

## Newsletter: December 2024

### Our Mission Statement:

*Our purpose is to be a unified body seeking to reach up to God, out to people, and down within ourselves to expand God's Kingdom for God's glory.*

### Mark Your Calendars

#### DECEMBER

#### EVENTS & ACTIVITIES

12/1 Deacon Ordination Service

12/4 Wednesday Night Activities

12/5 Nursing Home Christmas Store

12/8 Lord's Supper & Church Holiday Meal

12/11 Wednesday Night Activities

12/15 Finance Meeting & Christmas Music

12/17 WMU Meeting

12/18 Wednesday Night Activities & Business Meeting

12/24 & 12/25 – Church Office closed for Christmas Holiday

12/25 No Wed. Night Activities

12/31 Last Day to Give Contributions for 2024

#### Sunday Service Schedule

Sunday School @ 9:30 a.m.

Worship Service @ 10:30 a.m.

#### Wednesday Night Activities

Meal @ 5:30 PM

Prayer Meeting & Bible Study @ 6 PM

Join us weekly for this time of study and prayer. The adults will meet in the fellowship hall. Youth and Children meet in their Sunday School rooms. We have a great time of food, fellowship, and study so come join us!

### **DEACON ORDINATION SERVICE**

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 1<sup>ST</sup>**

### **MORNING WORSHIP SERVICE**

According to the New Testament meaning of the work and practice of a deacon, it says deacons are to be servants of the church. The task of the deacon is to serve with the pastor and staff in performing ministry tasks; proclaim the gospel to believers and unbelievers; care for the church members and other persons in the community; lead the church to engage in a fellowship of worship, witness, education, ministry, and application; and lead the church in performing tasks where needed. 1 Timothy 3:8-13 also states what characteristics a Deacon and his family must have. Our church constitution states the items above and a few more statements.

We are so pleased to announce that Jimmy Bray has been selected by our church to be ordained a Deacon. Please make plans to join us for Morning Worship Service on Sunday, December 1<sup>st</sup> to be a part of the Ordination Service as well as our weekly time of worship. Lift up Jimmy and his family as well as our Deacons and Bro. Mark in your prayers. We look forward to Jimmy being added in this position in our church.



### **Church Holiday Meal set for Sunday, December 8<sup>th</sup>**

After the Morning Worship Service on Sunday, December 8<sup>th</sup>, we will have our annual holiday meal. This will be a covered dish meal with the church providing ham, baked chicken, dressing, rolls, and drinks. You are asked to bring side dishes, salads, and desserts. Invite your family and friends to join us on this day for Sunday School, Worship, and great food. This is a wonderful time for Christian fellowship and for us as a church to enjoy a meal together during the holiday season.



### **Christmas Musical**

**Sunday, December 17<sup>th</sup> @ 6:00 p.m.**

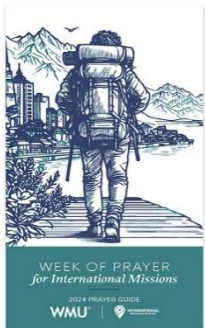
***"THE CELEBRATION OF CHRISTMAS"***

***Invite Family and Friends to attend. Nursery Provided.***

### **LORD'S SUPPER ON DECEMBER 8<sup>TH</sup>**

On Sunday, December 8<sup>th</sup> during the AM Worship Service, we will observe the Lord's Supper. We hope that you will come to the Lord's table and join in this service of remembrance.





## Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for International Missions Church Goal = \$ 6,000

Lottie Moon was sent as a Southern Baptist missionary to China from 1873 to 1912. She saw firsthand the world's greatest problem — LOSTNESS. Meeting so many people who had never heard the gospel compelled her to write letters to American churches describing the need for a greater missionary presence.

She pleaded for increased prayer and financial support to send and sustain more missionaries. This challenge became known as the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering®.

### Week of Prayer for International Missions December 1<sup>st</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup>

Southern Baptists observe a Week of Prayer for International Missions each year for the annual Lottie Moon offering emphasis. Will you join your heart with others to pray for missionaries around the world who are faithfully sharing the gospel? Prayer guides are available in Sunday's bulletin and in various locations at the church. Use this guide daily to pray for these missions and missionaries.

