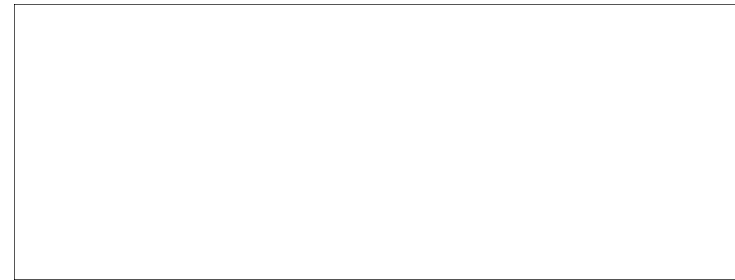


THE BRIDGE

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Thank You! to each of you! One of the great privileges of my life is sharing this journey with you, and I thank God for my faith family called FBC. I pray each of you has a memorable Thanksgiving filled with joy and gratitude!

I was taken back a bit on November 1 when I turned on the radio and heard Christmas music playing. It seems to get earlier and earlier every year. Christmas and music go together. Yet what I was hearing wasn't much about the birth of our Savior. It was far more about the secular side of Christmas, and I must admit I turned it off rather quickly and haven't turned it back on since. It is not that I don't enjoy secular Christmas music, because I do. It is more that we want to rush to the manger and skip some very important days. The All Saints Sunday has become one of the services I look forward to most during the year as we remember the incredible people in our church who have gone home to be with the Lord. I don't want to usurp that by listening to lesser things. Thanksgiving is something we should celebrate every day, but

Though this is technically a December newsletter, I realize it is going out before Thanksgiving. Therefore please allow me the opportunity to say

this day we set aside as a nation to give thanks is an important reminder of how blessed we are and I certainly don't want to skip that. But the most important reason I didn't want to begin listening to that Christmas music is the messages being sung seem so trite in comparison to the texts the Sanctuary Choir was, and continues to be, rehearsing each week. Symbolically, the music I heard on the radio reminded me how far we have come from the truth of Christmas. God veiled Himself in flesh and dwelt among us! The music on the radio just sounded trivial.

Please don't misunderstand, I am not against secular Christmas music; there is certainly a time for it. It seems to bring people together and joy seems to abound. But I pray we will spend more time on the music of Christmas that tells the story of perfect love, of Incarnation, of God with us! As we, as a church, begin to tell the story of reconciliation with God again beginning with Advent, let us all remember it begins with anticipation of a promised Messiah. Let's not skip the anticipation part. Let's fully embrace the whole church year!

I look forward to our telling the story again! I especially look forward to singing it!

Join us for all our Advent and Christmas services!

~Richard

THE BRIDGE

December 2019

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New Members

Stephen Baker
November 11, 2019

Deacons

The following individuals were elected by FBC to serve in the role of Deacon, 2020-2022.

Scotty Campbell
Lena Columbia
Doug Crowe
Ronnie Dunn
Wayne Dunn
Adell Kemper
Stephen Mason
Tom Midkiff
Vicky Mitchell
Linn Sholar
Tony Sholar
Dan Shouse
Martha Wade
Rick White

ADVENT SCHEDULE 2019

November 24
Hanging of the Green, 6:00 pm, followed by a dessert fellowship

December 1 - Advent Week 1: HOPE
Worship, 10:50 am

December 8 - Advent Week 2: PEACE
Worship, 10:50 am (children's choirs will sing)
Children's Living Nativity following morning worship. ALL children, including visitors, are welcome to participate!

December 15 - Advent Week 3: JOY
Worship, 10:50 am (Sanctuary Choir will lead service)

December 22 - Advent Week 4: LOVE
Worship, 10:50 am
Christmas Caroling, 5:00 pm

December 24
Christmas Eve and Communion Service, 5:00 pm

Special Notes: Bible study for children and adults is offered each Sunday at 9:45 am. Nursery is provided for all morning services. Evening services are for the entire family and children of all ages are welcome.

We hope to see you at First Baptist Church!
Please invite your friends to join us in worship!



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1	2	3	4 5:00 pm Wednesday Night Activities	5 9:00 am ROMEOS 6:00 pm Deacons' Banquet	6	7
8 9:45 am Bible Study 10:50 am Worship 12:00 pm Living Nativity 1:00 pm Cram the Cruiser Salvation Army Christmas Stocking Due!	9	10	11 5:00 pm Wednesday Night Activities	12 9:00 am ROMEOS ▲	13	14
15 9:45 am Bible Study 10:50 am Worship	16	17	18 5:00 pm Wednesday Night Activities	19 9:00 am ROMEOS	20 6:30 pm Youth trip to Perfect North followed by lock-in	21 9:00 am Clinic
22 9:45 am Bible Study 10:50 am Worship 5:00 pm Christmas Caroling	23 9:30 am Soup Kitchen	24 5:00 pm Christmas Eve Service	25 	26 9:00 am ROMEOS	27	28
29 9:45 am Bible Study 10:50 am Worship	30	31	The church office will be closed beginning Tuesday, December 24, and will reopen on Thursday, January 2. There will be no Wednesday evening activities on December 25 or January 1. Wednesday evening activities will resume on January 8.			

