

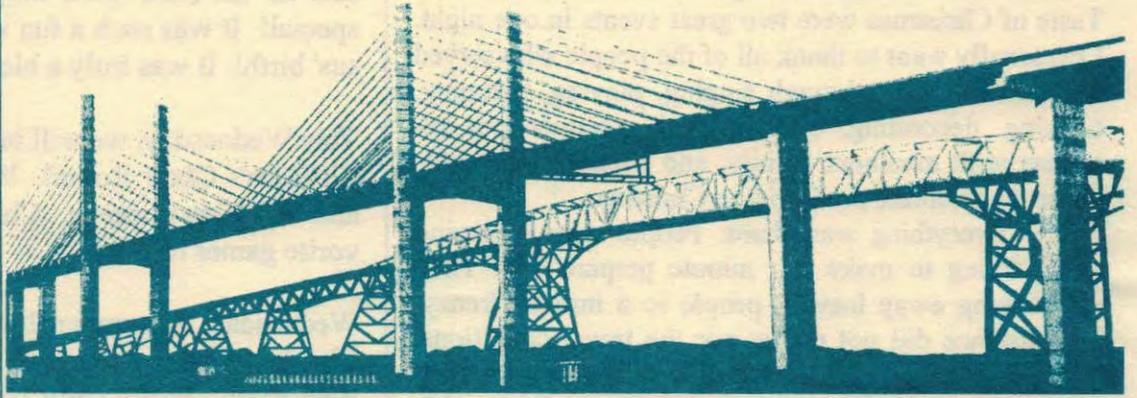
First Baptist Church

Volume LI

BRIDGE CITY, TX 77611

December 12, 2017

No. 50

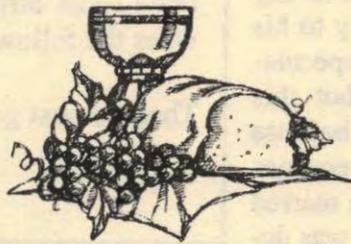


The Bridge Builder



Join us as we celebrate

*Christmas Eve
Sunday, December 24*



*The Lord's Supper
10:30 a.m.*

*Candlelight Service
5:00 p.m.*



PASTOR'S PARAGRAPH . . .

Dear Church Family,

I hope you were able to be at church this past Sunday. Our Christmas Night of Worship and our Taste of Christmas were two great events in one night. I personally want to thank all of the people who served and shared Christ through singing, playing, planning, cooking, decorating, etc. We had a tremendous response with members, family, and friends coming together to celebrate the Christ in Christmas.

Everything was chaos. People were scurrying about trying to make last minute preparations. Time was ticking away leaving people in a hurried frenzy. The distance did not matter nor the travel conditions. Families were going to gather. They had to. In fact, it was mandated by the governmental decree. Each to his own family and place of birth so all could be accounted for in time for taxes to be levied. In the midst of this turmoil, one quiet little couple that had been ostracized were making their way to a small town in the hills. The wife in silence feared meeting her husband's family. She was pregnant and the due date in relation to their time of marriage would certainly be scrutinized. What would they say? How would they treat her? She had already felt the sting of rebuke from her own family. She was not sure she could handle anymore.

The husband walked in silence as the cool night air blew. He was leading the donkey in which his wife sat along the narrow trail in the star filled night. They would need to rest soon, for he could tell she was weary from the travel. They would have to wait till tomorrow to arrive at his hometown. What would he say to his father? How could explain her pregnancy to his mother? He was use to the ridicule and hurtful speculation from locals along the Galilean basin, but this would be family. It was no use telling the truth because no one believed him. Silence had become his response of choice. He hurt deeply over the way people marred his wife's reputation and called him a fool. He was determined though to stay silent and let truth unfold and truth speak for itself. Maybe he could teach his son the value of silence and truth being powerful together. Tonight though the silence would have to wait and truth could come later. It was time to make camp. For tomorrow they will reach Bethlehem.

Join us Sunday morning as we together celebrate The Greatest Story Ever Told.

FBCBC is where the "impossible" is a living reality every day and Christ is who we seek to exalt. Invite someone to be a part of what God is doing at FBCBC.

Your Pastor,
Douglas Shows
Luke 2:14

CHILDREN'S DIRECTOR

We had such an amazing time Sunday at the Christmas Night of Worship! I am so proud of the kids and all the hard work they did to make their song special! It was such a fun way to tell the story of Jesus' birth! It was truly a blessing to be a part of it all!

This Wednesday, we will be having a fun night in the Children's Choir Room! We will be playing games and watching a movie. Children may bring their favorite games to play!

Wednesday, December 20th, will be our Children's Christmas party, we will be doing a "Journey to Bethlehem" Party. We will meet in the children's choir room at 6:30 p.m. and head out shortly after to go to three different host homes. At each home, we will share a snack and drink, and a portion of the story of Jesus' birth. The kids will be ready to go home around 8:00 p.m. We want to help the children to understand what Christmas truly means, and make the night fun for them as well. We will need adults to ride along with us and help with the children, as well as a few adults to help prepare our beginning "meal". If you would like to help with any part of this "journey", please let me know a.s.a.p.!

