

Deacon of the Week:

1st Sunday: Mickey Gilliam
 2nd Sunday: Phil Lowery
 3rd Sunday: Winston Riddle
 4th Sunday: Kelly Coons
 5th Sunday: Josh Becker



Offertory Prayer:

1st Sunday: Tony Silver
 2nd Sunday: Arthur Burnette
 3rd Sunday: Alex Little
 4th Sunday: Rhonard MacRae
 5th Sunday: Tony Silver

December Wedding Anniversaries

Phil & Jean Buchanan	1
Bill & Elsie Robinson	2
Toney & Lynn Lewis	4
Jeff & Kayla Parker	8
Bob & Betsey Jones	22
Larry & Doris Grant	24
Harold & Jo Shuman	24
Jason & Hannah Yeary	29
Paul & Linda Brooks	31
Steve & Stephanie House	31



Church Staff

Rev. Drew Dalton, Pastor
 Stephen Willie, Minister of Music
 David Workman, Pianist
 Susan Willie, Secretary
 David Patton, Custodian

Pastor Drew 828-448-5659
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December Birthdays

Judy Willis	1
Shawna Lytle	4
Juanita Ramsey	4
Kathryn Hoyle	9
Robin Smith	.....	12
Martha Dalton	.....	13
Max Parker	.....	20
John Brooks	.....	22
Barbara Carswell	.....	24
Margie Swann	.....	26
Terry Burnette	.....	27



FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
 Old Fort, NC
 December 2018
 Volume 52, Issue 12

THE VOICE

DECEMBER EVENTS

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

WEDNESDAY:
 6 - Adult Bible Study/Prayer, Youth, Children in Action, Mission Friends
 6 - Children's Choir
 7 - Adult Choir Practice

Dec 1 - Old Fort Christmas Parade 6 pm; Old Fort Community Chorus Concert 7 pm

Dec 2 - Advent Begins; Dec 2-9 Week of Prayer & Lottie Moon Christmas Offering; Old Fort Community Chorus Concert 3 pm; Deacon's Meeting 7 pm

Dec 5 - WMU & Baptist Men 6 pm; FBC Choir at Autumn Care 7 pm

Dec 9 - FBC Christmas Cantata 11 am; Surviving the Holidays Seminar 2 pm

Dec 11 - Homebound Christmas Baskets Assembly 1 pm

Dec 12 - FBC Choir at Rose Hill 7 pm

Dec 13 - Blood Drive 12:30-5:30 pm

Dec 14 - Children's Choir Dress Rehearsal & Christmas Party 5 pm; Deacon's Christmas Party 6 pm

Dec 16 - Adult Choir Christmas Party 4 pm; Children's Choir Christmas Program 6 pm; Newsletter Articles Are Due

Dec 21 - Winter Begins

Dec 24 - Christmas Eve-Office Closed; Christmas Eve Service 6 pm

Dec 25 - Christmas Day-Office Closed

Dec 31 - New Year's Eve



Reflections of a Shepherd

I have made it no secret that the Christmas season is my favorite time of year by far. I just love the holiday! One of my favorite things about it is getting to sing those Christmas carols, both secular and religious, that remind us of the magic and the wonder of the season. One of my grandfather's favorites was "Silver Bells." As you sing the song, you're transported to an enchanted holiday scene of children playing in the snow lined sidewalks dressed in their holiday garb. Or maybe you sing with Mel Tormé and Nat King Cole and are filled with joy as your children and grandchildren eagerly await the arrival of Santa believing that reindeer can fly. Perhaps, for you, nothing says Christmas like the Peanuts gang singing quietly about their favorite time of year and you remember fondly on the look of amazement of Charlie Brown's face when his friends transform a twig into something wonderful.

As fun and jolly as the secular songs are, nothing compares to the religious songs that remind us of the real reason for the season. The majesty, the awe, the reverence of the holiday. We all envision the Virgin Mary coddling her baby boy on that Silent Night. And we're struck with wonder and amazement as we imagine ourselves on the hillside with the shepherds as they hear the angels declare the arrival of the newborn King. We're reminded that they went and shared the story on the hillside and we are told that we too are to tell it on the mountain. What a holy night indeed.

I mean, think about it. "The world lie in wait in sin and error pining." "Born that men no more may die". "He comes to make His blessings flow far as the curse is found." "The King of kings salvation brings." All good Christmas hymns reflect not just on Christ's birth, but His death as well. But do we really take time to reflect on their meaning. Christ did not come to find the found, save the safe, and heal the well. Christ came so that sinners could find redemption. Redemption through his life, and redemption through his death. He gave up heaven! For you! For me! And not for us as we are now. He came for us as we were then. Lost, blind, wicked, dead, enemies of God. He didn't say "Get your act together, then we can talk." He said "come to me all who are weary and burdened and I will give you rest." (Ma. 11:28). He didn't say "you are good, therefore I will come and save you." No, "God proves His love for us in that while we were still sinners Christ died for you." And before He could die, He had to come. As a weak helpless baby. He left heaven and all its glory. He left His throne and all its majesty. He left all that to be wrapped in swaddling clothes and laid in a manger. He left it all for you and for me. "Christ is the Lord, oh praise His name forever!"

