

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
500 LINCOLN DRIVE
BLOOMFIELD, IN 47424

Rev. Nathan Brooks, Pastor
Brenda L. Nichols, Secretary

The First Baptist Connection

DECEMBER 2013

News and Updates for our Family in Christ

FBC sermons are now available online! Please visit our church website, fcbloom.org, and click on "Featured Media." Sermon recordings are listed there by date, title, and Scripture text

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December 2013

Birthdays

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

Anniversaries

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

Prayer Concerns

On-Going Prayer Concerns

Bright Beginnings Daycare and Preschool
Nancy Cummings – cancer
Albert DeGott – cancer
Peace seeking in Iraq & Afghanistan

Homebound

Roberta Neill

Parkview Village - Odon

Betty Baker

Missionaries

Tyler & Georgene Lunberry in India
American Baptists around the world

FINANCIAL REPORT

October 2013 Offering Totals:

General Fund	\$20,810.25
Food Pantry	\$845.00
White Christmas	\$105.00
Wittmer Offering	\$50.00
Apple Festival	\$2,000.50
Youth Mission Trip.....	\$1,000.00
Youth Fund	\$200.00

Bloomfield First Baptist First Friday!



Friday, December 6, 2013

6:30-8:45

Registration at 6:10

Supper at 6:30

PARENTS, PLEASE COME AT 8:15

For a special Christmas Program!

FBC News & Activities

Mission Trip Fundraiser Christmas Dinner – December 1

We hope to have support during our fundraising Christmas Dinner Sunday December 1, directly after worship. You will enjoy salad, soups, and homemade breads, and of course dessert, served with Christmas spirit. Come start the Advent season with us!



Aluminum Cans



We also want to ask for all your aluminum cans! We receive money for aluminum cans from the Greene County Recycling Center. You can deposit them in our bin marked "Baptist Youth" outside the Recycling Center office door. Or you can bring them to the church, or call us for a pick up! The money from these cans will go to the Mission Trip.

Hanging of the Greens – December 1

After our Christmas Dinner, we request your help with moving the Christmas decorations to their designated spots throughout the church. Thus the Church wide "Hanging of the Greens" annual party will be following the conclusion of the Christmas Dinner. Please stay long enough to help move something!



Christmas on the Square – December 1

The Bloomfield Chamber of Commerce is sponsoring the 3rd annual "Hometown Christmas" event, which will be the afternoon of Sunday, December 1st until 6 pm on the town square. The Central Greene County Ministerial Association will sing at 4:00pm and our very own Kingdom Kids will sing from 5:00-5:20pm. Our church body is asked to sing carols from the Courthouse steps for the next 10 minutes. It is a privilege for our town to invite churches to spread the Good News of Christ's birth in a public place. Let's join together to proclaim Joy to the World!



Christmas Open House - December 13

You are invited to the second annual Christmas open house at the parsonage! Nathan and Liz joyfully extend this welcome for Friday, December 13 from 6:30-8:30pm. Come prepared to mingle and munch!

Soup on Saturday Christmas Dinner – December 14

Looking for a way to serve a local mission during this Christmas Season? The SOS Christmas Dinner will be held on Saturday, December 14, 2013 from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at the Bloomfield United Methodist Church. Each church is requested to contribute a 10 to 12 lb. turkey with gravy. FBC will also be responsible for preparing slaw. We need two volunteers to work from 10:30 a.m. until the conclusion of the dinner. If you are willing to prepare the turkey, fix slaw, or volunteer for the dinner, please email or call the church office. Any questions can be directed to Cheri Campbell 384-8980.

Christmas Cantata – December 15

The First Baptist Church annual Christmas Cantata will Dec. 15 at 6:00 PM. The program will be in three parts, starting with instrumental pieces featuring our pianist Younkyung Kim and fellow IU Jacobs School of Music students. That will be followed by a set from the delightful Kingdom Kids Choir. Then, the Adult Choir will present the cantata, "Holy Night of Miracles". The cantata will include a number of soloists and narration by Jeff Coffin. There will be a reception immediately following in the Fellowship Hall which will consist of a wide selection of tasty delights and a time of fellowship. If you were able to experience last year's program, you know that this year's will be another blessing, picking up where we left off last year. Invite your friends and family and come join us as we celebrate Christ's birth with our music!



