working tremendously hard on this musical and I am super excited that we get to share it with you!! You will be blessed by the songs, the jokes, and the talent of these kids, but, more importantly, you will be blessed by the story presented by them! This is a great opportunity to invite someone who needs to hear the Christmas story in a easily accessible way!! We will have a dessert fellowship after our Sunday evening performance — the Gospel and brownies...always a win win combination!!

Our FBC Worship Choir has been working diligently since September, preparing to present our cantata, *Come Worship the King*, to you! It takes a lot of time and effort to learn words, notes, parts, etc. But the members of our choir willingly take on the challenge each year. I am so proud of the work they do — not just at Christmas, but throughout the year. They do it because they love the Lord, they love this church family, and they love to serve by singing praises to our God. We will present our cantata on Sunday, December 17th at 11:00 am.

So, as you can see, this month is filled to the brim with excitement! I can't wait to celebrate Christmas with you!

Soli Deo Gloria,

Bro. Chuck

Owenton Manor Resident Shopping

We will once again bless the residents of Owenton Manor with a Resident Shopping Day. This is a day when residents are allowed to shop for members of their family free of charge. A group of women from the church will also wrap their presents and write name tags to be placed on the gifts. In order for this day to be successful, we need donations of small gift items. All items should be new. Residents will be shopping for family members. Some items they liked the best in the past were large tins of popcorn, peanuts, boxes of candy like Whitman or Russell Stover, men's and women's gloves and socks, new inexpensive jewelry, and Christmas ornaments. The date is Friday, December 15th at 10 am. If you are available to help that day, please let Susan Traylor know.

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH STAFF

BRAD BANKS — PASTOR

CHUCK HARRIS — WORSHIP & MEDIA PASTOR

ROSS FORD—YOUTH PASTOR

KILEY BLAIR—DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

SUSAN STOWE — MINISTRY ASSISTANT

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

Merry Christmas Church Family,

It really is the most wonderful time of the year! I love all the Christmas lights, family gatherings, fun activities and hopefully a few quiet moments of reflection about what it all means! I was overwhelmed by how many ladies joined the Advent Bible study. It seems I'm not the only one longing for more than just a few quiet moments to be reminded that Christmas is so much more than the lights and sometimes stressful gift giving.

In the weeks leading up to Christmas I like to read about all the different characters in the story of Jesus' birth and imagine what it would have been like. One of my favorite moments is found in Luke 2:19. Mary had just given birth to the Son of God...in less than desirable surroundings. Shepherds had arrived to visit, no doubt out of breath from running there and having been telling anyone they saw that the Savior of the world had been born. Their excitement was probably contagious and the proud parents were likely beaming. They may have been a little shocked that anyone was already aware of how special this birth really was, but Mary..."But Mary treasured up all these things, pondering them in her heart."

The most important moment in all of history, and Jesus' young mother knew to treasure that moment! Sometimes we know we are living moments we will never forget. Births...deaths...dropping kids off at college...bucket-list vacations. But what if in the hustle and bustle of everyday life we are missing the moments God wants us to "treasure and ponder in our hearts"?

This Christmas as we pass around the coffee and the pumpkin pie or see a small child wonder at the lights on the tree or cry as we hear the beautiful words of our favorite Christmas carol...might we treasure up these things and ponder them in our hearts? Might we find comfort in the words written in Psalm 46:10? "Be still and know that I am God."

Whatever circumstance we find ourselves in this Christmas, it is my sincere prayer that we are able to be still and know that He is God and take time to ponder these things in our hearts!

Peace and Joy,

Kiley

YOUTH MINISTRY

Hello church family!

The youth had a great month of November! We wrapped up our small group Bible studies on Sunday nights. We had a great turnout each week and it was such a good time to get to know the students on a more personal level. One Wednesday night this month we had 22 students in attendance, which might be a record for us so far! So please pray that these new students will keep coming back and telling their friends about our Wednesday night meetings. At the end of November, Alli and I took the youth group shopping for the family that we sponsored for Christmas. We sponsored a little boy and a little girl and we were able to get them clothing and toys that they requested and followed that with a time of fellowship out to eat.

With Thanksgiving being this month, we have been studying about how the Lord tells us and shows us to be thankful. We have been reading out of Luke 17 and Colossians 2 for this study.

In December, we are looking forward to our youth Christmas party where we will be doing the "Amazing Race" again this year. This will take place on Wednesday, December 20th so please make your middle and high school students aware! Each group will also need a parent/chaperone to drive them around town so parents be thinking about that. Also, tell your students to find their best "ugly" Christmas sweater to wear for this event!

As always, thank you for giving me the opportunity to mentor this youth group! I pray that they will learn to love and serve the Lord through this ministry!

