



THE OPEN DOOR

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
414 PECAN AVENUE
PHILADELPHIA, MISSISSIPPI 39350
601-656-1507

"To the angel of the church of Philadelphia write...behold I have before thee a door having been open, which no one is able to close." Revelation 3:7-8

Volume 63

November 30, 2022

Number 43



BEFORE THE KING *presented by*

First Baptist Church
Music Ministry

December 3 and 4
6:00 pm

**Men's
Breakfast
Fellowship**

BROTHERHOOD

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 11
7:30 AM
CHRISTIAN LIFE CENTER

**GUEST SPEAKER:
DR. LUNDY BRANTLEY**

HOPE

Church Family,

For while we were still helpless, -Romans 5:6a

The NLT translation says “we were utterly helpless.” Without the love of Christ in our lives, this is exactly the kind of situation we would find ourselves. Being in an utterly hopeless situation is not a place we are in as believers. We would have no hope at all without the love of Christ! He has no obligation to provide hope for us. No one is forcing Him to give us hope. He chooses to give us hope through His never-ending love. That extraordinary love is ultimately displayed on the cross. I hope that this hope will be fully realized in your life on a daily basis. If you are feeling hopeless right now, you can find hope in the love of Christ.

I am looking forward to this Christmas season. The worship services, musicals, caroling, parties, and candlelight service are always a joy to be a part of during this time of the year. It can get extremely busy at times. I hope that we will take some time to slow down and really enjoy this time of the year with our family and friends.

I hope you have a great week!
Evan

Week of Prayer for International Missions

November 27 – December 4
Your prayers transform lives.

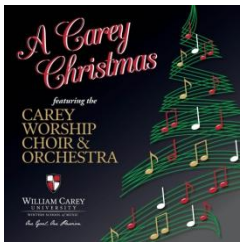
Lottie Moon
Christmas Offering
Church Goal: \$32,500
Given to Date: \$100



A Carey Christmas

Hardy Street Baptist Church
Monday, December 12 @ 7:00 pm

To sign up, please call the church office at 601-656-1507. Tickets are \$10. We will leave FBC at 3:00 pm and stop for supper on the way. All Senior Adults are invited to attend.



“O Little Sounds of Bethlehem”
Preschool Choir
“The Amazing Christmas Maze”
Children’s Choir

DECEMBER 11
6:00 PM



OPPORTUNITIES

EXTENDED SESSION

December 4

2 Year Olds: Catherine & Lilly Hicks
3 Year Olds: Sharon McKay & Patti Robey

December 11

2 Year Olds: Chad & Emily Crosswhite
3 Year Olds: Linda Murray & Patti Robey

DEACON OF THE WEEK

December 4

11 am Service – Robert Warner

December 11

11 am Service – Michael Duke

SANCTUARY FLOWERS

We will **NOT** make reservations for Sanctuary flowers for December. The Advent wreath will be used on the altar table.



DECEMBER 4

The Candle of the Shepherds–PEACE Colossians 3:15; Luke 8:2-20; Followers of Jesus experience His peace, even in the face of unwelcome news or tragedy. This is a suitable time to stop and thank God for His peace and for sending His Son, the Prince of Peace.

Christmas Card Donations Needed!



First Baptist Church is responsible for 430 tray cards for our hospital and nursing homes on Sunday, December 25 and would like to use Christmas cards. There will be a box in the side foyer of the sanctuary for you to donate these. Make sure each card has **SCRIPTURE** on it. You are welcome to add your own greeting in each card you bring if not volunteers will do so on December 12. Please bring by December 11.

CHRISTMAS BLESSING BOXES



We will once again prepare Christmas blessing boxes to take to some families in our community. We will pack the boxes and have a lunch on Sunday, December 18, following the morning worship service. We are asking individuals, groups, and Sunday School Classes to give toward purchasing the food for the boxes. The cost is \$40 per box.

CHRISTMAS BLESSING BOXES

Church Goal: \$2,400

Given to Date: \$330

B.A.L.L. LUNCHEON

Tuesday, December 20

12 Noon

Home of Pat Mioton



*Please bring a covered dish and join us.
All Senior Adults are invited to attend.*



Wednesday, December 14

6:00 pm

PRESCHOOL CHRISTMAS PARTY

Ages Birth – K5

CMC Mission Friend's Room

Parents are welcome. A very special guest will join us for this Christmas celebration.

CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PARTY

1st – 6th Grade

Child Ministry Center

Join us for a Gingerbread Bash full of food, fun and Jesus.

YOUTH CHRISTMAS PARTY

7th – 12th Grade

Baptist Center

Wear your tacky Christmas sweater and come enjoy some fun.



