

THE FIRST BAPTIST CONNECTION

December 2019

News and Updates for our Family in Christ

Visit our website @ www.fcbloom.org

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BIRTHDAYS

3 rd Jeff Coffin	17 th Steve Clark
John Cummings	Tony Resler
Dixie Hudson	18 th Virginia Hendrix
5 th John Bailey	19 th Shawn Hughes
6 th Leslie Ayers	20 th Paul Stewart
11 th Carolyn Sullivan	22 nd Brandt Hudson
12 th Lois Kirchoff	24 th Sue Eccles
13 th Betty Dean	28 th Donna Miller
15 th Lydia Hunter	Mark Mullins
Josie Hudson	31 st Bruce Porter
16 th Caleb Schmidt	Tiffany Brooks

PRAYER CONCERNS

On-Going Prayer Concerns

Bright Beginnings Daycare and Preschool
Tyler & Georgene Lunberry
Charles & Mary Jane Parker
Betty Sullivan

Hearthstone (Bloomington)

Charlotte Humerickhouse

ANNIVERSARIES

17th Scott & Becky Dayhoff
18th Bruce & Carla Porter
26th Alan & Janet Brown
31st Brenda & Richard Nichols

Upcoming "Missions Moment"

On Sunday, December 15, Brian Patterson of Rebuilt Ministries will be sharing a "Missions Moment" with us during the morning worship service to tell us about Resurrecting Recovery Center, a ministry to persons suffering from addiction. Please prayerfully prepare for a love offering our deacons will be receiving at the end of the service that day, to support this valuable ministry in our community.

Hoops for Him - 2020

The 2020 Hoops for Him Basketball Program will be held at the Bloomfield First Baptist Christian Life Center beginning January 25 and ending March 14, 2020. We are celebrating 10 years this year! Any boy or girl age 4 through 6th Grade is invited to participate. Session 1 for Preschool and Kindergarten age kids will be 9:00-10:00am, Session 2 for Grades 1-3 will be 10:00-11:30am, and Session 3 for Grades 4-6 will be 11:30am-1:00pm each Saturday. The season concludes with an Awards Ceremony on March 14th. Online registration is currently available through our Facebook page at (<https://www.facebook.com/HoopsforHim/>).



Volunteers are needed every Saturday to lead each session, coach the kids, work the concession stand, and provide devotions. Please prayerfully consider how you can help make our 10th year successful. The volunteer sign-up sheet will be circulated in the Sunday School classes or you may contact Eric Moody (email moodyes@yahoo.com or text 812-227-0700) if you are willing to help.

Congregational Meeting Update

At the November Congregational Meeting, the church voted to approve a number of important matters. The Officers approved for 2020 are: Steven Clark, Moderator, John Bailey, Vice Moderator, Adrienne Hughes, Treasurer, Barb Frye, Financial Secretary, and Sandy Clark, Sunday School Superintendent. At this time, we do not have a Clerk. (if anyone is interested in stepping in to that important position, please contact the Moderator or Vice Moderator.)

The 2020 budget was approved for \$258,008. We are confident that giving will be sufficient to meet the needs so we can perform the missions that the Lord has called us to do at First Baptist Church.

One other matter that was approved is the placement of security cameras in strategic locations to enhance safety and security of the children, staff, and the property. Details will be defined as the project progresses, but will likely include a minimum of three cameras.

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***Christmas Concert Hosted by Bloomfield UMC:*** Sisters, Madeline & Lydia Rogers are coming back to Bloomfield for a Christmas Concert on Saturday, December 21st at 2pm. They will warm your heart as Madeline plays the piano & Lydia plays violin. They both sing beautifully. This isn't your typical concert...come expecting your soul to be uplifted!!

# A Note from Pastor Nathan

*The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel—  
which means, “God with us.”*

Matthew 1:23 (NIV 1984)

Ascension Day is perhaps the most overlooked holiday on the Christian calendar. This is probably because it has the misfortune of perpetually falling on a Thursday, the 40<sup>th</sup> day of Easter. But it is a significant day: we proclaim that the risen Lord Jesus Christ has been exalted over every authority and power anywhere. He is King of kings and Lord of lords!

What goes up must come down, they say. And the going up – into heaven, on Ascension Day – has particular meaning because of the coming down – to earth, on Christmas Day. Perhaps we should call it, “Descension Day,” a day for coming down. But that is not enough. It was God coming down *in order to be with us*: “Condescension Day.”

“Merry Condescension Day!” That has a great ring to it, right?

