

Lamplighter

Reaching Up, Reaching Out, Reaching In

Exalting the Savior by evangelizing the lost and equipping the saints



THE CHRISTMAS SCOUT

I came across this story in my files. I think it will start us off on the right foot this Christmas season. I hope you enjoy the article.

In spite of the fun and laughter, 13 yr. old Frank Wilson was not happy. It was true, he had received all the presents he wanted, and he enjoyed the traditional Christmas Eve reunions with relatives for the purpose of exchanging gifts and good wishes but Frank was not happy. This was his first Christmas without his brother, Steve, who during the year, had been killed by a reckless driver. Frank missed his brother and the close companionship they had together. He said good-bye to his relatives, and explained to his parents that he was going out to see a friend. Frank put on his new plaid jacket. It was his FAVORITE gift. He placed the other presents on his new sled, then headed out, hoping to find the leader of his Boy Scout troop. Frank always felt understood by him.

Though rich in wisdom, his leader lived in the Flats, the section of town where most of the poor lived. His Scout leader did odd jobs to help support his family. To Frank's disappointment, he wasn't home. As Frank hiked down the street toward home, he caught glimpses of trees and decorations in many of the small houses. Then, thru one front window, he glimpsed a shabby room with limp stockings hanging over an empty fireplace. A woman was seated nearby....weeping. The stockings reminded him of the way he and his brother had always hung theirs side by side. A sudden thought struck Frank: he had not done his "good deed" for the day. Before the impulse passed, he knocked on the door.

"Yes?" the sad voice of a woman asked. Seeing his sled full of gifts, and assuming he was making a collection, she said, "I have no food or gifts for you. I have nothing for my own children."

"That's not why I am here," Frank replied. "Choose whatever presents you would like for your children from the sled."

"O, God bless you!" the amazed woman answered gratefully. She selected some candies, a game, a toy airplane and a puzzle. When she took the Scout flashlight, Frank almost protested.

Finally, the stockings were full. "Won't you tell me your name?" she asked, as Frank was leaving. "Just call me the Christmas Scout," he replied.

The visit left Frank touched, and with an unexpected flicker of joy in his heart. He understood that his sorrow wasn't the only sorry in the world. Then he stopped by another house and then another. Before he left the Flats, he had given away the rest of his gifts. His plaid jacket was gone

as well, to a shivering boy. Now, Frank trudged toward home, cold and uneasy. How could he explain to his parents that he had given his presents away?

"Where are your presents son?" asked his father as Frank entered the house.

"I gave them away," he answered in a small voice.

"Frank, how could you be so impulsive?" his mother asked. "How will we explain to the relatives who spent so much time and gave so much love shopping for you?"

His father was firm. "You made your choice, Frank. We cannot afford any more gifts."

With his brother gone, and his family disappointed in him, Frank suddenly felt dreadfully alone. He went to his room thinking of his brother and sobbed himself to sleep.

The next morning, he came downstairs to find his parents listening to Christmas music on the radio. Then the announcer spoke: "Merry Christmas, everyone! The nicest Christmas story we have this morning comes from the Flats. A crippled boy down there has a new sled this morning left at his house by an anonymous teenage boy. Another youngster has a fine plaid jacket, and several families report that their children were made happy last night by gifts from a teenager who simply called himself the 'Christmas Scout'. No one could identify him, but the children of the Flats claim that the Christmas Scout was a personal representative of old Santa Claus himself." Frank felt his father's arms go around his shoulders, and he saw his mother smiling thru her tears. "Why didn't you tell us, son? We didn't understand. We are so proud of you."

