

A Great *Multitude* + You

Rev. 7:9



I Saw a Great Multitude From 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 empower Southern Baptist mission work around the world.

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: \$3000



December Birthdays

Judy Schellhase.....	8
Margie Fish.....	9
Melcenia Nappier.....	13
Bill Farrow, Jayla Emmons.....	14
Katherine Williamson, Jo Dickerson.....	16
Mary Jacobi.....	17
Wayne Allen.....	20
Susan Allen.....	21
Cyndi Harmon.....	23
Keven Outman.....	24
Happy Birthday Jesus!.....	25
Diana Bone.....	26
Tim Mulder.....	28
Pat Miller, Faye Bass, Cody Parks.....	30

God Bless You

December Calendar

Church Council Meeting....(Noon).....	6
Building and Grounds Meeting.....	8
W.M.U. Meeting.....	12
Deacon's Meeting....(5:00 pm).....	13
Business Meeting....(6:00 pm).....	13
Christmas Eve Service.....	24
Merry Christmas.....	25
New Year's Eve.....	31

Live stream on our Facebook page

<https://www.facebook.com/FirstBCO/#>

FBCO YouTube Channel

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCm5fCxZ6gPl4gE-lsIRDvA>

Citylink live stream and archive

<http://www.citylinktv.com/channel/baptist-church-of-oakville/>



JOHN'S JOTS

Christmas is calling!!—and our world has never needed more to hear that invitation to re-visit the manger, to re-vise our perception of what is real and what is important, and to re-voice our praise for God's most unspeakable gift—His

only begotten Son.

*We will celebrate Advent each Sunday in December. Our Theme this year is **Christmas Is Calling**. As we count down the weeks until we mark the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ, we will hear that call through the prophets of old, Angels, Mary & Joseph, the Shepherds, and the Wisemen. We will mark each calling with candles. And, 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 this Christ(mas) with others by giving a gift to the Lottie Moon Christmas offering (our Church goal is \$3000). The theme is **A Great Multitude plus You**. Taken from Revelation 7:9, it reminds us that whole tribes of people around the world still don't know about Jesus Christ. Please give as generously as you can, so that we might share Jesus Christ with a lost world.

Speaking of giving--thank you for your generous response to Operation Christmas Child. You provided **154 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. **Pray for Rich & Shelba Townsend, and Ernie & Linda Downs as they send the boxes on their way.**

Our Finance Committee is working on a budget for 2021. 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 13th. Without your faithful giving, our vision for the ministry of First Baptist Church becomes just a **pipe dream**. **Thank you** for your faithful giving in 2020. Your generous and faithful giving through this pandemic year has been truly remarkable! May we remain faithful in the year ahead.

*Our **Christmas Eve Service** is a highlight of our celebration of Christmas.* Assuming we are able to have it, this brief service will feature some familiar carols, scriptures, and a re-telling of **that wonderful story**. On that first Christmas, the angels sang **Joy to the World**—come Christmas Eve, and let's sing with them!

*Finally, this Covid-19 year has been very difficult for everyone, and has been painful for me. Everyone has suffered some, everything has been affected some, and some things may never be the same again. And yet, I see the hands of God, working through this pandemic to bless us in spite of the circumstances, and that gives us HOPE. And I see the heart of God, loving and supporting us through all of our difficulties, to His glory and our good, and that gives us PEACE. And I see the Will of God as He continues to guide and nurture FBCO to be an even greater witness for Christ, and that gives us JOY. And I have seen the face of God in all the love and support you have shown me through the years, but especially in the last several months, and that gives us LOVE. **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

The Christmas Swap by Melody Carlson

All Emma Daley wants this holiday season is a white Christmas. But the young teacher and struggling musician sure can’t find that in sunny Arizona. Luckily, there’s someone living in a perfect mountain home in the Colorado Rockies looking to make a vacation trade.

West Prescott is an in-demand song writer and talented musician who put his own singing career on hold to write songs for celebrity acts to perform. When his mother convinces him to do a vacation trade for Christmas, he never imagined one of the houseguests would be so sweet—or so strikingly pretty. Naturally, he decides to stick around, and to get better acquainted, he poses as the caretaker of his own house. But when Emma’s friend Gillian discovers his true identity and sets her sights on him, things get messy.

