

first baptist church

A L E X A N D E R C I T Y , A L A B A M A

Worship God • Love People • Make Disciples

December 2018

I find it almost impossible to think that I'm writing my final article for 2018. I really don't know how this has arrived so quickly. This season of the year, we all think almost exclusively of the great and unrivaled celebration that God took on human flesh and made our eternal salvation possible. But as I approach this December, I'm not only looking forward to celebrating Christmas, but I'm also looking backward and I'm thankful for the gift that was 2018.

God has been so faithful. He's given me another year of privilege and honor to Pastor this great church...one I don't take for granted. In the past year, we've said goodbye to some wonderful brothers and sisters from our fellowship who are now celebrating in God's heavenly kingdom.

We've also welcomed some new believers into the FBC family. I'm excited about these new relationships and ministries we will share with these new families for many years to come.

You don't have to be in ministry very long to experience how difficult it can be at times. I don't pretend that there hasn't been some struggles and disappointments these past eleven months. Yet, through every challenge in ministry this past year, I have seen God once again provide and guide. That past faithfulness of God encourages and reassures me for the future that "God's got this."

I've appreciated our church staff that have worked very diligent and who do what they do out of such love for God and His church.

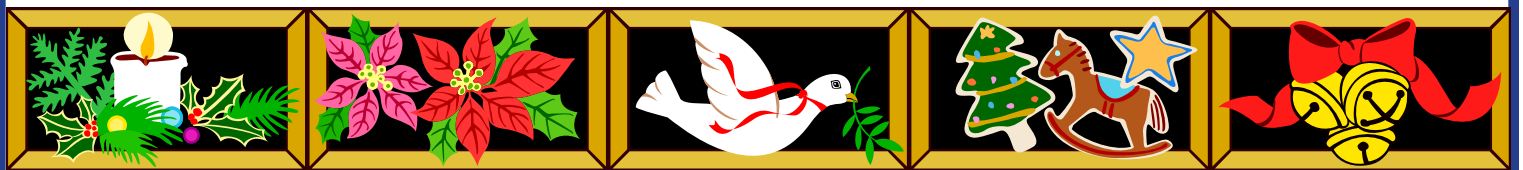
I've really enjoyed great worship times in our Sunday corporate gatherings. I thank God that I've had many more personal worship times outside the sanctuary, just me and Him.

I feel like I've learned more about what are some of the real challenges of our church, while I am as excited as ever about the future and what I know God can do through FBC.

We've implemented some new ministries this year and we've tried to build on and enhance existing ministries. And what's most important to me is that I've had my best friend and wife by my side to support me every step of the way.

So, while I've blinked my eyes and its already now December, I enter this Christmas season with more reasons than ever to be thankful, humble and grateful that God would do so much in my life and let me share it with such wonderful people as all of you.

Pastor Steve



First Family Facts

Record of Attendance

Sunday School

Sunday, November 4	251
Sunday, November 11	246
Sunday, November 18	306
Sunday, November 25	239

Receipts for November

Budget Receipts	\$74,437.53
Building Receipts	\$918.26

First Family News

Flowers:

- December 2nd *The arrangement on the chests in the vestibule this Sunday are in memory of Dudley Davis' birthday by his family.*
- December 9th *OPEN*
- December 16th *The poinsettias in the Sanctuary this Sunday are given in memory of Mr. & Mrs. Fred Dobbs, Sr. and Mr. Mrs. Darwin Dobbs by the family.*
- December 23rd *The flowers this Sunday are In memory of Joan Waites by her family.*
- December 30th *OPEN*

Deacons of the Week:

- December 2nd Jerry Martin & James Poole
- December 9th Reuben Prater & Grady Lamberth
- December 16th Steve Arnberg & Terry Thomas
- December 23rd Paul Stanbrough & Jeff Green
- December 30th Marvin Cross & Steve Robinson