THE BARNABAS GROUP

In November, thirty members of The Barnabas Group went to Beaumont Inn in Harrodsburg for a wonderful lunch and great fun together. There are pictures from the event on the church Facebook page.

We will not have a separate event in December; instead, we will join the church for Christmas caroling on Sunday, December 22. This is a great time of fellowship and a marvelous way to bring joy to some of our church family.

In the Sunday School rooms, you will find survey sheets for our 55+ members, asking for your opinion on potential events to schedule for 2020. If you did not get a survey and want to fill one out, please email me at TheBarnabasGroupFBC@gmail.com, or call me at 859-948-1238. In January, I will get tentative schedules out so you can start planning for next year.

Thank you for allowing me the opportunity and privilege to serve the church this year through scheduling and organizing events for this amazing group of folks. I thoroughly enjoy planning outings and getting to know you all better. I look forward to lining up more fun events in 2020. Have a blessed Christmas season.

~Mona



Genesis 1-11

At our School for Discipleship, November 9, Rick White led us in a deep and insightful look at the beginning chapters of the book of Genesis. Through his teaching, and our interaction in small groups, we explored some of the major themes of the creation story and its relevance to us today. Thank you, Rick for sharing your gifts and knowledge with us. You were obviously well prepared.

Mental Health Series

The Mental Health Series, led by Melinda Simpson, was well attended and very helpful. Thank you, Melinda, for your excellent leadership on this important topic. I am thankful our church is able to offer this kind of spiritual formation, since, at one time or another, all of us will deal with anxiety, depression, grief, and stress and will relate to friends, family, and co-workers who do.

Enneagram Study

We recently concluded our 12-session Enneagram study. This study has helped us come to a greater understanding of ourselves and our neighbors. We learned to appreciate the ways we, and others, are uniquely created to approach life and relationships. Thank you to Cynthia Insko for coming back to lead us. She continues to be a blessing to First Baptist Church. Thank you to Amy Smith for helping (she's a 2 for those of you who know Enneagrams) and for her great ideas. Be on the lookout for more Enneagram opportunities. We have tentatively scheduled a one evening enneagram study and planning session for Sunday, January 12, 4:00-6:00 p.m., for those who are experienced with enneagrams and for those who would like to learn more about it.

FBC Breakfast Club, Sunday, January 12, 2020

Plan to join us for Ministry Team Appreciation and an introduction to our 2020 Theme: Connect, Grow, Serve

Thankful

It has been about a year since Dianne and I joined First Baptist Church, and during this Thanksgiving season, we have much to be thankful for. We are thankful for new friendships, for opportunities to serve God with you, for so much worship, music, sermons, spiritual formation, prayers, fellowship, and missions that makes us who we are as a church. I have been greatly blessed to work with your caring and capable staff: Keith (#1), Richard, Marcus, Jenny, and Kara. They know what they are doing. They are effective ministers. They each have a passion for serving Christ and this church. They care about you. They love God and others.



FROSTY 5K

The 4th annual Frankfort Frosty 5K is Sunday, December 8, 2:00 pm, at Lakeview Park. Proceeds from the event benefit the First United Methodist Church's Ecumenical Honduras Medical/Dental Mission trip, Water with Blessing, and the Mission Frankfort Clinic. To sign up, visit our website, fbcfankfort.org and click the Frosty 5K scrolling slide.

INCLEMENT WEATHER

We carefully watch winter weather as it affects Wednesday night activities and driving after dark. If Wednesday night activities need to be cancelled, the decision will be made by noon of that day. An announcement will be posted on Facebook in addition to notifying LEX Channel 18 and our local radio station, 104.9.

If Sunday worship ever needs to be cancelled, you will be alerted in the same manner.



ADVENT DEVOTIONALS: With Glorious Anticipation We Tell the Story Again

Our Advent Devotionals will be ready for you to pick up this Sunday, November 24—in print, on CD, and published online. Advent is indeed a season of glorious anticipation for the coming of the Messiah. During this season we focus on the hope, peace, joy, and love that sustains us. Thanks to our devotional writers who have shared their personal stories, biblical insights, and their reflections on the themes of Advent, to help prepare our hearts and minds for the coming of Christ.



2019 Advent Devotional
First Baptist Church

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Linda McKinley
 Organist

Lois Summers
 Pianist

Anthony Hager
 Building Superintendent

Seldon Jackson
 Assistant Custodian

The Journey – Walking the Road to Bethlehem



This year's "Advent"ure begins on Sunday, December 1. We will be combining our Preschool through 5th grade Sunday School classes during the month of December to take a special Journey to Bethlehem with various Bible characters. Our children understand Advent is a time of getting ready for the mystery of Christmas. During our Journey, we will explore the story of Jesus' birth with fresh eyes and ears in an effort to discover the real meaning of Christmas. The children will:

- Learn about the places where the story occurred.
- Experience some of the culture of Bible times.
- Discover what each character in the story teaches us about God.
- Realize what this story means for their lives today.
- Celebrate the birth of God's Son.
- Discover the real meaning of Christmas.