Someone Like You by Karen Kingsbury

Maddie West is shaken to the core when she finds out that everything she believed about her life was a lie. Her parents had always planned to tell her the truth about her past: that she was adopted as an embryo. But somehow the right moment never happened. Now, the total stranger who confronts Maddie with the truth tells her something else that rocks her world—Maddie had a sister she never knew about. Feeling betrayed, angry, and confused, Maddie leaves her new job and fiancé, rejects her family’s requests for forgiveness, and moves to Portland, Oregon, to find out who she really is.

Dawson Gage’s life is destroyed when London Quinn, the only girl he had ever loved, is killed. In the hospital waiting room, London’s mother reveals to Dawson that London might have had a sibling—the frozen embryo she and her husband donated decades ago. When Dawson invites Maddie to Portland to connect with her long-lost relatives, the Quinns, her biological parents, welcome her into their lives. Maddie is intrigued by their memories of London, who was so much like her. Is this the family and life she was really meant to have? Now it will take the love of Dawson Gage to help Maddie find her way home.



Kidz Kollege

Merry Christmas to all!!

Ed & Pauline Maness

Kidz Praise . . . Merry Christmas!

For the last few months, we have been getting to know the Old Testament a little better. We have spent a lot of time in Genesis learning about why God created us and learned from Deuteronomy to love God with all our heart, soul, and strength. In December, we will continue learning about the Old Testament, while learning about the birth of Jesus.

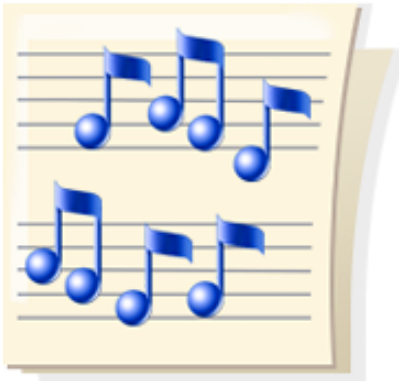
We also want to say thank you to Tony for painting our room! We love it!

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

Cyndi Harmon



John’s Notes



Greetings everyone,

Can you believe it is December already? The year is plowing on like a bulldozer but I pray the events of this year don't put a damper on our joy from being expressed in celebrating the birth of our Savior Jesus Christ. As God gave the world the greatest gift, this time of year of often referred to as the Season of Giving. I recently heard about a group of grandmothers in West Tennessee that exemplifies the art of giving.

They call themselves "The 9 Nanas" and for 30 yrs have been secretly baking 100's of pound cakes and delivering them in the middle of the night in a grand scheme to help those in need. One of the grandmothers Mary Ellen explained how they got started, 35 years ago. One day over a card game, the women were reminiscing about the grandparents, named MaMaw and PaPaw, who raised Mary Ellen and three of the other sisters. 'MaMaw Ruth would read in the paper that someone had died and she'd send off one of her special pound cakes. She didn't have to know the family. She just wanted to put a little smile on their faces. The ladies began brainstorming, and one of the sisters suggested they all start doing their own laundry, putting put the money saved to good use. She said: 'I admit, I protested at first. There's just something about laundering that I don't like. But I was outnumbered! So among the nine of us, we'd put aside about \$400 a month and our husbands never noticed a thing. Their shirts looked just fine.'The women started eavesdropping at the local beauty shop or when they were picking up groceries, and when they heard about a widow or a single mother who needed some help, they would anonymously pay a utility bill or buy new clothes for the children.

The Nanas would find out where the person lived and send a package with a note that simply read, 'Somebody loves you,' which would always include one of MaMaw Ruth's special pound cakes.Eventually the women moved their secret operation out of their homes and into the commercial kitchen of a restaurant owned by one of their sons.Now selling over 100 of MaMaw Ruth's pound cakes daily online at [Happiness Happens](#), The 9 Nanas can take on bigger projects. Recently they donated more than \$5,000 worth of pillows, linens and personal care products to the YWCA shelter for survivors of domestic violence. Sometimes, they also pull out the phone book to send pound cakes to complete strangers. In the last 35 years, The 9 Nanas have contributed nearly \$900,000 of happiness to their local community. My takeaway is never underestimate the amount of good and goodwill you can do when you allow God to use you. In Matthew 20:26-28 Jesus tells us *whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wants to be first must be your slave—just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.* I hope you all have a great Christmas and may you all stay safe. See you in church and online.

May God be first in our thoughts always and I LOVE YOU ALL.

John Gorse