

LET'S CELEBRATE  
**Vinette McDuffie**  
 is turning  
**100**  
 December 17

The McDuffie family has made the difficult decision to cancel plans for a party celebrating Mother's 100th birthday. We are so disappointed, but our first priority is for her health and safety and that of her friends and family.

Thank you for sending Vinette birthday greetings in a card or letter, or give her a call during her birthday week. She will love hearing from you.

Mail cards or letters to:  
 Vinette McDuffie  
 216 East Morris St.  
 Jasper, TX 75951

Or give Vinette a call at  
 409-384-4239  
 or  
 936-875-5721

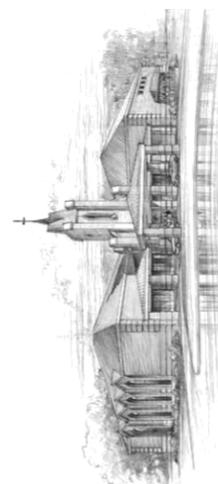
Thank you for the friendship, love and care shown to our mother.  
 Terry, Wanda, Sandra and Families

First Baptist, Jasper.....384-2527  
 Donnie Wiltshire, Interim Pastor.....384-2527  
 Woody Wade, Minister of Music and Senior Adults.....382-5575  
 Jim Slaton, Minister of Youth and Education.....382-5425  
 Kim Gill, Church Secretary.....384-2527  
 Beth Penney, Financial Secretary.....384-2527  
 Christian School.....384-7033

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Bill McMillon	Dec 04
Julia Slaton	Dec 07
Hannah Wade	Dec 10
Iva Lee Hamilton	Dec 12
Robbie Martindale	Dec 12
Donnie Wiltshire	Dec 12
Judy Wyche	Dec 12
Martha Westmoreland	Dec 14
Kenneth Hodges	Dec 15
Charles Jones	Dec 17
Vinette McDuffie	Dec 17
Jack Calicott	Dec 19
Carol McKay	Dec 19
Rhonda Griffin	Dec 20
Judy Mathews	Dec 20
Barbara Pulliam	Dec 20
Jane Smith	Dec 20



**First Baptist, Jasper**  
**314 N. Main St.**  
**Jasper, TX 75951**  
**(409)384-2527**  
**fbcj@fbcjaspertx.com**

We're on the web  
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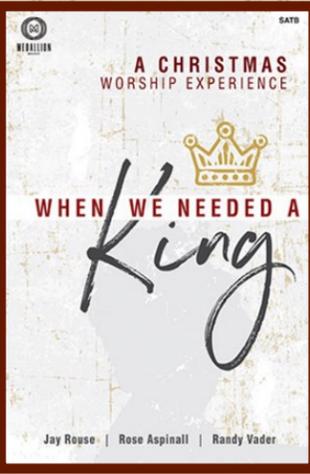
**Financial Report**

Offerings.....(11/01-11/30) ..... \$ 57,444.55

# The Compass

## First Baptist Jasper

VOLUME 17, ISSUE 23      DECEMBER 3, 2020



*Please join us  
 Sunday, December 13 at 10:30 a.m.  
 for a special time of worship as our Adult Choir presents this  
 year's Christmas musical followed by a message from Bro. Don-  
 nie Wiltshire. We will end the service with an opportunity for  
 members present to vote to call him as our new Pastor.*

Dear Church Family,

We will not soon forget 2020 will we! Our lives, our church, and our community have been disrupted in more ways than we can count. Even so, we have experienced the goodness of God all year long. Let me share some of His goodness as it has happened to my family.

Early this year Irma and I began remodeling the house I inherited from my parents. We remodeled the older part of the house and we added a new "wing" to accommodate visitors and our still growing family (grandchildren). We are now wrapping up the final details of that 10-month project. What a blessing. In February I became your interim pastor. Covid-19 has made this a most unusual interim. Yet, through these months I have come to love you all and you have embraced Irma and me like long lost kin. You have been so gracious and generous. You have blessed us greatly.

Now this will sound odd, but in its own way, the pandemic has also allowed us to see the goodness of God. How you ask? – well, during these months many of us have found dozens of ways to show Christ's love to our neighbors. That's a good thing. These months have given us the chance to explore the truth of Romans 8:28 (no small discovery). And, the huge disruption to our church life has taught us how important our family of faith really is. We need each other like fish need water. In the months ahead we will need to apply all these learnings to the way we live: we will live Christ before our neighbors, we will live the truth of 8:28, and we will be a vibrant faith family like never before! God is good...all the time.

As you can, gather with us on Sunday. Come by Facebook. Come in person. Join us as we celebrate God's goodness.

Brother Donnie



## A Note from Bro. Woody

*For by Him all things were created, both in the heavens and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones, or dominions, or rulers, or authorities—all things have been created through Him and for Him.  
--Colossians 1: 16--*

A young boy was traveling on an airplane to visit his grandparents one day, and he happened to be sitting beside a seminary professor. The boy was reading his children's Bible, so the professor thought he'd have some fun. "Young man," said the professor, "if you can tell me something God can do, I'll give you a shiny apple." The boy thought for a moment before replying, "Mister, if you can tell me something God can't do, I'll give you a whole barrel of apples!"

