

Wednesday Night Supper

5:00 p.m.

December 27th
NO Supper

January 3rd
NO Supper

***Suppers to resume
beginning
Jan 10th, 2024**

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The Compass

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH JASPER | DECEMBER 2023 – VOLUME 20, ISSUE 24

CHRISTMAS EVE

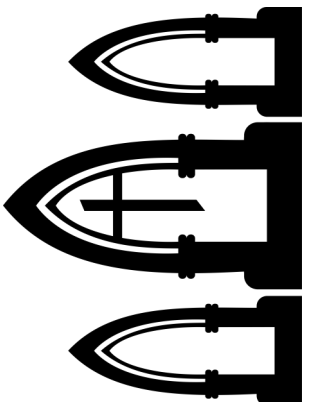
CANDLELIGHT SERVICE AT 5 PM



First Baptist, Jasper

Join us for a Christmas Eve Candlelight Service
5 pm on Sunday December 24th, 2023
We look forward to seeing you!





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



Carole Jenks	Dec 25	Roy Crone	Dec 30
Jordan Blair	Dec 26	Vanita McMilon	Dec 30
Lisa Smith	Dec 26	Irma Wilshire	Dec 30
Colt McBride	Dec 27	Ollie Ruth Brookfiel	Dec 31
P.J. South	Dec 27	Anna McKnight	Jan 03
Carroll Miller	Dec 29	Colt Webb	Jan 03

Our Vision:
To see every life in Jasper transformed by Christ resulting in an impact in His name felt to the very ends of the earth.

First Baptist, Jasper.....	409-384-2527
Donnie Wiltshire, Pastor.....	919-524-8302
Woody Wade, Minister of Music and Senior Adults.....	409-382-5575
Jim Slaton, Minister of Youth and Education.....	409-382-5425
Alex Frederking, Office Manager.....	409-384-2527
Beth Penney, Financial Secretary.....	409-384-2527
Christian School.....	409-384-7033

- ### Upcoming Events
- Fri, Dec 22nd** - Church Office Closed for Holidays (re-open January 2nd, 2024)
 - Sun, Dec 24th** - Youth Sunday School Breakfast & Bible Study @ 8:30 am
 - Sun, Dec 24th** - Christmas Eve Service @ 5 pm (4th Sunday of Advent: Joy)
 - Mon, Dec 25th** - CHRISTMAS DAY
 - Fri, Dec 29th** - Women's Ministry "Holly Bally" Dinner with Wendy McGuire @ 6 pm
 - Sun, Dec 31st** - Morning Worship (Lord's Supper) @ 10:30 am
 - Sun, Dec 31st** - New Year's Eve (no evening service)
 - Mon, Jan 1st** - NEW YEAR's DAY
 - Wed, Jan 3rd** - Youth/Children Bible Study & Prayer Meeting @ 6 pm, Choir Rehearsal @ 7 pm

I’ve Been Thinking...

Dear Church Family,

Well, in a few more days it will be Christmas. Perhaps your family will be like mine; my family will gather at my house and we will have a great celebration. It is rare that I can get all my family together. They live all over the place. Well, not really, but they do live in “far flung” places. My son and his family live in Tennessee. My youngest daughter lives in North Carolina. Most of the time my oldest daughter lives in India. So, not “all over the place,” but close enough. To get all of them together on any given occasion is difficult. You can see why it would be hard to have them home for Christmas.

I’m pretty sure you know what I am going to say next – as important as this time is for family, Christmas has a much greater significance than gatherings and reunions. Christmas represents one of those wild Christian claims that becomes a type of “go, no go” spot for people around the world. Christians will look you right in the eye and say, “The God who made the universe has come into His creation as a tiny baby. God has come to live with us!” Christians do not believe this is a myth or a symbolic occasion but the recollection of an historic event just like Julius Caesar really lived, or Elizabeth was really the Queen or Washington was the first president. Jesus was really God. Jesus was really the baby in the manger.


That is why Christmas becomes what I called a “go, no go” event. There will be a great many people who will see our story and conclude that they cannot believe it. For them it is a “no go.” But there will be others, many others, over a billion others, who will be deeply drawn by the Christmas story and for them it will be the “go” event of their lives. They will believe that it is true and radically give their lives to the one born, who lived and died (and rose), so that there can be “peace among men with whom He is pleased.” (Luke 2:14 NASV)

Join us Sunday as we worship the one born and especially Sunday night for our Christmas Eve candle lighting service. Make it a “go” event for you.

I can hardly wait . . .

Brother Donnie





A Note from Bro. Woody


In my 45-plus years of full-time ministry, I have noticed that there are seasons in each of our areas that have heavier responsibilities than others. These last few weeks have been one of those busy times for me. Although it has been a demanding few weeks, it has also been a blessed few weeks. I have seen our church respond to the vision that God has given us — with enthusiasm! Our choir has gone above and beyond as we have joined with the choir of First Baptist Church, Hemphill to present the musical “His Name is Jesus.” I was proud, as usual, to be their director. We have undertaken a new ministry to our community in presenting “Living Christmas Cards.” I was blessed with the opportunity to work with some of God’s finest servants as we prepared for this event. Maureen Coleman, Bill Gee, Sue Gee, Betty Powers and Paula Stephenson have met with me for several months as we dreamed and planned for what we felt God was leading us to accomplish. Many of our church members responded to the cause by agreeing to portray a worshipful family, a group of shepherds, Mary, Joseph and baby Jesus, the magi, and a group of carolers. All were excellent in their roles! Many others served hot chocolate, greeted visitors, provided security and helped with the set up and take down of the cards. All in all, I am grateful to be a part of First Baptist Church, Jasper, and I look forward to where God will lead us in the months and years ahead.

