

The Encourager

"Making Jesus First in Our Lives"

December, 2017

FBC, Plattsburg

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PASTOR'S PERSPECTIVE: by Robert Shelton

What is your earliest memory of Christmas? Through the years what presents do you remember receiving? For many of us it is NOT the gifts we unwrap that make Christmas special, but the people we gather with and the things we do to celebrate the birth of Jesus. I truly never tire of hearing and telling the Christmas story because it is such incredibly GOOD news. We see the wonder and amazement of Jesus' birth in the faces of children and new believers regardless their age. If you have "gotten over" the wonder of God sending His Son in the flesh to the world for our salvation, then ask God to rekindle your appreciation for the Gospel.

MUSIC: by Sandy Shelton, worship leader

Joy is a remarkable gift that God gives us who believe in Jesus. Joy is the theme of this year's Christmas music Joy! Unspeakable Joy! which the choir will present on December 10 at 8 & 10:30 a.m.

ONLINE CHURCH CALENDAR: We have updated our website's online calendar to a Google calendar. Go our www.fbcplattsburg.com and click on calendar to see events.



YOUTH: by Aaron Gudde, youth minister

This past month students have been studying the mission that Jesus sends us on. John 20:21 "Jesus said to them again, 'Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, even so I am sending you.'" What better time than when we celebrate the birth of our Savior to be looking into the mission Jesus was sent on and how we are also sent on mission for Christ. October was a busy month so we took some time off in November with Thanksgiving and only our regular scheduled studies taking place. Now that December is here, we are ramping things up again. We will be having a Youth Christmas party on December 17 at the Mitchell's house from 6-9pm. There will be more details about the Christmas party as we get closer. We will also be having our annual New Year's Eve lock-in again this year.

AWANA: by Terry Liles

We continue to average 90+ AWANA Clubbers each week. Thanks to all who help with this ministry! We had a great first store night in November. We have two more store nights so you can still make donations. We appreciate EVERYTHING you donate! We will have a birthday party with cake and ice cream on December 13 to celebrate the birth of Jesus and the Christmas season. Remember no AWANA December 20, 27 and January 3. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year! If you are interested in helping with AWANA, please contact us. Come join the fun each week!

PRESCHOOL NEWS: by Debbie Smith, director

The sights, sounds, and smells of Christmas are around us. Take the time to stop and enjoy the season. We look forward to sharing the joys and wonders of the Christmas season with each Preschooler.

Our Christmas Programs are Sunday, December 10. The Tuesday-Thursday class Program is 3:00 p.m. and the Monday-Wednesday-Friday classes are at 5:00 p.m.

JOYFUL NOISE will present their Christmas program We Three Spies on Sunday evening, December 3 at 6:30 followed by a reception in the Fellowship Hall.

LIBRARY: by Alison Belt

Eric Metaxas is a premier biographer who has delved into not only the lives, but also the times of famous people. Two of his best biographies are in our church library. The newest is Martin Luther, a thick book on the man who "accidentally" started the Reformation over 500 years ago (on October 31, 1517). Check it out for an in-depth study into this man's life and the emerging Reformation. We also have Metaxas's biography, Bonhoeffer, the Christian preacher imprisoned during Hitler's reign of terror. We also have the books, Seven Men and the Secret of Their Greatness, as well as Seven Women and the Secret of Their Greatness. Check any of these books out.

WMU: by Margaret Stevens

Thanks to all who filled Operation Christmas Child boxes for children in distant places somewhere in the world. We do not yet know where the boxes were sent. Our church sent 100 boxes this year. Please bring back any unused boxes you did not fill so we can use them next year.

December is the month to learn about mission work around the world. We will have a missionary speaker on December 3 from South Asia. I encourage you to use the prayer guides during the Week of Prayer December 3-10 to pray for International Missions. They give us a chance to learn and pray about specific people and their work in Nepal, Russia, Japan, Mexico City, London as well as about refugees coming into Europe.

During December, we also receive a special offering for the International Mission Board. Our goal this year is \$8,800. This pays for missionary salary, housing, vehicles, health care, materials for teaching and security. We have 3630 missionaries currently serving in other countries. The average yearly salary for a family is \$58,200 (that is \$4,830 per month). Every dollar we give to the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering goes to fund these missionaries. None of it is for administration. Have a blessed Christmas with your families.

B.I.G.F.I.S.H. by Dotty Davis

CHRISTMAS PERFORMANCE WILL BE ON WEDNESDAY, DEC 13th. ALL OUR INVITED TO COME AND WATCH. THANKS FOR ALL YOUR PRAYERS AND SUPPORT THIS YEAR. REMEMBER THE REASON FOR THE SEASON, J E S U S.

Happy Birthday to Members and their families: 1-Tony Verdi 4-Kent Davis, Ruth Logan & Linda Walls 5-Tim Hake, Lucien Pelletier & Brett Riche 6-Benton Gudde & John Trayler 7-Neil Ison, Aubree Sanders, Brittany Cooper & Malia Termini 8-Tenley Wade, Amy Sagaser & Gipson Gudde 9-Bob Rudolph & Chase Florence 11-Helen Zech 13-Phillip Burnett 14-Jessica Fish 17-Daniel Fitzpatrick & Colby Roberts 18-Jason Potter & Laurie Kilgore 19-Ashton Lile 21-Sue Redden 22-Todd Taylor 23-Kervin Norris, Lorna Pierson, Ben DeFord & Shane Florence 25-Margaret Stevens 27-Christy McMurtrey 29-Autumn Bowman 30-Nikki Wade

CONTACT INFORMATION

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DECEMBER 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2 7:30 AM Christian Men's Brkfst-BUMC 3:00-7:30 PM Joyful Noise Dress Rehearsal
3 11:45 Widow's Christmas Lunch 1:30 PM Oakridge-Deacons 6:30 PM JOYFUL NOISE Program	4	5	6	7 11:00 AM WMU	8	9 1:00-4:00 PM Tour of Churches
Week of Prayer for International Missions—Lottie Moon Christmas Offering begins						
10 8 & 10:30 AM Christmas Cantata 3:00 & 5:00 PM Pre-school Christmas Programs 6:00 PM-Business	11	12	13 6:30 PM B.I.G.F.I.S.H. performs at AWANA	14 5:00 PM Women's Ministry-Pizza & Christmas Lights at Krug Park 7:00 PM-Night WMU	15	16
17 8:45-9:15 AM Sunday School Breakfast - Burnich Class Hosting 6-9 PM Youth Christmas Party at Mitchell's	18 Preschool Party	19 Preschool Party	20 NO WEDNESDAY ACTIVITIES	21	22	23
24 10:00 AM-Worship Service 5:00 & 9:00 PM Christmas Eve Candlelight Services	25 MERRY CHRISTMAS	26	27 NO WEDNESDAY ACTIVITIES	28	29	30
31 New Year's Eve 9:15 AM Sunday School 10:00 AM-Worship Service Youth Lock-in	<u>Sunday Schedule</u> 8:00-9:00 AM Worship 9:15-10:15 AM Bible Study 10:30-11:35 AM Worship 6:30 PM Youth		<u>Wednesday Schedule</u> 4:00 PM Prayer & Bible Study 6:30-8:15 PM Youth 6:30-8:15 PM AWANA 8:15 PM Ensemble 6:00 PM Adult Prayer & Bible Study			