

All is Calm, All is Bright By: Mark Phillips

Christmas is upon us once again. It amazes me how fast time seems to fly by and, once again, we are upon this joyous holiday. Each year at Christmas, there seems to be so much to do, some place to go, or some activity that we must attend. We get lost in the hustle and bustle of the season and when it is over, we look back and think where did the time go and how can it already be over.

Shortly after Deanna and I were married we started a tradition. We have the family at our house for Christmas Day and though busy, it is a great time. Our tradition begins after everyone leaves and the mess is cleaned up. Deanna and I turn on some Christmas music and turn off all the lights except the Christmas lights and just enjoy the peace and calm of the night. It has been a great tradition for us and becomes one of our favorite times of the day. The quietness and stillness of the moment is a great way for us to reflect on God, family, and the day.

Psalm 4:8 says “In peace I will both lie down and sleep; for you alone, O Lord, make me dwell in safety.” I hope for you a peaceful and blessed Christmas this year. Take time to stop, reflect, and enjoy the silence that this time of year brings. In that silence, you may hear God whisper to you and give you the strength needed to endure for Him!

We love you and thank you, the church family, for all you do for us. We are blessed beyond measure. This Christmas, find peace and silence that only God can give and put Him first. By doing this, we can truly find peace and the silent calm that God offers each of us in our lives.

Join us for our upcoming Christmas events!

WEDNESDAY, DEC. 8 @ 6:00 PM  
CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS MUSICAL  
\*FEATURING AWANA CHOIR\*

SUNDAY, DEC. 19 @ 6:00 PM  
"A LIGHT STILL SHINES" MUSICAL  
\*FEATURING ORCHESTRA & CHOIR\*

ADVENT SERVICES  
SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 28 8:00 & 10:30 AM  
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 5 8:00 & 10:30 AM  
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 12 8:00 & 10:30 AM  
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 19 8:00 & 10:30 AM  
WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 22 6:00 PM

\*View more ministry-specific Christmas events on our website: [www.farmingtonfbc.org](http://www.farmingtonfbc.org)!

PRAYER REQUESTS

Krista Myers, Chuck Daly, Don Roper, Elizabeth Adams, Matthew Jackson, Deloris Davis, Robert Schultz, Jeff Bollinger, Jessica Scott, Doug Lindsey

IN MEMORIAM

Patricia Marshall, Randy Miller, Carolyn Smith

CONGRATULATIONS TO

-Lori & Kyle Boring on the birth of their son, Reed Jacob Boring  
-Dean & Chris Burns on the birth of their great-grandson, Hayes Robert Randolph  
-Vernice Wade on the birth of her great-granddaughter, Lily June  
-Allyanna & Riley Hahn on the birth of their daughter, Adaline Hahn

Finding Joy in Christmas Sorrow By: Kevin Willis

This past May my Mom lost her battle with cancer, but won the victory of her heavenly home in Christ Jesus. Christmas was always her favorite time of the year and she would go overboard for us kids and especially for her grandkids. She worked at Wal-Mart and shopped for Christmas all year in anticipation of the joy and excitement she would get as we opened the gifts together in December. This year will be our first Christmas without her and I know there will be moments of grief and pain.

For many of you this year has, also, been a year of loss whether from illness, divorce, conflict, or death; the pain and hurt is real. The prospects of celebrating Christmas has a different vibe and there is an uncertainty and perhaps a twinge of fear of what to expect as you participate in this year's Christmas celebrations. This morning I am reminded of the story of a young lady named Cassie.

“Under the weight of uncertainty and fear, I showed up to the candlelight service. Families were there to celebrate; it was Christmas after all. I found my usual spot at the front and as the first carols rang out, my tears began to fall. I felt like an imposter. I was a cloud of grief and darkness amidst a cheerful celebration. I felt guilty for dampening the time of rejoicing. As I sat I found myself talking to Jesus. "I'm ruining your party," I told him.

It was his response in that moment that changed Christmas for me forever. He told me, Cassie, I came to that manger as a baby not for those in celebration, but for those in mourning. I came for you. In this moment. Right here.

For the first time in my relatively easy life, I was tasting heartache (and oh if only I knew how much more would come). And it was there that Jesus showed me the heart of Christmas. Jesus stepped down to pursue the broken and the hurting and the lost.

If this year has broken you down. Isolated you. Left you grieving or fearful or hurt. I want you to know that you don't have to muster up cheer. You don't have to feel like a downer in the midst of celebration. You can sit at the feet of a savior who came for you where you're at right now. That's how Immanuel works. It's God with us in everything giving us hope in the face of despair.”

So I want to encourage you to join in on the celebrations, mourn for the losses and weep if needed. Allow God to reveal Himself to you in a fresh, new and vibrant way this Christmas even in the midst of your sorrow.

