



From the Pastor

Lottie Moon was a missionary to China from 1873 until she died in 1912. She was the first to establish an annual Christmas offering for missionaries worldwide, and it was later renamed in her memory. Each year we highlight international missions and encourage people to support the advancement of the Gospel through giving to the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering. This offering is the primary source of revenue, keeping over 3,500 Southern Baptist missionaries in the field each year. One couple I'd like to tell you more about in this article is Jon and Trish (names changed for security).

Jon and Trish were friends while I pursued graduate studies at Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary (now called Gateway Seminary). They both had a heart and calling to international missions and were accepted to serve as International Mission Board missionaries upon Jon's completion of seminary. For over ten years, they have served in a restricted area of the world where they are not free to talk about Jesus openly. They have raised their family there and seen the Gospel make great strides during their ministry. Although a baptism here in the U.S. isn't seen as a controversial religious act, it would likely result in some serious punishment from the government in the country they serve. Despite the opposition, the Gospel is advancing! One person had a bathtub installed in their home just so they could be baptized! The Lottie Moon Christmas Offering helps keep missionaries like Jon and Trish in the field.

Our goal at FBC this year is to raise \$20,000 for the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering. Would you consider making an end-of-year gift to help keep our missionaries around the world in 2022 through this offering? Would you also consider taking a moment now and praying for those missionaries serving all over the world?

Merry Christmas,
Pastor Greg



**Sunday, December 5
in the atrium**

Come by for coffee, donuts
and an opportunity to
fellowship with each other
before Bible Study!

The FBC Christmas Choir & Orchestra present

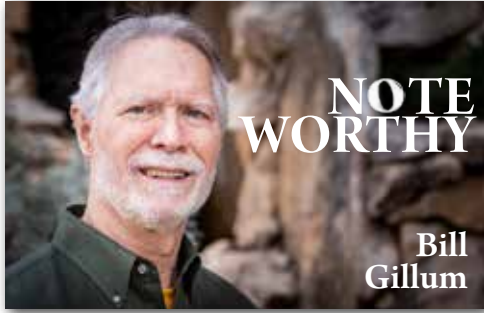
*Behold
the Lamb
of
God*

**A Celebration
of Christmas**



Sunday, December 19 • 10:30am

First Baptist Church is a community of believers with a vision for making and equipping disciples of Jesus Christ for effective ministry in their neighborhoods, in San Angelo, and around the world.



I am really excited to invite you to join the FBC Music Ministry, Christmas orchestra, and other San Angelo musicians in a celebration of Christmas. As we do each year, we will be presenting the songs and more importantly, the story of Christmas. This year's celebration will be during the Sunday morning service on December 19. Our folks will be presenting a number of our favorite Christmas anthems from past years. It is hard to believe, but I have been blessed to present ten different musicals of Christmas in my time at FBC. I have selected some of the best of these pieces to share with you.

This will be followed by a short presentation of the Christmas story presented by our combined worship teams with the Christmas orchestra and a few other local musicians. This will be a unique telling of the old, old story of God's love for mankind. I think you will really enjoy the message and the authenticity of the story-telling. As always, our folks have been working for several months on these songs and would love for you to come and bring a friend or two with you.

The story is entitled *Behold the Lamb of God*. My precious wife, Elaine, will be telling the story along with various soloists. It is a great opportunity to bring a friend, take them to lunch, and further discuss the storyline and its implications in their lives.

Pray for us as we seek to tell the Good News!!

Serving Together

Bible study on Sunday mornings is key in making disciples. This year we have come through the most difficult year in the life of churches concerning the pandemic. 2021 has been a year of many restarts, of which we have done well. Our Bible teaching arm is strong with active classes and great teachers who prepare very well. I am thankful for our Sunday school and for the honor of working with great leaders in every department.

2022 will bring new challenges and opportunities for Biblical learning and growth. Currently, we are averaging 180 in Sunday School. At our last Sunday school department meeting, we talked about ways that we can begin to break the 200 barrier. How do we do that? As we become engaged and excited about our class or department and it fulfills our spiritual needs and helps us develop a caring relationship, we will naturally want our friends to experience that same opportunity. When that happens, we have a natural tendency to talk about our church to our friends. It becomes a lifestyle!

I am looking forward to the new year and for us to discover how the Father is going to use all of us to help our church reach, teach, and disciple people for Christ.

