

THE FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

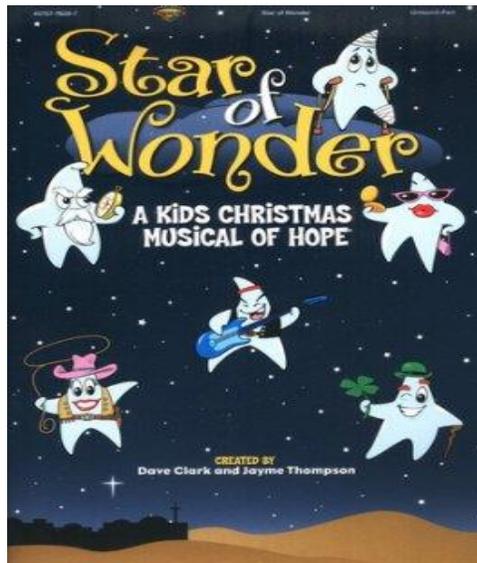
ILLUMINATOR

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

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NO. 47

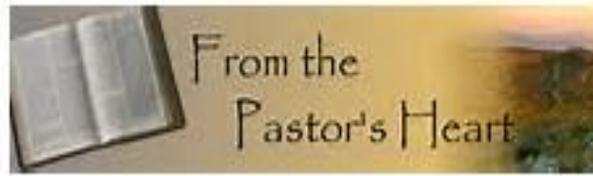


**PRESENTED BY
FBC CHILDREN'S CHOIR**

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

CHURCHWIDE FELLOWSHIP – 7:00 P.M.

Please bring finger foods and desserts.



The citizens of Feldkirch, Austria, didn't know what to do. Napoleon's army was preparing to attack. Soldiers had been spotted on the heights above the town, situated on the Austrian border. A council of citizens was hastily summoned to decide whether they should try to defend themselves or display the white flag. It happened to be Easter Sunday, and the people had gathered in the local church.

The pastor rose and said, *"Friends, we have been counting on our own strength, and apparently that has failed. As this is the day of our Lord's resurrection, let us just ring the bells, have our services as usual, and leave the matter in His hands. We know only our weakness, and not the power of God to defend us."* The council accepted his plan and the church bells rang. The enemy, hearing the sudden peal, concluded that the Austrian army had arrived during the night to defend the town. Before the service ended, the enemy broke camp and left.

For three months I have been preaching the sermon series I call, *"People in the Bible Who Ran Away...And Why"*. People run away from many things and for many reasons and running away only makes things worse. Last week I portrayed Jonah, the prophet who ran from God's call. I have attempted to show how, through Christ, these runaways were able to stop running and find peace.

During the next two Sundays I will take us through two accounts of runaways that are found in the Christmas story in Matthew's Gospel. These runaways are different because God instructs them to run away and He tells them through dreams. Did you know that there are times when people need to run away? Yes, that's right. Sometimes, as in these Christmas stories, people must run from danger and they must run away when it is in God's providential plan to do so.

Come this Sunday as we look at God's infinite wisdom to plan and oversee the lives of His people. Like the people in the little Austrian church, we must do faithfully what God tells us to do – in all circumstances of life...even when we don't understand. And we must say as that pastor said, *"Leave the matter in His hands."*

God bless you and Merry Christmas!

Bro. Tony

Tony.Brown@whitesburgfbc.org

SING GLORIA

Presented by The Adult Choir

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



"But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come on you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth." Acts 1:8

Way back in 1861, Charlotte "Lottie" Digges Moon received her Master of Arts Degree from the Albermarle Female Institute in Charlottesville, Virginia. She was one of the first women to be awarded a master degree in the South and she would use it to teach in Kentucky, Georgia and Virginia. In 1873, she again did the unexpected when the Foreign Mission Board appointed her as a missionary to China. Lottie served as a missionary in China for 39 years; she often wrote of the hardships faced by the few missionaries in China, but she did not let those hardships deter her from serving God by sharing the Gospel with a people group that often shunned her.

