

Lamplighter

Reaching Up, Reaching Out, Reaching In

Exalting the Savior by evangelizing the lost and equipping the saints



TEACH THE CHILDREN

Hi folks. I thought this illustration would remind us of the true meaning of Christmas. A couple of weeks before Christmas I had an unexpected visitor. I had just finished preparing for bed, when I heard a noise in the front of the house.

I opened the door to the den and to my surprise, Santa himself stepped out from behind the Christmas tree. He placed a finger over his mouth so I would not cry out.

I wanted to ask, "What are you doing here?" but the words hung in my throat, as I saw the tears in his eyes. Gone was the jolly soul we have all come to know and love. Before I could say a word, he made a simple statement, "Teach the Children!"

I was puzzled—what did he mean? He anticipated my question and with one quick movement he brought forth his toy bag from behind the sofa. As I stood there bewildered Santa said, "Teach the children the meaning of Christmas. The meaning that children today have forgotten."

He then reached in his bag and pulled out a FIR TREE and placed it by the fireplace. "Teach the children that the stately fir tree remains green all year long, symbolizing the everlasting hope of people. The needles point toward heaven depicting human-kind's thoughts toward God."

He again reached into his bag and pulled out a brilliant STAR and placed it atop the tree. "Teach the children that the star was the heavenly sign of a promise made long ago. God promised to send a Savior for the world and the star indicated the fulfillment of that promise."

He then reached in his bag and pulled out a CANDLE and sat it on the mantle over the fireplace. "Teach the children that the candle symbolizes that Christ is the light of the world. When we see this light we are reminded of He who displaces the darkness in our lives."

Once again he reached into his bag and removed a WREATH and hung it on the kitchen door. "Teach the children that the wreath represents the eternal nature of love. It has no beginning or ending. It is a continuous circle of affection for others."

He then pulled out from his bag an ornament of HIMSELF. "Teach the children that I symbolize the generosity and good will we feel and express during the month of December."

He reached in again and pulled out a string of HOLLY and laid it on the mantle. "Teach the children that the holly plant symbolizes immortality. The leaf represents the crown of thorns worn by our Savior on the cross. And the red berries represent the blood shed by Him so that we could be forgiven of our sins."

Next he pulled out a WRAPPED GIFT from his bag and said, "Teach the children that God loved the world so much that He gave His only begotten Son. And that the wise men bowed before the Holy Infant and presented Him with gold, frankincense, and myrrh. Thanks be to God for His unspeakable gift. We should always give gifts in the same spirit as the wise men."

Then Santa reached in his bag and pulled out a CANDY CANE and hung it on the tree. "Teach the children that the candy cane represents the shepherds crook with which he helps bring back wandering sheep to the flock. The candy cane represents that we are our brother's keeper."

He reached in again and pulled out an ANGEL and hung it on the tree. "Teach the children that it was the angels who heralded in the glorious news of the Savior's birth. The angels sang, 'Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace and good will toward men.'"

Suddenly, I heard a soft clanging sound and from his bag Santa pulled a BELL and placed it on the tree. "Teach the children that lost sheep are found by the sound of the bell. The bell symbolizes the guidance God provides that brings us to Him."

Santa looked at the tree and smiled. It was clear that he was pleased with his work. In that moment I looked at Santa and saw that the twinkle had returned to his eyes. Before leaving he said, "Teach the children the true meaning of Christmas. Do not let them put me at the center for I am a just a humble servant of Christ. I worship Him as my Lord and Savior." With that Santa disappeared, but the meaning of Christmas has forever been seared in my Heart.

I pray we keep the true meaning of Christmas in our hearts all year long.

Merry Christmas!!

From Pastor Larry & Jan



Drive Thru Nativity

Sun., Dec. 12 6:00—8:00pm

If you were involved in last year's Drive Thru Nativity, please let Rocky know if you would be willing to do what you did last year. If you were not involved last year but would like to be this year, let Rocky know that too. Call/text 276-224-0979 or email RockysRamblings@gmail.com with name, phone number and email address.



Run to the Hope

Sunday, December 19 10:30am
Fbcc Sanctuary

On Sunday, December 13 during the morning service the Adult Choir will be presenting "Run to the Hope", a Christmas cantata that shares the message of hope to a despairing world. If you know someone who needs to hear this message of Hope this season, please invite them to come with you. As Jesus tells us, "I have said these things so that you will have peace. In this world there will be trouble, but take heart—I have overcome the world." Hope is what we need, and Hope is what Jesus gives. What better time to celebrate it than with the glorious birth of our Savior.