Pastor Drew



The Voice
 First Baptist Church
 P.O. Box 10
 Old Fort, NC 28762

Merry Christmas

WELCOME New Members

Vincent Smith

Joined our Fellowship on
October 21, 2018



Old Fort
Christmas Parade
December 1st
at 6:00 pm

Week of Prayer for International Missions - Dec. 2-9



2018 Lottie Moon Christmas Offering
FBC Offering Goal: \$2,118.00

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.

Our goal for Lottie Moon this year is \$2,118. Please consider what your gift to Foreign Missions can be.

DEADLINE FOR NEWSLETTER ARTICLES

December 16

The Christmas Cards "Mailbox" will be ready to receive mail on Sunday, December 2nd. 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.

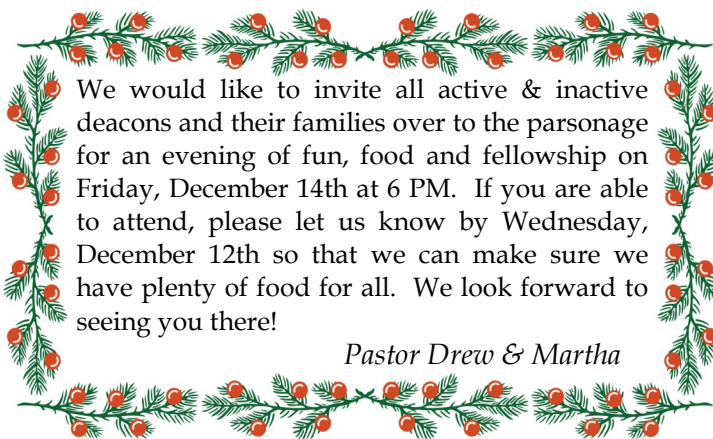


FBC Christmas Cantata

Come Let Us Adore

Sunday, December 9th
11:00 am

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



We would like to invite all active & inactive deacons and their families over to the parsonage for an evening of fun, food and fellowship on Friday, December 14th at 6 PM. If you are able to attend, please let us know by Wednesday, December 12th so that we can make sure we have plenty of food for all. We look forward to seeing you there!

Pastor Drew & Martha



Adult Choir Christmas Party

Sunday, December 16
at 4:00 pm
(in the Fellowship Hall)

See you there!

Please RSVP number attending
by December 9th to Susan Willie



With Sympathy

Our deepest sympathy is expressed to the Janell Effler Family in her passing.



December 16th
at 6:00 pm
and
Dress Rehearsal/Party
is Friday, December
14th at 5:00 pm

Cleff Notes

We are now in the busiest time of our musical season and stand in the need of prayer. The adult choir has worked hard as we prepare for our upcoming Christmas performance on Dec. 9th at 11:00 am and ask you to keep the choir in your prayers as we put the finishing touches on this cantata. Also please pray for Abbie Brooks as she prepares the Children's Choir for their Christmas performance on Dec. 16th at 6:00 pm in the sanctuary. Our desire is that many will come to hear the Gospel story through music and learn who Jesus is and what He can do for them. We as believers already know and experience the saving power of Jesus Christ in our lives, but so many others do not. Please clear your schedules and plan to attend these events. Your presence means so much to those who work hard to Honor our Lord. We also ask that you would bring someone you know who is without Jesus to experience these events with you. These events are a great opportunity to show our faith and help bring others to the knowledge of the saving grace of God through Christ. God Bless and see you there.

Rev. Stephen Willie

Thank You!

Dear members of FBC Old Fort,
Thank you for allowing me to join you for revival. It was my pleasure to be with you. Thank you for your generous gift and I trust it back to you.

Grace and peace,
Rev. Michael Duncan

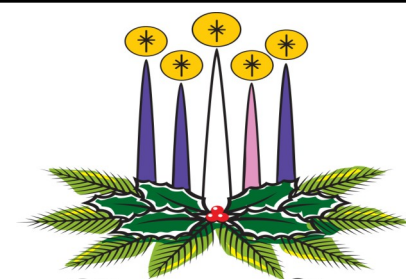
Thank you to everyone who had a hand in throwing the party for my 40th birthday, especially to Jo Shuman for the delicious cake. I was completely surprised!! You don't know how much it means to a pastor to know that he is loved and has the support of his church family. Thank you so much!!

Pastor Drew

Thanks to everyone of you who supported the Fall Festival on October 31st. There are too many names to mention without leaving someone out. Many in our community have talked about how wonderful Halloween night was in our community. We don't really know how many came through, but there are some stats from the night: over 100 lbs. of candy, around 200 treat bags, 287 hotdogs, 300 Gospel tracts!

Thanks again for all your support.

Children's Council



Christmas Eve
SERVICE

December 24th
6:00 pm

Thank You!

Our OCC totals for 2018 are in....We built 72 boxes!

And our drop-off location delivered 1,214 boxes in 67 cartons, plus 20 additional "Filler" cartons to the Rutherfordton Location.

We want to thank everyone who was a part of making this possible: those praying for the shoeboxes and their journey, those providing the items and packing the boxes, those providing funds for shipping and those volunteering at the drop-off location for packing the cartons and getting them loaded on the truck. And an especially big THANK YOU to Dennis Whitson for allowing our use of his truck free of charge.

All of these efforts contributed towards delivering "Good News - Great Joy" to a child.

Cathy Moore

