

First Baptist Church

Volume XLX

BRIDGE CITY, TX 77611

December 20, 2016

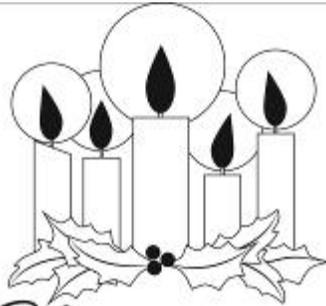
No. 51

The Bridge Builder



Saturday

December 24, 2016
6:00 p.m.



Christmas
DAY

Sunday

December 25, 2016
10:00 a.m.

PASTOR'S PARAGRAPH . . .

Dear Church Family,

I personally want to thank FBCBC for coming out to Oakwood Baptist in Mauriceville on a cold wintery night. Oakwood was blessed and encouraged by your caring support. It was a special evening with two churches coming together to worship and be Kingdom minded.

Christmas Eve and Christmas Day we will have wonderful opportunities to celebrate the birth of Jesus together. We will be concluding our sermon series, "Here Comes the King", by looking at Revelation 12 and John 1:1-18. Both of these passages provide a heavenly view of the Christmas Story. In Revelation 12 the dragon is determined to destroy the "male child", but when he is unable he seeks to destroy the people who follow him. In John we see that Jesus, the Word, was "in the beginning" and destined to intervene into human history. Jesus "became flesh and dwelt among us" providing "grace and truth" to the people from God. He came to reveal God to all of mankind and offer redemption from sin. "Behold, the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world." Do you realize there is one who wants to keep you from following Jesus? Every Christmas we are offered another opportunity to see Jesus "full of grace and truth." Following Jesus is more than celebrating Christmas. Are you ready to embark on a life with Jesus and not just a season?

Amy and I want to thank you for your generous gift and expression of love to us through the staff gift. We are so honored to be a part of this church. The Christmas season is always special, but even more so as we reflect on last year and this being the time of being called to serve FBCBC. We pray that each of you have a blessed Christmas and a personal interaction with Jesus, who came for you. Remember, invite people to join you at FBCBC, where the "impossible" is a living reality every day.

Your Pastor,
Douglas Shows
James 4:7-10

YOUTH NEWS . . .

There is much satisfaction in finishing something you have begun! The success of a race is determined not only by how well you begin but also by how well you end. Many athletes can begin a race impressively, but if they stumble or are injured or lack the stamina to finish, their good start is useless. Paul rejoiced that he had not only begun the race but he had also finished it. His prize was a robust faith in God and a life filled with God's powerful presence. The Christian life is not easy. Some mistakenly assume that once they become children of God, their struggles are over. Many Christians begin their walk with Christ enthusiastically, but as the pressures mount, they lose heart and abandon their pilgrimage. Paul described His Christian life as a battle. There were times when he struggled, and only through perseverance could he continue. It may surprise us to know that the great apostle had to struggle at times to be faithful to God. Paul faced persecution, misunderstanding, betrayal, and death threats. His Christian life was anything but easy, yet he persevered. As we quickly approach a new year it is important to note that your faith in God is not proven by beginning the race but by enduring to the finish. Publicly announcing your commitment to Christ in church does not compare with a lifetime of devotion to His cause. Use Paul as your model. Live your life in such a way that you can one day conclude, "I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith!"

Be Intentional,
Aaron

Sunday School News

Merry Christmas from all the Sunday School workers. We hope you have a wonderful holiday. It's been a great year, we are looking forward to another.

On January 8 we will start a new evening class. It will be entitled "I Will." We are looking forward to seeing you there.

Attendance Sunday was 128.

See you Sunday.

Troy

CHILDREN'S DIRECTOR . . .

Christmas is right around the corner! School is out for some, and almost out for others, and there is finally a chill in the air! The children are excited about all the joys that Christmas brings, but remember what Christmas is all about.

Sunday we talked about Jesus' birth, and about the events before and after He came. During children's church, we made bells with scenes from the nativity! Bells let us know that something important has happened, and make us stop and take note! We should not be silent, but loud, like the bells, ringing out the good news of what Christ has done for us!

This Christmas as we celebrate, share Jesus' story with those who may not have heard it. I tell the kids to never assume that everyone has heard about Jesus... you may be the first to share with them! God gave us the most beautiful gift that Christmas morning, but it was not for us to keep to ourselves, it is meant to be passed along to everyone we see!

During the Christmas morning service, we will be doing a special Children's Church event with Bro. Doug, so please invite children and families to come and hear Jesus' wonderful story!

Finally, please continue to be in prayer for the 5th grade class that will be starting after the first of the year. I am excited about teaching this group, and can't wait to share stories of those who have stood up for their faith, and to encourage them to let their faith shine out in our community!

That the next generation may know,
Chris

HOLIDAY SCHEDULE

December 23-January 3	Church Office Closed
December 24	Christmas Eve Service 6 pm
December 25	10:00 am Worship Only (No Sunday School or Evening services, enjoy time with your family!)
January 1	9:15 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship No pm Services

Sunday Evening Classes Spring 2017

Classes begin January 8.

The Book of 1 John / Of Mice and Men

Teacher: Aaron Little

Description:

John wrote this letter to put believers back on track, to show the difference between light and darkness (truth and error), and to encourage the church to grow in genuine love for God and for one another. He also wrote to assure true believers that they possessed eternal life and to help them know that their faith was genuine — so they could enjoy all the benefits of being God's children. Martin Luther declared that "I have never read a book written in simpler words than this one, and yet the words are inexpressible." Join us in going back to the basics, yet being challenged to grow extensively.

I Will: Nine Traits of the Outwardly Focused Christian – Thom Rainer

Teacher: Troy Woodall

Description:

Could you be the answer to the problems you see? Every day we are faced with the needs of those around us. Emotional. Physical. Spiritual. What are we to do about it? Are these problems for our pastors to address or is there a way for the church member to make an impact that will last? Bestselling author Thom S. Rainer answer these questions by offering nine simple traits that all church members can incorporate into your life no matter your background, stage of life, or sense of capability. You can do it. Now it's time to just stand up and say you will!

A Biblical Marriage in a Broken World – Danny Akin

Teacher: Douglas and Amy Shows

Description:

In a secular culture that seeks to unravel the threads of Christian values and family life, married couples can flourish. Danny Akin lays out a clear plan for building a satisfying relationship that will go the distance. Whether a couple of many years or newlyweds, whether engaged or hope to be engaged, the presentation of deep biblical truths is so down to earth everyone can benefit.