Finally, Sunday, December 24th at 5 p.m. will be our Candlelight Service. This is a beautiful time to be together with other families in our church and celebrate Jesus' birth. Also, there will be no evening services the following Wednesday, December 27th.

That the next generation may know,

Chris

PICTORIAL DIRECTORY TIME!

**Church
Directory**



**Photograph
Sign-Up**

In January we will have a photographer taking pictures for a new Pictorial Directory. Sign up sheets will be available each Sunday through January 14. Please visit the table in the foyer of the sanctuary soon so that you can choose a sitting time convenient to you. Each participating family will receive a copy of the directory and an 8 x 10 photo.

YOUTH NEWS . . .

Deadline Approaching

Students and Parents, Winter Retreat signups, payment, and the medical release form deadline is quickly approaching! Please make sure and have them turned in or signed up before Christmas Eve! You do not want to miss out on such a great event! Here is an insert from our teaching material that students will be learning from and teaching!

Israel just wanted to be normal. They weren't a wimpy, little, nomadic tribe anymore. They were a full-on nation and nations had kings. Kings to display their pride. Kings to demonstrate their power. Kings to lend a distinguished air to diplomatic events. If Israel were ever to grow out of national infancy, she would need a king. The people not only wanted one, they demanded one. It was a very immature, infantile request. Sure, other nations have kings...they also have taxation, the draft, conscripted labor, and a host of civic problems that no man can solve. Why would any nation in its right mind want a king when it has God to lead it? Oh well, give 'em what they want. That's the story of 1 Samuel 8. In chapter 9, the demand is met. God gives them the king they longed for, an impressive young man without equal: Saul, of the tribe of Benjamin. A young buck who stood a head taller than anyone in Israel. Four chapters later, Saul has already blown it, proving the next-to-nothing value of physical credentials. Now God says he'll give them what He wants: **A man after His own heart.**

Enter our hero, David! A young kid with a minimum wage job; the least of eight brothers. Dismissed by the prophet; forgotten by his father; ignored by his siblings.... But chosen by God. Though David was a handsome lad, it was his heart that set him apart. It was king size. This shepherd of sheep was destined to shepherd a whole nation. God loves doing that. He loves drawing leaders from unexpected sources. He loves blowing away the establishment by giving promotions to people with common outsides and uncommon insides. He would love doing that with you.

Join me and many others as we continue to pray that God will have His way with our students and that they will truly understand, or even be reminded, of what it means to be "**A man after His own heart**"

Be Intentional,
Aaron

WORSHIP DIRECTOR

CHRISTMAS NIGHT OF WORSHIP

We put the work in and when the night came, the Lord blessed it. The choir sounded wonderful as they sang and led the congregation in worship. Every singer and musician gave their all using their gifts and talents to celebrate the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ. The children's black light presentation of the birth of Jesus was wonderful and so exciting to watch.

I could see the looks on the faces in the congregation and knew that the Lord was truly in this place!

I want to thank each and every person involved in this special night. Our church is blessed with so many members with unique and special abilities and it all works together beautifully.

This was truly a Night of Worship!!

For His glory,
Debbie Anderson



Lottie Moon Christmas Offering

National Goal:	\$160 Million
Our Goal:	\$ 5,500.00
Receipts to date:	\$ 2,861.00

WEDNESDAY NIGHT SUPPER

January 17, 2018

5:00 PM — 6:16 PM

\$3 per person with a \$12 per family max.

Sunday School **Brittany Ernst**
 Connie Claus

Worship Service **Thelma Wheelis**

Volunteers always needed. Please call
Brittany Ernst at 409.313.1215.

Sunday, December 17, 2017

9:15 Sunday School
10:30 Worship Service
 Children's Church
 for 4 yr. old — 2nd grade

Tuesday, December 19, 2017

10:00 Ladies Prayer Meeting
7:00 Men's Prayer Meeting

Wednesday, December 20, 2017

6:30 Mid-Week Worship Service
 Children's Activities
 Student Worship
7:30 Instrumental Rehearsal

LOOK AT THE RECORDS

December 10, 2017

Average Weekly Needs	\$ 9,927.13
Sunday Receipts	\$ 5,877.16
Y-T-D Avg. Weekly Receipts	\$ 10,296.87
Digital Sign Goal	\$20,000.00
Digital Sign Receipts to date	\$4,610.00

ATTENDANCE:

Sunday School	143
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WORSHIP SERVICE:

Worship	150
Nursery	6
TOTAL WORSHIP ATTENDANCE	156

VOTE ON 2018 BUDGET
Sunday, December 17
after morning worship.
NO DISCUSSION.

Wednesday
December 27

No PM Service

First Baptist Church

200 W. ROUNDBUNCH RD.
BRIDGE CITY, TX 77611
(409)735-3581

Website: www.fbcbc.org

Doug Shows Pastor
Aaron Little Minister to Students
John Woods Minister to Senior Adults
Chris Bailey Director of Children's Ministry
Debbie Anderson Worship Director

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS
8:00 — 4:30
MONDAY — FRIDAY

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