

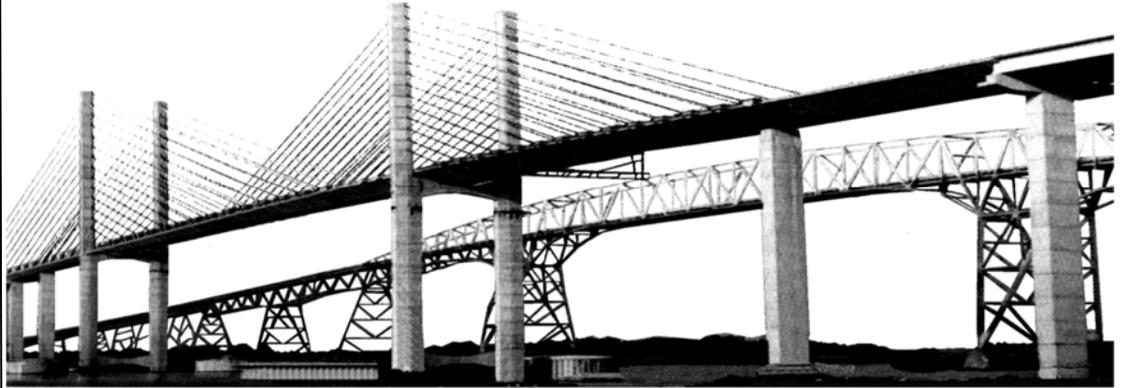
# First Baptist Church

Volume LI

BRIDGE CITY, TX 77611

December 19, 2017

No. 51



# The Bridge Builder

*Join us as we celebrate*

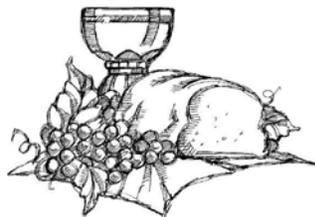


*Christmas Eve*

*Sunday, December 24*

*Sunday School*

*9:15 a.m.*



*The Lord's Supper*

*10:30 a.m.*

*Candlelight Service*

*5:00 p.m.*



## PASTOR'S PARAGRAPH . . .

Dear Church Family,

Christmas is approaching fast and we are in our final week of celebration. Our times together have been heartwarming and glorifying to Christ. Sunday, December 24<sup>th</sup> we will have Sunday School as normal and worship at 10:30 am with a baptism and the Lord's Supper. Later at 5:00 pm, we will gather again for a time of singing and focusing on Christ with a Candlelight Service. We will have gifts for the children, so bring the family. Be aware, December 27<sup>th</sup> there will be no services and on December 31<sup>st</sup> we will have Sunday School and Worship as usual. I am looking forward to finishing our journey to joy together through finding the Christ of Christmas.

It had always been... There was never a moment in which this was not going to unfold. Before the first words of creation were spoken by God, God was moving all existence to this moment of revealing. Creation itself is of such splendor that one can stand in awe for a lifetime. However, creation was a small thing for this God. He created everything and gave life to dirt calling it Adam. Adam was commissioned to care for the dwelling place of God within his creation referred to as the Garden and to spread the greatness of this God across the whole of the earth. God in his care for Adam, gave him a gift named Eve to share in this great adventure. Adam and Eve loved their time together exploring the grand spectacle of the Garden and creation. One day, passing the tree from which they were not to eat, the serpent enticed Adam and Eve to listen to his version of the creation story. God was arrogant and making everything about himself, but you two are special and deserve respect. "Who takes care of everything here?" "Where is God when you need Him?" The serpent promised with their eyes wide open they could rule all the better and not depend on God. The trap had been set and now the snare had been triggered the moment they bit of the fruit. Shame and darkness engulfed them like a tidal wave attacks a seashore. Fear permeated ever part of their mind and body as they saw the dividing line between God's holiness and now their sin. Regret filled their hearts, but it was now too late. They ran from God to find a place to hide from the overbearing truth of their sin. Adam clutched Eve as they shivered in the dark realizing it was hopeless, death was upon them, God would be coming.

God was coming. This was the moment He would get to announce with joy the remedy for their sin.

God would not ignore the sin, for this was not how a just and holy God contends with sin. He would deal with it directly and confront it lovingly tempered in grace, mercy, and truth. God challenged Adam and Eve in the lies and desire they had to blame someone other than themselves. At the moment Adam and Eve fully accepted the reality of their sin and the just punishment to come, God stepped in. God shared the story He had been waiting to tell them while He sacrificed the lamb and fastened a new covering for them. A garment in which took a life to deal with death. An innocent to redeem the guilty. An exchange of sin for righteousness. God told them many years from now, what is being done here today will be done for all of humanity. God was coming. God was coming to the world by the way of Bethlehem. Find Christ and we find Joy. Let us focus so as not to miss Christ.

FBCBC is where the "impossible" is a living reality everyday 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 1:30-33

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## PICTORIAL DIRECTORY TIME!



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.

## CHILDREN'S DIRECTOR

Christmas is almost here! Children all over the world are anticipating Christmas morning, wondering what they will find under the tree! Christmas Tree lights will twinkle, and fires will crackle as they hear stories like *'Twas the Night Before Christmas* or *A Christmas Carol*. On Christmas morning, rolls of wrapping paper that loving cover gifts from loved ones and friends, will be sacrificed, as kids uncover their treasures to see what have been given. Such an exciting time!

