

**Deacon of the Week:**

1st Sunday: Josh Becker  
2nd Sunday: Charles Gaffigan  
3rd Sunday: Rhonard MacRae  
4th Sunday: Tony Silver  
5th Sunday: Arthur Burnette

**December Wedding Anniversaries**

Phil & Jean Buchanan 1  
Jeff & Kayla Parker 8  
Bob & Betsey Jones 22  
Larry & Doris Grant 24  
Paul & Linda Brooks 31  
Steve & Stephanie House 31



**December Birthdays**

Judy Willis ..... 1  
Shawna Lytle ..... 4  
Juanita Ramsey ..... 4  
Kathryn Hoyle ..... 9  
Robin Smith ..... 12  
Martha Dalton ..... 13  
Max Parker ..... 20  
Barbara Carswell ..... 24  
Margie Swann ..... 26  
Terry Burnette ..... 27



**FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH**  
Old Fort, NC  
December 2017  
Volume 51, Issue 12

# THE VOICE

**DECEMBER EVENTS**

**SUNDAY:**  
9:45 - Sunday School  
11 - Worship Service  
4 - Choir Practice  
6 - Adult Bible Study, Youth

**WEDNESDAY:**  
6 - Adult Bible Study/Prayer,  
Youth, RA's, GA's, Mission  
Friends,  
7 - Choir Practice

**Dec 2** - Community Chorus  
Concert at Greenlee Baptist  
Church 7 pm  
**Dec 3** - Advent Begins; Week of  
Prayer & Lottie Moon Christmas  
Offering; Community Chorus  
Concert at Greenlee Baptist  
Church 3 pm; Deacon's Meeting  
7 pm  
**Dec 6** - WMU 6 pm; Christmas  
Cantata at Deer Park Nursing  
Home 7 pm  
**Dec 9** - Full Dress Rehearsal for  
Christmas Cantata 10 am; Old  
Fort Christmas Parade 4 pm  
**Dec 13** - Christmas Cantata at  
Rose Hill Retirement Center  
7 pm; Newsletter Articles Due  
**Dec 15** - Staff/Deacon Christmas  
Party at Parsonage 6 pm  
**Dec 16** - Christmas Cantata 6 pm  
**Dec 17** - Christmas Cantata  
11 am & 6 pm & Refreshments  
**Dec 19** - Blood Drive 12:30-5 pm  
**Dec 21** - Winter Begins  
**Dec 24** - Christmas Eve  
Candlelight Service 6 pm  
**Dec 25** - Christmas Day - Office  
Closed  
**Dec 26-29** - Office Closed

**Church Staff**

Rev. Drew Dalton, Pastor  
Stephen Willie, Director of Music  
David Workman, Pianist  
Susan Willie, Secretary  
Wanda Parker, Custodian  
  
Pastor Drew 828-448-5659  
Office: 828-668-7853  
Fax: 828-668-7578  
Email: offbc@frontier.com  
Website: oldfortfirstbaptist.com



I don't know about you but, Christmas is by far my favorite time of the year. The streets, stores, and homes decked out in lights, bows, wreaths. Christmas carols and hymns begin to fill the air. Andy Williams, Bing Crosby, Perry Como, sing of the "Most Wonderful Time of the Year" while they dream of a "White Christmas." Families across the country gather in front of their TV's to watch Rudolph, Frosty, Charlie Brown, and the Grinch sharing a piece of their childhood with the next generation. Everyone searching every store for that perfect gift to that loved one, to show them just how much they mean to you. And the food!! There's work parties, neighborhood parties, friends parties, church parties, not to mention family gatherings! Yes, Christmas is a busy time of the year.

This is both exciting and discouraging. Exciting because like so many carols say, "Christmas is in the air." There's no other time of the year, where the joy is so...palatable. But unfortunate and discouraging because as the holiday season approaches many of us are so distracted that we forget to center ourselves on the true reason for Christmas. For the true reason this season brings such hope, joy, love, and peace.

Christmas is also a time for us to remember with wonder the miracle of the incarnation. John tells us, "And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth" (Jn. 1:14). Wow!

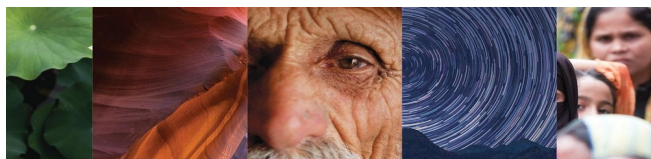
The God who created the universe, who hung the stars in the sky, who set the planets in their orbits, all through just the power of His word. That God stepped into space and time, took on flesh, took on our weaknesses to dwell among us! He didn't come as a king or a conqueror. He didn't come as a wise philosopher or astrologer. He didn't come as a great merchant or rich businessman. He came as a baby! A baby!! Think of it! The King of Kings and Lord of Lords, The Alpha and The Omega, The God of All Creation... a weak, helpless little baby. And He did it so that you and I may know Him, so that we could find life in Him, so that we would find our salvation in Him. For without Him, there is no hope. There is no joy. There is no love. There is no peace. What a wonderful time it is to celebrate our Emmanuel. Jesus truly is the reason for this season!