White Christmas – December 21



White Christmas

The Food Pantry Team will be filling boxes of food providing Christmas Day pancake breakfast and ham dinner to families in need. If you know someone who would like to receive a basket of food, please have them call the church office, 384-8459 no later than December 6.

The boxes will be prepared on Friday, December 20 starting at 9:00am. If you would like to help please contact Georgia Flinn or Sharon Terrell for additional information. White Christmas distribution will be Saturday, December 21 from 9:30am to 1:00pm.

If you would like to help support this ministry of our church, please consider a financial donations utilizing the envelopes provided in the pews. In addition to food donations, Christmas wrapping paper would also be appreciated.

Caroling – December 22

We love to bring Christmas Cheer to our church family by singing the beloved Christmas songs with them. We'll gather at 5pm this evening, divide into groups, then travel to homes to sing Christmas Carols.



Exercise Equipment

Do you have un-used piece of exercise equipment tucked away at your house? Consider donating it to the FIT room so it can be used! The FIT room (Faith In Training) is outfitted solely by donation and the goal is to provide the opportunity to train our bodies as we train our souls. 1 Timothy 4:8 "For physical training is of some value, but godliness has value for all things, holding promise for both the present life and the life to come."



HERE'S A LOOK AT WHAT IS COMING SOON TO FIRST BAPTIST.....

Sunday School Changes

Sunday School is an important part of your child's spiritual understanding and growth. The primary setting for that growth is at home with your family. But children also need Christian friends and relationships in the Church family. Sunday School is a place to study and ask questions about God in groups at their level of understanding. Sunday school is a place where children learn some of the ground work of our faith. Due to a decrease in overall attendance, we are reorganizing the age groups in the children's department. We encourage you to bring your child faithfully and invite their friends also. Introducing a child to a life with Christ is giving them an eternity with God. The new classes will begin January 5, 2014.

Nursery - Infant through 2 years old (3 year olds will move to preschool as they become ready for that class room) - Teachers: Cheri Campbell and Debra Hudson

Preschool - 3-ish through Kindergarten - Teacher: Judy Stahl

1st -3rd grade - Teacher: Ann Ellis

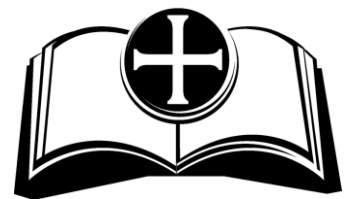
4th -6th grade - Teacher: Paula Bartlett

Children's Worship is BACK!

Children's Worship will begin January 12th. It will be provided on the 2nd,3rd,and 4th Sundays each month, during the morning church service. Children 4 through 4th grade will be invited to go to the chapel off of Fellowship Hall after the special music. 3-year olds can transition in if they are ready to be in a group setting. Betty Miller, Sarah Riggins, and Sandy Clark will each be leading Children's Worship one Sunday a month. We invite people willing to be helpers once every other month to contact Sarah Riggins, (sarah.rigginsd@live.com or 381-1043). Children's Worship does not replace the study that takes place in Sunday School. We are looking forward to the start of a new year in Christ .

Community Ladies Bible Study

The community ladies Bible study will take a break during the month of December and begin A Woman's Heart: God's Dwelling Place by Beth Moore on Tuesday, January 14, 2014, from 6:30 - 9:00pm. This is a ten week study of the tabernacle/temple. If you'd like to participate, the member books are \$18 (due the first night to Shelley Preston). Please let Liz Brooks know before Christmas so she can sign you up!



Ladies Retreat – January 18

First Baptist will be hosting an exciting, special one day "Hearts In Service" Ladies' Retreat on Saturday, January 18, 2014. Doors will open at 8:30 a.m. with the program beginning at 9:00 a.m. The event will conclude at 4:00 p.m. The day will be filled with great music, drama, speakers, and prayer. Our awesome First Baptist men, headed up by Bill Hudson, will serve a delicious lasagna luncheon. This will be a wonderful opportunity for renewal after a hectic holiday season. Registration will be \$10.00 per person with scholarships available. Registration forms will be available in December. Please save the date and invite all your friends. We want to fill the sanctuary. Contact Cheri Campbell or Debra Hudson for further information.

Chili Supper Fundraiser – February 21

A Chili Supper is being planned for February 21st before a home Boys Basketball game. This will be a fundraiser for the Mission Trip.



