



Forerunner

First Baptist Church
1024 E. Stuart Drive
Galax, VA 24333

Volume 47, No. 12
December 1—31, 2020



Merry Christmas!

Over the last 20 years or so, we have seen a subtle shift from wishing others a “Merry Christmas” to “Happy Holidays.” This has been the shift moving away from Christianity in society and culture to more of a secular feel. Originally, during this time of year, it was considered to be a pagan holiday and celebrated as a winter solstice.

“Cultures around the Mediterranean and across Europe observed feasts on or around December 25th, marking the winter solstice. The Jews had a festival of lights. Germans had a yule festival. Celtic legends connected the solstice with Balder, the Scandinavian sun god who was struck down by a mistletoe arrow. At the pagan festival of Saturnalia, Romans feasted and gave gifts to the poor. Drinking was closely connected with these pagan feasts. At some point, a Christian bishop may have adopted the day to keep his people from indulging in the old pagan festival.”

<https://www.christianity.com/church/church-history/timeline/301-600/the-1st-recorded-celebration-of-christmas-11629658.html>

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WEEKLY ACTIVITIES

Sundays

- 9:45 am—Bill Davis' Sunday School Class
- Fellowship Hall
- 9:45 am—Faith Explorers Class
- Common Ground Classroom
- 11:00 am—Worship Service in Sanctuary
(Live on Facebook & on 98.1 FM Radio)
- 6:00 pm—TruNorth (Youth Group)

Mondays

- 6:00 pm—Pastor Kevin's Bible Study
on Facebook

Wednesdays

- 6:30 pm—TruNorth (Youth Group)
- 6:30 pm—Worship, Devotion & Prayer
with Pastor Kevin

Thursdays

- 6:30 pm—Meditation & Devotion
with Pastor Kevin
On Facebook

UPCOMING EVENTS

December 1

- 6:00 pm—Pastor Kevin Speaking at
Christ Chapel

December 2

- Shoebbox Packing Center Volunteers

December 3

- 6:30 pm—Ladies' Bible Study

December 10

- 6:30 pm—Ladies' Bible Study

December 17

- 11:30 am—Grief Support Group
- 6:30 pm—Ladies' Bible Study

December 20

- 6:00 pm—TruNorth Christmas Party

December 23

- No Evening Activities

December 24-25

- Church Offices Closed

December 30

- No Evening Activities

December 31

- Church Offices Closed

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The first Christmas is recorded in 336 AD as a celebration of the nativity and dating it in December, 9 months from when Christ was thought to originally have been born. Whatever the ins and outs of Christmas, we are still unwrapping the gift of God's Son--and what an incentive to generosity and joy that gift is!

Dr. Jim Denison states,

"Many will do the same with Christmas. I was walking in my neighborhood yesterday and passed a yard sign for the company that installed Christmas lights on the roofline of the house. I noticed that the sign advertised 'Holiday Lights,' not Christmas Lights. We will hear 'Happy Holidays' rather than 'Merry Christmas' over the coming weeks.

This is not primarily because we don't want to offend our Jewish, Muslim, or Hindu neighbors, since they make up less than 6 percent of all Americans. It is because secular people want the experience of Christmas without the reality of Christ. They want to enjoy the birthday party while ignoring the guest of honor.

Our culture cuts the flowers off at the roots and then wonders why they die."

Because of this incredible gift we celebrate during this time of year, I would like to encourage all of us to wish one another a "Merry Christmas" rather than watering it down to just a "Happy Holiday". May we never forsake why we celebrate this time of year!

*In Christ's Love,
Kevin*



**GREETINGS
FROM OUR
HISPANIC
CONGREGATION!**

"In everything give thanks; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus." 1 Thessalonians 5:18, NASB

We, in the Hispanic congregation, are very thankful to the Lord for this year! We cannot deny that it has been challenging at times, but the Lord has always been good to us.

We have had few COVID-19 cases in the congregation but, thanks be to God, everyone has had complete recovery. We are continuing to have services on Sundays, taking all the security measures recommended by the government, and we pray that we can continue to do that.

We thank you for your prayers and support and ask that you keep praying for us while we search for a pastor for our Hispanic congregation. In the mean time, we will continue to be faithful in our worship to Him for His love and mercy.

*God bless you all,
Daniel Sanchez*



**Youth Christmas Party &
Ugly Sweater Contest**

**December 20th
6:00—7:30 pm**

New Year's Day

bonfire

**January 1st
7:00—9:00 pm**



**Minister to
Youth & Families**

Happy Advent, Church Family!

This is one of my favorite months of the year! I love Christmas and what it means for the fate of humankind! As you begin to prepare your heart and homes for the celebration, try to take some time to slow down and consider the season's meaning for you.

