

Upcoming Events



January 1

Happy 2015 (Office Closed)

January 4

Parents of baptized children lunch- 12:00 pm
175th Anniversary Committee Meeting 2:00pm

January 7

Wednesday evening activities resume-6:00 pm

January 11

Children's Meeting- noon
Evangelism/Missions Meeting-4:30 pm

January 13

Women on Mission-9:15am

January 15

Jolly Elders-12:00 pm

January 17

Judson Group and International Bible study
Arcadia Baptist Church-Santa Fe- 9:00 am

January 18

175th Anniversary Committee Meeting-12:00
Church Council- 4:30 pm

January 24

Church 175th Anniversary
Celebration Luncheon
11:00am-2:00 pm

January 25

Church Anniversary Celebration
10:00am-12:00pm
(No Sunday School)

Evangelism Rally
FBC Texas City- 6:00 pm
(No evening service)



Kids Korner



Children perform the Christmas Cross at the Hanging of the Green service



While enjoying play dough, the Friendship International class learns why Jesus is so special - because He's the Son of God.



(Left) Elizabeth and Michelle share what they think about God: He is the perfect love.



Learning about gratitude can be fun! We played a game in chapel to help us remember to take a 'time out' and give thanks to someone who has helped us.



THE HERALD

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

January 2015

December was a month full of blessings with new members, baptisms, and fellowship. We commissioned missionaries to Peru and helped bless missionaries around the world through the Lottie Moon offering. We celebrated Christmas as a church family by lifting our voices and candles to proclaim the birth of our savior.

Welcome! New Members



Edna Pearl Legate



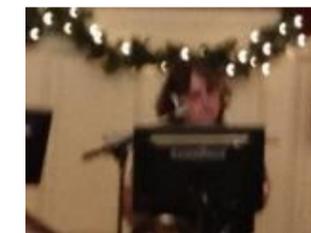
Caitlyn Donohoo



Tammy Woods



(Above left) Children decorate Christmas trees, (Center) Bro. Ray and Sherry start lighting the candles (Above Right) Kelle Odom explains lighting the candle, ((left) Hands and Feet Peru Commissioning for Peru trip. Right and below right) Debbie Rice on flute and Judy Brazelton on organ, played a lovely duet and Nancy Seinsheimer with Judy Brazelton sang a beautiful solo (Below Left and Center) Advent Pilgrimage with the 4 historic churches of Galveston.





Bro. Ray's Reflections...



Dearly Beloved,

WHAT A WONDERFUL CHRISTMAS SEASON!

Within the pages of *The Herald* there are wonderful pictures from our time of celebrating the birth of the Christ Child. God was truly good to us.

HAPPY 175TH BIRTHDAY, FIRST BAPTIST!

9,144—Do you know what that number is? I didn't until Nathan shared it with me. That is the number of Sundays FBC has had to minister and preach the gospel on Galveston Island since its beginning! There were several years during the Civil War when the ministry was quieted because the building was used as an army barracks and stable. However, for the great portion of those Sundays, the membership and leadership has carried forth the preaching of the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

On the weekend of January 24th-25th, we will celebrate the 175th anniversary of our ministry on Galveston Island. We want you to participate in the two day event. On that Saturday, we will have a catered luncheon. When you opened this epistle, a card and envelope fell out. This is your invitation to make reservations for this. If you so desire to be part of this, please send back the filled out card in the envelope with the correct amount enclosed. We need you to do so before **January 18th**. After the meal, there will be a program presenting some of the church's history and recognition of former staff members. Throughout the weekend, there will be historical displays in various locations.

On Sunday, we will have a two hour worship service where former staff members, in five to eight minutes, will have an opportunity to share their hearts concerning their time of service with us. The message will be brought by Dr. Steve Vernon, Associate Executive Director, Baptist General Convention of Texas. My prayer, as well as the organizing committee's, is that each of you will make plans to be part of this very special and historical event.

HAPPY NEW YEAR

I pray that God will bless each of you, in 2015, more than He did in 2014! I am confident we will see Him lead us into more and greater ministries where people are confronted with the Gospel and their lives are changed.

Please pray for me as I pray for you.