El Salvador Mission Trip – May 25-31

A Mission Trip has been planned for May 25-31, 2014. 16 people will be traveling to El Salvador to volunteer in an orphanage in San Salvador. Those already signed up to go are: Bryan Able, Daniel Able, Rosie Allgood, Cheri Campbell, Sandy Clark, Braden Hudson, Debra Hudson, Monica Hudson, Tasha Hudson, JR Ross, Mary Puntney, Andrew Templeton, Taylor Templeton, Andrew Weeks, Delene Weeks, Bob Weeks.


El Salvador is near to our youth's heart because of their friend Vanessa, who passed away this past April. We are partnering with La Casa de mi Padre (The House of my Father) and staying on the Youth With a Mission compound. This trip will cost about \$1,111 per person. Please pray for the planning process, for travel safety, for communication skills, and for our witness to others about Christ's love for them.

Thanksgiving Challenge 2014

The 2013 Scripture Memory is wrapping up and the 2014 Thanksgiving Challenge is beginning. This year, I (Liz) am challenging First Baptist Church to take on the discipline of giving thanks every day during 2014. The guide we will be using is called "The Joy Dare," a free resource from Ann Voskamp's blog (<http://www.aholyexperience.com/>). You can download your copy from Ann's blog, pick up the entire guide for the year from the library counter during December/January, or refer to the newsletter for that month's categories. Every day, the guide will give you three things within a certain category for which to give thanks. For example, "3 gifts red" or "3 gifts in Christ" or "3 hard eucharisteos" (things hard to give thanks for). You will do this exercise individually, though Nathan will use it from time to time in our Sunday morning prayer time. I encourage you to make it part of your daily prayer time, perhaps even getting a gratitude journal to write down your thanksgivings. If you do this faithfully, at the end of the year, you will have listed over 1000 gifts you are thankful for! And don't stop there. Add more than just the three a day – seek to give thanks for everything, as Ephesians 5:20 tells us. The Lord has used this to change my outlook on life, and I am praying that the Lord will do the same for FBC. Jesus, replace our entitled, complaining, discontent hearts with gratitude for the grace you give us daily. To Your great glory!

COUNT 1000 GIFTS IN 2012
SNAP A PHOTO OR RECORD 3 GIFTS/DAY
ONETHOUSANDGIFTS.COM/GET-THE-APP/

JANUARY



COUNT 1000 GIFTS

SHARE THE GIFTS: #1000GIFTS
FACEBOOK.COM/ONETHOUSANDGIFTS
COUNT 1000 GIFTS IN 2012
AND ENTER TO WIN NIKON D990
@ANNVOSKAMP.COM

GIVE THANKS TO THE LORD
FOR HE IS GOOD: HIS LOVING
KINDNESS ENDURES FOREVER.
1 CHRONICLES 16:34

<p>3 GIFTS HEARD</p> <p>A GIFT OUTSIDE, INSIDE, ON A PLATE</p> <p>3 GRACES YOU OVERHEARD</p> <p>A GIFT OLD, NEW, BLUE</p> <p>SOMETHING YOU'RE READING, MAKING, SEEING</p> <p>ONE THING IN YOUR BAG, YOUR FRIDGE, YOUR HEART</p> <p>3 GRACES FROM PEOPLE YOU LOVE</p> <p>DUSKY LIGHT, SURPRISING REFLECTION, LOVELY SHADOW</p> <p>A GIFT HELD, PASSED BY, SAT WITH</p> <p>A GIFT SOUR, SWEET, JUST RIGHT</p> <p>3 YELLOW GIFTS OF FRESH MERCY</p> <p>SOMETHING ABOVE, BELOW, BESIDE</p> <p>3 THINGS ABOUT YOURSELF YOU ARE GRATEFUL FOR</p> <p>3 STARTLING GRACES OF GOD</p> <p>A GIFT WORN, GIVEN AWAY, SHARED</p> <p>3 WITNESSED BLESSINGS</p>	<p>1. 17. A GIFT BRINGING LAUGHTER, PRAYER, QUIET</p> <p>2. 18. 3 GIFTS FROM GOD'S WORD</p> <p>3. 19. 3 GIFTS THAT MIGHT NEVER HAVE BEEN</p> <p>4. 20. 3 GIFTS ONLY SEEN CLOSE UP</p> <p>5. 21. A GIFT IN SKY, WATER, MEMORY</p> <p>6. 22. A GIFT WRINKLED, SMOOTHED, UNFOLDED</p> <p>7. 23. 3 GIFTS FOUND IN CHRIST</p> <p>8. 24. 3 THINGS BLUE</p> <p>9. 25. A GRACE BORROWED, FOUND, INHERITED</p> <p>10. 26. A GIFT BEFORE DAWN, AT NOON, AFTER DARK</p> <p>11. 27. 3 GIFTS IN THE KITCHEN</p> <p>12. 28. 3 GRACES FOUND IN FRIENDS</p> <p>13. 29. A SONG HEARD, A SOFT WORD, LIGHT SEEN</p> <p>14. 30. 3 OLD THINGS SEEN NEW</p> <p>15. 31. A GIFT ON A PAPER, IN A PERSON, IN A PICTURE</p> <p>16. © 2012 ANN VOSKAMP.COM</p>
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BRIGHT BEGINNINGS