In each instance, Frank had given the perfect gift. A representative of Santa, I think not. Frank was a representative of God. He had shown the love those people needed. "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life." The greatest gift we can share with people this, or any Christmas, is Jesus. I pray, this season, that each of you will share the love and forgiveness that can only be experienced through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Merry Christmas, from Pastor Larry & Jan

*Merry Christmas & Happy New Year
from our house to yours
Pastor Larry, Jan, Sandy, Ruby, Sammy, Kim,
Paige, Kathy and Taylor*

*The FBCC Office will be closed Thurs., Dec. 24
and Fri., Dec. 25 in observance of Christmas*



Prayer Room Ministry Prayer Room Phone Number 647-3777

For the Months of May—October

Total number of cards mailed out	188
Total number of phone call made	8
Total number of Prayer Request received	21
Total number of volunteers serving	3
Total number of Volunteers hours given	58 2/3

Building Improvement Fund

Due to the delay in being able to start the Capital Campaign, the Finance Committee has approved a designated Fund for Building Improvements. This fund can be used for memorial donations or other special offerings to help toward the cost of upcoming building repairs. When we can move forward with the Capital Campaign, any monies in the Building Improvement Fund will be transferred to the Capital Campaign.



Custom Made Face Mask

If you would like to have a Custom made mask with the FBCC Church Logo on it or maybe another emblem, you can contact Kellie Powell at

kjvinyldecals@yahoo.com or
message Kellie Powell on Facebook at
[KJ Vinyl Decals and More](#)

Prices range from \$5.00—\$10.00 depending on what you want on it, how many colors and what type and color of mask you choose.

ATTENTION HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS

If you are a Senior and looking for Scholarship money you might want to check out the Virginia Baptist Foundation. The foundation offers scholarships on an annual basis to qualifying students. During the 2020/2021 academic year, the foundation is awarding more than \$200,000 in scholarships to 109 deserving students from across Virginia.

Applicants for foundation scholarships must be full-time students at an accredited institution, members of a BGAV church and have a minimum grade point average of 3.0. Online applications for the 2021/2022 academic year are available on the foundation's website (www.vbfinc.org) beginning December 1, 2020, and must be submitted no later than January 31, 2021.

Contact VBF's office at 804-672-8862 if you have any questions.

New Email Addresses

Larry: pastorlarrycheek@gmail.com

Sandy: fbccsandyamoses@gmail.com

Ruby: fbccrubyhuff@gmail.com

In Sympathy:

Melvin Newsome, father of Brenda Carter, Linda Newsome, Sherryl Anderson and Melody Oliver
Ruth Cox, sister of Faye Haynes
Johnny Adams, brother-in-law of Ellin Cobler
Ruth Shaw, step mother of Walt Shaw
Dewey Lynwood Pendleton, uncle of Rick Love

New Arrival

Hunter and Rachel Houston proudly announce the birth of their son, Rhett Thomas Houston. Rhett was born on October 15, 2020 and weighed 10lbs 1oz and was 21 1/4 inches long. Proud grand parents are Tommy and Lisa Houston.



* * * * *

Sarah & George Sicinski of Virginia Beach announce the birth of their daughter, Ava Michelle Sicinski. She was born on November 16, 2020 and weighed 7 lbs. She was 19 1/2 inches long. The proud grandparents are Scott & Denise (Crotty) Richardson. The ecstatic great grandmother is Betty Crotty

Christmas Eve Communion Service

Drive-In Only

Thursday, December 24, 2020 @ 4:00pm

(In case of inclement weather
the service will be cancelled)



Grace Network

Grace Network is returning to normal hours to help people with services such as rent, utility and food assistance. They will be working by appointments only.

They are also accepting food items from participating churches. **FBCC's food item for December is Potato Products (mashed, scalloped, etc.).** Just bring to the church and the Benevolence Committee will take the items to Grace Network.

They are in dire need of volunteers. If you would like to be involved in this organization, please call 276-638-8500.

New Sunday Schedule

Due to the cooler weather, we will no longer be able to have the 9:30am Drive-in Service. There will be **one service at 10:00am in the sanctuary.** The church has purchased a transmitter so that if you prefer not to come inside you can tune you car radio to FM87.9 and be able to hear the service taking place while sitting in the parking lot. If you plan to remain in your car, you can park on the 220 side or the John Redd side for best reception. If you plan to come inside, you will want to continue to enter the parking lot through the John Redd Boulevard entrance. Only the triple doors to the sanctuary on the John Redd side will be open for you to enter and leave.

