

*THE* FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

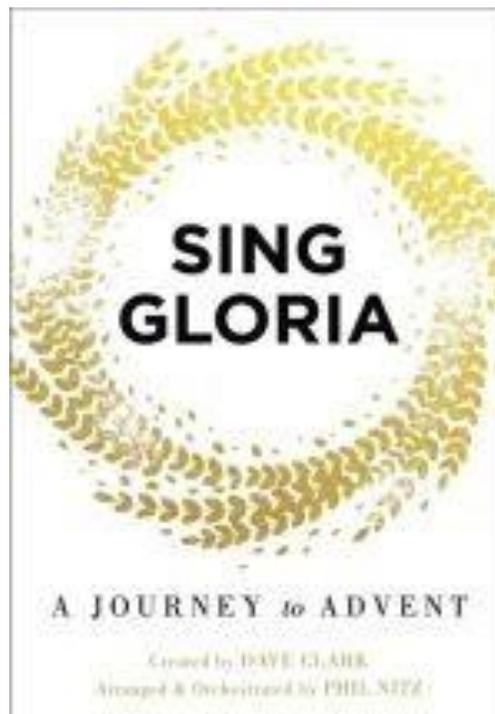
# *ILLUMINATOR*

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

**VOL. LIV**

**DECEMBER 13, 2017, WHITESBURG, KY 41858**

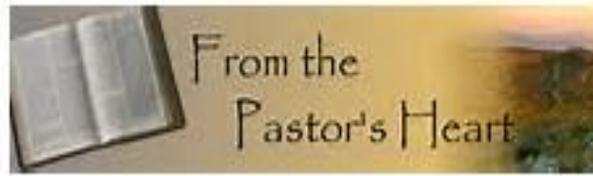
**NO. 48**



**PRESENTED BY**

**FBC ADULT CHOIR**

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



Following three years of hazardous duty as a member of the Lewis and Clark expedition along the western frontier, John Colter turned to trapping beaver in the Three Forks area of the Missouri River, deep in Blackfoot Indian territory. While inspecting traps, Colter and a companion were suddenly flanked by Blackfoot warriors. Colter's friend was killed, but Colter was captured.

Barefooted, the adventurer was led out onto the prairie and then released as several hundred Blackfoot set off in pursuit. What followed was a legendary 11-day overland trek. Traveling day and night, Colter climbed mountains, scurried across fields, and tramped through the woods, covering an unbelievable 300 miles as he made his way to safety.

In the Christmas story, God outwitted Satan's plan to kill baby Jesus and carried out His own plan to protect Him. This happened in the story from Matthew's Gospel ... *"the angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream, saying, arise, and take the young child and his mother, and flee into Egypt ..."*

Jesus had come to die on the cross and give His life a ransom for many. The cradle and the cross were both parts of God's plan. Nothing could keep God from carrying out His plan of salvation. In a similar way, God has a plan for your life. Sometimes His protection includes giving you the order *to run*.

When God says to run, what do you do? You run. Listening to God, trusting Him, and obeying Him fully are all part of God's plan for your life. Sometimes He chooses to miraculously deliver. Other times, He tells you what to do to escape. God gives guidance to His people in every circumstance. Our role is very simple. Trust God to do what He says.

I hope to see you in Sunday School and worship this week as we continue our look at *"People in the Bible Who Chose to Run Away"*. Then, on Sunday night is our Christmas cantata at 6:00 P.M. I will be looking for you!

God bless you and Merry Christmas!

**Bro. Tony**

[Tony.Brown@whitesburgfbc.org](mailto:Tony.Brown@whitesburgfbc.org)



**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 24**

**5:00 P.M.**



More Super-men and Super-women are needed in our Children's Ministry. Volunteers are needed in the nursery, preschool worship, and children's church – each of these areas work off of a rotation and you would likely serve for one hour every four to six weeks. If you feel up to being a hero, contact me for more information about the Children's Ministry.

In Christ,  
**Jeremy**  
Prov. 27:17

### **CHILDREN'S SCHEDULE FOR DECEMBER**

There will not be children's activities on Wednesday and Sunday nights for the remainder of December. Awana will begin again on January 3<sup>rd</sup>. Remember, if school is cancelled due to the weather, we will not have Awana.