#### Week of Prayer for International Missions - Dec. 3-10



2017 LOTTIE MOON CHRISTMAS OFFERING®



FBC Offering Goal: \$3,116.00

When we think of Christmas, we think of Lottie Moon. She was born to a family of privilege in Antebellum, Virginia. She was given educational opportunities far beyond most girls of her era. Her family owned Thomas Jefferson's home, Monticello, for a time. She was a member of the first group of southern women to receive a Master of Arts degree. Miss Moon was unsettled about the direction of her life. She felt a sense of special calling from God to become a bearer of glad tidings afar. But Southern Baptist at that time would not appoint unmarried women to serve as foreign missionaries. She found a temporary answer by establishing a successful school for girls in Cartersville, Georgia. She gave generous sums to the Foreign Mission Board for the support of missions in China and Italy. In due time, she was allowed to become a Southern Baptist Foreign missionary and sailed to China in 1873. In all, she served from 1873 until 1912 – 39 years. She visited the United States only three times during this period. She died on Christmas Eve 1912, a year of famine, revolution, and inflation in China, and a year of declining funds for the Foreign Mission Board. She would do without food so the Chinese children could eat and at the time of her death weighed only 50 lbs. In the next year, the Christmas offering was taken with firm commitment to pay off the embarrassing debt on foreign missions. Since that time, Southern Baptists have taken an offering in December for foreign missions in honor of Miss Lottie Moon.



Old Fort  
Christmas Parade  
December 9th  
at 4:00 pm



Christmas Cards

The Christmas Cards "Mailbox" will be ready to receive mail on Sunday, December 3rd. Christmas Cards for members of First Baptist Church can be placed by last name in the designated alphabetically labeled boxes. Check each week for your cards in the mailbox.

On top of the "Mailbox" will be a Lottie Moon Donation can if you would like to donate the postage of cards "mailed", or any donation will be appreciated.



#### Old Fort Community Chorus Christmas Concert

Saturday, December 2, 7:00 pm  
Sunday, December 3, 3:00 pm  
at Greenlee Baptist Church

**DEADLINE FOR  
NEWSLETTER ARTICLES  
December 13th**

#### Deacon/Staff Christmas Party

*All staff, deacons (active & inactive) and their families are invited to the parsonage at 6:00 pm on Friday, December 15th for a time of food and fellowship.*

Please RSVP by December 10th.



#### First Baptist Church

Saturday, December 16th  
6:00 pm

Sunday, December 17th  
11:00 am & 6:00 pm  
with refreshments to follow

*Invite your family and friends to join us as we celebrate in song the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ.*

## Cleff Notes

Thank you to all who prayed, visited, called, sent cards and missed me while I was absent from your sweet fellowship during my illness. It is my great pleasure to continue serving my Lord Jesus here with everyone of you.

On another "note", it's not too late to be a part of the Christmas Choir this year. If you would like to have a part in this special ministry, all you need to do is come to rehearsals on Sundays at 4:00 pm and/or Wednesdays at 7:00 pm.

God Bless Everyone,  
Stephen



The American Red Cross  
Blood Drive  
will be at our church

Tuesday, December 19th  
12:30 pm - 5:00 PM

To schedule an appointment  
visit [redcrossblood.org](http://redcrossblood.org). or  
call American Red Cross at  
1-800-733-2767

#### Buildings & Grounds

The Fall Projects list can carry over to the Spring since the winter weather & the holidays have arrived. Now we have opportunities for winter time projects.

**Adopt a Project - Winter Projects**  
(mostly indoors) - unless you want fire wood!

- Foyer stairwell - Wire brush/scrape walls & metal stairs. Paint.
  - Choir Room Wall - Wire brush/scrape wall & paint.
  - Electrical Room - Wire brush/scrape wall & paint.
  - Brides Board Room - Clean walls & paint.
  - Classroom 1 - Clean walls & paint.
  - Men's & Women's Rest Rooms near Sunday School Office - Clean walls & paint.
- 2 Dead Trees below East Parking Lot - need firewood?  
Please see a member of the Buildings team to schedule and obtain appropriate supplies. Arthur, David, Mickey, Ray



Thank you for your involvement in the Saturday, October 28, 2017 Community Health and Wellness Fair. We were very pleased with participating vendors and attendance (despite the weather), and the support of church members, community and service organizations.

A summary, by the numbers:

38 Risk Assessments

**30 FBC Workers**

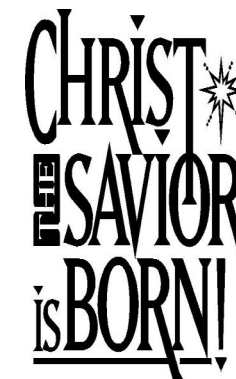
30 Units of blood

20 EMS Tests

14 Flu Shots

12 Vendors from outside our church family

Again, thank you for your contributions and support of our event,  
Nurse's Ministry and Outreach Team



*Thank You!*

Our totals for 2017 are in.... We built 107 boxes!

And our drop-off location delivered 1,310 boxes in 69 cartons to a Rutherfordton Location. We want to thank everyone who was a part of making this possible: those providing the items and packing the boxes, those providing funds for shipping and those volunteering at the drop-off location. All of these efforts contributed towards delivering "Good News - Great Joy" to a child.

Cathy Moore and Charles Gaffigan