

# Lamplighter

Reaching Up, Reaching Out, Reaching In

Exalting the Savior by evangelizing the lost and equipping the saints



## Secret Christians

(Mark 4:22, NLT), *Everything that is hidden will eventually be brought into the open, and every secret will be brought to light.*

Here we are again—it's almost Christmas. I do not know about you, but it seems to arrive more quickly each year. Have you ever wished someone would come up with something new for us to consider at Christmas. Well, here it is. This may have been around for a few years, but I only recently discovered it. This "new thing" is based on the song, "The 12 Days of Christmas."

One theory, connects the carol to the era when Catholicism was outlawed in England, from 1558 and 1829. The carol, it is said, was a catechism song for Catholics to learn "the tenets of their faith," as they could not openly practice in Anglican society [source: Snopes.com]. While many still hold the idea of a coded hymn to be true, there's no substantive evidence that this was the case, nor is there any evidence that the verses contain anything uniquely Catholic.

Here are the verses of the song, along with their supposed symbolism [source: BBC.com]:

- **A Partridge in a Pear Tree** - Jesus Christ
- **Two Turtle Doves** - The Old and New Testaments
- **Three French Hens** - The three virtues of Faith, Hope and Charity
- **Four Calling/Collie Birds** - Four gospels, Matthew, Mark, Luke and John
- **Five Golden Rings** - First five books of the Old Testament
- **Six Geese-a-Laying** - Six days of creation before God's rest on the seventh day
- **Seven Swans-a-Swimming** - Seven gifts of the Holy Spirit
- **Eight Maids-a-Milking** - Eight Beatitudes
- **Nine Ladies Dancing** - Nine fruits of the Holy Spirit
- **Ten Lords-a-Leaping** - Ten Commandments
- **Eleven Pipers Piping** - Eleven faithful disciples
- **Twelve Drummers Drumming** - Twelve points of belief in the Apostles' Creed

Interesting isn't it. This theory seems tailor-made for this time in our world when conspiracy theories are rampant and the internet reigns supreme as the quickest way to find information.

However, here is what I take away from this theory (true or not). We should never take for granted the freedom we have to openly practice our faith in Christ and share our beliefs with others. Many first century Christians suffered persecution at the hands of those who rejected Christ, but they remained faithful unto death. Today, people are being martyred for their faith in Christ all over the world and yet they too are faithful to death. Each year, Christmas affords us a great opportunity to be "faithful witnesses" to the love of Jesus. People are more tolerant and receptive now than at any other time of the year. Don't be a "secret Christian." Do something for someone less fortunate this Christmas. Tell someone about the most wonderful gift they could ever receive. Give them Jesus!

Pastor Larry



## You're Invited

### Breakfast with Santa

*Saturday, December 14 @ 9:00am*

Join us at 9:00 where the Children will have a program followed by a Pancake Breakfast. Santa will be arriving around 10:00 am

### Children's Christmas Program "Dress Rehearsal for Christmas"

*Wednesday, December 19*

*6:45 pm FBCC Sanctuary*



We will have our preschool children singing and elementary children (K-5th grade) singing and acting.

### Adult Christmas Program "The Gift"

*Sunday, December 22*

*11:00 am FBCC Sanctuary*



### Christmas Eve

### Communion Service

*Tuesday, December 24*

*6:00 pm FBCC Sanctuary*



## Prayer Room Ministry

OCTOBER, 2019

Cards Mailed Out:	61
Phone Calls Made:	18
Prayer Requests Received:	25
Prayers Prayed:	298
Total # of Volunteers Serving:	9 (active)
Total Volunteer Hours Given:	32 2/3

**Prayer Room Phone Number: 647-3777**



The church Office will be closed on Tues., Dec. 24 and Wed., Dec. 25 in observance of Christmas. Pastor Larry, Jan and the staff of FBCC would like to wish each of you a wonderful and blessed Christmas!

### SonShine Class Christmas Party

Saturday, December 14

11:00 am—1:00 pm

FBCC Social Hall



**FBCC FOOD PANTRY ITEM  
FOR DECEMBER  
CEREAL—12-14 oz. box**

### December Grace Network Food Item

*Peanut Butter (18 oz.)*

### December Featured Items

*Dish & Laundry Detergent, & Deodorant*

## October Report

Average Attendance	
Sunday School	145
Worship Service	154
Monthly Offering needed	46,228
(4 Sundays)	
Monthly Offering Received	28,529
Rental Income	1,800
Other Income/Undesignated Memorials	20
Monthly Operating Expenses	35,555
Operating Account Balance	200,397
CD's & Savings Balance	59,480
Weekday Education Acct. Balance	10,983
Benevolence Designated Fund	782
Project Hope	2,855
Bereavement Meal Ministry	2,474
Van Fund	10,903
Music Fund	195

