

First Baptist Church of Oakville
6741 Telegraph Road,
St. Louis, MO, 63129



Every Church
Every Nation

Lottie Moon inspired the first mission offering for international missions in 1888. After more than a century, this annual mission offering continues to grow and empower Southern Baptist international mission efforts. The National goal for this year is \$160 million. Our giving enables missionaries to be sent to make disciples and plant churches among unreached people and places for the glory of God.

Our Church’s Lottie Moon Goal: \$2500

HAPPY BIRTHDAY
December Birthdays

- Judy Schellhase.....8
- Margie Fish.....9
- Melcenia Nappier.....13
- Bill Farrow.....14
- Katherine Williamson.....16
- Mary Jacobi.....17
- Wayne Allen.....20
- Susan Allen.....21
- Cyndi Harmon.....23
- Keven Outman.....24
- Happy Birthday Jesus!.....25
- Diana Bone.....26
- Pat Miller, Faye Bass.....30

God Bless You
on Your Birthday!

December Calendar

Fellowship Breakfast.....2

Church Council Meeting (Noon).....2

Lottie Moon Candlelight Service.....2

P.E.P. Club Christmas Trip.....6

W.M.U. Meeting.....8

Deacon's Meeting.....9

Business Meeting.....9

Christmas Light Show @ 7 pm.....14 &15

Christmas Cantata Practice.....15 & 22

Kidz Kollege Caroling and Christmas Party.....19

Christmas Light Show @ 7 pm...21 & 22

Winter Begins.....21

Christmas Cantata @ 4 pm.....23

Christmas Eve Service @ 4:30 pm.....24

MERRY CHRISTMAS.....25

No Wednesday Activities.....26

NO Evening Service.....30

New Year's Eve31



December Newsletter



JOHN’S JOTS

Christmas is coming!!—and we have cold weather and the first snowfall to prove it. The changing of the seasons this year has seemed sudden and radical. Where was Spring? And what happened to Fall?

This has been a memorable year! As we conclude this season of Thanksgiving, I anticipate many things that will make this Christmas memorable, too. That is certainly true for FBCO, and I pray it will be so for your family, as well.

We will celebrate Advent each Sunday in December. Christmas is a wonderful time of year. We are surrounded by reminders of what this season really means. In our Advent observance, we will focus on one reminder that **Christmas is— a sign, a stable, a song, a shepherd, and a star.** At our Christmas Eve service, we will light the Christ Candle—Christ is the **Light of the World.**

Christmas is also a season for giving. We can share our Christ(mas) with others by giving a gift to the Lottie Moon Christmas offering (our goal is \$2500). The theme is **Every Church, Every Nation.** Please give as generously as you can. Christmas is a season for **giving**—thanks be to God for His unspeakable gift, that we might share HIM with those who have not heard.

Speaking of giving--thank you for your generous response to Operation Christmas Child. You provided **166 OCC boxes** that are being sent to share with precious children who need to hear about Jesus. Let us pray that all the children who receive them will know the love of God, and the love with which our boxes were given.

Our Finance Committee is working on a budget for next year. Budgets express the vision and ministry dreams of our Church family in the language of dollars. We hope to present the budget proposal at our business meeting, December 9th. Without faithful giving, our vision for the ministry of First Baptist Church becomes just a **dream.** Thank you for your faithful giving in 2018. May we remain faithful in the year ahead.

Christmas is a beautiful season musically. See John’s article about the Christmas Light Show, a musical extravaganza produced by Tony Pezzo; and the Christmas cantata, **Only Love**, that the Choir has been rehearsing. These are two great opportunities to invite family and friends, and to share the beauty of Christmas with them.

Our Christmas Eve Service has become a highlight of our celebration of Christmas. We will begin at 4:30 pm, and will feature familiar carols, scriptures, and a re-telling of **that wonderful story.** On that first Christmas, the angels sang **Joy to the World**—come on Christmas Eve, and let’s join in, and sing with them!

Finally, Brenda and I thank you for your love and support this year. God has been so faithful to our Church family, and He has blessed us with new families and many opportunities to serve Him. You have been so loving and encouraging to us throughout the year. (Maybe we should schedule a **Congregation Appreciation Sunday.** How about next Sunday?! Don’t miss it!!) Brenda and I are blessed to share this Christmas season with you. **May you and yours have a wonderful celebration of Christmas, and a blessed New Year.**

Gratefully,
Pastor John

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GWEN’S Gallery

Catching Christmas by Terri Blackstock

As a first-year law associate, Sydney Batson knows she will be updating her resume by New Year’s if she loses her current case. So when her grandmother gets inexplicably ill while she’s in court, Sydney arranges for a cab to get her to the clinic.

The last thing cab driver Finn Parrish wants is to be saddled with a wheelchair-bound old lady with dementia. But because Miss Callie reminds him of his own mother, whom he failed miserably in her last days, he can’t say no when she keeps calling him for rides. Once a successful gourmet chef, Finn’s biggest concern now is paying his rent, but half the time Callie doesn’t remember to pay him. And as she starts to feel better, she leads him on wild-goose chases to find a Christmas date for her granddaughter.

When Finn meets Sydney, he’s quite sure she’s never needed help finding a date. Does Miss Callie have an ulterior motive, or is this just a mission driven by delusions? He’s willing to do whatever he can to help fulfill Callie’s Christmas wish. He just never expected to be a vital part of it.

