

# First Baptist Church

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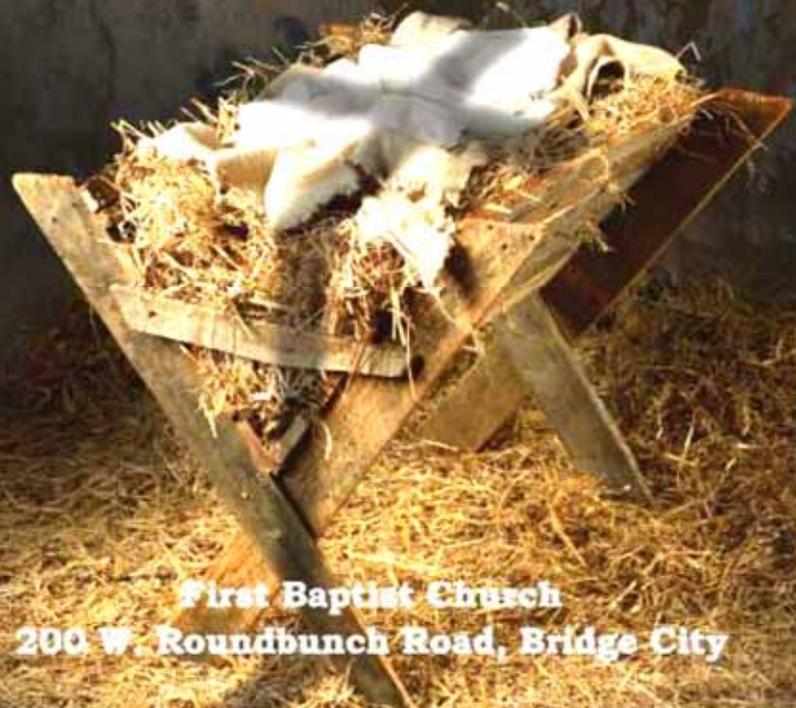
# The Bridge Builder



THE REASON FOR

**JOY**

**Christmas Advent Celebration  
Sunday, December 4<sup>th</sup> at 6 PM**



**First Baptist Church  
200 W. Roundbunch Road, Bridge City**

## PASTOR'S PARAGRAPH . . .

Dear Church Family,

Rushing through Thanksgiving, we are now rolling through the holiday season approaching Christmas. The temptation is ever about us to be distracted by the doing and forgetting to enjoy the opportunity to be in His presence. Christmas can be something you do or something you experience. We will have several events allowing a person to be in His presence. Sunday night we will have the thrill of getting to experience Christmas through music and fellowship. I look forward to being with you during this special time.

We continue the sermon series, "Here Comes the King", by returning to the birth of John the Baptist in Luke 1:57-80. John is the King's trailblazer going "before the Lord to prepare his ways." Zechariah has remained mute the whole of Elizabeth's pregnancy. Finally, the promised child is born and a discussion breaks out among relatives as to what the child's name should be. Elizabeth declares the name given by the angel, but the relatives attempt to persuade her. Zechariah writes out the name John and then is suddenly able to speak out loud. The people are astonished as he begins to sing praises to God.

This child is born with a mission, but he is not yet ready to take it on. John must grow and become "strong in spirit" to fulfill his duty. He has but one life to give and he must give it all. He steps out into the training ground God has provided for him, the wilderness. God prepares, trains, and blesses those who are willing to go into the wilderness with Him. We each have one life, one life we can live for ourselves or give to God. Which choice will you make? Will you allow God to prepare you for greater things?

The Christmas season is one of the best opportunities to invite people to celebrate with you through the various services. Invite people to join you at FBCBC, where the "impossible" is a living reality every day.

Your Pastor,  
Douglas Shows  
John 3:30

# taste

## OF CHRISTMAS

Our annual event will be Sunday evening, Dec. 4th following the

## The Advent Music Service

Each Sunday School Dept. is decorating a table and prepare food items for tasting.

Children's Ministry	Cakes, cookies, coffee punch
Youth-Adult 1	Tea cakes, soft drinks
Adult 2-3	Chocolate collection
Adult 4-5	Chili
Adult 6	Hors d'oeuvres
Adult 7	Wassail
Adult 8	Candy, fudge, etc

## OLD LITERATURE

Please place your old literature in a box just inside your department door. It will be collected for distribution to prisoners and their families.

## Church-Wide Christmas Dinner

Monday, Dec. 12th, 6:00pm  
Great Meal, Music, and Fellowship

Catered Meal: Beef tips & Rice  
or Stuffed Chicken

Ticket Price: \$10 ea.

R.S.V.P. and money to Church Office  
(409-735-3581)

Deadline is Friday, Dec. 9th at noon

## CHILDREN'S DIRECTOR . . .

I hope everyone had a wonderful Thanksgiving! The children are continuing to practice hard for the Christmas Program on December 4th at 6:30 p.m. Please invite family and friends to come and hear them sing, and support all their hard work as they share a little bit of God with our church and community.

On Sunday, December 11<sup>th</sup> at 4 p.m. we will be hosting the Children's Ministry Christmas Party in the Family Life Center. We ask that the children be here at 3:45 p.m. so that we can load up on the bus and go caroling and look at Christmas lights. We will return to the church around 5:00 to eat special meal and do some fun activities. Parents are invited to attend the party. If you have any questions about this or other children's events please feel free to give me a call!

That the next generation may know,  
Chris

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## **"The Reason for Joy" A Christmas Advent Celebration Sunday, December 4, 2016**

After many weeks of rehearsal and preparation, the Christmas Advent Celebration — "The Reason for Joy" - is less than one week away. With scripture and song, "The Reason for Joy" presents the real reason for joy during the Christmas season and all year long. It is not gifts, trees, lights, parties, or special foods — it is "For God so loved the world, that He gave His only Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life." Music will be presented by soloists, ensembles, the "Children's Choir, and the Christmas Choir. The Christmas Advent Celebration will be followed by another special treat — "A Taste of Christmas". Plan on attending "The Reason for Joy" and "A Taste of Christmas" on December 4th beginning at 6 pm and invite friends and family to join you.

To God Be The Glory,  
Suzonne

## YOUTH NEWS . . .

Crystal and I hope that you had a wonderful Thanksgiving! For us it could not have been any better! Good food, great family, a lot to be thankful for, and certainly an awesome God. But with the end of Thanksgiving begins the celebration of Christmas, our favorite time of year. We hope and pray that through all of the hustle this time of year offers, that we do not confuse true heart for Christ for busyness. No amount of activity for God will ever take the place of a heart that is right with Him. Through the ages, God's people have been persuaded that they could please Him through their service and their offerings, regardless of their heart condition. We are susceptible to the same misunderstanding as these people were. We can be deceived into assuming God is more interested in our activity for Him than He is in the condition of our heart. God has consistently made it clear that He will not be pacified by even the most generous offerings and zealous service if our hearts are not right with Him. No matter how much we do in God's service, regardless of how active we are in our church, no matter how honorable our reputation in the Christian community, He will not overlook a sinful heart. His desire is that we devote ourselves to knowing Him and loving Him with all our hearts.

Be Intentional,  
Aaron

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## **Sunday School News**

The next two Sundays will be Sunday School Teacher and Worker Recognition and Appreciation Days. Our teachers and workers do a wonderful job of making Sunday School an enjoyable and useful experience. We want them to know how much we appreciate them. Be there to show them.

Attendance Sunday was 118.

See you Sunday,  
Troy