*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.*

### ***In Sympathy:***

**Louise Lawrence**, member of FBCC & friend of many

**Inez Spencer**, friend of many

**Pete Rakes**, friend of many

**Ed Webb**, husband of Nettie Webb

### ***New Contact Information***

Esther Bryant, 105 Landmark Dr., Room 127B, Stuart, VA 24171

Pauline Nuzum, 105 Landmark Dr., West Wing, Stuart, VA 24171

### ***Friendship Club Meeting***

***Tues., Dec.10 @ 10:30 am***

Come on out and enjoy our Christmas meeting with good fellowship and a wonderful covered dish meal. The meat, beverage and bread is provided by the club.

### **Church Council 2019-2020**

#### **Church Council**

Pastor: Rev. Dr. Larry Cheek

Associate Pastor of Education & Youth:

Choir Director: Penny Decker

Deacon Chairman: Len Turner

WMU Director: Shirley Craven

Brotherhood Director (4MforHim): Kemper Terry

Audio Services coordinator: John Flanagan

Children's Ministry Coordinator: Charlotte Harter

Church Hostess: Lisa Houston

Discipleship Coordinators: Mona Turner

Shelia Ramsey

Nursery Coordinator: Angela Hatchett

Sunday School Director: Peggy Delancey

Treasurer: Kathy Draper

Senior Adult Coordinator: Kim Beckner

Youth Ministry Coordinator:

#### **Chairpersons of the Standing Committees**

Benevolence: H. D. Linkous

Evangelism/Mission Dev.:

Insurance:

Membership: Walt Shaw

Money Counters: Ken Wagoner

Music: Shelia Ramsey

Nominating: Jeremy Craven

Personnel: Diana Martin

Properties: Ken Wagoner

Neil Ramsey

Public Relations: Suzanne Terry

Special Needs: Brenda Hagood

Stewardship: Sheree Gillispie

Weekday Early Education: Willa Shropshire

## Senior Adult Happenings

**December 03:** Sr. Adults to Bingo-YMCA  
**December 10:** Friendship Club Meeting  
**December 17:** Sr. Adults to Ashley Taste of Home Restaurant

During this time of year as we hustle and bustle trying to get everything done, pause and give thanks for the many blessings we have. Take the time to call or visit a shut in. You will be blessed.

### Thank You.....

Church Family,

There will be at least 393 happy children this Christmas due to your generous, Christian spirit. Not only will they receive gifts but the Good News Gospel as well. What a wonderful gift they will experience. I know it is early but maybe you can find items on sale after Christmas to start planning your boxes for 2020. Thank you also to the group that showed up to move the boxes to Stone Memorial Church. The ministry project would not be successful without the work of so many of you. Thank you. Thank you for your commitment to missions in our community and the world. You take the Great Commission to heart. Wonderful! May you receive the blessings of Christmas during this season of the year and every day of the year.

Betsy

## Week of Prayer for International Missions December 1—December 8

### Lottie Moon Memorials and Honorariums



Christmas Offering is given in Honor of Lottie Moon and her work and sacrifice to keep our missionaries on the mission field.

*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 16th. We will place a list in the bulletin on December 22 acknowledging these gifts.*

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

### DECEMBER NURSERY WORKERS

- 01 Beverly Inman, Kathy Draper (B)  
John, Sherry & Lacey Flanagan (P/S)
  - 08 Rachel Wood, Jummy Olaiya (B)  
Jason & Paige Collins (P/S)
  - 15 Angela Hatchett, Diane Ferguson (B)  
Brandon & Ashley Martin (P/S)
  - 22 Peggy Delancey, Susie Baldwin (B)  
Angela Hatchett, Susan Rorrer and  
Savannah McBride (P/S)
  - 29 Joan Collins, Stacy Craven (B)  
Frances & Amanda Goad (P/S)
- (B)=Babies (P/S)=Preschool

## College & Careers For Christ

**Thurs. Dec. 12**

**6:30—9:30pm**



(Social Hall, Light House, Picnic Shelter)

*This is a night reserved for college students to eat, fellowship, release some pressure and just unwind and take in God's word.*

## Attention WMU Members!

Dear WMU Ladies,

Hope you had a wonderful Thanksgiving with family and friends, we all have so much to be grateful for!

As we approach the Christmas season we will be concentrating on The Lottie moon Christmas offering and of course, gifts for our shut ins. Thank you to each one of you for all you do in service to those in our community and those who are serving all over the world, what a blessing you all are!