"The people who walk in darkness have seen a great light; those who dwell in a land of deep darkness, a light has dawned." - Isaiah 9:2

Advent By: Jason Welker

Advent. This is a word that you will often hear at church this time of year. Everything from advent candles, to advent readings. Even as I type these words I am looking at an advent calendar on my desk! Many of us know the meaning of this word, but in case you don't, it is a Latin word that means, “The Coming”. Before Christ was born in Bethlehem, God's people were waiting in anticipation for salvation to come through the Messiah. Today, when we celebrate advent we begin to identify how they felt in their season of waiting. However, I think we can all agree that we would rather only wait for a few weeks (like what we do in December), than have to wait for a few hundred years, like the Israelites did!

During the month of December, I am not only anticipating the wonderful celebration of the birth of our savior on Christmas Day, but I am also in a waiting process for our new events and activities coming up in youth ministry! We have an action packed winter and spring in the works, but we for now, I focus for the activities right in front of us.

Wednesday, December 15 is our Blaze Student Ministries Christmas Party from 6-8PM. All participants who wear an ugly Christmas sweater will get a shot at the “Impossible Shot”. Everyone is also encouraged to bring a small gift for the White Elephant Gift Exchange.

After the Christmas Party our mid-week Ignite worship service will be on hiatus until January 5, 2022! That night will be a special Kick-Off for the Spring Semester at Ignite. Students who bring guests to the event will win special prizes. I will share more information on this next month. But for now I will say, Merry Christmas!

GLOW Women's Ministries Christmas Party  
DECEMBER 13 6-8 PM  
714 Willow Brook Dr. Farmington

INTERNATIONAL MISSIONS SERVICE  
DECEMBER 5 6 PM  
\*featuring guest international missionary speaker with reception to follow\*

CFE PLUS  
CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON  
DECEMBER 12 • NOON-2 PM • FBC GYM  
\$5  
Pork chops, green beans, orange salad, rolls, mashed potatoes, and cheesecake

TRIP TO THE NATIONAL MUSEUM OF TRANSPORTATION  
FOR ALL AGES!  
Saturday, December 11 9 am - 3 pm  
\$15/Adult \$12/Child

YOUR GIFTS AT WORK

FBC Gifts Year to November 29: \$176,219.74\*

We are rapidly approaching the end of 2021. Don't forget that any gifts you would like to appear on this year's Giving Statement need to be dropped off at the office or postmarked by December 31! Any gifts arriving or postmarked after that date will go on your 2022 Giving Statement.

We want to thank each of you for your gifts this year in support of the ministries and missions of First Baptist. Everything goes to support the mission of sharing the Gospel of Jesus Christ with our community and world to the glory of God!

Stay tuned in the new year for some exciting things coming to FBC in giving and finances!

\*Amount reflects both General Fund and Designated Gifts

FRIENDLY FACES OF FBC

Meet James Gardner!

You may not recognize James because he is well hidden above you during our worship services! If you sit in the balcony however, you know that James is one of our sound technicians. He is always helping out with special services, events, and more making sure that the sounds you hear in our sanctuary are clear and mixed! James also is a volunteer on Wednesday nights with our youth leading break-away groups and playing bass in the worship team. Thanks James for all of your hard work and time!

THANK YOU NOTES

“Marie Gibbs loved the pastor and all the wonderful people there at First Baptist... Thank you for loving her.”  
-Sharon Norton

“A big, heartfelt thanks for all that everyone did to make the Help the Hungry Bake Sale another huge success. Thanks to all the bakers, to those who contributed to the live auction, silent auction, holiday décor raffle, or to Grandma's Kitchen or helped by working – setting up, pricing baked goods or transporting supplies. Also, we would like to thank everyone who so generously supported our Pastor Greg in raising a record amount, \$20,890.20 for the Cookin' Clergy contest. Combined, the pastors raised \$70,000 of the \$137,000 we raised! All that was donated was looked upon as a gift of love that will ultimately do so much more than feed hungry people. God is good!”  
-Chris Landrum, Ardie Henson, Mary Lee Faircloth & the Help the Hungry Bake Sale Committee

“Thank you FBC! We packed 1350 shoeboxes. This helped FBC Central Drop-off collect 5105 shoeboxes, and the SEMO Team (Bonne Terre to Cape) collect 20450 boxes. surpassing our goal. That's 20450 Gospel opportunities for children, their families, and friends to hear about the love of Jesus. Praise God!”  
-OCC Team

To read more of our thank yous for this month, visit our “Thank You Board” located outside of the sanctuary in the foyer.

OUR CHURCH GOAL: \$30,000

imb LOTTERY-MOON CHRISTMAS GIVING

Together, we will advance the kingdom of God.



