

THE FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

ILLUMINATOR

"Ye are the LIGHT of the world." Matthew 5:14

VOL. LIV

NOVEMBER 29, 2017, WHITESBURG, KY 41858

NO. 46

YOUTH VARIETY SHOW

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 3, 6:00 P.M.

STAR OF WONDER

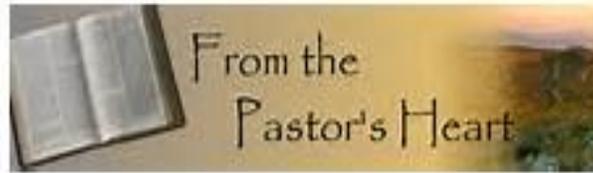
CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 10, 6:00 P.M.

SING GLORIA

Presented by The Adult Choir

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 17, 6:00 P.M.



December certainly ushers in for the church the Christmas season with all its festivities: musicals, advent wreath, favorite carols, dinners and parties ... a very special time of the year. The birth of Jesus Christ lies at the very heart of what we do at Christmas. But what also comes to m mind this time of the year is Missions and the *Lottie Moon Christmas Offering*.

The *Lottie Moon Christmas Offering* is named for one of the most well-known missionaries who sacrificed her own health to serve the people of China and share with them the Gospel message. We applaud such men and women of God who are *called* and *willing to go "into all the world"* to live the Gospel among indigenous people. We give financially, often with sacrifice, because we believe in what they do; and we believe that we share in their mission.

About twenty-five hundred years before Lottie Moon lived another missionary. This one was called, but was not willing to go. Jonah is the best known **"Running Away"** story in the Bible. This Sunday we will hear from him and seek to understand why he ran away from God's call. He is not alone. Many Christians run away from God's call on their lives too.

The Great Commission calls all of us to "go" and "make disciples". How does Jonah fit into our commission as a church to "make disciples"? Are you a disciple yourself? Are you following God's calling to "make disciples"? I'll be looking for you this Sunday morning as we explore the story of the reluctant disciple-maker from God's Word. I love you and pray for you.

Bro. Tony

Tony.Brown@whitesburgfb.org



CHURCH GOAL -- \$2,500.00



"So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger. When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them...The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told." Luke 2:16-18, 20

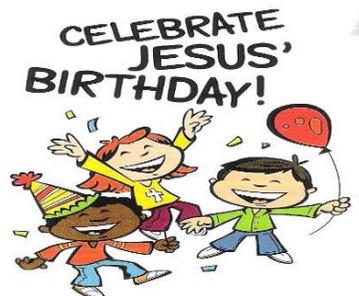
What excitement those shepherds displayed when the angels told them about Christ! They responded to that heavenly message by going to Bethlehem to find the baby and once they found him they began to tell others what they had heard and seen. These verses make the shepherd's response of awe and wonder palpable – I want our families to have that same response as Christmas approaches. I don't want our focus to be on shopping and gift exchanges; instead, our focus needs to be on the greatest gift we could ever receive, Jesus Christ.

God has been so very good to us; how can we, in obedience (Acts 1:8), place an emphasis on sharing what we have seen, heard and received? A few possibilities include: (1) attend/participate in the activities of the church that celebrate the birth of Christ; (2) after leaving those activities, take time to talk with your family about the meaning of those activities; (3) as a family, participate in a daily advent calendar that includes scripture (www.focusonthefamily.com has some calendars and other activities available); (4) sing and discuss the meaning/theology of traditional Christmas carols; and, (5) at your family Christmas gathering read Luke 2:1-20 and share what it means to you. There are so many other things we can do to respond to the birth of Christ as the shepherds did, we just have to be intentionally focused on Christ in order to make a true difference in our families.

In Christ,
Jeremy
Prov. 27:17

IGNITE CHRISTMAS GATHERING

5TH & 6TH Graders will meet on Friday, December 8th at 5 P.M. (until 9 P.M.) to celebrate the birth of Christ through fellowship, acts of kindness, games, gift exchange (each person bring a \$10 gift), and watching the parade. Food will be provided.



