

First Baptist Church News

Loving Christ by Loving Others



A CHRISTMAS GIFT

December

It is hard to believe that the 2019-year has arrived at its close. We are just days from Christmas and then it's the New Year. Where has the time gone? We began to see Christmas displays in stores as early as before Halloween this year. Every retail shop and market has begun advertising campaigns to get you and I to spend money on the "perfect gift this year". But where did the idea of giving gifts come from in relationship to Christmas?

Many think that it has its roots in the gifts given to Jesus by the Magi – the gold, frankincense and myrrh present to Jesus and His parents after His birth. Some connect the gift giving to the Greatest Gift ever given – God giving us His Son as the only

sacrifice capable of saving sinners. Still other connect the gift giving to pagan rituals that were "folded into" Christian traditions to satisfy worldly desires. The Romans celebrated the pagan god Saturn – their god of agriculture – with giving of gifts from December 17-23. These gifts were thought to ensure a greater harvest in the coming spring.

As you can see, there is much mystery, speculation and confusion surrounding the elements of celebration in regard to Christmas. But let's see if we can cut through the murk and mire and make at least some sense of this. While it may not be the easiest thing to do, giving of gifts can help us celebrate the love, grace and mercy extended to us by the Father in His giving

of His Son on our behalf. It can also help us understand that when we love someone, we share the joy and best we have with them. Each gift that we give should remind us of the love of the Father and the Son that make any day worth living.

This Christmas, I challenge us to think on these things. With each purchase you make, recall the love of God. Thank God for His Perfect Gift. And as you wrap that gift, be reminded

of the love of God that wraps your life with protection and blessing. As you give that gift, think of what gift you will give God. Perhaps you can give God your praise and adoration. Perhaps you can give Him your time and talents. Perhaps you can give him your heart and worship. Just whatever you do, don't forget to put God on your gift list! After all, He is indeed the Reason for the Season!

- Bro. Weldon



CAMINO AL REINO

Camino al Reino will be having a Community Christmas party on December 15th at 6pm in the Sanctuary. Everyone is invited to attend and there will be an authentic Mexican dinner to follow.

Please continue to pray for the Hispanic community as we reach out to them with the Gospel.

- Escobar Family



MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Lottie Moon Offering
December 1st—8th

KKP Christmas Program
December 8th

4PM; Sanctuary

Church Christmas
Program
December 15th

Chinese Christmas
December 15th

5—7PM; Fellowship Hall

Live Nativity
December 21st—23rd

6—7:30PM; Corner Lot

Christmas Eve
Candlelight Service
December 24th

5:30PM; Sanctuary

KINGDOM KIDS PRESCHOOL

I feel like a broken record, but how on earth has November come and gone? What a wonderful month it was full of thanks and giving. November is one of my favorite months of the year. The kids have been learning all kinds of things, but the one truly special thing was teaching them about the Operation Christmas Child boxes. The families and staff really stepped up this year to help us fill our goal. My heart is truly happy watching the parents open up to help the church congregation fill a need for children across the globe. This was my first year being introduced to the ministry, and it has truly

touched me, and will be something we continue!

Thank you all for your love, support, and fellowship for my first Thanksgiving lunch! I am truly amazed every time I ask for help at the response I get! I promise it doesn't go unnoticed.

This congregation is truly the calm to my storm in trying to navigate out this new profession of mine. My staff and I are truly THANKFUL for the love you constantly show us. This meal was so special to me, and I hope it was to everyone else! Thank you, thank you, thank you, from the bottom of my heart!

– Ashley Garrett



KKP THANKSGIVING LUNCH



KINGDOM THREADS & SERVE

The coats are all given away, Thanksgiving is coming and we are busy preparing for our Christmas giveaways.

All year long we have been collecting donations of Christmas decorations from tiny shiny balls to large Christmas trees that come broken down and we hope we got all the parts too. They are all boxed and ready to be moved over to the fellowship hall to be given away on December 4th.

All year long we have been collecting dolls of all sorts to be washed, and dressed and have a trip to the talented women who fix their hair. This year Ellen Rumph and Judy Roach have joined our dress making team to make sure everyone is fashionably dressed. They will join a box of books, totes of stuffed animals and other toys in good shape to be shared on December 11.