DAYCARE NEWS

What a beautiful time Christmas is as we celebrate the birth of Jesus our Lord. We will have our annual "Happy Birthday Jesus" party on Wednesday December 18th.

What I want for Christmas:

2year olds

Zayden wants toys, spongebob, and batman
Ariel wants Christmas Trees
Decklan wants toys, 4 of them
Avalyn wants her Mommy, stickers, and Jesus
Keaton wants a tractor
Easton wants a boy monster, bunch of toys
Kaydance wants toys, stickers
Peyton wants candy
Lily wants a baby doll
Braylon wants a toy a big one
Adalyn wants a kitty a giraffe

3 year olds

Sopie wants a sleeping beauty dress
Emmi says she loves Mommy and Daddy she wants trees, she likes butterflies and bunnies
Johni wants some princess clothes, doc mcstuffings and Captain Hook
Madison wants an Ariel doll
Gwenavere wants a Barbie mermaid toy
Leighton wants a blue plane

4 year olds

Cohen wants a new toy, a new airplane, new cars cause they don't have any at home J, new pencils for his brother cause the erasers are gone
Ben wants an acorn, a car, a monster truck and a transformer
Lola wants new rocking horse, Barbie doll house, she already has one but its old so she wants a new one, she wants rapunzle and a new leap pad cause her other one is old J
Tera wants wants a new hello Kitty toy
Erick wants a remote control helicopter
Jennifer wants a horse
Ryan wants presents, toys, a police car
Isabella wants purple make-up and a purple box
Raigan wants a cat and a Barbie and a toy butterfly and a giraffe

5 year olds

McKenzie wants a penny paw skilla and a twilight sparkle that flies and has a crown

Sophia wants a princess table, a Barbie house, a doc mcstuffins table

Braxton wants a toy robot, a thing that moves and alligator stompies

Matthew wants lots of ninja turtle stuff

Dylan wants a robot, a power ranger and a Christmas hat

Kierington wants baby doll clothes and a baby doll

School age

Jaden wants a rubber alligator

Abby wants an English Horse Saddle

Toby wants a wee game and Mario dolls

Madison wants a computer, a movie and some video games

Emma wants a computer, an I-phone, a new soft blanket with penguins

Abigail wants a food cart, stuffed animal, a doll and stuff for her doll

What Christmas means to me;

7 year old Jaden said it means presents, snow, Christmas parties, and ice skating

9 year old Justin said it means time to give and feel thankful for blessings and presents

8 year old Abby said it means time to be thankful for the Lord

Our goal this season is to ensure each of our children knows the true meaning of Christmas. Thank you for your continued prayers and support.

Tammy Kirkman
Daycare Director

PRESCHOOL NEWS

We have finished up the month with our letters up to K. We have covered all of our colors and shapes and have been doing many review items. We have been really focusing on Thanksgiving and what it means to be thankful. On Tuesday, November 26, we celebrated with a Thanksgiving Feast with both preschool classes. The children sang songs while wearing their decorative Thanksgiving hats. We shared the Bible stories of Hannah and we discussed Heaven, Isaac, Jonah and Joseph, and King Solomon. We have done many crafts including an ice cream graph, jelly fish, jets, sponge paintings, and we made houses out of shapes. We are looking forward to sharing the Christmas story in December.