Speaking of months ahead...I am so very excited about another project that God has led me to. It was 50 years ago that the wonderful praise musical, “Alleluia” was published, introducing the world to some of Bill and Gloria Gaither’s best loved songs. I have had the privilege of singing in it twice, and now God has led us to present it one more time. So, on January 8, we will begin rehearsals every Monday evening in order to present “Alleluia” to our community on April 29. We have set a goal of 100 voices! It’s a lofty goal, but wouldn’t God be honored with that kind of sound? If God has given you any kind of voice at all won’t you join us? If you can’t join us, would you pray for us? Would you encourage others to join us? Then look forward to being present on April 29 as we honor our Lord and bring Him to our community.

Merry Christmas!

You are loved,

Bro. Woody



A PAGE FROM JIM’S JOURNAL

I STARTED SERVING IN FAMILY MINISTRY 20 YEARS AGO. EVER SINCE THAT TIME, I HAVE BEEN PAYING ATTENTION TO A TREND IN THE BIBLE BELT THAT SHOWED FAMILIES BECOMING LESS INVOLVED IN A LOCAL CHURCH BODY. OUR IMMEDIATE RESPONSE TO THIS TREND HAS BEEN TO QUESTION WHY IT IS HAPPENING AND FIND A SOLUTION. I HAVE SEEN THE DISCUSSION CARRY ON TO THIS DAY, AND MOSTLY COSMETIC SOLUTIONS APPLIED. YET THE TREND HAS CONTINUED TO THIS DAY. IN FACT, I DON'T THINK WE CAN ACCURATELY SAY THAT WE ARE TRENDING TOWARDS FAMILIES BECOMING LESS INVOLVED. WE ARE NOW AT A PLACE WHERE THIS IS A REALITY.

ABOUT A MONTH AGO, ON A WEDNESDAY NIGHT, WE HAD A STUDENT TESTIMONY NIGHT. STUDENTS WERE ENCOURAGED TO SHARE HOW GOD HAS BEEN WORKING IN THEIR LIFE DURING THIS CURRENT SEMESTER OF SCHOOL. I CHALLENGED THEM TO STAND IN FRONT OF THEIR FRIENDS AND GIVE TESTIMONY TO HOW GOOD GOD HAS BEEN TO THEM. IN A YEAR OF CHERISHED MEMORIES, THIS NIGHT WILL FOREVER BE SET APART IN MY MIND. I SAT FOR ABOUT 45 MINUTES AND LISTENED TO STUDENTS GIVE GLORY TO GOD. STUDENTS WHO DON'T LIVE IN A GODLY HOME WERE EXPRESSING THEIR FAITH IN CHRIST AND THE DIFFERENCE IT MAKES IN THEIR LIFE.

TWO THINGS IN PARTICULAR REALLY ENCOURAGED ME THAT EVENING. THE FIRST IS THAT GOD IS ALWAYS WORKING. HIS KINGDOM WILL NOT BE STOPPED. EVEN AS THE CULTURE STEPS AWAY FROM A CHRIST RELATIONSHIP, HE IS WORKING TO REVEAL HIMSELF IN REAL WAYS TO THE NEXT GENERATION. JOHN 15:7 SAYS, "MY FATHER IS ALWAYS AT WORK TO THIS VERY DAY, AND I TOO AM WORKING." THE SECOND THING THAT ENCOURAGED ME WERE THE FAMILIES THAT WE DO HAVE AT FIRST BAPTIST WHO ARE NOT ONLY MODELING A CHRIST RELATIONSHIP WITH THEIR KIDS, BUT ALSO WITH OTHERS FROM THE COMMUNITY. I AM FOREVER GRATEFUL THIS SEMESTER TO KEITH HILDERBRAND, JACLYN SLATON, KATHLEEN WADE, LESLIE RANDALL, CHARRA KNIGHT, THE WISNIEWSKIS, MARX'S, MCKNIGHTS, BEANS, TATUMS, AND THE THOMPSONS. WEEK AFTER WEEK, THEY ARE INTERACTING WITH MORE OF THE NEXT GENERATION THAN JUST THEIR OWN KIDS. THEY ARE MODELING FIRST AND FOREMOST A CHRIST RELATIONSHIP, AND A CHRIST CENTERED FAMILY. GOD’S WORK IN AND THROUGH THEIR LIVES WAS SEEN THAT WEDNESDAY NIGHT.

IN THE END, I THINK THE FALL OF CULTURAL CHRISTIANITY IS GOING TO BE A GREAT THING. IT IS REVEALING A DEEP NEED THAT INDIVIDUALS CAN SENSE IN THEIR LIVES AND CREATING OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE GOSPEL TO BE SHARED, AND FOR DECISIONS TO BE MADE THAT TRULY CHANGE THE COURSE OF THEIR LIVES. THESE PEOPLE I MENTIONED, AND MORE THAT WILL JOIN THEM, WILL NEED YOUR PRAYERS IN THE MONTHS AHEAD. WE HAVE A GOD SIZED VISION AT FBC JASPER, AND A LIFE CHANGING MESSAGE TO CARRY TO THE NEXT GENERATIONS. PLEASE PRAY ABOUT BEING A WEEKLY PART OF THE CHILDREN'S AND/OR YOUTH MINISTRY IN THE YEAR AHEAD.

- Jim