

The Messenger



from the Pastor

What Child is This? is a beautiful Christmas Carol, the words written by William Dix in 1865. Dix lived in England and worked as an insurance company manager. He was struck with a sudden, serious illness. The illness proved to be a spiritual awakening for Dix who turned his life to the Lord. At Christmastime of 1865, Dix wrote the words:

*What Child is this who laid to rest
On Mary's lap is sleeping?
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet
While shepherds watch are keeping...*

The words with the other verses were set to music in 1871 and while they had their first hearing in England, the Carol became more popular in the United States. By 1885 the song was already considered a Christmas standard in America.

What Child is This? is an important question for believers and non-believers in our day. The angels proclaimed that ‘...unto you is born this day in the city of David, a Savior, which is Christ the Lord...’ (Luke 2:11). The Bible indicates that this child comes as a Savior. Perhaps all of us could pause during this season of the year and consider our need for a Savior.

What Child is This? is the theme of our Christmas services during the month of December at First Baptist Church. We will focus on Scripture's teaching with the hope that the question will inspire awe and worship in our hearts. William Dix summarizes the Bible's teaching with these words:

*This, this is Christ the King
Whom Shepherds guard and angels sing,
Haste, haste to bring Him laud
The Babe the Son of Mary*

I hope you'll be in attendance as we consider the Child whose birth we remember and celebrate this month.

Merry Christmas!

Don



FIRST BAPTIST *Oxford*

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December

Check out featured events at www.gotofirst.org

DECEMBER 1

7:30 a.m. Men's Ministry Workday

DECEMBER 2

8:30 a.m. Worship Service
9:45 a.m. Bible Study classes
11 a.m. Worship Service
3:30 p.m. Preschool Christmas Party
3:30 p.m. Children's Christmas Party
5 p.m. Children's Choir
9 p.m. College Pancake Study Break

DECEMBER 4

Noon Prayer Meeting

DECEMBER 5

6:40 a.m. Men's Explorer's Bible Study
5 p.m. Fellowship Meal
5:30 p.m. AWANA
6 p.m. Midweek for Youth
6 p.m. Adult Bible Studies
6 p.m. Women's Explorer's Bible Study
6 p.m. Choir Rehearsal
7:30 p.m. Band Rehearsal

DECEMBER 6

5:30 p.m. Senior Adult Banquet

Senior Adult Banquet
December 6 at 5:30 p.m.
in the Fellowship Hall

DECEMBER 8

9 a.m. Ladies' Christmas Tea

Ladies' Christmas Tea
DECEMBER 8
9 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall
Catered by Party Waitin' to Happen
Tickets \$10 each

DECEMBER 9

Children's Choir will sing in both morning services.

8:30 a.m. Worship Service
9:45 a.m. Bible Study classes
11 a.m. Worship Service

Library Open House

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 9

Come by between services or before Sunday School to see our display of Christmas artwork from our Children's Sunday School classes.



downstairs next to the Old Fellowship Hall

DECEMBER 11

Noon Prayer Meeting

DECEMBER 12

6:40 a.m. Men's Explorer's Bible Study
5 p.m. Fellowship Meal
5:30 p.m. AWANA: Caroling Night
6 p.m. Midweek for Youth
6 p.m. Adult Bible Studies
6 p.m. Women's Explorer's Bible Study
6 p.m. Choir Rehearsal
7:30 p.m. Band Rehearsal

First Baptist Choir presents

LET THERE BE CHRISTMAS

December 16

during 8:30 & 11 a.m. worship services



DECEMBER 16

8:30 a.m. Worship Service
9:45 a.m. Bible Study classes
11 a.m. Worship Service

DECEMBER 18

Noon Prayer Meeting

DECEMBER 23

10 a.m. Worship Service

DECEMBER 24

Christmas Eve

Church office closed

4 p.m. Lord's Supper Service

DECEMBER 25

Christmas

Church office closed

DECEMBER 30

8:30 a.m. Worship Service
9:45 a.m. Bible Study classes
11 a.m. Worship Service

Our Family

2018 CONTRIBUTIONS: In order to receive credit for charitable contributions made in 2018, they must be received in the church office by Monday, December 31, 2018 or have been post-marked by December 31, 2018. Other contributions (stocks, bonds, etc.) must be transferred by December 28, 2018 for credit in 2018. Electronic transfers need to be made by December 28 in order to provide clearance by December 31. For more information, contact Pat Freeman or Robert Allen at 234-3515. All donations to FBC are handled according to IRS rules and regulations.



SPRING 2019

Classes begin Jan. 13

CHRISTOLOGY Doctrine of Christ

Facilitator: Jim Propes

The study of the doctrine of Christ provides a sound overview of who Christ is and what He has done in relation to who He beckons us to be as disciples.

EPHESIANS Our Calling, Our Conduct

Facilitator: Bobby Clanton

In this study, we will canvas the calling on our lives into the church coupled with the expected conduct of our lives as members in the church.

JAMES Live What You Have Learned

Facilitator: Jack Schultz

Join us as we seek to live what we have learned of Christ so as to further grow in faith, wisdom, love, and ACTION!