Mike O'Donnell



As I reflect on the Thanksgiving season, my heart cannot be any more full and grateful. During the busy season, it can be hard to stop and think about the things that we are thankful for and take time to acknowledge all the blessings in life. I have a lot to be thankful for this year. One of the biggest blessings to me, other than my family, is my church family. I am so thankful for the community I have within this church and the youth that I get to spend time with several hours a week. When we are together, we always have the best time. One event that sticks out to me this month was our family game night. On November 12, several families and youth met in the CLC to have a potluck Thanksgiving meal, fellowship, and play games. We all had a good time, and it was nice to have some bonding time with our families. In that moment, I felt overjoyed with gratitude. I love seeing our people come together and genuinely enjoy the community FBC offers

Another thing that I was grateful to see this month was our youth being a part of Operation Christmas Child. On November 6, the youth helped pack boxes with the Responders Sunday School class. It was a simple act of service that totally warms my heart. I am glad that our students could be a part of blessing a child with the gospel message along with fun and essential items.

December is quickly approaching, and that means there will be multiple festive activities. Be sure to stay tuned with what is going by keeping up with social media pages and newsletters.



On Wednesday nights, we have been doing a new series over Psalms entitled "Sing!" People say music is the universal language, something everyone enjoys in one form or another. It is a way to communicate shared emotions and experiences across generations, cultures, locations, and backgrounds. We can learn a lot about God and ourselves in these Psalms. In November, we learned these five truths:

1. I am wonderfully and uniquely made by God- Psalm 139
2. I am safe because God watches over me- Psalm 23
3. I am confident because God leads me- Psalm 119:101-105
4. I am forgiven because God loves me- Psalm 32
5. I am not afraid because God can be trusted- Psalm 56



In this activity, the children were asked to use each letter of their name and write a positive word to describe themselves to remind them that they are "fearfully and wonderfully made."



Our children, youth and their families had a fun evening at the Family Game Night and Potluck.



FBC Children and Youth Ministries present CHRISTMAS MOVIE NIGHT and PAJAMA PARTY FUN FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY!*

Friday, December 10, 5:30 - 8:00PM,
Christian Life Center, 20 E Harris Ave
Dinner, popcorn & snacks provided;
bring your own chairs, blankets, etc to sit on.

*This is not a "Parents Night Out." Please plan to attend with your child(ren) unless you have spoken with Melodie or Erin (655-4101).



ADMIT ONE



BIRTHDAYS THIS MONTH

December 1
No FBC Birthdays

December 2
Ken Campbell
Mary McCarson

December 3
Aaden Dusckas
Garrison Nikolauk

December 4
No FBC Birthdays

December 5
Julie Moran

December 6
Sue Mansfield

December 7
No FBC Birthdays

December 8
Norma Cummings
Christopher Garcia

December 9
Alexis Garcia
Alyssa Garcia
John Paul Johnson
Jean McDonald
Wanda Owers

December 10
Lea Byerlein

December 11
Janet Gregory
Luke Hogg
Robby Truelove

December 12
Bobby Fletcher
Nyla Rosenstrom

December 13
Eddie Williams

December 14
No FBC Birthdays

December 15
Christopher Grady

December 16
Janis Baucom
Coy Byrd
Denise Wamer

December 17
Debbie Conn
Bob Harthcock

December 18
Diane Jennings
Vance Palmer
Terry Sims
Carla Williams

December 19
Jolynn Byrd
Melissa Gill

December 20
Buddy Parker
Harold Sharp

December 21
Zack Deardorff

December 22
Jessica Cantu
Larry Edgington
Martha Gerber
John Hancock

December 23
Bob Hewell

December 24
No FBC Birthdays

December 25
Kyle Cokonougher
Melva Penner

December 26
Murf Dufresne
Lizzie Nikolauk

December 27
Earl Bowman
Homer Griffin
Hunter Schmidt

December 28
Patsy Bray
Dennis Friedrich
Lance Kiser
Jovita Mata
Jeff Schmidt

December 29
Jim Jones

December 30
Betsey Garvin
Alexis Nikolauk
Kevin Pepper

December 31
Kathy Wahmann

SUNDAY SCHOOL REPORT

November 7
FBC Sunday School
Enrollment 639
Attendance 183
Baptist Retirement Center
High Rise Class
GRAND TOTAL 183

November 14
FBC Sunday School
Enrollment 639
Attendance 183
Baptist Retirement Center
High Rise Class
GRAND TOTAL 183

November 21
FBC Sunday School
Enrollment 641
Attendance 168
Baptist Retirement Center
High Rise Class
GRAND TOTAL 160

November 28
FBC Sunday School
Enrollment 642
Attendance 173
Baptist Retirement Center
High Rise Class
GRAND TOTAL 173



WEDNESDAY NIGHT

Mid-Week Meal

Dinner reservations must be made each week by Tuesday at 10 am for the following evening. Sign up sheets are in each Sunday School department or you may call the church office to reserve your meal.