In between all of the shopping, decorating, plotting and planning, I'd also like you to consider the importance that God has placed on children throughout history. Jesus could have come to us many ways, but he came as a babe. Mary was just a child when God called her to be the mother our of Savior. Jeremiah was but a boy when God called him to be a prophet. Jesus said, *"Suffer little children, and forbid them not, to come unto me: for of such is the kingdom of heaven."* (Matt. 19:14) How amazing is that? Timothy was just a kid when he was called to be a church leader as well.

God makes a habit of using the most unexpected people in the most unexpected ways to build His kingdom. As we have seen, age is no more a barrier than status, or background. It's all in His power. This should tell us that the youth and children of FBC are not only highly valued by God, but just as capable of serving Jesus in amazing ways as anyone else. This Christmas let's make a concentrated effort as a church to give our youth very precious gifts: our time, patience, love and discipleship.

These kiddos need every one of us if they are to succeed in holding fast to their faith in this crazy world. The old saying is that it takes a village. I believe it takes a church!

*God bless and Merry Christmas!
Pastor Steve*



A WORD FROM THE MUSIC MINISTER

"But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, though you are little among the thousands of Judah, yet out of you shall come forth to Me the One to be Ruler in Israel, whose goings forth are from of old, from everlasting." Micah 5:2 NKJV

Phillip Brooks is considered "one of America's greatest preachers." Robert J. Morgan, in his 2011 edition of **THEN SINGS MY SOUL** (pg. 277), tells the story of the Episcopalian minister and his organist Lewis Redner. When Brooks was 30 years old, he "visited the Holy Land, [and] on December 24, 1865, traveling by horseback from Jerusalem, he attended a five-hour Christmas Eve service at the Church of the Nativity in Bethlehem." He later said that he "was deeply moved, ...standing in the old church in Bethlehem close to the spot where Jesus was born, when the whole church was ringing hour after hour with splendid hymns of praise to God..." In 1867, when "he wanted to compose an original Christmas hymn for the children to sing during their annual program, [he recalled] his magical night in Bethlehem [and] wrote a little hymn of five stanzas and handed the words to his organist saying, 'Lewis, why not write a new tune for my poem. If it is a good tune, I will name it **ST. LEWIS** after you.'" Mr. Redner "struggled with his assignment, complaining of no inspiration. Finally, on the night before the Christmas program, he awoke with the music ringing in his soul." The first stanza of "**O Little Town of Bethlehem**" is very familiar, but ponder on the fourth stanza, which is rarely sung. (Brooks did name the tune after Redner, but he "changed to spelling to **ST. LOUIS** so as not to embarrass him.")

***O little town of Bethlehem,
How still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep
The silent stars go by;
Yet in thy dark streets shineth
The everlasting Light;
The hopes and fears of all the years
Are met in thee tonight.***

***Where children pure and happy
Pray to the blessed Child,
Where misery cries out to Thee,
Son of the mother mild;
Where charity stands watching
And faith holds wide the door;
The dark night wakes, the glory breaks,
And Christmas comes once more.***

CCLI Song # 27879 Lewis Henry Redner | Phillips Brooks
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Donor Fund In Memory of:

Mr. & Mrs. Donald LaRue Colene Larrowe
Capital Campaign

Mr. & Mrs. John Griffin Colene Larrowe
Capital Campaign

Mr. David Moorman Colene Larrowe
Capital Campaign

Gardner Brannon Mary E Brannon
Fran Cregar Fund



Hello First Baptist Church!

I just wanted to take the time to send this note telling you how much we appreciate the generous gift of food for our Food Bank here at Willing Partners. We take every single gift...every single can of food... very seriously and we thank you for thinking of us with your food drive in October.

We received your food donation on November 2nd, and it weighed in at a "whopping 196 pounds"! This will go quite a ways in providing the food boxes that we prepare and distribute each week to the needy of our area. If it were not for caring and giving people like you, we could not do what we do here. So thank you from the bottom of our hearts!

*In Christ's Service,
Kathy Cooley, Executive Director
and all the folks at Willing Partners
21 Matthews Street
Galax, VA 24333*

First Baptist Church,

Thank you so much for your hole sponsorship at the Galax Wrestling Golf Tournament. Your kindness will help to keep Ford Athletic Center open to the youth in our community.

*Thanks Again,
Galax Wrestling*



Women on Mission will not meet in the month of December, but will resume normal meetings in January.

November 29 through December 6th is the *Week of Prayer for International Missions*, and this month we focus on the **Lottie Moon Christmas Offering**. Lottie was 32 years old when she was called to the mission field in China. She had left behind a turned-down marriage proposal, her job, family and friends to follow God's lead. The path she took was not normal for an educated women from a wealthy southern family. For thirty-nine years Lottie serve in Tengchow and P'ingtu. The people rejected and feared her, but she refused to leave and baked cookies to get people to come to her house. She changed her customs and learned the people's language. She didn't just serve the people of China, she identified with their with customs and culture and was eventually accepted by many, even having some accept Christ as their Savior.