At the urging of Lottie Moon, the Southern Baptist Convention began the Christmas offering for foreign missions in 1888; this offering was renamed as the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering in 1918 a few years after the death (December 24, 1912) of the woman who had played such a large part in its beginning in the first place. Lottie demonstrated great sacrifice and self-denial in choosing to obediently serve her Savior; she turned down a marriage proposal and job, and left the comfort of home and family in order to follow Jesus and share Him with others.

This week has been the week of prayer for the *Lottie Moon Christmas Offering*. Our church goal for the *Lottie Moon Christmas Offering* is \$2,500. Please help us to support international missionaries in spreading the Gospel around the world. You may give by using one of the LMCO envelopes in the pews, write "LMCO" on the memo line of a check, or visit our website (www.whitesburgfbc.org) in order to give online (don't forget to designate it for LMCO). Thank you for your faithfulness in sharing the Gospel.

Merrily and gratefully,

Jeremy

Prov. 27:17

IGNITE CHRISTMAS GATHERING

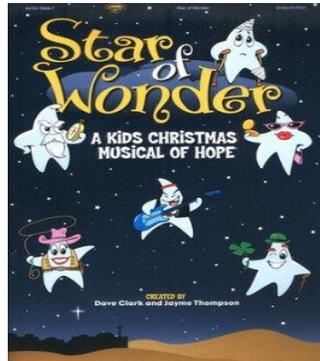
5TH & 6TH Graders will meet on Friday, December 8th at 5 P.M. (until 9 P.M.) to celebrate the birth of Christ through fellowship, acts of kindness, games, gift exchange (each person bring a \$10 gift), and watching the parade. Food will be provided.

Do you stress about finding just the right gift for everyone on your Christmas list? Does it make the season more a hassle than a joy? Pastor Mike Slaughter reminds us that Christmas isn't about perfect presents for people, as if it were their birthday – or ours. Christmas is about the perfect presence of Immanuel, God with us, through the birth of Jesus; it's his birthday, after all!

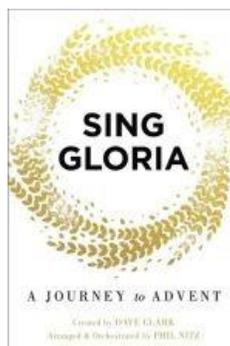
In *Christmas Is Not Your Birthday*, Slaughter writes, "How funny that it can be so hard to find gifts that will please certain family members or friends – the people who seem to have everything – and yet it is so clear what the Lord of lords and King of kings wants for his birthday. God wants you – your time, your talent and your treasure – used in service to others."

MUSIC News

This Sunday, December 10th, at 6:00 P.M., our children will lead us in worship with the musical, "**Star of Wonder**". In this musical you'll meet a constellation of six stars as they anxiously watch the biggest announcement in history unfold – the birth of Jesus! Immediately following our service, you are invited to an appetizer and dessert fellowship.



Next Sunday our Adult Choir will lead us in worship with "**Sing Gloria: A Journey of Advent**". *Sing Gloria* is filled with contemporary hymns and worship compositions that capture the spirit of the season. Come out and join us on Sunday evening, December 17th at 6:00 P.M. for a night of worship.



SCHEDULE

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.
December 24:	"The Nativity" – 11:00 A.M.
December 24:	Christmas Eve Service – 5:00 P.M.



*"Silent night! Holy night!
Son of God love's pure light
Radiant beams from thy holy face
With the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord at thy birth."*

Once again our youth did an amazing job leading us in worship this past Sunday evening. We are very thankful for all that prepared meals, helped with set-up and clean up, or just provided words of encouragement. A special thanks to the parents for allowing us to work with our youth each week.