Please pray for the children, the teachers, and the helpers to have open minds and hearts to receive God's great gift as we make our way to Bethlehem in anticipation of the birth of the King.

Warming Hands and Hearts Mission Project

As we did last year, our Children's Ministry would like to ask our church family to help us bless those in our community who are in need this winter with items to warm hands and hearts. We will be decorating the Christmas Tree in the Preschool/Nursery foyer with donations of hats, scarves, and gloves. There is always a need for adult, youth, or infant sized items. These items will be given to the FBC Clothes Closet after Christmas for use this winter.

~Jenny



Hello, church!

Our youth will be very active this month. Following worship on Sunday, December 8, the Youth Ministry has the opportunity to organize and stock food items at the Food Pantry for "Cram the Cruiser". They'll be working alongside other youth groups in helping feed folks here in Frankfort. Participants will eat lunch at FBC and then leave for the Food Pantry.

I need all youth to sign up on the YOUTH BULLETIN BOARD by Wednesday, December 4, to plan for food and transportation.

During Sunday school on December 15, we'll be doing a white elephant gift exchange. Youth may either make a DIY gift or purchase one with a \$10-dollar limit to exchange with each other. Silly, age-appropriate gifts are highly encouraged!

Friday, December 20, we'll be taking a "perfect" trip up to Perfect North for snow-tubing. We'll leave FBC at 6:30 p.m. and arrive at Perfect North around 8:30 p.m. to snow-tube until midnight. Upon returning, we'll have a lock-in until 7:30 Saturday morning. Makayla Hawkins will serve as our other chaperone. If your youth and any friends of theirs want to go on the trip, tubing tickets cost \$30 (ages 13+) and \$25 (ages 12 and under). Please sign up on the YOUTH BULLETIN BOARD and pay the church office for your tubing ticket by Sunday, December 15.

As always, please feel free to contact me if you'd like to get involved with the youth in some way.

Peace be with you!

~Marcus



My prayer is you all have the very best holiday season, but I realize this time of year is more joyous for some than others. Some of you are traversing this season for the first time without a loved one and it will be difficult. I encourage you to not try to ignore their absence or put on an artificial brave face. Take time to shed necessary tears and voice to God your sadness and hurt. Set aside time to remember your loved one in a special way – hang an ornament in their memory, have a family prayer time remembering them, share some special memories, funny stories or milestones you've had with that individual. Breathe in, breathe out and then, after you have taken the time to remember them, look around and find the blessings that are present. Make sure to focus

the majority of the holiday season (if at all possible) on the family and friends physically in the room. Give thanks for life here on earth, both sad and happy – and life eternal when the separation from lost loved ones ends and we will be together forever.

Thank you for continuing to pray for our two search committees. Both teams are working earnestly to bring candidates to fill the roles of Associate Pastor of Children and Spiritual Formation and Associate Pastor of Missions. Pray for God's guidance and peace as they go about their work. As you know, this is an important task and these teams need your support.

I WANT TO THANK EVERY PERSON INVOLVED WITH THE FBC CHRISTMAS TOY STORE THIS YEAR – ESPECIALLY HELEN TIPTON AND PAM MANNING WHO LITERALLY WORK ALL YEAR ON THIS IMPORTANT MINISTRY TO FAMILIES IN NEED. THERE ARE ALSO MANY 'ELVES' THAT HELP WITH THE FAMILIES AS THEY SHOP FOR GIFTS DURING THE STORE OPENINGS. THANKS TO ALL WHO SO GENEROUSLY HAVE DONATED THROUGHOUT THE YEAR!!!

Will you consider a year-end gift to FBC in addition to your regular tithes and offerings? As we close 2019, I pray we make great strides in our giving. Our staff and committees do a tremendous job in keeping our expenses down so our cash flow remains positive. I am thankful for all of your contributions thus far, but as you know, we are behind in our budget goals. We are approaching, what I believe to be, one of the most important years of recent times for our church – 2020. Wouldn't it be wonderful to begin the new year having met our goals of 2019? With God's help and your year-end gifts, this is possible.

In this past Sunday's sermon, I talked about my role in our church. In that context, I said that serving as your Pastor is one of the great privileges of my life. At the end of every year, I make a thank you list to God, and this sentiment will be among the things for which I am most grateful. The honor I feel of having this opportunity leaves me at a loss for words. Thank you for bringing me on, for your encouragement, for your participation, for your presence, for your faithfulness to Christ and His mission, for your readiness to tackle new challenges, for your understanding of who we are to be as Christ's Church, for your kindness and patience, for your love of each other, and for your love of all those in our city and beyond. I think 2020 will be an unforgettable year of God's blessings upon FBC, but as you know, it will take every one of us to be the church God desires.

In Christ,
 Keith

2020 GIVING ENVELOPES will be available for pickup in the front hallway during December. If you do not see yours, please contact Kara in the church office at kjohnson@fbcfrankfort.church or 502.227.4528.