Our goal for the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering this year is **\$3,000**, with 100% of this going directly to sustain the international missionaries and their work.

The Lottie Moon inserts and special offering envelopes are located at the Welcome Desk and also in the church office. If you want to donate to this worthwhile mission, please pick up your Lottie Moon Offering Envelope as you enter or exit the church.

Thank you for any donations to this mission!



... to Linda Soles on the death of her brother, **Frankie Massingill**, who passed away Tuesday, November 10, 2020.

... to Jim & Barbara Baxley on the death of their son, **Jim Baxley**, who passed away Thursday, November 12, 2020.

... to Janet Nuckolls on the death of her twin sister, **Judy Dollinger Fuller**, who passed away Sunday, November 15, 2020.

First Impressions Team



Dec 06 Mike Coomes & Ruth Hall
Dec 13 Marty & Cathy Parks
Dec 20 Tony & Sonia Truitt
Dec 27 Phil Helms & Gay Zachary

Security Team Schedule



Dec 06 Royce Easter / Johnny Dickson
Dec 13 Mike Coomes / Dick Cooley
Dec 20 John Patterson / Jack Edwards
Dec 27 Terry Anders / Paul Walker

CURRENT WORSHIP STATISTICS

	11/01/2020	11/08/2020
Evening Attendance	22	47
Sunday School	40	73
11:00 A.M. Worship Service	0	114
Hispanic Worship Service	25	23
Total Worship Attendance	25	137

BUDGET REQUIRED	\$ 9,375.17	\$ 9,375.17
BUDGET RECEIVED	4,851.34	14,362.16
REQUIRED TO DATE	412,507.48	421,882.97
RECEIVED TO DATE	382,098.12	396,460.28
DESIGNATED RECEIPTS	1,527.26	1,653.66
TOTAL RECEIPTS	\$ 6,378.60	\$ 16,015.82

% Required Yrly Budget Rec'd	93%	94%
% Required Wkly Budget Rec'd	52%	153%

Facebook Views

11:00 A.M. Worship Service	978	615
Bible Study/Prayer Mtg/Other	435	381

	11/15/2020	11/22/2020
Evening Attendance	74	15
Sunday School	65	80
11:00 A.M. Worship Service	110	105
Hispanic Worship Service	21	31
Total Worship Attendance	131	136

BUDGET REQUIRED	\$ 9,375.17	\$ 9,375.17
BUDGET RECEIVED	6,821.42	11,797.09
REQUIRED TO DATE	431,257.82	440,632.99
RECEIVED TO DATE	403,281.70	415,078.79
DESIGNATED RECEIPTS	808.38	1,692.87
TOTAL RECEIPTS	\$ 7,629.80	\$ 13,489.96

% Required Yrly Budget Rec'd	94%	94%
% Required Wkly Budget Rec'd	73%	126%

Facebook Views

11:00 A.M. Worship Service	394	319
Bible Study/Prayer Mtg/Other	645	123



Monday - Thursday

8:30 to 5:00

Friday

8:30 to 12:00

CHURCH STAFF

Dr. Kevin Rosenfeld Senior Pastor
 (Office) 236-5185
 Rev. Steve Goatley Minister of Youth & Families
 (Office) 236-5185
 Mrs. Wendi Pemberton Minister of Music
 (Office) 236-5185
 Mrs. Marlene Tipton Administrative Secretary
 Mrs. Marie Combs Financial Secretary
 Mrs. Nancy Hazelwood Organist
 Mrs. Patty Davis Pianist
 Mrs. Marian Porter Weekday Preschool Director
 Preschool/Extended Session
 Mr. & Mrs. Kevin Spurlin Sunday School Co-Directors
 Mrs. Penny Adams Bus Ministry Director
 Mrs. Martha Easter, RN Volunteer Health Nurse
 Mr. Scott Bedsaul Sexton