The Christmas Remedy by Cindy Woodsmall

Holly Noelle Zook, inspired by an untimely tragedy a decade ago, is wholly dedicated to bringing better health care and preventive methods to her Plain community, and working at Greene’s Pharmacy allows her to be the bridge between her people and modern medicine. Holly doesn’t have room in her busy life for a traditional Old Order Amish courtship and marriage. However, there is one man, Joshua Smucker, who could win her over if she let him. But she can’t envision a future in which she could accomplish her goal—to save Amish lives—and be a traditional wife and mother.

When an unexpected crisis at the pharmacy threatens to shut its doors forever, Holly must partner with Joshua. Will they uncover the truth and save her beloved Greene’s before it’s too late? As the snows of December arrive and Christmas fills the air, will Holly discover that there’s grace within her Amish traditions for a woman like her and that her generous heart, already filled with love for her Lord and her community, has room for something more?



Kidz Kollege

Merry Christmas to all!!

December is a big month for Kidz Kollege. December 12th is Store Night when the kids get to spend Kidz Kollege points they've earned throughout the year for lots of cool stuff.

On December 19th, we go caroling at Bethesada, the 11th consecutive year we've been blessed to share yuletide carols with the residents.

Afterwards, we come back to church for our Kidz Kollege Christmas party. On December 23rd, the kids sing with the adult choir in the cantata, *Only Love*. All kids, 4 years old through 5th grade are invited to Kidz Kollege on Wednesdays at 6:30 P.M. We will NOT meet on December 26th. See you, January 2nd, 2019!

There's no registration requirements for this Kollege -- Just COME!!!

Ed & Pauline Maness

Kidz Praise . . . Kids on Mission

Merry Christmas!

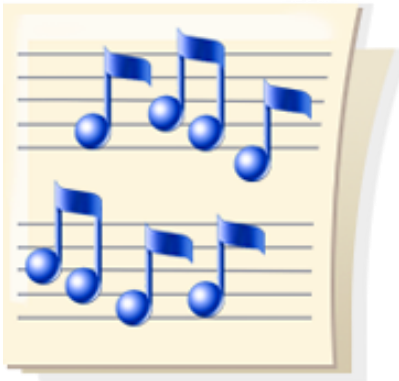
Kid's Praise will be talking about the nativity and birth of Jesus this month. We will be having a little birthday party for Jesus on Sunday morning, December 23rd. We are also planning our next mission project.

We praise God by loving one another and show that love through RESPECT.

Cyndi Harmon



John’s Notes



Greetings Everyone.

This year has flown by at FBCO and its hard to believe it is almost over. Reflecting back over the year, there have been some disappointments such as the 2nd rainout halfway through the Harvest Festival (in a row!), but also there have been several great positive things: many new people joining our church and many of our newer members taking on leadership roles in ministries of the church and on committees.

As I write this article I am grateful for so many things at FBCO and would like to share just a few. I am so thankful for this wonderful Worship facility that we have. It is a real challenge to keep an aging 50+ yr old building up to date. I am thankful to the Building and Grounds Committee and many volunteers for doing a great job of this through the decades. I am thankful for my father John Gorse Sr for providing leadership in this endeavor for many years and for John Stanley as he continues to lead Building and Grounds and keep our church building in top notch shape. I am thankful for our wonderful library headed by Gwen Morris and Helen Cook—you really need to check it out. I’m thankful for our youth, led by Dr. Steve and Ronda Brown, for their muscle in moving tables, and work with the computers during worship, and letting me hang out with them, and for the nice candy basket they gave me.

I’m thankful for the Praise Band and Audio Visual Dept. and all the hard work they do in preparing for the Worship Services every week. I am thankful for new members Tony and Debbie Pezzo, and for Tony arranging The First *Christmas Light Show* at FBCO, that will be presented Dec 14,15,21 and 22, at 7 p.m. each night. Kidnap a group of folks and come see it. You will be blessed.

I am thankful for Pastor John Hessel and his wife Brenda as they lead during this exciting time in our church, as we look to build an addition to our building. To do this, we will need to grow. I am thankful to our Outreach Ministry led by Rich and Shelba Townsend and our Greeters led by Al & Becky Shulte and Jerry & Margie Bishop, but they can't do it all by themselves. I feel we can each assist them by inviting folks to come to church with us and being a greeter ourselves to those around us (especially visitors) in the services, and to notice when folks are missing and giving them a call or writing a card and letting them know they have been missed. You have to be diligent in this endeavor to keep the moniker of *The Friendliest Church in Town*.

I am also very thankful to Gods Choir at Oakville for their hard work all year long, and as we present the Christmas Cantata *Only Love* on December 23 at 4 p.m. Come check it out—fellowship, food, and the Light Show afterward. God has blessed us so incredibly here at FBCO, and the list is endless. I apologize for not being able to mention everyone and everything here. I encourage us all to count our blessings, and let others know what a blessing they are as we look forward to the new year.

MAY GOD CONTINUE TO BLESS ABUNDANTLY and I LOVE YOU ALL,

John Gorse

Welcome Our Newest Members this Fall . . .

Jerry & Jackie Williams

Pat Rice

Tammy Harper

Tony & Debbie Pezzo

And the Lord added unto His Church . . .