

First Baptist Church

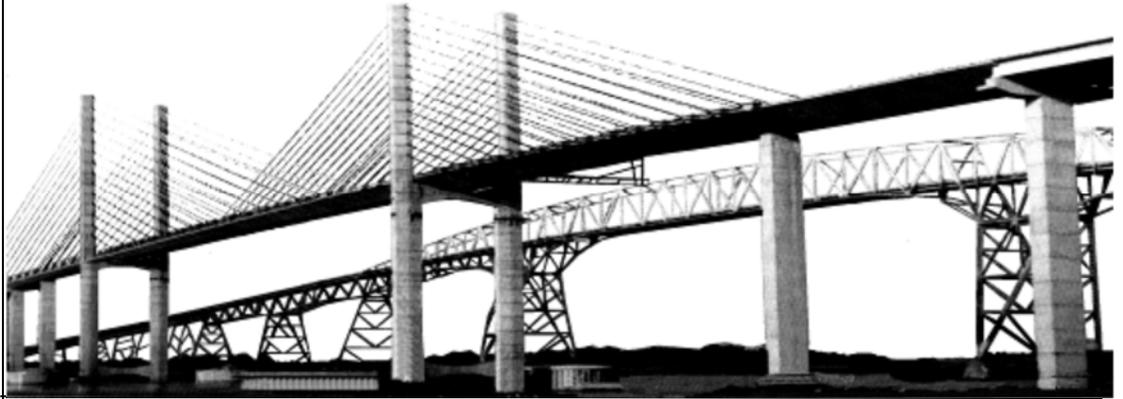
Volume XLX

BRIDGE CITY, TX 77611

December 6, 2016

No. 49

The Bridge Builder



CHURCH CHRISTMAS DINNER

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

Catered Meal: Beef tips & Rice
or Stuffed Chicken

Ticket Price: \$10 ea.

Ticket Price: \$10 ea.

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

Deadline is Friday, Dec. 9th at noon

PASTOR'S PARAGRAPH . . .

Dear Church Family,

The past Sunday night was a tremendous blessing as we held our Advent Celebration and Taste of Christmas. The church was adorned with stunning arrangements and presented a majestic and enriching environment. The story of Christ being told through music and narration brought to life the glory of Christmas with a longing for what is yet to come in Jesus' return. The abundance of holiday treats delightfully prepared and the cheerful serving brought out an atmosphere of joyous fellowship. For all of us there was an extra blessing in being able to share it all with extended family, friends, and Oakwood Baptist from Mauriceville. From the words of one of our guest, "All of it has caused me to burst with joy inside." Thank you FBCBC for glorifying God, serving Him well, and loving others.

Sunday we will continue our sermon series, "Here Comes the King", by looking at Luke 2:1-7. It is a familiar passage where we witness the traveling of Joseph and Mary to Bethlehem. While there to register under the family of David the time has come for Jesus to be born. They have no residence and any space for guest has already been occupied. The best accommodation they can manage is with distant relatives. Being unprepared they tear clothing to swaddle the baby and use a feed trough for a crib. The scene is displayed everywhere during the Christmas season. The ultimate humility that the King of Kings would be born into such pitiful conditions.

The visual helps us to remember the humility of this unique "born" king. However, we should not forget this king rules and reigns sovereignly over the whole of creation. His introduction into human history is not the summation of interaction. He will live and die for the sins of the people, another indication of his great humility, but He has risen from the dead and will return to establish his eternal rule. When the "King of king's and Lord of lord's" comes He will not be wrapped in swaddling clothes but with a "robe dipped in blood" to judge and make war. If a person does not surrender to Jesus in His humility, it will be too late when He comes in His full authority. How do you see the babe in the manger? Do you see Jesus as King, Lord, and "The Word of God" who will manifest "the wrath of God Almighty?"

The Christmas season demonstrates the "impossible" as a historical reality available to all. Invite people to join you at FBCBC, where the "impossible" is a living reality every day.