We will not have Children's Church or Preschool Worship on Sunday, December 24<sup>th</sup>. All are invited to our Wednesday night prayer meetings and Sunday night worship services.

### **IGNITE SCHEDULE FOR DECEMBER**

Ignite will meet at 7 P.M. on Wednesday, December 20<sup>th</sup>. We will not meet on Sunday evenings for the remainder of December or Wednesday, December 27<sup>th</sup>. All are invited to our Wednesday night prayer meetings and Sunday night worship services.

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### **WHAT MAKES CHRISTMAS HAPPEN?**

What makes Christmas "happen" for you? Where does the joy of the season come alive in you? Is it in the carols? The celebrations? The candlelight services? The music of the Advent season? Perhaps you find it in the shopping and gift-giving. Maybe you see love of the season in the sparkling eyes of a child or feel it in a loved one's hug.

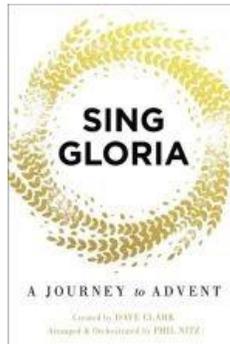
Whatever it is, during this holiday season with all its frenzied festivities, stop and remember that night in the stable, those mingled smells of animals and hay, that pain and subsequent joy in the birth of one small child. Breathe deep and feel with Mary, with Joseph, the shepherds, the angels. Feel the birth of Jesus. What is it to experience such joy, such peace? Verbally express to someone close to you what the birth of Christ means to you at this point in your life. Be joyful! Experience God's love and peace.



*"Behold the breath of One so small  
The fragile heartbeat of a promise*

*For us all  
Heaven's innocence wrapped up  
In flesh and bone  
Oh, Emmanuel"*

Sunday night 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 Sunday evening at 6:00 P.m. for a night of worship.



On Christmas Eve, during the morning worship service, our Drama Team will present, **"The Nativity"**, the story of the birth of Jesus through the eyes of those that were in attendance! Please come out and join us as we hear the most amazing birth retold through drama and music.

On the evening of Christmas eve at 5:00 P.M., we will have a special service. If anyone or group would like to sing a special or play an instrument, please let us know. We would love for you to be a part of this special time of worship and celebration.

## **SCHEDULE**

December 17:	<i>Sing Gloria</i> Cantata – 6:00 P.M.
December 24:	"The Nativity" – 11:00 A.M.
December 24:	Christmas Eve Serve – 5:00 P.M.

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According to legend, three trees grew near Jesus' manger: an olive tree, a palm tree and a fir tree. The olive offered its fruit to the newborn King, and the palm tree gave its dates.

The poor fir, having nothing to give but worship, raised its boughs in adoration, and the angels hung stars on its branches. So, the fir became the first Christmas tree.



On Wednesday, December 20<sup>th</sup>, 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. Afterward we will meet back at the church for snacks and a game night. We will be playing many Christmas themed games and you can win prizes. We will also play a gift exchange game, so if you want to participate, bring a \$5.00 gift.

The cost for *Winter Xtreme* this year is \$120. The final deposit of \$30 due on December 17<sup>th</sup>. As always if you need assistance, please let us know. Remember, that if you are going to Winter Xtreme, you will also need to complete a new Medical Release Form before we leave for Gatlinburg.

## SUNDAY SCHOOL SNACKS

*December 17*  
*Philip & Julie Bentley*

## YOUTH CALENDAR OF EVENTS

December 20:	Christmas Caroling at Food City, 5:00 P.M. Game night following at the church
December 27:	No Bible Study
December 29-31:	Winter Xtreme - \$120



The account of the candy cane's origins circulates every Christmas season and is more likely a fun story than historical fact. No matter; tales often contain truth. This tasty treat can convey important elements of our Christian faith.

The stripes remind us of the heart of Christmas, our Savior, Jesus: white for his purity; red for his blood shed on the cross. The candy cane resembles the curved staffs of the shepherds – the first people to visit the Christ-child and worship at the manger. And when the cane is turned upside down, it becomes a letter J, for "Jesus".