CHURCH PHONE 276-236-5185 FAX 276-236-5186
E-MAIL: secretary@fbcgalax.org Website: www.fbcgalax.org

www.facebook.com/FBCGalax

We Believe In The Power Of Prayer



Linda Cooley, knee replacement; Tony & Marie Snead Baldwin; Terry Anders; Rubye Edwards (Kristin McMickle Burnette's Grandmother-in-law); Joe Soles, cancer; Jimmy Morris, lung & pancreatic cancer (Glenn Morris' nephew); Our Preschool Department; Dr. Bill Eddings; Everett Bryant; Judy Hennis; Mark McMickle; Miles Compton, lung cancer; Hilda Hodges; Cami Gathercole & her daughter (Cami is daughter of Joe & Barbara Sizemore); Stanley Armstrong, cancer; Johnny Hodges, cancer (Hilda Hodges' brother); Chad Trent, cancer (Linda Riddle's nephew); Sharon Garrett, cancer; Barbara Baxley; Laila Cox; Alice Hasbrouck (Susan Honaker's sister); Kim Kinser, cancer (Mary Dotson's daughter); Lou Brock (Betty Parrish's daughter); Mike McMillan; Juan Rios; Geraldine McMillan (Rhonda McMillan's mother); Fran Halsey; K.T. Carico; Betty Walker, Stage IV cancer (Penny Adams' sister); Stanley Meador (Marie Combs' son); Max Brown, leukemia (Martha Dozier's great-grandson); Nell Bartlett; Judy Fayne, cancer (Eugene Fayne's daughter); John & Debby Stringer; Ronald Cummings (Dolly Moss' brother); Betty Fender (Ann Roberts' mother); Our Country; The Unemployed; USA Military and other coalition forces

NURSING HOMES: Hillsville Health & Rehab - Martha Combs, Rm 203 (Dennis Combs' Mother); Doris Marshall, Rm 206 (Benita Bryant's Mother); Waddell Nursing Home - Glenn Morris, Rm 118-B; Helen Robinson, Rm 209-D

GOD'S GIFT

*Little baby on the hay,
 soon there'll be another day
 when nails shall pierce
 Your hands and feet
 as You provide our sin's defeat.
 Risen Jesus on the throne,
 we lift our praise to You alone—
 for You're the gift that we receive
 the moment that our hearts believe.*

—ROY LESSIN



First Baptist Church
1024 E. Stuart Drive
Galax, VA 24333

December 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 10:00am-Staff Meeting 6:00pm-Pastor Kevin: Speaking at Christ Chapel	2 Shoebox Packing Center 6:30pm-Worship, Devotion & Prayer with Pastor Kevin 6:30pm-TruNorth	3 6:30pm-Ladies' Bible Study 6:30pm-Meditation/Devotion with Pastor Kevin on Facebook	4	5
6 9:45am-Bill Davis Class Fellowship Hall 9:45am-Faith Explorers Common Ground Room 11:00am-Worship Service 6:00pm-TruNorth 2nd Sunday of Advent	7 6:00pm-Pastor Kevin's Bible Study on Facebook	8 10:00am-Staff Meeting	9 6:30pm-Worship, Devotion & Prayer with Pastor Kevin 6:30pm-TruNorth	10 6:30pm-Ladies' Bible Study 6:30pm-Meditation/Devotion with Pastor Kevin on Facebook	11	12
13 9:45am-Bill Davis Class Fellowship Hall 9:45am-Faith Explorers Common Ground Room 11:00am-Worship Service 6:00pm-TruNorth 3rd Sunday of Advent	14 6:00pm-Pastor Kevin's Bible Study on Facebook	15 10:00am-Staff Meeting	16 6:30pm-Worship, Devotion & Prayer with Pastor Kevin 6:30pm-TruNorth	17 11:30am-Grief Support Group 6:30pm-Ladies' Bible Study 6:30pm-Meditation/Devotion with Pastor Kevin on Facebook	18	19
20 9:45am-Bill Davis Class Fellowship Hall 9:45am-Faith Explorers Common Ground Room 11:00am-Worship Service 6:00pm-TruNorth..... "Christmas Party & Ugly Sweater Contest" 4th Sunday of Advent	21 6:00pm-Pastor Kevin's Bible Study on Facebook	22 10:00am-Staff Meeting	23 No Evening Activities	24 5:30pm-Christmas Eve Candlelight Service with Communion CHURCH OFFICES CLOSED 	25 CHURCH OFFICES CLOSED 	26
27 9:45am-Bill Davis Class Fellowship Hall 9:45am-Faith Explorers Common Ground Room 11:00am-Worship Service	28	29	30 No Evening Activities	31 CHURCH OFFICES CLOSED		



December 4

Jane Alderman

December 11

Krista Shaw

December 24

Erica Testerman

December 5

*Debbie Adams
Ericka Gonzalez*

December 13

*Roselia Munoz
Audrey Turner*

December 25

*Ginger Vaughan
Gay Zachary*

December 6

Robert Leonard

December 14

Linda Riddle

December 27

*Patricia Edwards
Kaitlyn Turner*

December 7

Sue Priest

December 17

Don Lowe

December 28

Jackie McGrady

December 9

John Adams, Jr.

December 18

Sara Lindsey

December 31

Linda Painter

December 10

Dorothy Bowles

December 22

Tammy Wyatt