Don't forget to support our annual drive for items needed for the Nursing Home Christmas Store. Lists of suggested items are located throughout the church and in this Newsletter. A box to place your donated items in is located by the church office. Items need to be turned into the church by Wednesday, December 4<sup>th</sup>. The residents truly enjoy shopping for gifts for themselves or loved ones during this time and look forward to this each year. Thank you for your sign of love for the local nursing home residents by supplying these gifts to them for the Nursing Home Christmas Store.

### Nursing Home Christmas Store

Thursday, December 5<sup>th</sup>

#### Items needed for store:

- Lap Throws
- Pillows (soft – do not overstuff)
- T-shirts (all sizes for Men & Women)
- Rubber soled & Crochet slippers
- House Shoes (men's larger sizes & women's)
- Socks with grips (Men & Women)
- Dolls and Stuffed Toys (new or very clean)
- Name brand Kleenex
- Jewelry & Trinkets
- Body Mist & Perfume
- Night Lights
- Walker Purses
- Room & Holiday Decorations
- Lotion, cream, mouthwash, deodorant, etc.
- Snack cakes
- Diabetic cookies & candy
- Homemade cookies & candy
- Small can or bottled soft drinks (regular & diet)

**NOTE – No Chocolate covered cherries please! They are a choking hazard.**

Contact the Many First Baptist Church office for more details.

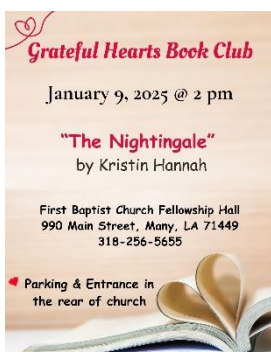
### Finance Committee Meeting Sunday, December 15<sup>th</sup> @ 5 p.m.

Members of this committee are urged to attend. There are several important items to discuss. If you cannot attend, contact Paul Morris or the church office.

**Our Security Team will meet  
on Monday, December 2<sup>nd</sup> at 7  
PM. For more information,  
please contact Jerry Salley or  
Phillip Roark.**

### Business Meeting on Wednesday, December 18<sup>th</sup> @ 6 p.m.

Church members need to attend this important Business Meeting on December 18<sup>th</sup>. Several important items are on the agenda including a recommendation from the Committee on Committees as well as other key business matters. Please make plans to attend the Business Meeting. Come be a part of the business matters and decisions of the church.



### Women's Christian Book Club

Ladies! Looking for a Christian book club? Come join us at Many First Baptist Church. Everyone is welcome. The group meets the first Thursday each month. The next book we will discuss is "The Nightingale" by Kristin Hannah. Get your book at your favorite bookstore or the library and come ready to discuss on Thursday, January 9<sup>th</sup> @ 2 PM. For more info, contact the FBC office at 256-5655 or fbcmany@bellsouth.net. Invite a friend or two and come join us January 9<sup>th</sup>.

**\*\* We will not meet in December but will resume in January 2025. \*\***

**CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED FOR CHRISTMAS & NEW YEAR**  
**TUESDAY, DEC. 24<sup>TH</sup>, WEDNESDAY, DEC. 25<sup>TH</sup>, AND WEDNESDAY, JAN. 1<sup>ST</sup>**  
**Merry Christmas and Happy New Year from the Many FBC Church Staff!**

**Ladies Winter Bible Study**

**Ephesians begins on Thursday, January 16<sup>th</sup> at 10 AM – 12 noon**

**Contact Church Office or Ramona Moore for details!**

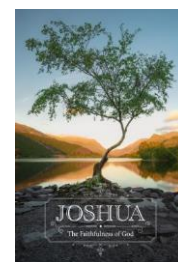
*Who am I?* The question of identity is always in the back of our minds, and it's currently at the forefront of social conversations. But the first question we need to ask is: *Who is God?* Then we can begin to consider, *And who am I in light of who He is?* In his letter to the Ephesians, Paul describes God as a merciful and forgiving Father who unites us in Christ and empowers us to live by the Spirit. We're adopted children and fellow citizens with the saints because of God's loving pursuit on our behalf.