We were fortunate to have a group from Martinsville to come and pick up the items we collected for the warming center. The Salvation Army will no longer do this, due to lack of room, but they are working to find a new location. Please keep them in your prayers as they try to minister to those who have no place to go..

We are blessed and it is our commitment as Christians to be active in this ministry!

Merry Christmas to all and may you celebrate his birth this season, sharing with each other and those around us!

Blessings to all, Lana

## LOTTIE MOON POST OFFICE



The Lottie Moon Post Office opened on Sunday, December 1 for the convenience of the FBCC family to send Christmas cards to **local church family and shut-ins for just 10 cents each.** All money collected will go to the Lottie

Moon Christmas offering. **The Post Office will close on Sunday, December 29.**

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**The updated name and address directory is available at the Lottie Moon Post Office**

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**The church office is not able to mail Christmas cards not picked up at the Lottie Moon Post Office.** As you are preparing your cards, please take notice if the person lives out of the area or is a resident of a nursing home. We suggest you mail those cards through the US postal service to ensure they are received by Christmas. We also recommend mailing cards to our home bound members through the mail system so that they will be received by Christmas. Our deacons, pastor, and WMU members try to pick those up and deliver them as they can, but it can take several weeks into January before they all may be delivered.

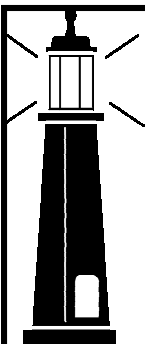
## Book of the Month



### “Everything You Need”

By: Dr. David Jeremiah

*8 Essential Steps to a life of Confidence in the Promises of God*



**First Baptist Church**

3339 Virginia Ave.  
Collinsville, VA 24078

Pastor: Rev. Larry Cheek  
pastorlarrycheek@centurylink.net

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

Prayer Room Ministry: 647-3777

e-mail address: fbccollinsville@centurylink.net

web site: www.firstbaptistcollinsville.org

Prayer Time (Prayer Room)	9:30-9:40 am
Sunday School	9:45 am
Sunday Worship Service	11:00 am
Children's Church	
Awana	5:00 pm
Wednesday Evening Activities:	
Children's Choir Practice K thru 6th grade	5:30 pm
Fellowship Meal	6:00 pm
RA's & GA's	6:30 pm
Yuth IMPACT (Middle & High School	6:33 pm
Mission Friends	6:45 pm
Prayer Service	6:45 pm
Choir Rehearsal	7:30 pm

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

Return Service  
Requested

**Birthdays & Anniversaries**

**December Birthdays**

- 01 Joe Johnson
- 02 Melody Oliver
- 03 Yvonne Harris
- 04 Kevin Shropshire
- 05 Sarah Scott
- 06 Paige Collins
- 09 Bill Mays
- 09 Susan Rodies
- 09 Kenny Inman
- 10 Nathan Roetken
- 11 Rheba Shelor
- 11 Tim Ramsey
- 13 Jenifer Mize
- 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
- 28 Gary Walker
- 28 Walt Shaw
- 28 Heather Carter
- 28 Robbie Wilson
- 28 Nic Houston
- 29 Kera Music
- 30 Chad Cobb
- 30 Lisa Houston
- 30 Melissa (Ivey) Alaoui
- 31 Perry Harmon
- 31 Sam Olaiya

**January Birthdays**

- 01 Sharon Anderson
- 01 William Wagoner
- 02 David Joyce
- 02 Bill Wagoner
- 02 Megan O. Haak
- 02 Sandy Moses
- 04 Michael Vernon

- 05 Beth Johnson
- 06 Jamie Collins, Jr.
- 06 Carri Turner
- 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 Sammy & Bonnie Shelton
- 23 Jeff & Dee Web
- 28 George Collins & Lisa West
- 231 Ray & Lisa Rivera

**January Anniversaries**

- 06 Bill & Susan Wagoner
- 12 Larry & Edith Sharp
- 30 Ray & Shirley Parcell

**Children's Schedule**

- December 1:** Hanging of the Greens
- December 14:** Breakfast with Santa at 9:00 am—Children performing
- December 15:** Children's Sunday School Christmas Party
- December 18:** Children's Choir Christmas Program @ 6:45pm
- December 22:** "Happy Birthday Jesus" Children's Church
- December 25:** No Wednesday activities



AWANA  
MEETING  
SUN., DEC. 8  
5:00-6:30PM

Last meeting for 2019

**2020 Budget Vote**

On Sunday, November 17 the  
2020 Budget passed by a vote  
of:

**117 YES 5 NO**