Condescension has two meanings. The first is, “I look down on you or speak disrespectfully to you because I wrongly think I am better than you.” The second is, “I deliberately step into your difficult circumstances in order to walk with you and help you, regardless of the personal cost to me.” The first is arrogance. The second is empathy. Christmas is “Condescension Day” in that latter sense. *God comes down to be with us.*

Look where God meets us! In a manger, a feeding trough for animals. In the animals’ space, because there apparently was no room left in the peoples’ space. (The typical translation, “inn,” isn’t the best. The term *kataluma* probably refers to the part of the home where the people would reside.) Joseph most certainly had family in Bethlehem; ancestry was his reason for returning there. Surely, someone related to Joseph had access to better space! But they could not – or would not – arrange for Mary to have a better space to give birth. “Here’s a manger! Merry Christmas!”

Whatever the reasons, poverty or scorn, Jesus arrives on earth in a difficult space. He shortly ends up on the run with his family, refugees fleeing an evil king. His relationship with his family and friends is not always smooth. He endures insult and betrayal by them. He knows homelessness and foodlessness. He knows the coldness of our hard world.

These are the circumstances in which our Lord announces, “I am with you!” And He still is. The sequence beginning with Christmas continues through Good Friday and Easter, beyond Ascension Day to Pentecost: the Spirit comes. And so the promise is true, “I am with you always, even to the end of the age.”

In last month’s newsletter, I named some of the difficult circumstances which I know to have impacted members of our church family over the past year. This Christmas might not be the most wonderful time of the year for some among us. That’s not limited to this year. Every year, somebody somewhere is walking through holidays that aren’t the happiest.

It may be healing and helpful to remember that one of the very first things we learn about Jesus is that He is present in the cold, lonely, and misunderstood spaces of life. Those are His chosen points of intersection with our world.

And with us. I wish you a Merry Christmas, but I cannot promise you a Merry Christmas. What I can guarantee is this: in whatever aspect of the holidays life may prove difficult for you, Jesus Himself is there. The Lord who deliberately enters into our world at the place of weakness and dies at the place of forsakenness is present in the valleys of our journeys.

As I wrote last month, this is good news! The One who rules over all is with us through it all. And one day, this world which is now full of His sufferings will one day fully manifest His victory. “In this world you will have trouble, but take heart, I have overcome the world!” He comes to make His blessings flow, far as the curse is found.

Grace and peace,  
Nathan

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# December 2019

Pastor's Cell: 812-381-4189  
Church Office: 812-384-8459  
FAX No: 812-384-8982  
Bright Beginnings Daycare: 812-384-0400  
Bright Beginnings Preschool: 812-384-2647

| Sunday                                                                 | Monday | Tuesday                             | Wednesday      | Thursday                  | Friday | Saturday |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------|-------------------------------------|----------------|---------------------------|--------|----------|
| 1 Communion                                                            | 2      | 3<br>6:30 Trustees                  | 4              | 5<br>6:30 Deacons         | 6      | 7        |
| 8<br>8:30 Fellowship<br>Breakfast<br>9:00 Kingdom Kids<br>6:00 Cantata | 9      | 10                                  | 11             | 12<br>6:30 Church Council | 13     | 14       |
| 15                                                                     | 16     | 17                                  | 18             | 19                        | 20     | 21       |
| 22<br>9:00 Kingdom Kids                                                | 23     | 24<br>6:30 Christmas Eve<br>Service | 25 CHRISTMAS!! | 26                        | 27     | 28       |
| ~~~~~ The Church Office will be closed this week. ~~~~~                |        |                                     |                |                           |        | 28       |
| 29                                                                     | 30     | 31                                  |                |                           |        | 30       |

## Reoccurring Weekly Activities @ FBC

**Mondays:** 6:30p.m. CubScouts-FH  
**Tuesdays:** 6:30p.m. GirlScouts-FH  
**Thursdays:** 6:00a.m. Men's Breakfast  
6:30p.m. BoyScouts-FH  
6:30p.m. Gideons(3<sup>rd</sup> Thurs.each month)-FH

## Deacon of the Month

*Kathy Ham*

## Trustee of the Month

*Bert Terrell*

## Usher of the Month

*Casey Rice*

## Greeters of the Month

*Jim & Michelle Foxworthy*

## **Sound System**

1<sup>st</sup> Paul Schmidt  
8<sup>th</sup> Braden Hudson  
15<sup>th</sup> TBD  
22<sup>nd</sup> Eric Moody  
29<sup>th</sup> Eric Moody

## **Prayers**

1<sup>st</sup>  
8<sup>th</sup>  
15<sup>th</sup>  
22<sup>nd</sup>  
29<sup>th</sup>

## **Nursery Care**

1<sup>st</sup> Sandy Clark  
8<sup>th</sup> *Need Volunteers*  
15<sup>th</sup> Michelle & Ivy Foxworthy  
22<sup>nd</sup> *Need Volunteers*  
29<sup>th</sup> *Need Volunteers*

## **Children's Worship**

1<sup>st</sup>  
8<sup>th</sup> Betty Miller  
15<sup>th</sup>  
22<sup>nd</sup> Sandy Clark  
29<sup>th</sup>