Cost is \$8/person

Menu is subject to change.

December 1

Pizza, salad bar and cookies

December 8

Chick-fil-A sandwich and fruit salad

December 15

Grilled chicken, green beans, salad and dessert.

December 24


No Wednesday activities

STEWARDSHIP REPORT

As of November 28, 2021

November Budget Needs \$106,229.14
November Budget Gifts \$126,982.18
YTD Budget Needs \$1,274,749.85
YTD Tithes & Offerings \$1,359,778.58
2021 Budget \$1,380,978.79

DECEMBER 2021

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|---|--|--|---|---|--|--|
|  <p>A complete list of small group Christmas events can be found on page 7.</p> | | | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 FBC Men's Breakfast, 8:30AM, LC |
| 5  8:30AM, Atrium | 6 | 7 WMU, 10AM BRC Main St Café FBC Light Tour Hosts | 8 FBC Kids and Youth to Light Tour | 9 | 10 | 11 |
| 12 Pancakes with the Pastor, 9:00AM, FH | 13 Properties Committee 5:30PM, C208 | 14 Finance Committee 5:15PM, C208 | 15 Staff serves @ Neighbors Café Deacon Council Mtg, 5:15PM, C203 | 16 | 17 | 18 |
| 19 <i>Behold the Lamb of God</i> Christmas Presentation, 10:30AM, Sanc Bill Gillum Reception, 11:30AM Atrium | 20 | 21 | 22 No mid-week activities | 23 Church Office Closed | 24 Christmas Eve Service, 6:00PM Sanc | 25  |
| 26 No Sunday School Worship service, 10:30AM, Sanc | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 |  |
|  <p>Church Office closed; will reopen on Monday, January 2, 2022</p> | | | | | | |
| Building/Room Abbreviations | | | | | | |
| BRC - Baptist Retirement Community | | CLC - Christian Life Center FH - Fellowship Hall | | FP - First Place HR - Hospitality Room | | Sanc - Sanctuary LC - Lake Cabin |

WITH SYMPATHY
We express our deepest sympathy to those who lost loved ones:

Ron & Shrona Crumley in the death of her aunt, Juanita Gary.

Family and friends of Jane Landers

June Hopper in the death of her brother, David Havercorn.

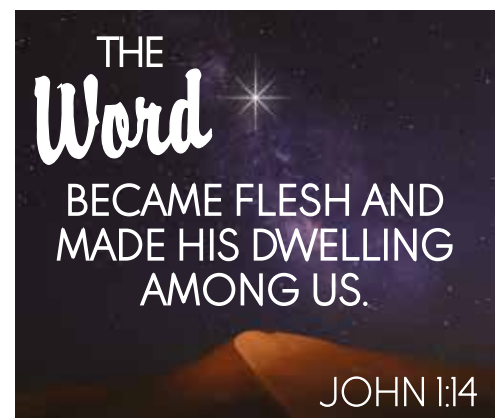
Jim & Louise Jones in the death of her sister, Deedie McIntire.

Andy & Jeannie McCleer in the death of her aunt, Brenda Ware.

Ivan & Erin Medina in the death of her great-aunt, Brenda Ware.

Jeff & Jennifer Schmidt in the death of his father; Hunter and Hayden in the death of their grandfather, Ray Schmidt.

Family and friends of Lorene Southall.



Missions: Adding to the Fire

Pastor Emeritus Jerold McBride used to tell a story in this church about an old Tennessee farmer who had promised his father, as men in his family had done since the great-grandfather's day, not to let the fire go out. The fire burning in the fireplace was a sign of gratitude to God for giving the family the house, the land, and the farm. Even when the Tennessee Valley Authority wanted to flood the valley to make a lake, he vowed to stay in the homestead. Only when a caring young man from the TVA assured him that they would move the house – fire and all, with him inside tending to the fire – did he agree to leave the land.