I Love You,
Bro. Ray



(Above) the Young Adults enjoy a holiday meal (Right) the Adult home Bible study group enjoy a Christmas get together



(Above) The ladies of the Judson Group enjoyed the hospitality of Sherry Meador at the December meeting and meal



(Above) the Parise Band played Christmas music at Saengerfest park to kick off the season while several members watched and sang along



(Left) We celebrated the life of Lottie Moon and took up an



offering for International Missions. (Right) The pastor and Sherry held an open house and invited the entire church family and the neighbors for a time of food and fellowship.



We met baby Dean just before



Thanksgiving and celebrated his first Sunday in church Dec.21, then we celebrated our own Saviors birth Dec. 24th.



Angie's List



Celebrating 175 years of First Baptist Galveston

175 years ago First Baptist Galveston was established. 175 years ago Lottie Moon was born. She became a southern Baptist missionary to China and spent nearly 40 years of her life as a teacher and evangelist. She laid a foundation for missions among Baptists in America. Lottie Moon often made teacakes (cookies) for the children in her village. The children ate the cookies, and then they would take Lottie to meet their mothers. Lottie shared the gospel with the mothers and the children. As the children of FBC celebrate our 175th anniversary, they'll enjoy making these cookies while hearing the story of Lottie Moon. We invite you to join us January 24-25 as we celebrate 175 years of our rich history

One Sacred Effort: Celebrating our missionaries

The Lottie Moon Christmas offering opened up an opportunity for children to celebrate and learn what missions is and how we're all missionaries as God's children. Explained from a child's point of view, we learned how The Potter family, missionaries in Southeast Asia, had to work hard to meet the needs of the community so the people would be ready to hear the gospel message of Jesus Christ.

Celebrating the Family

As leaders in ministry, our strategy is to combine our influence with the family. We lead children on Sundays, but also want to encourage the parents and help them as spiritual leaders in the home. During our rehearsal for the Christmas Cross play, Kelle Odom and Sherry Meador hosted a parent social while educating these parents the importance of their role. Because what happens at home matters, and as parents, we want to help them use their influence powerfully.



Another way we're combining our efforts with the family is by having a community of support and resources available in our church. Ellen, the church librarian has provided a designated area for families with a library of hot topics related to parenting. This is just one way we can provide support and help equip parents with knowledge.

Celebrating The Lord's Supper for children January 4th

We love to capitalize on milestone moments by celebrating a child's decision to follow Christ. There were six children baptized this year! This is a big moment for them and we're following up by having a Lord's Supper class. This is an event for children and parents to attend together. Following the church service, we'll have lunch and review the decision these children made and learn the meaning of the Lord's Supper.

Let's celebrate this amazing year, Angie

The entire Staff wishes to Thank you for your support and generosity this Christmas Season!



One Hundred Seventy-Five Years, is an incredible amount of time, and we count it in years because it would be far too long to count in days (63,918), hours (1,534,016.75), and especially minutes (92,041,005). This is an exceptionally long period of time, and extremely remarkable that our Church has existed through all of these years, days, hours, and minutes. The most beautiful thing about this period of time is that we have existed! Our church has seen the invention of the Hershey Bar, witnessed the administration of 37 US Presidents (there have only been 44), the invention of the automobile, two world wars, the creation of the light bulb, and telephone just to name a few things. As a church we have proclaimed the gospel through all of these major historical milestones. We have been faithful to the mission that the founders set fourth to be a light for the gospel on Galveston Island.

Hebrews chapter 12 talks about a great cloud of witnesses that surrounded the people of God in that day. Here at FBC Galveston we are surrounded by a great cloud of witnesses as well, *the* Vernon Bennetts, Natalie Murphys, Gail Bordens, Martha Pools, and countless others who have charted the course for who we have become today. They would encourage us to "Lay aside every weight and the sin that clings so closely, and run with perseverance the race that is set before us"(Heb 12:1). Those who have gone before us in this great church have run that race, and run it well. They encourage those of us here to continue to be faithful in running the race "Keeping our focus on Jesus the pioneer and perfecter of our faith" (Heb 12:2).

A key way that we keep that focus is to reflect and remember those who have gone before. Taking the time to look at our rich history, and remembering what God has done in this place, and use what we discover to help us listen for what God still wants to do here.

The celebration has been planned for January 24-25, 2015. We will take time to reflect back upon where we have been, and use that to see where God would have us to go. I hope you will make plans to join us for both the luncheon celebration on Saturday and the extended worship on Sunday. I am excited to see what God is going to do in the next 175 years of our Church.

Blessings,
Nathan

