THE FIRST BAPTIST CONNECTION

December 2018

News and Updates for our Family in Christ

Visit our website @ www.fbcbloom.org



BIRTHDAYS

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

PRAYER CONCERNS

On-Going Prayer Concerns

Bright Beginnings Daycare and Preschool
Jerry & Jean Boyer
David & Lydia Hunter
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 Richard & Brenda Nichols



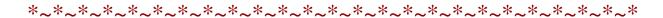
Young People Away Addresses

Cail Brown (Vincennes University) 1101 North First St., Room 312-A Vincennes, IN 47591

Madison Toon 3178 Droll Ave. Evansville, IN 47712 Kylee Moody 1901 Boston Ave. Terre Haute, IN 47805

Delene Weeks 606 NE 68th St. Apt. 112 Gladstone, MO 64118 Kelsey Moody Taylor University Bergwall Hall

236 West Reade Ave. Upland, IN 46989



Open House at the Parsonage – December 21

The Brooks family would like to invite you to stop by the parsonage on December 21, between 5:00-7:00pm, for our annual Christmas open house. We love you, First Baptist!



Leadership Retreat - January 12

We will have a church leadership retreat on Saturday, January 12, beginning at 9:00 a.m. here at the church. If you anticipate serving on the Deacons, Council, Trustees, or Bright Beginnings Board, please mark the date on your calendar. (Snow date is January 19.)





The 2019 Hoops for Him Basketball Program will be held at the Bloomfield First Baptist Christian Life Center beginning January 26 and ending March 16, 2019. 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 will conclude with an Awards Ceremony on March 16th. Online Registrations are available through our Facebook page (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 9th consecutive season successful. The volunteer sign-up sheet will be circulated at church or you may contact Eric Moody (email eric.moody@navy.mil or text 812-227-0700) if you are willing to assist.

A Note from Pastor Nathan

For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses... Hebrews 4:15

Christmas is about hope, peace, joy and love. These are happy themes inspiring pleasant emotions. Most of our Christmas songs are written about these things. And there is nothing wrong with celebrating at Christmas.

Life happens, however, and our Christmas seasons are often tainted by grief or sorrow. Feelings of loss and despair can overwhelm us and drown out our Christmas joy. There are circumstances which make it very hard to actually celebrate at Christmas.

In some of us, this predicament brings up a sense of shame. "What's wrong with me? Why can't I be happy like I'm supposed to? Look at everyone else. Come on, it's Christmas!" It is possible to feel like a bad person for not being happy at Christmas. It is also possible to mask deep inward pain under the guise of celebration.

But there is no shame in feeling sorrow or pain at Christmastime. None. There's a sense in which that *was* Jesus' Christmas experience. The birth of Jesus was the unveiling of "Immanuel, God *with* us." Christmas is about God's deliberate, personal entrance into our word of suffering. Since the children had flesh and blood, Jesus too would be made like us in every way. He would get acquainted with our suffering. The manger was the entrance ramp for the highway to the cross. It would not be an easy, happy road for the Man of Sorrows.

Christ came into the world and made our sufferings His sufferings. As we follow Him, His sufferings become our sufferings. In this crucible of shared hardship, new depths of relationship with Jesus may be forged. We enter into suffering and find that Jesus is already there. And He is there with authentic compassion. If Christmas was the entry point for the Son of God into the sufferings of the world, our sufferings at Christmas just might be an entry point into the heart of Jesus.

Our hardships might be opportunities for conversations with Jesus. I'm talking about stillness, prayer, and reflection during the carols and the readings of the season. I'm talking about carving out time to be attentive to the presence of the Crucified One. I'm talking about crying out to Him from the depths of our despair, and finding that He is nearer than we ever realized, and that He is pained and grieved alongside us. We might learn something about the love of the One who was wounded for the wounded. In conversations about our wounds, Jesus just might bring new measures of healing.

All of this makes for pleasant writing but it is difficult in practice. I don't like *thinking* about the hard things of my life, much less *deliberately bringing those subjects up*, even if it is to Jesus! I'd rather escape and ignore.

But consider this: Is not hope stronger once it has been restored after a season of hopelessness? Is not peace more satisfying after an encounter with strife? Is not joy more meaningful after a dark valley of despair? Is not love more refreshing after an experience of abandonment?

I can't compare my experience with yours, and I can't pretend to know the depths of the hard things you've faced, or are facing. But it just might be that, after these awful things have apparently stolen our hope or peace or joy or love, we could end up with deeper and more meaningful versions of each.

The Lord is close to the broken-hearted. The Lord is near to all who call on Him. What if our hardships became entry points into new conversations with Jesus, new encounters with His wounds, and new depths of His healing? That is our daunting but enticing invitation.

Let every heart prepare Him room!

Nathan

First Baptist Church 500 Lincoln Drive Bloomfield, IN 47424

December 2018

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
2 Communion	3	4 6:30 Trustees	5 9:00 Bible Study 10:30 150 th Anniv. Planning Meeting	6 6:30 Deacons	7 6:30 Preschool Christmas Program	8
9 9:00 Kingdom Kids 6:00 Cantata	10	11	9:00 Bible Study 10:00 Bright Beginnings Board	13 6:30 Congregational Meeting	14	15
4:00 Caroling	17	18	9:00 Bible Study	20	5-7pm Parsonage Open House	22
9:00 Kingdom Kids	7:00 Christmas Eve Service	CHRISTMAS!	NO Bible Study this week	27	28	29
30	31					

Deacon of the Month	Trustee of the Month	Usher of the Month	Greeters
Debra Hudson	Eric Moody	Bob Templeton	Jason Nicholson

Reoccurring Weekly Activities @ FBC

Mondays: 10:00 a.m. Enhanced Fitness - FH Wednesdays: FLAMES - CLC 6:15 p.m.

6:00 a.m. 6:30 p.m. Cub Scouts - FH Thursdays: Men's Breakfast

> 10:00 a.m. Enhanced Fitness - FH

Tuesdays: 6:30 p.m. Girl Scouts - FH 11:00 a.m. Cottage Prayer Group

> 6:30 p.m. Boy Scouts - FH

6:30 p.m. Gideons (3rd Thurs. each month) - FH

Sound System

Paul Schmidt 2nd

9th Braden Hudson

16th TBD

23rd Eric Moody

30th Eric Moody

Prayers

2nd John Bailey

9th Kathy Ham **TBD**

16th

23rd **TBD**

30th **TBD**

Nursery Care

Sandy Clark 2nd

9th Karla Pruett/Calvin Myers

16th Michelle & Ivy Foxworthy

 23^{rd} Stephanie Henry

30th**TBD**

Children's Worship

(2nd, 3rd & 4th Sundays only)

9th Betty Miller

Janet Schmidt

23rd Kim Schulte