Indeed, Jesus turns our lives upside down and inverts our presumptions: A poor baby born in a stable becomes King of kings and Lord of lords; enemies aren't for hating but loving; blessings aren't for hoarding but sharing; the world works for war, but Jesus calls us to live in peace; receiving is better than giving; sinners are made saints; and death is conquered as God grants us eternal life.



- Dec. 18: Steven Fleming  
Cameron Triplett
- 19: Trey Craft, James Fisher,  
Peyton Wright
- 20: Melanie Cook, Melissa Cook
- 21: Carroll Shackelford,  
Lorraine Waddles
- 22: Matilda Parks

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.



Thank you church friends for your friendship, love and support for our family during the loss of our mother and grandmother. Your calls, prayers, visits and memorial gifts meant so much to us and was comforting. Thank you Grief Ministry for the wonderful food you prepared for us. It is a blessing to be a part of such a loving church.

**THE HELEN BENTLEY FAMILY**

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To my church family,

My boys and I would like to thank you for all the many prayers, cards, and concerns shown through all the many years of Greg's battle from cancer and his passing. You have been there for us.

We so appreciate the Grief Ministry bringing the food into my home. It was so delicious and wonderful and so very comforting. We feel so blessed with all the love shown.

**MAE AMBURGEY  
LARRY, PHIL & JAY**



CHURCH GOAL ----- \$2,500.00  
GIVEN TO DATE ----- \$ 840.00



**THE NATIVITY**

***Presented By***

**FBC DRAMA TEAM**

**SUNDAY, DEC. 24, 11:00 A.M.**



**FAMILY LIFE CENTER**

RICH BANKS  
VICKI MOORE RECEVEUR  
In Memory Of  
HELEN PACE

VICKI MOORE RECEVEUR  
In Memory Of  
GREG AMBURGEY

**LOTTIE MOON**

STEVE & GLENDA SEXTON  
STEPHANIE BENTLEY  
JO COMBS  
In Memory Of  
BILLIE MARTIN  
HELEN BENTLEY  
GREG AMBURGEY

TED & BRENDA COOK  
In Memory Of  
NEAL & JUANITA HOWARD  
ARNOLD & TINA COOK  
BARBARA POLSINELLI



The FBC staff and church family extends love and sympathy to FRED HALL and family in the death of his aunt, OPAL HALL.



**EXTENDED SESSION WORKERS**

**Dec. 17**  
Brandy Wilson

**Dec. 24**  
Melissa Newell

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**PRESCHOOL WORSHIP**

**Dec. 17**  
Deanna Hipps

**Dec. 24**  
No Preschool Worship

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**CHILDREN'S CHURCH WORKERS**

**Dec. 17**  
Saranell Caudill, Margaret Fisher  
Rita Broome

**Dec. 24**  
No Children's Worship



By profession of faith and baptism:

**EMILY ELIZABETH HALCOMB**

## LAST SUNDAY'S STATISTICS

Sunday School ----- 117  
Adults -- 64  
Youth -- 21  
Children -- 19  
Preschool -- 13  
Morning Worship ----- 168

## SPECIAL MINISTRIES

Housing Authority ----- 7  
Letcher Manor ----- 18  
AWANA/IGNITE/YOUTH ----- 124  
Children: 85      Adults: 39

## ADDITIONS TO DATE

(September – August)

By Baptism ----- 3  
By Letter ----- 0  
By Statement ----- 1  
**TOTAL ADDITIONS ----- 4**

## TOTAL RECEIPTS

Budget Receipts ----- \$ 6,601.00  
Budget Requirement ----- \$ 7,171.00  
Family Life Center ----- \$ 175.00  
Designated ----- \$ 23.00  
Lottie Moon ----- \$ 220.00  
Budget Required to Date ----- \$355,850.00  
Budget to Date ----- \$323,973.21

## IN THE HOSPITAL

HERB CAUDILL, Local ARH  
MARGIE ISON, Local ARH

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## FAMILY LIFE CENTER

### TOTAL NEEDED – PHASE 2

\$500,000.00

### GIVEN TO DATE

\$428,267.00

### NEEDED

\$71,733.00

## DEACON OF THE WEEK

December 17 - 23

**JERRY INGRAM**