Prayer Room Ministry

September & October 2021

Number of Notes mailed out	72
Number of Calls made	1
Number of Prayer requests	13
Total Number of Volunteers	2
Total of Prayers Prayed	272
Total Volunteer Hours	21

Prayer Room
Phone Number 647-3777

In Sympathy:

Phyllis Tibbs, sister of Pat Walker
Lew Barnes, uncle of Walt Shaw
Delia Martin, step-mother of Shirley Hodges

LOTTIE MOON POST OFFICE



The Lottie Moon Post Office is open and will run thru **Sun., Dec. 26th** for the convenience of the FBCC family to send Christmas Cards to **church family members for just 10 cents each.** All money collected will go to the Lottie

Moon Christmas offering.

REMINDER: Please remember to send cards to the shut-ins and those in nursing homes. Due to COVID we will not be able to deliver them. Just mail them out early enough for them to receive them for Christmas. We are sure they would appreciate receiving them. It will put a smile on their face and gladness in their heart knowing they have not been forgotten.



Ladies Card Ministry
Will not meet in December
Will resume meeting in January

Evangelism/Mission Development Corner

We have set 4 goals for 2022:

1. Run community outreach events throughout the year
2. Continue supporting disaster response efforts
3. Assist Good News Jail Ministries in our local jails
4. Hold Christian worship services at Philpott Lake

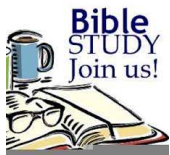
Our community outreach event for December is the Drive-Thru Nativity on December 12. If you are not already involved, please contact Rocky; we still have a few more needs to fill.

We also need volunteers to join us on the rest of our efforts. If you want to be involved in any of these ministry efforts, please contact Rocky Rockwell, Shirley Craven or Kemper Terry. Our goal is to put our church in front of our community, to meet local needs and reach the lost with the Gospel of Jesus Christ. We will set another meeting in early January, after things settle down from the holiday season.



*Merry Christmas from
Our House to Yours
May the Lord lift up His
Countenance upon thee,
and give you peace.
Numbers 6:26*

Pastor Larry and Jan
and Staff of FBCC



Tuesday Morning Bible Study

10:00am - SonShine Classroom
Everyone invited to attend

Lottie Moon Christmas Offerings

2021 Goal for FBCC \$10,000.00



If you would like to give to the Lottie Moon Christmas 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 13th. We will place a list in the bulletin on Sunday, December 19 acknowledging these gifts.

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

December Grace Network Food Item

Jelly (28—32 oz.)

December Featured Items

Dish Detergent, Deodorant, Laundry Detergent



October Report

Monthly Offering needed (5 Sundays)	55635
Monthly Offering Received	44,488
Rental Income	1,800
Other Income	-0-
Monthly Operating Expenses	28870
Operating Account Balance	303,134
CD's & Savings Balance	61,473
Weekday Education Acct. Balance	2,651
Benevolence Designated Fund	2,025
Project Hope	1,461
Bereavement Meal Ministry	2,474
Van Fund	13,398
Building Improvement Fund	33,280

Detailed finance reports are available at the information stands located in the vestibule areas of the sanctuary, or you may call the church office if you would like a copy mailed to you.

Thank You

Thank you to Shirley Craven, Daniel and Isaac Craven, cousin Landis, John Mayberry, Bobby and Charlotte Harter for helping transport 378 Samaritan's Purse shoeboxes to Stone Memorial Christian Church Tuesday.

Our church sent a check to Operation Christmas Child in the amount of \$1,794.00. Of that amount \$853.00 was donated by church members and \$941 was from the youth spaghetti dinner. I'm sure many others of you sent money directly to the Boone, NC facility. You have blessed many by your generosity of gifts and money.

May God continue to richly bless you and your family, our church family and our community as we continue serving in His name. Please now consider looking for sale items so you can be ready for the project for next year. Thank you for your gracious giving to this mission project.

Betsy

Humble Helping Hands Project

Who: Humble Helping Hands (Youth of FBCC)

What: Serving Senior Citizens & Widows of Henry Co.

Where: Kings Mountain Trash Site

When: December 11, 2021

Time: 8:45am—11:00am

The Youth (Humble Helping Hands) of FBCC will be at Kings Mountain Trash Site on Saturday, to help Senior Citizens and Widows of Henry County unload their trash and recyclables.



Children's Church

**Happy Birthday Jesus and
Nativity Escape Room**

Sunday, December 19

11:30am-1:30pm



WMU NEWS



The Mission Action for December is the Lottie Moon offering and the Lottie Moon Post Office, each circle has a date to sort the cards and put them in the appropriate box.

Thank you to all for doing your part with the exam bags. We had six bags given out, Caleb Beachy, Taylor Jo Gary, Lacy Flanagan, Mattie Oliver and Corey Martin. Continue to pray for each of our College students throughout the year!

My prayer for you all is peace and hope for you during this Christmas season, remembering the most important gift of all, Jesus our Lord and Savior!