LOTTIE MOON CHRISTMAS OFFERING®

— for international missions —

Week of Prayer • December 2nd - 9th

First Family Announcements

Brotherhood Breakfast

December 2nd Fellowship Hall 7:30 am

Partners in Mission

December 3rd Fireside Room 11:00 am

Salad & Dessert Luncheon

Band of Brothers

December 4th Fireside Room 8:00 am

Baptist Bold Women

December 4th Fireside Room 5:30 pm

FBC Kid's & Preschool Christmas Parties

December 5th

ONE Worship – Adult Christmas Musical

Christmas on the Square • The King is Here

December 9th Sanctuary 11:00 am

MnMs

December 10th Fireside Room 5:30 pm

Sunday School Parties

December 12th

Kid's Christmas Musical – presented by FBC Kid's & Veritas Choirs

All About That Baby

December 13th FLC 6:30 pm

with Veritas School Choir soloist

December 16th FLC 6:00 pm

with FBC Kid's Choir soloist

Senior Adult Christmas Banquet

December 19th Fellowship Hall 5:00 pm

ONE Worship

December 23rd Sanctuary 11:00 am

Candle Light Service

December 23rd Sanctuary 6:00 pm

ONE Worship

December 30th FLC 8:30 am

Christmas
on the
Square

The
King is Here

DECEMBER 9, 2018
11:00 AM
FBC ALEXANDER CITY

Rev. Bill Stinson, Education/Administration Pastor

I reviewed an article in Facts and Trends from LifeWay recently and with Christmas upon us I thought it timely to share it with you. "Charles Dickens made the ghosts of Christmas famous in his legendary character Ebenezer Scrooge in A Christmas Carol. The ghosts of Christmas past, present, and future showed and taught Scrooge how his miserly ways were destroying the Christmas spirit. No doubt many of us today are haunted by our own forms of selfishness and materialism. But in this post, I'm dealing with ghosts of a different nature—the ones that might haunt our attitudes, demeanors, and relationships this Christmas season.

1. The ghost of life past—unforgiveness.

Most of us have been hurt by others. Some of us have been hurt deeply. And in many cases the hurts of our past haunt our present. While we can never undo the experiences and hurts of our past, we can choose to forgive those who have wronged us.

Forgiveness is a divine expectation for followers of Jesus Christ. Forgiveness is for us, not for those who've wronged us. Too many people this Christmas season will suffer in bitterness because they won't forgive others. I don't want to appear insensitive: I'm grieved for those who have experienced betrayal, hate, abuse, neglect, or any number of other deeply disturbing pains. In fact, Jesus himself is deeply grieved over your pain, pain often perpetrated by family members whom we will face over the holidays.

To exorcise this ghost, you must choose to forgive those who've wronged you. To forgive does not mean that you can forget or that you must trust the individual again. It simply means that you must choose not to hold bitterness, anger, or punishment against them in your own hand.

2. The ghost of life present—busyness.

Today's Christmas season begins right after Halloween and drives us to shopping malls, internet deals, numerous parties, trips, and events. While many things require our attention, time, and attendance, they can often exhaust the joy out of our holiday. Why? Because we are so focused on getting things done, pleasing others, and finalizing tasks, we often fail to appreciate the simplicity of the real reason for the Christmas season.

To exorcise this ghost, set aside a time to pause and celebrate the real reason for the season—Jesus. Learn to appreciate the simple quiet moments of the season—the beauty of a classic Christmas carol, the wonder on the face of a young child enamored with Christmas "twinklie" lights, or even the quiet moments you may off day during Christmas season. Make time to pause, to be thankful, and to celebrate Jesus, the Lord and Savior.

3. The ghost of life future—worry.

Some of us (okay, probably all of us to some degree) get sidetracked by our concerns and worries. We worry about what decision we're supposed to make, how we're going to pay a bill (or pay for Christmas), or how we're going to reconcile a relationship. We worry about these types of things and a lot more. Sometimes we attempt to veil our worry as a "concern," but most often we are still being sinful by focusing on what is not ours to deal with. In Matthew 6:31-34, Jesus tells us not to be anxious—not to worry. In fact, most of what we worry about are things in the future that we have no control over. Being haunted by the ghost of life future shackles our faith and hampers our ability to focus on the God who loves us and will take care of us.

To exorcise this ghost, we must replace our worries with the One who is called Wonderful. Trust must take the place of worry. Sounds a bit simple, right? Yes, it actually is simple. We trust when we begin to look at the Sovereign, Wonderful, Lord of all instead of our concerns and worries. The best way to focus on our Lord instead of our situations is to read his Word, spend time in prayer, and recount the many ways that he has already intervened in our lives."

