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FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH JASPER

Brothilm

December 19, 2024

MERRY **PHRISTMAS** This Christmas may the blessings of the Lord overflow in your life and bring you much joy and happiness.

VOL 22, ISSUE 24

I've Been Thinking...

Dear Church Family,

What is your earliest Christmas memory? Mine comes from December of 1956. My father, who was in the navy, had received orders to move to Hawaii. But before we went, we came to Kirbyville to visit with family and celebrate Christmas. I was four that Christmas. It was 1956. I vaguely remember decorated Christmas trees. More clearly, I remember receiving a log truck, a pair of plastic binoculars, a sock monkey (made by my grandmother), and a Bible that could be zipped up. It was an exciting day. Soon after Christmas we left Texas for our tour of duty in Hawaii.

I remember my dad telling me stories about Christmas when he was a boy. He used to talk about receiving candy and fruit in a stocking. What's funny is he seemed to have the same sense of excitement that I had had. I'm probably old fashioned but I wonder if the massive amounts of "stuff" we load on our children and grandchildren do more harm than good. Yes, I see my grandchildren on Christmas (when I can be with them) with that same excitement that dad had and that I had. But the large number of presents these days and the extravagance in what we spend on gifts make me worry that we have wandered away from the humble child in the manger – the one we claim Christmas is really about.

How do we get Christmas right? I think all of us truly want our children and grandchildren to know Christmas is about Jesus. Here are some things to try. Help your young people be excited about giving. Let them wrap gifts that they will give to others. Let them help you decide how much to give to the Lottie Moon Christmas offering. Bring them to the Christmas Eve candle lighting service. Read the nativity story before jumping into the gifts and stockings. Yes, and spend time praying with your family; especially letting the children pray giving thanks for Jesus.

I plan to be with some of my grandchildren for Christmas. We plan to do these things and others so their earliest memories can be about Jesus – Immanuel.



I can hardly wait . . .

CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT SERVICE Tuesday, December 24th 5 pm

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Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
29 No Sunday Night Youth or Children Activities	30 OFFICE OPEN 8-5	31 IO AM - I2 PM OFFICE OPEN	1 OFFICE CLOSED No Wednesday Night Activities	2	3 OFFICE CLOSED	4
5 Meet Aubrey Bond after Worship	6 COMMUNITY CHOIR 6:30	7	8 Regular Wednesday Night Activities	9	10	11 8 AM MEN'S MINISTRY 2ND SATURDAY BREAKFAST & FELLOWSHIP
12 4 pm Budget & Finance	13 COMMUNITY CHOIR 6:30	14	15 Regular Wednesday Night Activities	16	17	18 Youth/hot hearts
19 4 pm Deacons meeting	20 COMMUNITY CHOIR 6:30	21	22 Regular Wednesday Night Activities Business Meeting	23	24	25
26	27 COMMUNITY CHOIR 6:30	28 10 am Happy Years	29 Regular Wednesday Night Activities	30	31	





2025

END OF YEAR

The church office will be open December 30th 8 am - 5 pm **December 31st**