Your Pastor,
Douglas Shows
Rev. 22:17

New Song

There are so many people to thank for their part in Sunday night's presentation of "The Reason for Joy" that there is the risk of leaving someone out. Most of those who had a part in the program or assisted in the production were acknowledged in the printed program; however, Chris Bailey was inadvertently left out of the program due to my error. Chris did an outstanding job preparing the Children's Choir for the kids wonderful presentation of their two songs. I wanted to extend special thanks to Robert Freeman and Buddy Moss, who were special guests for our program. Robert, who has served as an actor or reader in previous Christmas productions at FBCBC, brought the scripture to life with his wonderful dramatic reading. Likewise, thanks to Buddy Moss for his wonderful presentation of "I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day." The behind the scenes heroes, the sound and media crew, put in many hours preparing the video production, lights management, and wonderful sound production. These were Fred Myers who programmed the lights and managed the sound, Austin Stuart and Donnie Stanton who programmed and ran the media, Bethany Stanton who ran the lights for the production, and Donnie Stanton again for manning the CD players. Thanks to the Christmas Choir members, accompanists, instrumentalists, ensembles, and soloists for their many, many hours of rehearsal. Finally, we all thank our Almighty God for giving us the opportunity to worship Him through this presentation.

To God be the Glory Always, Suzonne

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.

CHILDREN'S DIRECTOR . . .

Hello again! I just want to say that it you missed the Christmas Program Sunday night, you missed a blessing! I am so proud of the children! They have worked so hard and it really showed! The children were so happy to get up and sing for Jesus... to celebrate His birthday! I have had so much fun working with these kids and feel so blessed to be here teaching them! Thank you so much to all those who worked alongside, preparing snacks, corralling the kiddos, and most of all, thank you to all who have kept us in your prayers!

Thank you, also, to those who decorated our table, and provided cookies and snacks for our table at the "Taste of Christmas". That was such a special event, and I really enjoyed getting to meet the children's family and friends!

The Children's Christmas party will be next Sunday night in the Family Life Center. We will be meeting at 3:45 p.m. to go caroling, and then come back to the church around 5 p.m. to have our party. We will be feeding the children a light supper, playing games and Bro. Doug will be sharing the Christmas Story. If you would like to help with the party, please feel free to give me a call!

Thank you again for giving me the opportunity to serve alongside you here at FBC Bridge City!

That the next generation may know,
Chris

YOUTH NEWS . . .

Winter Retreat 2016

Every December our student ministry program begins to ramp up in preparation for our annual Winter Retreat. We will be once again headed to Crystal Beach on December 29th and be returning on New Years Eve! It is our hope and prayer that this event is well attended. Parents please make sure that your student(s) are signed up and that they have paid their \$30.00 by the 21st ! As usual, winter retreat will be almost an entirely student led Bible Study event, which focuses on the Gospel. We will also be delighted by good food and good times! I and the students are very excited about this years trip! Please make sure everyone gets on the travel list soon, as sign ups will close of the 21st!

Be Intentional,
Aaron

Thank You

Thank you all for your outpouring of love and support as we brought baby Elizabeth home. A special thank you goes out to the following families who were so gracious to bring food to us and visit the week after we came home:

Jennifer Caldwell

Hannah Landry

Crystal Little

Sharon Mannino

Angel Milstead

Pat Stanton

Suzonne Vann

Dewey and Jennifer Stuart

Thank you for your prayers and support during this exciting transition time within our family. God is truly blessing us in many ways, and we are to grateful!

Greg, Jennifer, Katherine & Elizabeth Quest

Church Family, Thank you for all your love, cards, food, visits and prayers. The family meal was a blessing. A special thank you to all involved! Bro. Doug, words can not express how much I appreciate all that you did for us!

Betty Lormand & Family

Sympathy

Bro. Doug and Amy Shows and the First Family wish to extend their sincere love and sympathy to the family and friends of Virginia Hollis.

Sunday School News

Thanks to all our Sunday School teachers and workers. We really appreciate you. If you did not see the Christmas Advent Celebration Sunday night you missed a blessing. It was very good; also the Taste of Christmas. Our new study in Sunday School is Joshua. Come join us, you will like it. Attendance was 138.

See you Sunday,
Troy