“Two thousand years ago,” the sermon continues, “Jesus Christ died for you and me. And down through the years, faithful people have passed the warmth of God's love on to us. And Jesus says to you and me, “Don't let the fire go out – don't let the fire go out.”

I'm only one person. What can I do to keep the fire of God's love going?

Think about the abilities God has given you and how you can use your gifts in His service. In recent months, the Missions and Evangelism Committee has highlighted some of the work done by individuals in our church who continue to serve others. Volunteers have sewed baby blankets and quilts, cooked and served meals at Neighbors Cafe, provided food for the FBC Blessing Box, made sandwiches for refugees at the border, and knitted scarfs and beanies for Christmas gift bags for the indigent and homeless – all done in the name of Jesus Christ. Needs around us are great, but so are opportunities.

Give to the church budget. For every \$100.00 you give to FBC, you are giving the following to missions:

- 6.80 to the BGCT and .20 to the SBC, with both of these groups supporting Baptist colleges, seminaries, hospitals, children's homes, and several thousand missionaries throughout the world;
- 2.00 divided equally among Neighbors Café, House of Faith, the Gospel Vision work in Venezuela, and Carlos Valenzuela's ministry in Peru; and
- 1.75 to the Concho Valley Baptist Association.

Your offering also becomes part of First Baptist's support of the following missions:

- Brown Bag Ministry (brown bags of food given to each person at Neighbors Café on Fridays) and the Blessing Box
- Benevolence (administered by Christians in Action)
- Radio and television ministry
- Vacation Bible School
- Missions Committee Support (This new fund will allow the M&E Committee to help two established ministries in San Angelo – Joshua 1:2 and Bishop Street Ranch – providing housing, food, clothing, job training, Bible study, and discipleship training to men and women in recovery.)

Pray. Dr. McBride's sermon concludes with this prayer: “You've surely been good to us, Lord. When we've been cold and wet in heart and discouraged, you've sent somebody to build a fire. And on a few occasions, you've let us pick up a few sticks and build some fires by which others have warmed. And we know that's what life is all about. And now we pray we will be so open to your sweet and giving spirit that we shall no longer warm by fires that others have built. But that we shall add greatly to the fire so that our generation and generations to come shall be warmed by the fires we have built. Amen.”

Next month in *The Equipper*, the Missions and Evangelism Committee will highlight the restart of the Free 8th after school program for the students at the Central High School Freshman Campus and suggest ways you can be involved in this vital ministry to students in our community.



To God be the glory for our FBC folks who gave so generously that His Word will be spread through almost 400 boxes to children around the world! We are grateful to Roland, Gilbert, Tony, Jimmy and Bobby, our hard working custodians, who set up the tables for the dedication and delivered the boxes to the area receiving church. God bless each giver!

Carol Ann Bonds



Pastor Greg offered a prayer of dedication for the Operation Christmas Child Shoeboxes, and members helped box them for shipping after the worship service.





Together
we transform lives

Lottie Moon Christmas Offering

The Lottie Moon Christmas Offering® is an annual offering collected by believers around the world to support international missions. The offering was officially named in 1918 by Woman's Missionary Union in honor of the missionary to China who urged churches to start it and give sacrificially. This offering is unique from other mission offerings in that 100% of gifts provide for missionaries all over the world. Envelopes for the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering will be in the pew backs, and you may also text @imb to 52014 for quick and simple giving.

Pancakes WITH THE Pastor

Toddlers - Youth* are invited to this special Sunday breakfast. Pastor Greg will share the Christmas story and we'll have fun games for all ages!

*Nursery will be open for infants

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 12
9 AM, FELLOWSHIP HALL**



Deacon Council Selection

The Deacon Selection Committee is pleased to report that the following ordained deacons, elected by the church, have agreed to serve on the Deacon Council for a three-year term, ending December 31, 2024:

| | | | |
|-----------------|--------------|----------------|-----------------|
| Jimmie Auten | Jimmy Conn* | Brad Haralson | John Nikolauk* |
| Carson Cummings | AJ Deardorff | Ricky Menchaca | Kevin Pepper |
| | | | *To be ordained |

Bill Spraggins was elected to fill a vacancy for a term ending December 31, 2022.

John Hancock has been granted Deacon Emeritus status by church approval.

The 2022 Deacon Council Officers are: Tom Dufresne, Chairman; Johnny Matthews, Vice Chairman; and Kenny Wright, Secretary.