Ross

December



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<p>31</p> <p>9:00 and 11:00 a.m. Morning Services</p> <p>10:00-11:00 a.m. Sunday School</p> <p>NO EVENING SERVICES</p>					<p>1</p> <p>5:00 p.m. Children's Christmas Practice</p>	<p>2</p> <p>CAROL AND THE BELLES</p> <p>6:30 P.M.</p>
<p>3</p> <p>9:00 and 11:00 a.m. Morning Services</p> <p>10:00-11:00 a.m. Sunday School</p> <p>CAROL AND THE BELLES</p> <p>6:30 P.M.</p> <p>Dessert Fellowship</p> <p>7:30 p.m. Deacon's Meeting</p>	4	<p>5</p> <p>6:30 p.m. Advent Bible Study</p>	<p>6</p> <p>10:00 a.m. Manna in the Morning</p> <p>5:30 p.m. Trustees</p> <p>6:30 p.m. Rooted Kids</p> <p>6:30 p.m. Mid-Week Service/Business Meeting</p> <p>6:30 p.m. Main Street Youth</p> <p>7:00-8:30 p.m. Choir Rehearsal</p>	7	8	<p>9</p> <p>CHRISTMAS PARADE</p>
<p>10</p> <p>9:00 and 11:00 a.m. Morning Services</p> <p>10:00-11:00 a.m. Sunday School</p> <p>4:00 p.m. Outreach</p> <p>6:30 p.m. Evening Service</p> <p>7:30 p.m. Nominating Committee</p>	11	<p>12</p> <p>6:30 p.m. Advent Bible Study</p>	<p>13</p> <p>10:00 a.m. Manna in the Morning</p> <p>6:30 p.m. Rooted Kids</p> <p>6:30 p.m. Mid-Week Service</p> <p>6:30 p.m. Main Street Youth</p> <p>7:00- 8:30 p.m. Choir Rehearsal</p>	14	15	16
<p>17</p> <p>9:00 a.m. Morning Service</p> <p>10:00-11:00 a.m. Sunday School</p> <p>11:00 a.m. COME WORSHIP THE KING!</p> <p>4:00 p.m. Outreach</p> <p>6:30 p.m. Evening Service</p>	18	<p>19</p> <p>6:30 p.m. Advent Bible Study</p>	<p>20</p> <p>10:00 a.m. Manna</p> <p>6:30 p.m. Rooted Kids</p> <p>6:30 p.m. Mid-Week Service</p> <p>6:30 p.m. Youth Amazing Race</p> <p>7:00 p.m. Choir Practice</p>	21	22	23
<p>24</p> <p>10:30 a.m. Combined Christmas Message Service</p>	<p>25</p> <p>MERRY CHRISTMAS</p>	<p>26</p> <p>Meeting the Needs 11:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.</p>	<p>27</p> <p>NO MID-WEEK SERVICES</p>	28	29	<p>30</p> 

VOLLEYBALL KICKOFF
JANUARY 22, 2024



12/1.
Cara Allnutt
Robert Cull, Sr.
12/4
Abby Osborne
Kenneth Wooten
12/6
G. L. Shryock
Sandra Stafford
12/7
Stephen Coyle
Peggy Davis
Carson Williams
Rusty Williams
12/8
Ella Mills
12/10
Toby Bell
Margaret Forsee
Martha McGibney
Adyson Perkins
12/11
Glyptus Grider-Jones

12/12
Aubrey Craigmyle
Beverly Johns
L C Lusby
12/15
Caroline Smith
12/16
Isabella Cammack
12/17
Vanessa Humphries
12/18
Brooke Kapfhammer
12/19
Scott Risch
12/20
Sidney Ford
Ronnie Roberts
12/22
Janet Turner

12/23
Ben Bess
12/24
Kate Gaines Camera
Anna Riddle
12/25
Suzanne Bowling
12/27
Michelle Chitwood
Matt Greenlee
Tracy Hill
Kyler Stephens
Alaina Williams
12/28
Kristin Marsh
12/29
Michael Vannarsdall
Gabrielle Welsh
12/30
Karen Wash

DECEMBER VOLUNTEERS

NURSERY VOLUNTEERS

12/3: Andi Fitzgerald
12/10: Mike and Sarah Cobb
12/17: Rebecca and Ella Mills
12/24: Krissy Locker

CHILDREN'S CHURCH

12/3: Courtney Bourne and Heather Risch
12/10: Allison Craigmyle and Blair Baldwin
12/17: No Children's Church/Cantata
12/24: No Children's Church/Family Worship
12/31: Brian and Emma Blair

Memorials
Steve Wagner—Donna McDonald,
Todd and Lesa Marston

Return Service Requested

OWENTON | FIRST BAPTIST
213 NORTH MAIN STREET
OWENTON, KY 40359
502-484-2430
www.owentonfbcc.com