FRIDAY, DECEMBER 1, 5:30 – 8:00 P.M.
(3 year-old through 4th Grade)



Have you ever wondered what the purpose is behind the song, *The 12 Days of Christmas*? I always thought it was about gifts for Christmas. There are many theories, one of which was that it was that the song was developed in the mid-1500's to secretly teach young Catholic children about the symbols of their faith because Henry VIII had banned the Catholic church from practicing their faith. Another theory is that a song called *A New Dial*, or *In Those Twelve Days* was written in the mid-1600's to give religious meaning to each of the days from the birth of Jesus, Christmas to the day that the wise men came to visit, known as Epiphany. In the song, "True Love", is meant to represent God the true love of the world. The youth will be singing a very comedic version of this song on Sunday night, so I thought I would share what is believed to be the meaning behind each of the twelve gifts.

Partridge in a pear tree – Jesus Christ, symbolized as a mother partridge that feigns injury to decoy predators from helpless nestlings.

Two turtle doves – Old & New Testaments

Three French hens – Faith, hope, charity

Four Calling Birds – The four gospels

Five Golden Rings –The Pentateuch or Five books of Moses (Genesis through Deuteronomy)

Six Geese-a-laying – Six days of creation

Seven Swans-a-swimming –Seven gifts of the Holy Spirit

Eights maids-a-milking – Eight Beatitudes

Nine Ladies Dancing – Nine Fruits of the Holy Spirit

Ten Lords-a-leaping – Ten Commandments

Eleven Pipers piping – The faithful 11 disciples

Twelve Drummers Drumming – 12 Disciples

SCHEDULE

December 6:	Adult Choir Practice – 8:00 P.M.
December 9:	Children's Choir Practice – 9:00 A.M.
December 10:	<i>Star of Wonder</i> – Children's Play and Musical – 6:00 P.M. Church-wide Christmas Fellowship immediately following
December 11:	Adult Choir Practice – 6:00 P.M.
December 14:	Adult Choir Practice – 6:00 P.M.
December 17 –	<i>Sing Gloria</i> Play and Cantata – 6:00 P.M.



On Sunday evening at 6:00 P.M., our youth will be leading us in worship through a variety show. Please invite your family and friends and come out and join us.

On Friday, December 8th, the city of Whitesburg will have their Annual Christmas Parade. This year they have asked our youth and anyone else that would like to help, to conduct a live nativity in the bank parking lot. If you are interested in helping or being a part of the live nativity, please let me know.

On Wednesday, December 20th, our youth will be singing Christmas carols in the foyer of Food City. If you would like to come and join us, you are more than welcome. We will be starting at 5:00 P.M. If you have anyone you would like for us to visit and sing carols for, just let us know.

The cost for *Winter Xtreme* this year is \$120. The third deposit of \$30 is due this Sunday, and the final deposit of \$30 due on December 17th. As always if you need assistance, please let us know.

SUNDAY SCHOOL SNACKS

December 3
Amy Craft, Jeremy Horn

YOUTH CALENDAR OF EVENTS

December 3:	Practice following morning worship (lunch will be provided) Youth Christmas Variety Show, 6:00 P.M.
December 8:	Live Nativity during the Christmas Parade
December 20:	Christmas Caroling at Food City
December 27:	No Bible Study
December 29-31:	Winter Xtreme - \$120



Beginning this Sunday, we will be participating in the Lottie Moon Post office. You may bring your Christmas cards for those attending FBC and put them in the mailbox at the Welcome Desk in the foyer. You can place a donation for the postage in the "Church Building" in the foyer. All monies will be given to the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering. Our youth will distribute the cards.



AWANA CHRISTMAS STORE

Our Awana kids will soon have the opportunity to use the points they have earned towards Christmas gifts for their family members. Perhaps you can provide some new or gently used items for this store. Suggested items include:

- | | |
|-----------------|--------------------|
| Wallets | Purses |
| Jewelry | Small Tools |
| Keepsake Boxes | Belts |
| Lotions | Sports memorabilia |
| Christmas Candy | Sports Equipment |
| Small toys | Books |
| DVDs | Hats |
| Gloves | Scarves |

If you are able to help, please drop items off by December 6th (at the church office or give to Jeremy or Angie). We will also need help wrapping gifts on the night of December 13th, 6:30-8:00 P.M.