In this 7-session study, Bible teachers, authors, and friends Jackie Hill Perry, Jasmine Holmes, and Melissa Kruger walk through the book of Ephesians, examining the invaluable truths Paul's letter holds for us today. Along the way, they'll help us understand the riches of our inheritance as daughters of our heavenly Father, as well as what it means to walk in a manner worthy of our calling.

**January Bible Study "Joshua - The Faithfulness of God"**

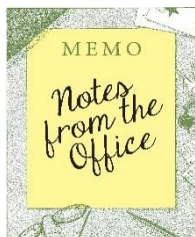
**Sunday, January 12<sup>th</sup> – Wednesday, January 15<sup>th</sup> @ 6 PM**

**Bro. Jack Bell will lead the 4 session study at Many FBC. Study Books are free to church members but if you would like to help offset the expense, they are \$ 9.00 each. Please sign up by Tuesday, January 7<sup>th</sup>.**



**Operation Christmas Child Shoe Boxes Turned in 184 Boxes**

Our church did a wonderful job at preparing 184 boxes for Operation Christmas Child. We deeply appreciated everyone who prepared boxes or donated funds for us to prepare the boxes. Thanks again to everyone who participated.



**News from the Church Office**

- The Church Office will be closed for the Christmas holidays on Tuesday, December 24<sup>th</sup> and Wednesday, December 25<sup>th</sup>. If you need to get in touch with the staff during office closures, please refer to the Emergency Contact section in the monthly church newsletter. Save it for future use.
- The Church Office will close on Wednesday, January 1<sup>st</sup> for the New Year's holiday.
- Please have any contributions that you would like to count towards your 2024 contributions into the church office no later than Tuesday, December 31<sup>st</sup> no later than 12 noon.
- If you would like to know what your year to date financial contributions are, please use your Realm account or contact Karen in the church office. NOTE - We will send the yearly 2024 Contribution Statements for you tax purposes by the end of January 2025.

**WMU Meeting on Tuesday, December 17<sup>th</sup> @ 9:30 AM**

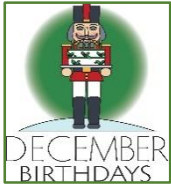
**Ladies interested in learning and participating in various mission projects are encouraged to attend.**  
**See Shirley Salley for more details.**

**Proposed 2025 Budget passed vote**

The Budget and Finance Committees presented the proposed 2025 Church Budget back in November and the church members voted unanimously to adopt this budget for 2025 pass on Sunday, November 24<sup>th</sup>. If you have any questions regarding this or any budget matters, please contact Karen in the church office or Paul Morris. Be in prayer for this budget and your part in financially supporting the mission of FBC.

**December Monthly Special Offering Emphasis**  
**Lottie Moon International Missions Offering**





1 Jerry Salley  
 3 Shelly Wiggins  
 4 Bob Geoghagan,  
 Dub Gentry  
 8 Reid Turner, Charles  
 Strickland, Karen Robinson

10 Donnie Smith  
 15 Josh Weaver  
 18 Kimberly Horton  
 19 Paige Alford  
 20 Andy Knippers  
 25 Becca Morris

27 Delores Geoghagan,  
 Hannah Smith, Haley Smith,  
 Anita Thedford  
 29 Carolyn Cook

### **Members in Service :**

	<b><u>Greeters</u></b>	<b><u>Deacon of the Week</u></b>
12/1	Nancy Wright, Cathy Kelly	Phillip Roark
12/8	Kathy & Danny Warmack	Mark Jordan
12/15	Phyllis Horton, Shirley Salley	Danny Warmack
12/22	Shirley Salley, Delores Geoghagan, and Rocky Wright	Mike Collier
12/29	Phyllis Horton, Gary & Ramona Moore	Paul Morris

### **Bulletin & Newsletter Deadlines**

Bulletin for 12/8 = Thursday 12/5 @ 9 AM  
 Bulletin for 12/15= Thursday 12/12 @ 9 AM  
 Bulletin for 12/22 = Thursday 12/19 @ 9 AM  
 Bulletin for 12/29 = Monday 12/23 @ 9 AM  
 Newsletter for Jan. = Monday 12/23 @ 9 AM  
*To have announcements to be placed in publications, have them to Karen or Phyllis by these deadlines.*