Blessings,
Mrs. Farmer and Miss Katie

First Baptist Church
500 Lincoln Drive
Bloomfield, IN 47424

December
2013

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

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3	4	5 6:30 Church Council	6 6:30 First Friday @ First Baptist	7
8	9 6:30 Trustees	10	11	12	13	14
15 6:30 Christmas Cantata	16	17	18	19	20	21 9:30 White Christmas Box Distribution
22 9:30 SS Christmas Program 5:00 Caroling	23	24 7:30 Christmas Eve Service	25 CHRISTMAS Church Office Closed	26	27	28
29	30	31				

Deacon of the Month

Bill Hudson

Trustee of the Month

Paul Stewart

Usher of the Month

Charles Porter

Greeters

Cheri Campbell & Debra Hudson

Reoccurring Weekly Activities @ FBC

Sundays: 6:00 p.m. Campfire - Sanctuary & FH

Mondays: 10:30 a.m. Enhanced Fitness - FH
4:30 p.m. Enhanced Fitness – Kumetus
6:15 p.m. Zumba – CLC
6:30 p.m. Cub Scouts – FH

Tuesdays: 6:30 p.m. Girl Scouts - FH
6:30 p.m. Choir Practice
7:00 p.m. Cottage Prayer Group

Wednesdays: 10:30 a.m. Enhanced Fitness – FH
6:15 p.m. FLAMES - CLC

Thursdays: 6:00 a.m. Men's Breakfast - Dairy Queen
10:30 a.m. Enhanced Fitness - FH
6:15 p.m. Zumba – CLC
6:30 p.m. Boy Scouts - FH
6:30 p.m. Gideons (3rd Thurs. each month) – FH

Sound System

1st Paul Schmidt

8th Braden Hudson

15th Tyler Nickless

22nd Eric Moody

29th Eric Moody

A Note from Pastor Nathan

For who makes you different from anyone else? What do you have that you did not receive? And if you did receive it, why do you boast as though you did not?

1 Corinthians 4:7

Freely you have received, freely give.

Matthew 10:8

In our November newsletter I said that Thanksgiving will come on our calendar regardless of whether it comes in our hearts. We are called not simply to observe Thanksgiving as a holiday but to live thanksgiving as a verb.

So also, all of us will make the transition from Thanksgiving to Christmas at some point, on the calendar if nowhere else. But what does Thanksgiving teach us about how to practice Christmas? And what might keep us from carrying the demeanor of Thanksgiving through the season of Christmas?

Thanksgiving acknowledges what the Scriptures declare: “The earth is the LORD’s, and everything in it” and “every good and perfect gift is from above” (Psalm 24:1; James 1:17). As we near the end of each calendar year, we stop on a Thursday in November to celebrate the God who delights in giving good gifts to his children.

Christmas is of course about the greatest gift – “The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us” (John 1:14). Jesus Christ was and is the greatest Gift ever given. It is therefore appropriate that we have this custom at Christmas of giving gifts.

Gifts are both wonderful and dangerous. Sometimes we worship gifts rather than the ultimate Giver of all gifts; this is idolatry. Other times, we begin to boast about the gifts, as if the things we have received are somehow to our credit. Further, we often speak as if the gifts we have received make us superior to those who have not.

I have done this, thousands of times. I’ve bragged about toys I’ve received and clothes I’ve worn and games I’ve been given tickets to and meals I’ve been served. It seems I have boasted about these things with the goal that other people would think well (or better) of me. “Look what I got!”

Some friends of ours were visiting recently and needed to discipline their child, who was misbehaving. After returning to the room, the father spoke of how he sometimes needs to pull his daughter aside to “recalibrate.”

The verses at the top of this page recalibrate me. If 1 Corinthians 4:7 is the recalibration of Thanksgiving, then Matthew 10:8 is our recalibration for the Christmas season. If everything I have received from January through November is a gift from God, then nothing I receive in December will be to my own credit. And if I can trust that the God who has given me everything will continue to provide my daily bread, then I am free to give!

And when we live like that – grateful, not boasting; generous, not greedy – we proclaim the glory of God.

Holy Spirit, fill us with the contentment of Thanksgiving, that we might be prepared to live out the generosity of Christmas. Be glorified in us!

Grace and peace,
Nathan