On December 18 we will celebrate Christmas with a potluck meal and grab-bag gifts. Maria has been stashing all new items we gift to be able to share at this time.

We will be closed from December 19 and will reopen on January 8th.

This is the perfect time for you to assess your decorations and share with us those you have grown tired of: to pass along those toys of your children that are in good shape so we can bless someone else with them.

One of the requests we have not been able to fill is requests for space heaters. They are about \$25 at Walmart and we could use several.

We have served several families who were especially needy and they took a lot of stuff at Serve but God is faithful to refill our coffers. We now have

KINGDOM THREADS & SERVE CONT'D...

2 hospital beds and nobody to give them too so pray that the people who need them will contact us.

We received a lovely couch and a mattress and several small living room tables this week.

At Kingdom Threads we continue to have our needs supplied. Not matter how much we give away, we receive an abundance each week. Thank you for supporting us.

- Wilma Earles

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD... 245 BOXES!



YOUTH NEWS

The youth are in full school mode these days. They are completing the first round of fall athletic activities and going into the winter sports now. We are still adjusting our schedule to be able to meet together with as many youth as possible. I feel blessed with this "problem," it means our youth are involved and out there representing their school and church in many areas. We discuss often in our class that we need to be that positive Christian, out there in the world, drawing others toward God.

Our youth are these positive Christians! How can we witness to someone if we aren't out there with people?

Several of our youth are practicing for the Christmas concert coming up on December 15. It should be a great morning of songs and worship. Others of our youth will be

jumping in and helping with the non singing roles. It should be a fun time for us all.

As the holidays approach, we will be taking some well deserved time off to spend with family and friends. There will be no Puddle or youth activities during the week of Thanksgiving break. We will adjust our schedule on Sunday evening to accommodate the Community Thanksgiving service we are hosting this year.

I had to call Weldon this morning and get a really good answer to a question I was asked last Sunday. The youth are all so smart and even though they may not seem to be listening, they can really ask the hard, deep questions. Thank goodness we have Weldon to go to and get help when we need it. These youth keep me on my toes!

YOUTH NEWS CONT'D...

We are looking forward to getting to do one night of the Living Nativity and having our annual after the Nativity pizza run. We always reward our 'hard work' with a fun filled night of pizza and laughter. Mrs. Jurney is so gracious to let us pick our night each year. We have to have some good natured arguing about who has to wear the scratchy beards before we can get dressed. Last person there gets the ugliest beard and outfit! Be sure to check the schedule and come by

and, at the very least, honk at us! Sometimes, most of the time!, there is free hot chocolate and maybe even some cookies. It's worth the stop just to try to guess which youth is in which costume.

We want to wish everyone a very blessed Thanksgiving. Enjoy spending time with your loved ones and friends during this season.

- Donna Riley



imb | LOTTIE MOON
CHRISTMAS
OFFERING®

DECEMBER 1-8, 2019



Worship Schedule

Sunday

Prayer Group 8:00 AM

Bible Study 9:15 AM

Worship 10:30 AM

Adult Bible Study 5:00 PM

Wednesday

Kingdom Threads 9:00 AM - Noon

Brown Bag Lunch 12:00 PM

Prayer Group 5:00 PM

Children's Ministry 5:30 PM



December '19



SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1 Lottie Moon Offering	2 OFFICE CLOSED Heather Jones Courtney Scoggins	3	4 KT Décor Giveaway Kate Bowen Celinda Boatright	5 Daniel Escobar	6	7
8 Lottie Moon Offering KKP Christmas Program	9	10 Joyce Jones	11 KT Toy Giveaway Aidan Coburn	12 Esther Taylor	13	14
15 Church Christmas Program & Chinese Christmas Jan Jones	16 Linda Hendon Taylor Stone Tyler Stone	17 Sherry Sears	18	19 Jarred Greenway	20	21 Live Nativity
22 Live Nativity	23 Live Nativity OFFICE CLOSED ♥ Willard & Lamay Mann Derek Reeder	24 OFFICE CLOSED Candlelight Service & Lord's Supper	25 OFFICE CLOSED Merry Christmas	26 ♥ Guadalupe & Elvira Mendoza	27	28
29 Roy Neff	30 OFFICE CLOSED	31 OFFICE CLOSED				