Just as a general reminder, you are encouraged to wear your mask when entering and exiting the sanctuary.

2021 Offering Envelopes

The 2021 Offering Envelopes will be available for you to pick up soon. They will be located outside the vestibule area or you can come to the church office. If you do not see a box with your name and would like envelopes, or are not able to pick them up please call the church office at 647-3774 and let us know so we can get a box to you.



Drive Thru Nativity

Come and experience the true meaning of Christmas with our first Drive-Thru Nativity Scene at the church **Saturday evening, December 12 from 6:00—8:00pm.** You will hear the story of Jesus that begins with the prophecies and follows Christ through the empty tomb. The beauty of that starry night announcing His birth and the glory of that tomb herald the Joy to which the angels sang. Admission is free to the public. Enter at Eliza Reamy Ave. off 220 and follow the signs. "Oh Come, Let Us Adore Him, Christ the Lord." Be sure to tell your family and friends about this.

Thank You Cards

To my church family,

I would like to thank everyone for the prayers that were lifted up for me during my cataract surgery. I am doing well and know the prayers were helpful. I am blessed to have such a caring church family. Blessings to all, *Peggy Joyce*

Dear Church Family and Staff,

The family of Norman Jacobs thanks you for your kind expression of sympathy. Thank You so much for your prayers, phone calls, cards and support over the past weeks since my loved one went home. *Joyce Jacobs*

Dear Mission Minded Church Family,

Though we, as a world, are going through some really tough times with COVID-19, you have responded to Operation Christmas Child with an abundance of love and generosity. You helped provide **381** children with the blessings of a shoebox filled with goodies and the gospel message. Thank you for being so generous.. You will share with so many children in so many places. Many of them may have never heard the gospel message. Thank you, thank you, thank you. For those of you who gave financial contributions to help defray the costs of shipping the boxes, thank you so much. I know that some of us cannot get out to shop, so giving money to ship boxes is a wonderful way to be involved in this ministry of spreading the gospel. I want to thank Bobby Harter, Jimmy Joyce, John Mayberry, and Billy and Parker Pinnix for helping take the boxes to the drop off church. It took us less than an hour to get them moved. They had "their system" for moving the boxes and it worked well.

Start looking for sales and preparing for next year. Hopefully we can share with more children next year. Samaritan's Purse is a year round operation.

As part of the J dollar collection, those of us saving the dollars gave \$500 to God's Pit Crew, bought 2 water filters for families, 1 goat, 4 starter hives of bees, and 8 starter flocks of baby chicks through Samaritan's Purse. Those J dollars add up and can be a blessing in so many ways to many people. Thank you to those of you sharp eyed J dollar finders.

May God continue richly blessing you in your ministry. We have much to be grateful for and thank you for sharing your abundance with many others.

W M U News

WMU Ladies, as we prepare to celebrate the birth of our Lord, Jesus Christ, let us remember in our prayers and our giving those who might need an extra help this Christmas Season. We have chosen to help Martinsville-Henry County Christmas Cheer this year. Please bring an unwrapped toy for a child (Ages 2-10) such as, a puzzle, game, truck, ball, doll, jump rope or etc. There is a box at the main entrance on the John Redd Smith side for you to place your gifts in. The box will be picked up on Dec. 11th.

We will not be doing the Lottie Moon Post Office this year. Please do not let that stop you from sending cards to our shut-ins and to members of our church and community who might need encouragement.

Please give to the Lottie Moon Christmas offering. Our missionaries need all they can receive to continue spreading the gospel.

I hope you and your families have a safe and happy time together as we celebrate Jesus' birthday.