The boy was right. It would be impossible to say that God can't do something. That's because He's the all-powerful and all-knowing Creator of the universe. He flung planets into orbit around stars and holds every single atom in its place. Yet, He's personal enough to love you deeply. Whatever challenges you encounter in life, you can face them knowing you have an all-powerful God on your side. He's big enough to be Lord of creation and loving enough to come to earth and die for your sins. Trust that our all-powerful God is for you and will help you overcome any challenge you face! Pray and tell God you trust Him to help you overcome life's challenges because He can do anything!

*My God is so big, so strong and so mighty  
There's nothing my God cannot do!  
My God is so big, so strong and so mighty  
There's nothing my God cannot do for you!*

You are loved,  
Bro. Woody



## A PAGE FROM JIM'S JOURNAL

One of my favorite times of the Thanksgiving week these last few years has been camping at Lake Murray with Jaclyn's family. We meet Monday morning of Thanksgiving week, cook hot dogs, play games, and visit while we wait to be able to check in. The whole family stays in two cabins. We stay up late, play games, eat good food, and let the kids run through the woods playing flashlight tag. It always makes for a memorable time.

This year I got up early on Tuesday, made a pot of coffee and went out as the sun was rising to hike one of the trails. There's a bridge along one of the trails that stretches across a wide river feeding into the lake. It's a pretty area so I enjoy stopping and taking the sights in. I used the opportunity to reflect on some of the more difficult times of 2020 and asked God for continued strength. It was in that moment I saw what looked like a tangled ball of thorns and sticks floating across the river. I didn't pay much attention at first but as it got closer I noticed it was bobbing up and down. It turned out to be a huge buck and its head was just barely above water showing off an impressive set of antlers. He swam right by the bridge I was standing on and across the river to the other side. I watched him the entire time as he climbed out of the freezing water, took a few drinks and ran off into the woods.

I thank God for that sight. It reminded me of David's words in Psalm 42. Verses 1-3 say, "As a deer pants for flowing streams, so pants my soul for you, O' God. My soul thirsts for God, for the living God. When shall I come and appear before God? My tears have been my food day and night, while they say to me all the day long, 'Where is your God?'" This has certainly been a year. David was no stranger to difficult times as he wrote many Psalms crying out to God. At the end of the day, we do good to remind ourselves that God is present. It is good to remind ourselves that God loves us and the victory has been won! Then we can speak to our souls like David did when he ended Psalm 42 in verse 11. "Why are you cast down, O my soul, and why are you in turmoil within me? Hope in God; for I shall again praise Him, my salvation and my God." In difficult times, where do you turn? Hope in Jesus. He accomplished on the cross what we could never do for ourselves.



In a special called business meeting on Wednesday, December 2nd the church voted unanimously to adopt the proposed 2021 church budget and an amendment put forth from the Constitution & By-Laws committee. The amendment allows the Pastor Search committee to ask permission to bring the interim pastor in view of a call as pastor if they unanimously agree and the church agrees by 2/3 majority vote. The committee and the church members present voted unanimously. Following the secret ballot vote, Colin Townsend, chairman of the Pastor Search Committee announced the committee would like to bring Donnie Wiltshire in view of a call as Pastor on Sunday, December 13th. Following the morning worship service, church members present will enter into a special called business meeting and have an opportunity to vote by secret ballot to call him as pastor.

**Bro. Donnie has served with us this past year and really needs no introduction but if you would like to know a little more about him, the following is his biographical sketch.**

*Until his recent retirement, Donnie Wiltshire was the Special Ministries Consultant for the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina. He began in that position in June of 1999 having gone to North Carolina from Memphis, Tennessee where he was the Associate Pastor, pastor of the Deaf Congregation, and Minister to Senior Adults at the First Baptist Church of Memphis. Prior to the Memphis ministry, he pastored in New Orleans, Louisiana and served churches as Minister with the Deaf in Fort Worth, Brownwood, and Corpus Christi, Texas. Texas is his home state.*

*Donnie has a Bachelor of Arts degree from Howard Payne University in Brownwood, Texas, a Master of Divinity degree from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth Texas, and a Doctor of Theology degree from New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary in New Orleans, Louisiana. He has served on the adjunct faculty of New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary in New Orleans, Louisiana; Southern Seminary of Louisville, Kentucky; Fuller Theological Seminary in Pasadena, California; Gardner-Webb University of Boiling Springs, North Carolina, and Brewton-Parker College of Mount Vernon, Georgia. He has written and edited several books including: "In That Day, A History of Southern Baptist Deaf Work," "The Southern Baptist Conference of the Deaf, A Celebration of Fifty Years," and "Memories, The Life of J. W. Gardner."*

*Donnie resides in Jasper, Texas, where he lives with his wife, Irma. Irma was a pre-school teacher in Cary, North Carolina, for twenty years. Donnie and Irma have three children. Kyle, their oldest, works for LifeWay Christian Resources in Nashville, Tennessee, and Wendy, their oldest daughter, serves with the International Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention. Gena, their youngest daughter, teaches High School chorus at John A. Holmes High School in Edenton, North Carolina. Donnie and Irma have seven grandchildren.*