Couple's Study Loving One Another in a Christ-like Fashion

*Facilitators: Don & Melinda Gann
with Timothy & Brooke Gibson*

Whether you are single, dating, married for a short time, or married for a long time, this study holds relevance for you in your life of discipleship.

*Full descriptions and schedule at
www.gotofirst.org/lifeu*

Sunday school attendance

November 4 - 507	November 18 - 476
November 11 - 525	November 26 - 491

Budget November 2018

Budget	\$145,716.13
Building	\$2,326.83
Designated	\$24,993.41
Total	\$173,036.37

imb

LOTTIE MOON
CHRISTMAS
OFFERING®

FBC Oxford Goal: \$100,000
Given to Date: \$8,230

Deacons of the Week

Dec. 2-8	Paul Hale, Nelson Little, Lanny Shackelford
Dec. 9-15	Jamie Hopson, Kevin Howell, Martin Locke
Dec. 16-22	Matt Moore, Bill Rose, Steven Russell
Dec. 23-29	Mike Tomes, Jeff Busby, David Erhart
Dec. 30- Jan. 5	Michael Ferris, Paxton Little, Michael Meurrier

New Members in Oct./Nov.

Reanna Mayoral, Braden Mayoral, Ray & Shirley Neal, Clint Taylor, Layton McKenzie, Andrew Waller, and Lynn & Danielle Jones

Our Sympathy

To Mr. Billy Ashmore & family in the loss of his sister, Sherry.

To Mrs. Celia Roberts & family in the loss of her brother, Mr. Jim Jackson.

To Mrs. Marvelynn Greer & family in the loss of her husband, Mr. Lynn Greer.

To Mr. Robert Pryor & family in the loss of his brother-in-law, Mr. Peter Playfor.

To Nancy Carole King and Penny Land Cooper & family in the loss of their mother, Mrs. Mary "Nell" Land.

PRESCHOOL & CHILDREN'S NEWS

Christmas Parties

December 2 • 3:30-5 p.m.

Preschool in the Fellowship Hall
Children in the Christian Life Center

SAVE THE DATE

Children's Mission Camp | JUNE 27-29, 2019

Open to all kids in grades 2-6.

Cost: \$120. \$60 Non-refundable deposit due by February 3.

STUDENT MINISTRY NEWS



A MAVEN STUDENT CONFERENCE...

TRUE STORY.

January 18-19. North Oxford Baptist Church. \$49.

SESSION TOPICS:

The Story of Truth: Is there truth and how does it transform us?

The Story of God: Is God really out there and how do we know?

The Story of Scripture: Is the Bible an authority from God?

The Story of Life: How do we bring justice to the most vulnerable of society...the unborn?

Details and registration at www.truestoryconference.com

MISSION & MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES

Questions? Contact Jeff Holeman at 662.234.3515 or wigtake@gmail.com

Live Oak Church Family Mission Trip, New Orleans. March 9-12.

\$35 per person. Contact Jeff Holeman if your family is available.

Oaxaca Medical Mission Trip. February 9-15. Cost is \$650 per person.

Contact Jeff Holeman if you are available.

Oaxaca Pastor/Leader Training (Module 4). March 27-April 1.

Cost is \$450 per person. Contact Jeff Holeman if you are available.

Brazil Church Planting Trip. June 8-16. Approximately \$2200 per person.

\$350 Monthly payments begin December 1. Fundraising help available.

Retreat For Missionary Kids. Panama (Central America).

June 20-27. Cost is approximately \$1500 per person.

Please pray for our upcoming Mission Teams

Rome, Italy. Dec 12-21. Michael Meurrier, Jack Schultz, Abi Rayburn, Buster Hale, Liesa Holeman, Jeff Holeman.

Oaxaca, Mexico. Dec 29-January 12. Haylee Holeman, Jackson Holeman, Kellee Cornelius, Rachel Reed, Lilly Herring, Michael Kelley, Hannah Leatherwood, Daniel Locke, David Locke, Sage McNamara, Cindy Reed, Keith Cating, Liesa Holeman, Jeff Holeman.

Oaxaca Pastor Training. January 9-14. Timothy Gibson, John Harvey, Glenn Waller, John Mark Jarrett (West Heights, Pontotoc), Nate Mooneyham (West Heights, Pontotoc).

Pray for the 112 kids playing Upward Basketball this season.

Pray for these coaches: Rachel Allen, Joe Bishop, Matt Campbell, Timothy Gibson, Ben Hellums, James Hopson, Latasha Judson, Phil Kains, Craig Kirkendall, Daniel Locke, Eric Lowstuter, Erik Markin, Thomas McFann, Noah Miller, Jon Nance, Nathan Porter, Amy Shirkey, Jason Shirkey, Shannon Sullivan, Kelle Sumrall, Casey Turner, Matt Wright, Nathan Yow.

MEN'S MINISTRY NEWS

mm@gotofirst.org



SAVE THE DATE

MEN ON MISSION

CONFERENCE

February 9-10, 2019 at FBC Oxford

Guest Speaker: Ken D. Miller

Details at www.gotofirst.org/mm



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