I trust you will have a blessed Christmas with family and friends as you celebrate the birth of our savior together.

Bro. Bill

Marie Parks, Preschool/Children's Director

For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, which is Christ the Lord. -Luke 2:11

Wednesday, December 5th – 5:30 until 7:00pm

Preschool "Happy Birthday Jesus" Christmas Party Preschool Department

Kids "A Savior Is Born" Christmas Party Kids Worship Room

Thursday, December 13th – 6:30pm

"All About That Baby" Kids Choir Combined FBC and Veritas Performance

Sunday, December 16th - 6:00pm

"All About That Baby" Kids Choir Combined FBC and Veritas Performance

Reception to follow in Fellowship Hall



CHILDREN'S MINISTRY WEEKLY SCHEDULE

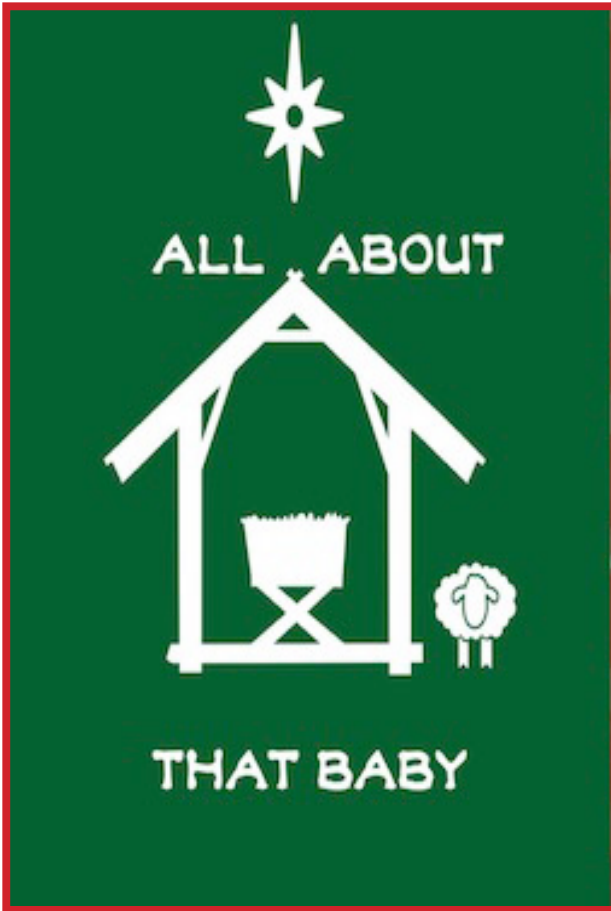
Sundays:	Sunday School	9:45 am
	TEAMKIDS / Bible Skills	5:30 pm
Mondays:	KIDS Choir.	3:30 pm
Wednesdays:	Mission Friends, RAs, & GAs.	6:00 pm

live in concert!

Allison Speer

singer
comedian
storyteller

Wednesday, December 19th • 6:30 pm
First Baptist Church • 64 Court Square
Alexander City, AL
www.fbc-ac.org
Free Admission



presented by
**FBC Kid's & Veritas
 Choirs**

**12.13 • 6:30 pm
 with Veritas Soloist**

**12.16 • 6:00 pm
 with FBC Kid's Soloist**

first baptist church

ALEXANDER CITY, ALABAMA

Worship God • Love People • Make Disciples

64 Court Square
 Alexander City, AL 35010
www.fbc-ac.org

Church Office Hours

Monday-Friday: 8am – 4:30pm
 Phone: 256-234-6351

Family Life Center Hours

Monday-Friday: 8am – 5pm
 Phone: 256-234-0251

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH STAFF

- Senior Pastor Dr. Steve King
- Worship Pastor..... Rev. Dave Briley
- Education/Administration Pastor..... Rev. Bill Stinson
- Interim Student/FLC Director..... Chris Graham
- Preschool/Children's Director..... Marie Parks
- ELC Director Andi Moseley
- Sr. Pastor/Financial Assistant.....Connie Roberts
- Ministry Assistant.....James Claybrook
- Organist David Hendrix
- Church HostessAlice Blythe
- Supervisor, Services..... Cynthia Weaver
- Housekeeping/Maintenance James Bentley

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