### **Deacon Counters for December – Paul Morris & Don Burkett**

### **Emergency Contact Numbers**

**First Baptist Church of Many**  
**Church Office = (318)256-5655 M – F 8 AM – 4 PM**  
**AFTER HOURS CONTACTS:**  
 Karen Sepulvado = (318)508-1138  
 Phyllis Horton = (318)602-5062

### **Vital Statistics**

<b><u>Financial November 2024</u></b>	
Monthly Budget Needs:	\$ 26,100.97
Gifts Received:	\$ 46,889.84
Budget Needs Exceeded:	\$ 20,788.87

### **Look Ahead at Upcoming Activities in January:**

- Wednesday, January 1<sup>st</sup> – Church Office Closed for New Years holiday.
- Thursday, January 9<sup>th</sup> – Ladies Book Club
- January 12<sup>th</sup> – 15<sup>th</sup> – January Bible Study – lead by Rev. Jack Bell
- Thursday, January 16<sup>th</sup> – Ladies Bible Study: Ephesians
- Sunday, January 19<sup>th</sup> – Sanctity of Life Sunday
- Sunday, January 19<sup>th</sup> – Finance Committee Meeting @ 5 PM
- Tuesday, January 21<sup>st</sup> – WMU Meeting @ 9:30 AM
- Wednesday, January 22<sup>nd</sup> – Business Meeting @ 6 PM
- Thursday, January 23<sup>rd</sup> – Ladies Bible Study: Ephesians
- Thursday, January 30<sup>th</sup> – Ladies Bible Study: Ephesians

?? ? **Bible Quiz** ? ??

Who was governor of Syria when Joseph and Mary traveled to Bethlehem for a mandated registration, or census?

- A. Theophilus
- B. Herod Antipas
- C. Pontius Pilate
- D. Quirinius

Answer: D (See Luke 2:1-7.)

### **First Baptist Church Office Staff**

Interim Pastor – Rev. Mark Robinson

Church & Financial Secretary – Karen Sepulvado

Church Secretary – Phyllis Horton



We wish to congratulate Hannah Campbell and Jesus Castro who were united in marriage in our church on Saturday, November 2<sup>nd</sup>. It was a beautiful celebration with many family and friends. Please join us in wishing the blissful couple many years of happiness and offer prayers for them. May God bless your marriage.

### Ways to Give Your Tithes & Offerings

- Place in offering plate as you enter or exit the Sanctuary on Sundays.
- Mail to Church (P.O. Box 239, Many, LA 71449).
- Come by the church during office hours.
- Log on to [www.fbcmmany.org/giving](http://www.fbcmmany.org/giving) or Text FBCMANY to 73256.

Watch our Sunday Morning Worship Services live on our Facebook page. If you cannot join us in person, please use this way to worship and connect with us each week.


**Does the church office have your correct contact information? If you are unsure, please drop us an email with all your info (cell #, email, mailing address, anniversary date, etc.) so we can update records. Your help in making sure our records are correct is appreciated.**

### 2025 Sanctuary Flower Calendar open Now!

#### Reserve your Sunday for flowers with the Church Office

The 2025 Sanctuary flower calendar is now open. Call the church office today to reserve a Sunday or two to place flowers. The dates are on a first come, first serve basis so if you have a particular date in mind, call today to get it reserved. We really appreciate everyone who placed the flowers which added so much for our worship experience each week.





## PUZZLE

### CLUES ABOUT CHRISTMAS

The Old Testament contains many details about Jesus' birth.  
Can you uncover what Isaiah prophesied?

Directions: Use the code to write the letters and complete Isaiah 9:6-7, NIV.

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	!	@	#	\$

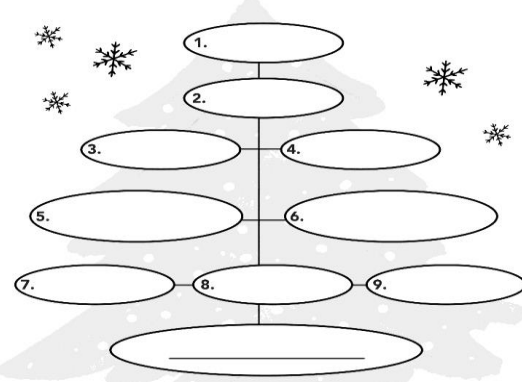
N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z
%	^	&	*	(	)	-	?	>	<	:	;	{