'Tis the Season

Responders (4) Potluck
FRIDAY, DECEMBER 3, 6:00 P.M., CLC

Reach Youth Christmas Party
SATURDAY, DECEMBER 11, 6:00 P.M.,
MEDINA HOME

Seekers (5) Brunch
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 12, 9:00 A.M.

Encouragers (6) Brunch
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 19, 9:00 A.M., C115

Open Doors (3) Potluck
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 12, 5:30 P.M.,
FBC LAKE CABIN

FBC Kids Christmas Party
WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 15, 6:00 P.M., CLC

Crossowers Christmas Party
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 19, 6:30 P.M.,
McCLEER HOME

Servants by Grace (1)
Progressive Dinner
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 19, 4:30PM

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON SMALL GROUP EVENTS, CALL THE CHURCH OFFICE FOR THE DIRECTOR'S CONTACT INFORMATION.



A New Way to Give

In addition to our online giving, you can now text to give! Text "GIVEFBC" to 325-252-4020 and you will be directed to the online giving platform. If you already have an account, you may sign in there or you may opt to give without signing in.

PERIODICAL POSTAGE PAID

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

37 E. Harris, San Angelo, Texas • Mail: PO Box 2138, 76902 • Phone: 325.655.4101 • Fax: 325.659.2517 • www.firstsanangelo.org

OUR MINISTRY TEAM

Bill Gillum, Minister of Music
Mike O'Donnell, Ed/Admin Director

Melodie Penland, Children's Director
Erin Medina, Interim Family Life Director

AJ Deardorff
Director of Broadcast Media

Janet Faulkner
Pianist

Mac McCarson
Financial & Senior Adult Director

Brian Thomas
Broadcasting & Media Sound Tech

Becky Powers
Pastor's MA/Communications Director

Joanna Sturgill
Music Ministry Assistant

Linda Bratcher
Organist

Martha Bailey
Office Manager/Ministry Assistant

Roland Williams
Building Manager

FBC MORNING WORSHIP SERVICE

Live at 10:30 am on KCLL 100.1 FM; Rebroadcast at 8 am on FOX West Texas (Cable Channel 10/110)
and at 10 am on My San Angelo, Cable Channel 141

Holiday Schedule

Sunday, December 19
Behold the Lamb of God
presented by the FBC Christmas
Choir & Orchestra
10:30 A.M., Sanctuary

Friday, December 24
FBC Family Christmas Eve Worship,
6:00 P.M., FBC Sanctuary

Saturday, December 25
MERRY CHRISTMAS!

Sunday, December 26
No Sunday School
Worship service @ 10:30AM

Saturday, January 1
Happy New Year!

Sunday, January 2
No Sunday School
Worship service @ 10:30AM

The church office will be closed
December 23 - 31 for the Christmas holidays
and will reopen on Monday, January 3.



You are invited to a
Retirement Reception
in honor of
Bill Gillum

Sunday, December 19
11:30 a.m. in the Atrium

A basket will be available to
collect cards, notes and other
tokens of appreciation



Pews Available

There are unused pews in storage at the church that need a new home. One is 10' long and the others are 22'. There is no charge, but a donation will be appreciated.

If you or someone you know would like one, please contact Mike in the church office at 325.655.4101 no later than Monday, December 20. You will need to arrange to have them picked up by Wednesday, December 22.

WEEKLY SCHEDULE

SUNDAY

8:30 a.m. Fellowship Time
(Coffee in the atrium)
9:00 a.m. Bible Study for all ages
10:30 a.m. Morning Worship Service
6:00 p.m. Crossovers

WEDNESDAY

5:00 p.m. Kingdom Kids,
Christian Life Center
5:00 p.m. REACH Youth Worship & Bible
Study, Christian Life Center
5:30 p.m. Worship Team Rehearsal
5:45 p.m. Mid-Week Bible Study &
Prayer Time, Fellowship Hall
6:45 p.m. Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal

See page 5 for the calendar of
meetings and other events.

CONNECT WITH Us!



Facebook:
First Baptist Church, San Angelo



YouTube:
First Baptist Church San Angelo

www.firstsanangelo.org

Contact us: firstsanangelo@gmail.com



Holiday Publications Schedule

The final issue of *The Equipper* for 2021 will be published on December 21 with information on the year-end and first of the year events. Because of the way the holidays fall this year, the January 2022 issue will not be published the week of January 3.