Wednesday, December 6, 7:00 P.M.

Called business meeting on Sunday, December 10 for the purpose of voting on Proposed 2018 Budget.

The Whitesburg First Baptist Church Operation Christmas Child Team would like to thank everyone that helped contribute to the success of our 2017 Operation Christmas Child National Collection Week. We had an amazing week, heard many inspiring testimonies, met so many new friends, and most of all, have had a part in the journey of a special shoebox gift to soooooo many children! THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU for listening to God's call and packing a shoebox. Our 2017 total for Southeast Kentucky is 9,369 gift-filled shoeboxes! That is simply amazing!!

I am continually astounded at what Southeast Kentucky will give. I know this portion of Kentucky has been hit hard and harder economically, yet people still give. I always think of the widow's mite and continue to be blessed and reminded to give God the very best, even if I feel like I don't have it to give.

Our prayer is that these 9,369 kids will not only experience the joy of Christmas but also have the opportunity to hear the story about the Greatest Gift Ever Given – God's Son, Jesus Christ and to experience everlasting joy.

Thanks again to every that was a part of the Operation Christmas Child Shoebox Ministry this 2017 season. May God bless you and your family with a wonder CHRISTmas Season!

Lee Adams

Southeast KY Collection Site Coordinator



By profession of faith and baptism:

CORY ELLIS FOSSON



UNIFIED BUDGET

TOM & BILLIE STANSBERRY
ELLIS CAUDILL
TED & BRENDA COOK
In Memory of
HELEN BENTLEY

TED & BRENDA COOK
In Memory Of
BILLIE STRANGE MARTIN

FAMILY LIFE CENTER

KAYE COMBS MOORE
In Memory Of
FERDINAND & VIOLA COMBS MOORE
WOODFORD & DOTTIE WEBB



The FBC staff and church family extends love and sympathy to LARRY EVERIDGE and family in the death of his aunt, NELLA EVERIDGE WILLIAMS.



- Dec. 3: Junior Matthews
- 4: Brooke Webber
- 5: Matt Craft
- 7: Marshall Ison, Mike Watts
- 8: Nikki Bowling
- 9: Madelyn Combs, Betty Watts

EXTENDED SESSION WORKERS

Dec. 3
April Ramirez, Rita Broome

Dec. 10
Diane Lewis, Amy Bates

PRESCHOOL WORSHIP

Dec. 3
Lee Adams

Dec. 10

CHILDREN'S CHURCH WORKERS

Dec. 3
Viva Anderson, Brenda Cook, Lori Thomas

Dec. 10
Amanda & Byron Thomas



We would like to thank each of you for the love shown to us during the loss of our sister, BILLIE MARTIN. We were comforted by every prayer, kind word, visit, cards, and the wonderful food provided by the Grief Ministry. We are truly blessed to be a part of the First Baptist Church family.

**SANDY BANKS
TILITHA SPERGER**

LAST SUNDAY'S STATISTICS

Sunday School ----- 115
Adults -- 70
Youth -- 18
Children -- 18
Preschool -- 9
Morning Worship ----- 160

SPECIAL MINISTRIES

Housing Authority -----
Letcher Manor ----- 25
AWANA/IGNITE/YOUTH -----
Children: Adults:

ADDITIONS TO DATE

(September – August)

By Baptism ----- 2
By Letter ----- 0
By Statement ----- 1
TOTAL ADDITIONS ----- 3

TOTAL RECEIPTS

(Nov. 19 & 26)

Budget Receipts ----- \$10,046.00
Budget Requirement ----- \$14,342.00
Family Life Center ----- \$ 525.00
Designated ----- \$ 287.00
Love Offering ----- \$ 524.00
Lottie Moon ----- \$ 10.00
Budget Required to Date ----- \$341,508.00
Budget to Date ----- \$307,642.46

IN THE HOSPITAL

BETTY COMBS, Local ARH
GUS TOLLIVER, Local ARH

FAMILY LIFE CENTER

TOTAL NEEDED – PHASE 2

\$500,000.00

GIVEN TO DATE

\$427,632.00

NEEDED

\$72,368.00

DEACON OF THE WEEK

December 3 – 9

MIKE HARRIS