# NEWS & VIEWS

December 2021

## What Does Advent Mean To You?

The word "Advent" comes from the Latin word adventus which means "coming." Our Advent season is supposed to be the time when we remember and celebrate the coming of the Christ-child and also to look forward to His second-coming. However, I've noticed that this season has taken on other meanings to some people, and that's not necessarily a good thing.

For some, the Advent season has become a time of materialism and cheap emotionalism. This happens when people focus on the "Hallmark" moments and over-stress the importance of brightly wrapped Christmas presents. I'm not saying it's wrong to enjoy your favorite Christmas movies and songs or that you shouldn't be getting gifts for those you love, but if you look to those things to give you joy, real joy, you'll be quite disappointed when January comes around.

For others, Advent can be a time of great loneliness and pain. If you're blessed with being able to spend the holiday season with friends and loved ones, you might be prone to forget that this time of year can especially tough for those struggling with grief or for individuals who don't have the opportunity to gather with others. This sad truth should remind us to reach out to those in need, to open our homes and holiday gatherings, and to point those who are hurting to the hope that is found in Jesus.

Worst of all, I've seen some look upon advent as the enemy. I'm referring to those who are seeking to remove Christ from Christmas, and I'm not just talking about when stores change their signs from "Merry Christmas" to "Happy Holidays." This is a problem that begins right in the heart of sinful man. When a person rejects the truth and continues in opposition to God, he or she will do just about anything to keep from bending the knee in humble repentance, and what this leads to is a total removal of anything that points to the one true light. So what can we do about this? The answer comes from us understanding what advent truly means and then by vibrantly living out our faith in front of others. I don't need to endlessly argue with those who seek to destroy Christmas. I need to live in such a way that they can see what the coming of Christ has done in my life.

Blessings!  
Pastor Greg

### In this edition:

“All is Calm, All is Bright” - Mark Phillips

“Finding Joy in Christmas Sorrow - Kevin Willis

“Advent” - Jason Welker

### Upcoming Highlights



## DECEMBER 2021

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
28	29	30	1	2	3	4
International Missions Week of Prayer						
Worship 8am	Walking Track	7:30am	Walking Track	7:30am	Walking Track	7:30am
Sunday School 9:15am			Pickleball 6:30pm	Prayer Meeting 6pm	Ladies Bible Study 10am	LIFE Plus Planning Meeting 8am
Lighthouse Harbor 10:30am			Bible Study Fellowship 7pm	AWANA 6pm	The Intercessors Prayer Group 1pm	Homebuilders Launch Party 4pm
Worship 10:30am				Ignite Student Worship 6pm		
Orchestra Rehearsal 4:30pm				Adult Choir Rehearsal 7pm		
Trustees Meeting 5pm						
Hanging of the Green 6pm						
Fuel Student Bible Study 6pm						
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
International Missions Week of Prayer						
Worship 8am	Walking Track	7:30am	Walking Track	7:30am	Walking Track	7:30am
Sunday School 9:15am			Pickleball 6:30pm	Prayer Meeting 6pm	Ladies Bible Study 10am	The Intercessors Prayer Group 1pm
Worship 10:30am			Bible Study Fellowship 7pm	AWANA Kids Christmas Musical 6pm		
Orchestra Rehearsal 4:30pm				Ignite Student Worship 6pm		
Lottie Moon International Christmas ... 6pm				Adult Choir Rehearsal 7pm		
Fuel Student Bible Study 6pm						
Deacons Meeting 7pm						
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
Worship 8am	Walking Track	7:30am	Walking Track	7:30am	Walking Track	7:30am
Sunday School 9:15am	GLOR Christmas Party 6pm		Pickleball 6:30pm	Prayer Meeting 6pm	Ladies Bible Study 10am	The Intercessors Prayer Group 1pm
Lighthouse Harbor 10:30am			Bible Study Fellowship 7pm	AWANA 6pm		
Worship 10:30am				Youth Christmas Party 6pm		
LIFE Plus Christmas Luncheon 12pm				Adult Choir Rehearsal 7pm		
Orchestra Rehearsal 4:30pm						
Worship 6pm						
Fuel Student Bible Study 6pm						
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
Worship 8am	Walking Track	7:30am	Walking Track	7:30am	Office Closed	Office Closed
Sunday School 9:15am			Pickleball			
Lighthouse Harbor 10:30am						
Worship 10:30am						
Orchestra Rehearsal 4:30pm						
Finance Committee 5pm						
A Light Still Shines Christmas Musical 6pm						
Fuel Student Bible Study 6pm						
26	27	28	29	30	31	1
Worship 8am	Walking Track	7:30am	Walking Track	7:30am	Office Closed	
Sunday School 9:15am			Pickleball			
Lighthouse Harbor 10:30am						
Worship 10:30am						
Orchestra Rehearsal 4:30pm						
Trustees Meeting 5pm						
Worship 6pm						
Fuel Student Bible Study 6pm						