I know of another time that was just as highly anticipated... stars were twinkling, and campfires crackled as well. But instead of beautiful gifts wrapped in shiny paper and colorful ribbons, the gift that we find, is wrapped in swaddling clothes, and laid in a bed of hay in a dusty old stable. Instead of family gathering around that gift and celebrating, we find a new mother and father, a newborn baby surrounded by smelly animals and visited by shepherds who said that angels had announced this special baby's birth to them. That child... Jesus. The gift that forever changed the world.

This year, for our Children's Christmas party, we traveled to Bethlehem (at James and Shelly Marshall's home), we heard about the journey that Mary and Joseph made, and the birth of Jesus. We then traveled to the fields outside of Bethlehem (at David and Paula Dickerson's home), and sat around a campfire to hear about the shepherds and the angels who appeared to them, announcing Jesus' birth. Finally, we followed a shining star, like the wisemen, to find the place where Jesus lay. We wrapped up the night learning about why Christmas is so important... how this tiny baby changed the world. How he brought light to a dark world.

At the end of the evening, each child received a special box. Within the box, they found 4 ornaments specially chosen to help them remember each part of our journey to Bethlehem on the night Christ was born. They also found cards in the box with the scriptures to read with their families as they hang the ornaments on the tree.

Please take time to share the real story of Christmas this week with a child in your life. Pass along the gift that you received when you invited Jesus into your life. The best gift you could ever receive is one that you can give away.

Finally, don't forget about the Christmas Eve Candlelight service at 5 p.m. on Dec. 24th. There will be no Wednesday night services on the 27th as well. With such a wonderful end to such an eventful year, I simply can't wait to see what God has in store for us!

That the next generation may know of God's grace,

Chris

## WORSHIP DIRECTOR

The highlight of my Christmas season is always the musical that we present celebrating the birth of our Lord and Savior. Once that is over, I've got to get that Christmas shopping done. I have always been one that gets a little depressed during this time. Sometimes you can't even put a finger on where the depression comes from. I can come up with all sorts of reasons to be depressed, but the fact is Jesus is the healer.

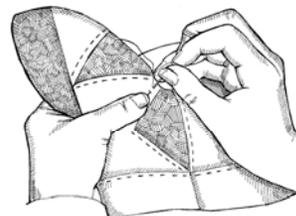
The healing for this is having my mind staid on the fact that God came to earth in human form for me, for all of us. God always reminds me of the joy I felt when He saved me. When my mind goes there, I can go walk through the malls and the stores and try to choose a gift with the love in my heart that God placed there. At that point, the size and expense of the gift ceases to matter. All that remains is the love.

I pray that this Christmas season, the love of Christ will be evident in our lives. We can rely on Him, for that is where our joy comes from. I hope to see you all at our Christmas Eve Candlelight Service on Sunday evening at 5:00 p.m. We are preparing some beautiful music to celebrate this holy night. Everyone is welcome to come and bring your gift of worship.

John 5:11 And this is the testimony: God has given us eternal life, and this life is in His Son.

For His glory,  
Debbie Anderson

### Quilts for Buckner Children



QUILTING GROUP

will begin on  
**Thursday, January 4**  
from  
**9:00 a.m. till Noon**  
in the old Adult 7  
Sunday School Class  
Room

If you have any questions please call Imogene Ernst  
409-313-6468

**NURSERY WORKERS    December 17, 2017**

**Sunday School        Brittany Ernst  
                                  Connie Claus**

**Worship Service      Thelma Wheelis**

**Volunteers always needed. Please call  
Brittany Ernst at 409.313.1215.**

**OPPORTUNITIES FOR SERVICE**

**Sunday, December 24, 2017**

9:15    Sunday School  
10:30    Worship Service  
          Lord's Supper  
          Children's Church  
          for 4 yr. old — 2nd grade  
5:00    Candlelight Worship

**Tuesday, December 26, 2017**

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

**Wednesday, December 27, 2017**

6:30    NO PM Activities

<b>LOOK AT THE RECORDS</b>	
<b>December 17, 2017</b>	
Average Weekly Needs	\$ 9,927.13
Sunday Receipts	\$ 9,591.31
Y-T-D Avg. Weekly Receipts	\$ 10,282.75
<b>Digital Sign Goal</b>	<b>\$20,000.00</b>
<b>Digital Sign Receipts to date</b>	<b>\$4,610.00</b>
<b>ATTENDANCE:</b>	
Sunday School	124
<b>WORSHIP SERVICE:</b>	
Worship	120
Nursery	4
<b>TOTAL WORSHIP ATTENDANCE</b>	<b>124</b>

**CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED  
DECEMBER 22 —  
JANUARY 2**

***Merry Christmas!  
&  
Happy New Year.***

**WEDNESDAY NIGHT SUPPER**

January 17, 2018  
5:00 PM — 6:16 PM  
\$3 per person with a \$12 per family max.

**First Baptist Church**

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

**Website: [www.fbcbc.org](http://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**

THE BRIDGE BUILDER (USPS 551-260) is published weekly except Christmas week. First Baptist Church, 200 W. Roundbunch Road, Bridge City, Texas 77611. Periodical Postage paid at Bridge City, Texas 77611. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to the above.