Merry Christmas to all

Lana Martin

Youth News/Lineup

Sunday School: Meets on Sunday mornings from 9:30-10:15am in the "Lighthouse" (3rd floor). Leaders are *Beverly Rakes, Billy & Carrie Pinnix and Jeremy Craven.*

Awana: Middle Schoolers join us to answer the three spiritual questions every teen is seeking answers for: "Who am I?", "Why am I here?" and "Who's with me?" Awana's Trek will help us dive deep into scripture to answer these questions. High Schoolers join us for Awana's Discipleship program: Journey

Awana meets Sunday afternoons from 4:00-5:30pm. Classes gather in the Social Hall and then all classes move to the 2nd floor education wing for class.

Wednesday Evening Youth Group: Apolo-what? Apologetics. What is it and why? Teacher *Stacy Craven*, Game Leader/Shenanigan Instigator: *Bully Pinnix*. We meet Wednesday evenings at 6:30pm in the Lighthouse.

Humble Hands: The youth will meet the 2nd Saturday of each month from 8:45am-11:00am to help out Seniors in our community.

VA Baptist 2022-2023 Scholarships

To assist families with the rising cost of education, the VA Baptist Foundation and its donors are committed to providing scholarships to VA Baptist students.

Applicants for 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. Apply at <http://vbfinc.org/scholarships/> beginning Dec. 1, 2021. The deadline for submission is **January 31, 2022.**



Christmas Eve Communion

Friday,

December 24

6:00 PM

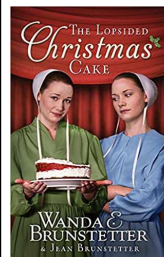
FBCC Sanctuary

Invite someone to come with you

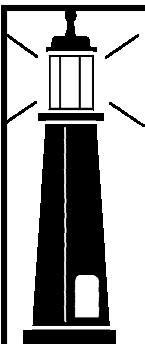
Book of the Month.....

"The Lopsided Christmas Cake"

By: Wanda E. and Jean Brunstetter



Join the Hochstetler twin sisters on stage as they bumble their way through baking a cake for a charity auction in front of a live audience. The take-charge Elma and the klutzy optimist Thelma manage to entertain their audience—and attract the admiration of two bachelors, an outspoken woodworker and a shy harness maker from a neighboring Amish community. As fall leads into the Christmas season, could romance be blossoming for one or more of the Hochstetler twins?



First Baptist Church
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Prayer Room Ministry: 276-647-3777

e-mail address: firstbaptistcollinsvilleva@gmail.com
web site: www.firstbaptistcollinsville.org

Sunday School	9:30am
Worship Service	10:30am
Children's Church	
Awana	4:00pm
Wednesday Evening Activities:	
Children's Choir Practice	5:15pm
Fellowship Meal	6:00pm
RA's & GA's	6:30pm
Youth (Middle & High School)	6:30pm
Mission Friends	6:30pm
Prayer Service & Bible Study	6:45pm
Adult Choir Practice	7:30pm

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

Return Service
Requested

Birthdays & Anniversaries

December 2021 Birthdays

29 Kera Music
01 Joe Johnson
01 Melody Oliver
03 Yvonne Harris
04 Kevin Shropshire
06 Paige Collins
09 Kenny Inman
09 Bill Mays
09 Susan Rodies
10 Nathan Roetken
11 Tim Ramsey
14 Ann Amos
15 Beverly Inman
15 Taujinia Martin
18 Talyn Andrews
18 Jerry Robertson
18 Leslie Houston
20 Sue Ella Ferguson
20 Martha Newman
23 Doug Anthony
23 John Mayberry
23 Pat Walker
23 Rebecca Vernon
26 Robert Divers
27 Faye Collins
27 Shirley Pagans
27 Michelle Pace
28 Gary Walker
28 Walt Shaw
28 Nic Houston

January 2022 Birthdays

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

December 2021 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 Rivera

January 2022 Anniversaries

06 Bill & Susan Wagoner

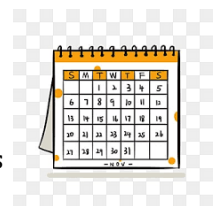


Awana

Ages 2 years—12 Grad
Sundays Dec. 5 & 12 @ 4:00pm
Will not meet on Dec. 19 & 26
Will resume meeting on Jan. 2

Upcoming Events Mark Your Calendars

Wed., Dec. 1: Budget Discussion Meeting
Sun., Dec. 5: 2022 Budget Vote
Sun. Dec. 12: 6:00-8:00pm Drive Thru Nativity
Sun., Dec. 19: Adult Choir Cantata
Thurs, & Fri., Dec. 23-24: Office Closed for Christmas
Fri., Dec. 24: Christmas Eve Communion Service



Inclement Weather Policy

We will try to notify you by "One Call" if services are cancelled due to inclement weather.
We will also try to publish Sunday cancellations on Channel 7. Please be cautious and use your best judgment if services have not been reported cancelled during potential icy conditions.