

December 2017/January 2018



It's hard to believe Christmas is almost here. Where has 2017 gone? For me, 2017 has been a kind of a blur. Nearly, a year ago I walked across the stage of Paul Powell Chapel at Truett Seminary in Waco to receive a Master of Divinity degree. That day marked both an end and a beginning in my life. As I think back about all that has happened this year, I cannot help but

compare our paths. It was around this time last year that First Baptist started on a new direction of its own. We both begin to pray for each other, even though we did not know each other's name. As I learned to be patient and wait on God, I also learned to listen to the Spirit's voice. While this was not the first time to experience these lessons, somehow it seemed to be more critical this time around. The path God was leading me down would not be as easy as I thought it should be. I spoke with many churches, had many interviews, and had doors both open and close. It's tough to say which is harder, to see yourself serving in a location only to be told that God led them in a different direction or to tell a church that God is leading you to somewhere you do not yet know. Either way, you learn to trust God knows what he is doing.

At this point I can say, thank you for your prayers. I can also say that God knows what He is doing. I don't think I could have picked out a better fit for me and my family. I will also ask our prayer warriors to continue to pray as we look to fill two more staff positions. As we embark on this new chapter at First Baptist, pray that God's voice comes in clear, that the church is ready to change to meet new personalities, and that we will be able to reach our community in new ways for the Gospel. "For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. Then you will call on me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you. You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart." (Jeremiah 29:11-13)



Don't you just love it when a record is broken! Isn't it even better if you are a part of breaking that record? This year we

broke a record! Our church alone brought in 134 Operation Christmas Child Shoeboxes! That is breaking our record by 12 boxes! With the help of many area churches including Lockney, Paducah, Matador, Roaring Springs, Crosbyton, Petersburg, Quitaque and Flomot, we received 628 boxes. That is breaking our total record by 124 boxes!! WOW!!! I'm so excited for what God has in store for the children who will receive these gifts! Each child that receives a shoebox gift will also be given "The Greatest Journey" book in their language so they can hear the Gospel of Jesus Christ. So, our gifts to them not only brighten their day, they also give these children hope in something they have never heard of before: a hope in Jesus and they learn that someone cares and is praying for them. I want to thank everyone who sat at the table to greet those bringing their boxes during collection week: Jerry & Julia Finley, Carolyn Cheek, Kathy Jahay, Gloria Fannon, Sue Daniels, Peggy Turner, Stacy Reeves, Glenda Livingston and my dad Jerry Leatherman. Also a big thank you to Moises for helping me load the trailer and my parents, Jerry and Martha for always helping me take the shoebox gifts to Southcrest Baptist in Lubbock. From there they go straight to the Dallas processing center.

If you paid to "Follow Your Box", I would love to hear where your box went!

Thanks!!
Ludustia Prisk

2018 Budget

Discussion on the proposed budget will be December 3 at 6:00 p.m. We will vote on the budget without discussion December 10 following the morning service.

Bring An Ornament

Beginning Sunday, Dec. 3 bring an ornament related to the true meaning of Christmas and place on the tree in the foyer. Write your name and the year on the back if possible.

Food bank delivery

December 11
volunteers needed at 11:15 am

Ladies Ornament Exchange

December 12 6:00 pm
Home of Elaine Galloway
Bring finger food

Holiday Office Hours

Closed Dec. 22, 25 & 26

Christmas Eve

10:00 am service only

No Wednesday activities

December 27



Church-Wide Christmas Lunch

December 10, 2017
Ham, turkey, dressing and bread provided.
Bring side dish and/or dessert.

Candlelight Service and observance of the Lord's Supper

Wednesday,
December 20
6:30 pm



January 2018

1st- Office closed
3rd-No Wednesday activities
10th-All Wednesday activities resume
21st-Youth Potato Bake fundraiser lunch

2017 contributions must be postmarked by Dec. 31 or brought to the office by 5:00 p.m., Thursday, December 28



Monthly Report

| | |
|---------------------------|--------------|
| October | \$47,465.21 |
| Amount needed each month: | \$58,378.33 |
| YTD | \$485,008.37 |



First Baptist Church
401 S. Main
Floydada TX 79235