For to us a \_\_\_\_\_ is \_\_\_\_\_, to us a \_\_\_\_\_  
 is \_\_\_\_\_, and the government will be on his shoulders.  
 And he will be called Wonderful \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_ God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the  
 greatness of his government and \_\_\_\_\_ there will be no \_\_\_\_\_  
 He will reign on David's \_\_\_\_\_ and over his \_\_\_\_\_  
 establishing and upholding it with \_\_\_\_\_ and righteousness  
 from that time on and \_\_\_\_\_ Isaiah 9:6-7, NIV

Answers: child, born, son, given, Counselor, throne, peace, end, justice, forever

# Puzzle!

Write the answer to each clue in the correct circle.  
Then jot down the first letter of each answer  
and unscramble those letters to form a word about this  
season. Write that answer at the bottom of the tree.

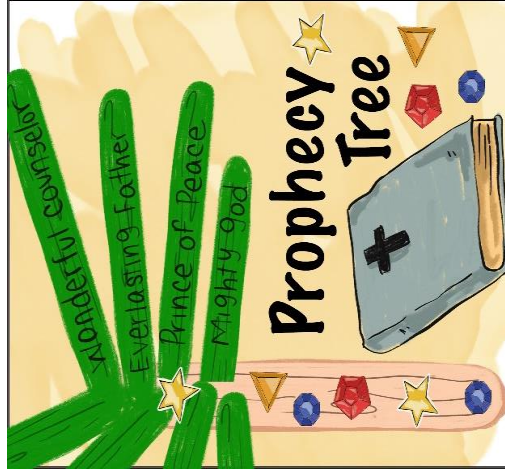


#### CLUES

1. You trim this at Christmas.
2. One who governs
3. The first word of a popular carol, it means "Listen!"
4. You burn this to make the air sweet.
5. "For unto us is born this day a \_\_\_\_\_"
6. She was betrothed to Joseph.
7. Shepherds heard them sing.
8. A Christmas song
9. 'Tis the \_\_\_\_\_ to be jolly!"

Answers: 1. tree; 2. ruler; 3. hark; 4. incense; 5. season; Christmas; 6. Mary; 7. angels; 8. carol; 9. season





### Make this Christmas craft to display special names for Jesus.

#### What you need:

- Large wooden craft stick
- Small green wooden craft sticks
- Scissors
- Ruler
- Bible
- Permanent marker
- Craft glue
- Optional: star stickers or craft jewels

#### What you do:

1. Place the large stick on a table vertically, like a tree trunk.
2. Cut the green sticks into pieces that measure 4", 3½", 3" and 2½".
3. On each green stick, write a name for Jesus from Isaiah 9:6 — Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. (Write small or ask an adult for help.)
4. Use a dot of glue to attach each green stick to the large stick, like tree branches.
5. Decorate your Christmas tree with stickers or jewels.



#### Hope

- ◊ Day 1: Jeremiah 29:10-14
- ◊ Day 2: Romans 15:8-13
- ◊ Day 3: 1 Peter 1:3-12
- ◊ Day 4: Hebrews 10:19-39
- ◊ Day 5: Psalm 33
- ◊ Day 6: Titus 2:11-3:8

#### Joy

- ◊ Day 13: Philippians 4:4-9
- ◊ Day 14: Psalm 16
- ◊ Day 15: James 1:2-18
- ◊ Day 16: Psalm 30
- ◊ Day 17: Luke 2:8-20
- ◊ Day 18: John 15:1-11

#### Peace

- ◊ Day 7: Isaiah 9:1-7
- ◊ Day 8: John 14:1-7, 25-31
- ◊ Day 9: John 16:25-33
- ◊ Day 10: Romans 5:1-11
- ◊ Day 11: Ephesians 2:11-22
- ◊ Day 12: Colossians 3:1-17

#### Love

- ◊ Day 19: Micah 7:18-20
- ◊ Day 20: Romans 8:31-39
- ◊ Day 21: John 3:16-21
- ◊ Day 22: 1 John 4:7-21
- ◊ Day 23: Philippians 2:1-11
- ◊ Day 24: 2 Thessalonians 2:13-3:5
- ◊ Day 25: Ephesians 2:1-10



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