One of the songs our youth sang Sunday evening was *Silent Night*. Brother Tony shared with us that on this dark night the manger was powered by radiant light from our blessed Savior's face. I had heard, and sang this song, my entire life and I guess had never really pondered this part of the verse. It simply blew my mind. As you listen and sing Christmas carols over the next few weeks, take a moment to really read the words, it truly adds a greater meaning to the song.

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. Afterward we will meet back at the church for a game night.

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 10

YOUTH CALENDAR OF EVENTS

December 20:	Christmas Caroling at Food City
December 27:	No Bible Study
December 29-31:	Winter Xtreme - \$120



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.



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

STEWARDSHIP TEAM MEETING

MONDAY, DECEMBER 11, 6:00 P.M.

Deacons Meeting



The December Deacons Meeting will be held on Tuesday, December 12 at 6:00 P.M. at the Cowan Community Center.



- | | |
|----------|---|
| Dec. 10: | Janie Smith |
| 11: | Jordan Caudill |
| 12: | Bobby Cook, Brandee Hall |
| 13: | Kayla Stambaugh |
| 14: | Barry Caudill, Kayla Cook, Aubri Thompson |
| 15: | Mae Amburgey, Machel Bates |
| 16: | Earlene Williams Cornett |



Church Goal ----- \$2,500.00
Given to Date ----- \$ 620.00

Christmas is the belief in the past, courage for the present and hope for the future. It is a fervent wish that every cup may overflow with blessings rich and eternal, and that every path may lead to peace.



UNIFIED BUDGET

J.W. & JOANN COMBS
In Memory Of
CURT & EVELYN DARNELL
DENNIS & VELDA COMBS
HELEN BENTLEY
GREG AMBURGEY

M/M TOMMY STANSBERRY
In Memory Of
GREG AMBURGEY
FREDA CAMPBELL

MINNIE HAWK SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS
In Memory Of
GREG AMBURGEY

FAMILY LIFE CENTER

PHIL & LINDA BENTLEY
In Memory Of
BILLIE MARTIN

LOTTIE MOON

MAHALA FRAZIER
JAMES REYNOLDS
J C REYNOLDS
In Memory Of
JOE & IRENE REYNOLDS

BARBARA PRICHARD
In Memory Of
HELEN BENTLEY
BILLIE MARTIN

EXTENDED SESSION WORKERS

Dec. 10
Diane Lewis, Amy Bates

Dec. 17
Brandy Wilson

PRESCHOOL WORSHIP

Dec. 10

Dec. 17
Deanna Hips

**CHILDREN'S CHURCH
WORKERS**

Dec. 10
Amanda & Byron Thomas

Dec. 17
Saranell Caudill, Margaret Fisher
Rita Broome



In Loving Memory Of

GREGORY AMBURGEY

July 28, 1947 – December 1, 2017

The FBC staff and church family extends love and sympathy to MAE AMBURGEY and family in the death of her son, GREGORY AMBURGEY; and to JUNE WEBB and family in the death of her husband, ROGER WEBB.

LAST SUNDAY'S STATISTICS

Sunday School ----- 149
Adults -- 75
Youth -- 28
Children -- 34
Preschool -- 12
Morning Worship ----- 183

SPECIAL MINISTRIES

Housing Authority ----- 4
Letcher Manor -----
AWANA/IGNITE/YOUTH ----- 115
Children: 82 Adults: 33

ADDITIONS TO DATE

(September – August)

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

TOTAL RECEIPTS

Budget Receipts ----- \$ 9,829.75
Budget Requirement ----- \$ 7,171.00
Family Life Center ----- \$ 460.00
Designated ----- \$ 7.00
Lottie Moon ----- \$ 610.00
Budget Required to Date ----- \$348,679.00
Budget to Date ----- \$317,472.21

IN THE HOSPITAL

HERB CAUDILL, Local ARH

FAMILY LIFE CENTER

TOTAL NEEDED – PHASE 2

\$500,000.00

GIVEN TO DATE

\$428,092.00

NEEDED

\$71,908.00

DEACON OF THE WEEK

December 10 - 16

OZZ JACKSON