All families develop their own traditions, sometimes intentional sometimes not. Growing up, my family always met at Grandma Smith's house on Christmas Eve with my dad's sister and their family. We ate soup, lots of cookies, and opened presents from each other. On Christmas morning Santa clause visited the Smith house. Following our family time together Christmas day, we always drove to Vicksburg to visit Grandpa and Grandma Rushing. As my grandparents' health changed and people moved to different locations, we would tweak this tradition. As adults, Melanie and I were blessed to have a similar tradition involving my parents and hers. Oh, how I miss them, especially this time of year.

The thing about traditions is that circumstances change. Life happens. When changes happen we have to make choices. Do we try to keep doing the same things or make new paths? No matter what we decided, one thing we need to remember, "Jesus never changes." The peace, hope, and joy the Christmas story brings never ends. Sometimes it may take a little extra effort to experience, but it is still there for us to receive. This truth is at the heart of this year's Church wide Christmas musical "Before the King". I hope that everyone will choose to join us December 3rd or 4th at 6:00 p.m. when our music ministry involving Children, our praise band, the Chancel Choir, and a Christmas drama team joins in leading us in worship. Then on December 11th our Preschool and Children's Choirs will present "O Little Sounds of Bethlehem" and "The Amazing Christmas Maze" also features drama and two amazing choirs. Even in the midst of change, we can all experience the joy of Christmas.

Shouting for JOY!

William W. Smith

Psalm 100



**FOOD
MINISTRY**

Neshoba Baptist Food Pantry

First Baptist Church is responsible for collecting food for the Neshoba Baptist Food Pantry from December until the end of February. There will be a box in the side foyer of the sanctuary beginning December 4 for donations of non-perishable food items. Thank you for helping with this important ministry.



CHURCHWIDE CHRISTMAS CAROLING

Wednesday, December 21

6:00 pm

WEEK OF ACTIVITIES

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 4

Sunday School	9:45 a.m.
Morning Worship Service	11:00 a.m.
NO Preschool Small Groups	5:00 p.m.
NO Children's Small Groups	5:00 p.m.
NO Youth Small Groups	5:00 p.m.
NO Adult Sunday Night Small Group Gathering	5:00 p.m.
BEFORE THE KING Christmas Musical	6:00 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 7

NO Wednesday Night Supper	5:00 p.m.
Children's Choir	5:30 p.m.
Preschool Choir	6:00 p.m.
NO Chancel Choir	6:00 p.m.
Mission Friends	6:00 p.m.
Kid Blast	6:00 p.m.
Youth	6:00 p.m.
Prayer Meeting	6:00 p.m.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 11

Brotherhood Breakfast	7:30 a.m.
Deacons Meeting	8:30 a.m.
Sunday School	9:45 a.m.
Morning Worship Service	11:00 a.m.
NO Preschool Small Groups	5:00 p.m.
NO Children's Small Groups	5:00 p.m.
NO Youth Small Groups	5:00 p.m.
NO Adult Sunday Night Small Group Gathering	5:00 p.m.
Preschool & Children's Musical	6:00 p.m.

WEEKLY STEWARDSHIP

November 27, 2022

Budget	\$14,797.00
Wee Care	\$1,233.33
Harvest Church	\$200.00
Designated	\$120.00
Ruth's Promise	\$250.00
Designated	\$250.00
Upward	\$110.00
Christmas Blessing Box	\$160.00
Budget Offering Given to Date	\$238,551.16
Under Budget	\$31,094.21
Wee Care Given to Date	\$1,565,762.29

WEEKLY BUDGET REQUIREMENT:	\$21,852.49
BUDGET AMT. RECEIVED 11/27/22:	\$14,797.00

CHURCH STAFF

Rev. Evan Humphries	Pastor
William Smith	Minister of Music
Jackie Cheatham	Minister of Children
Laura Thrash	Financial Ministry Assistant
Tiffney Loper	Education Ministry Assistant
Andrea Moore	Child Ministry Center Director
Brenda G. Nowell	Christian Life Center Director
Michael Duke	Upward Director
Church Office	(601)656-1507
Fax	(601)656-3664
Church Email	fbphilly@netdoor.com
Church Website	www.fbcphilly.com
Kindergarten/Child Care	(601)656-5015

SUNDAY SCHOOL REPORT

November 27, 2022

Departments	Enrolled	Present
Preschool	26	15
Children	15	13
Youth	17	8
Adults	121	103
Total	179	139

SUNDAY NIGHT SMALL GROUPS

November 27, 2022

Departments	Enrolled	Present
Preschool	34	19
Children	21	27
Youth	28	15
Adults	139	76
Total	222	137