Lottie Moon Christmas Offering

2020 Goal for FBCC

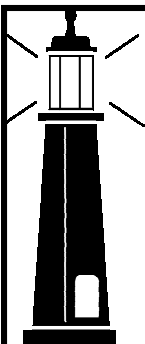
\$10,000.00

Be sure to pick up your Lottie Moon offering envelope and the 2020 Week of Prayer for International Missions Pamphlet from the tables near the entrance to the sanctuary.

Due to COVID-19 FBCC will not have the Lottie Moon Post Office this year.

If you would like to give to the Lottie Moon Offering in honor or memory of a loved one, you can include that information on your offering envelope or drop it off at the church office by December 21. We will place a list in the January issue of the Lamplighter acknowledging these gifts.

One hundred percent of the offering goes to the missionaries, none to the administration.



First Baptist Church

3339 Virginia Ave.
Collinsville, VA 24078

Pastor: Rev. Larry Cheek
pastorlarrycheek@gmail.com

Phone: 276-647-3774 Fax: 276-647-3775

Prayer Room Ministry: 647-3777

e-mail address: fbccollinsville@centurylink.net

web site: www.firstbaptistcollinsville.org

Sunday Inside Worship Service 10:00am
(Can listen in the parking lot on FM87.9)

Sunday Services & Wednesday night
Devotions are available on www.youtube.com
Just search First Baptist Church of Collinsville



Non-Profit
Organization
U.S. Postage
Paid
Permit No. 5

Return Service
Requested

Birthdays & Anniversaries

December Birthdays

01 Joe Johnson	28 Gary Walker
02 Melody Oliver	28 Walt Shaw
03 Yvonne Harris	28 Heather Anthony
04 Kevin Shropshire	28 Robbie Wilson
05 Sarah Scott	28 Nic Houston
06 Paige Collins	29 Kera Music
09 Bill Mays	30 Chad Cobb
09 Susan Rodies	30 Lisa Houston
09 Kenny Inman	30 Madison Ross
10 Nathan Roetken	30 Melissa (Ivey) Alaoui
11 Tim Ramsey	31 Perry Harmon
13 Jenifer Mize	31 Sam Olaiya
14 Ann Amos	
15 Taujinia Martin	
15 Beverly Inman	
18 Leslie Houston	
18 Jerry Robertson	
18 Talyn Andrews	
20 Sue Ella Ferguson	
20 Martha Newman	
23 Doug Anthony	
23 Pat Walker	
23 Barbara Kobelia	
23 John Mayberry	
23 Rebecca Vernon	
26 Robert Divers, Sr.	
27 Shirley Pagans	
27 Faye Collins	
27 Michelle Pace	

January Birthdays

01 Sharon Anderson
01 William Wagoner
02 David Joyce
02 Bill Wagoner
02 Megan O. Haak
04 Michael Vernon
05 Beth Johnson
06 Jamie Collins
06 Carri Turner
06 Jackson Crane
06 Lacey Flanagan
07 Carolyn Bowles
07 Chris Rivera
07 Lena Rivera

December Anniversaries

05 Raymond & Barbara Prillaman
12 Kevin & Amanda Harter
13 Jose & Karen Castro
14 Tommy & Yvonne Harris
15 John & Terri Anthony
19 Mark & Betsy Ivey
22 Eddie & Becky Conner
23 Keith & Melody Oliver
23 Jeff & Dee Webb
23 Sammy & Bonnie Shelton
28 George Collins & Lisa West
31 Ray & Lisa Rivers

January Anniversaries

06 Bill & Susan Wagoner
12 Larry & Edith Sharp

SUNDAY SCHEDULE

10:00 am: Service
Inside and on Radio Station 87.9

Church Literature Available

We have continued to order church literature for you. On Sundays you can pick up the Mature Living, Home Life, Stand Firm and Open Windows from the tables near each entrance to the sanctuary. During the week they are available at the church office entrance.



Coming Up.....

**January
2021**

**90 Days of Prayer
Details to follow**