

# First Baptist Church Newsletter

## A perfect Christmas

by Dr. Kevin McDonald

[fbcbrady.org@gmail.com](mailto:fbcbrady.org@gmail.com)

'Tis the season... for nativity scenes. Some people collect them and have spent a lot of money on them. Some people just put a plastic Jesus in the front yard and call it good. The variety found in nativity scenes is amazing. Most of them are pretty standard, with the baby Jesus, Mary, Joseph, then becoming more elaborate, as an angel or two, shepherds, and even the wise men are added. Livestock and hay are always a nice touch too.

We tend to think of the manger scene as quiet and dignified. It is always a serene setting: the animals are still, sleeping with their legs folded under them; the shepherds and wise men may point, but they always seem to be whispering. Jesus is asleep, Mary is resting, and Joseph just stands at the back, not saying much.

I doubt it was really like that.

The hay was probably dirty, the animals were... well, they were animals. They moved around, they made noise and they stunk. The shepherds were of the lowest class of people in Israel, so untrusted that their testimony was not allowed in court. And they smelled like sheep. Mary was probably exhausted, and I bet Joseph had a lot on his mind too. And let's don't get started on the wise men. They were still en route, late like a certain relative you could name.

We do the same thing with Christmas. We expect it to look like a Norman Rockwell or Thomas Kinkaid painting, and it usually turns out like a Jeff Foxworthy story. The tree falls over or the lights don't work, Christmas dinner isn't perfect, you don't know what to get half of your family anymore, and the kids that aren't already fighting again are glued to their stupid iphones, texting their friends about how lame Christmas is. **That** is our manger scene.

Christmas is certainly a time for solemnity and reflection. But it is a holiday that involves people, and so it is going to be imperfect. It will not be understood perfectly, and it will not be expressed perfectly.

So remember this: the only thing perfect about Christmas is Jesus, so lighten up a little bit. There's no pressure to perform. God has taken care of all the arrangements, hasn't He? It's all been handled. All you have to do is love. I will say that again. All you have to do is love. Be like the shepherds and just show up and be amazed at what God has done.

So if your family nativity scene looks more like a train wreck or Mr. Bean's, (Google it), don't despair. It's probably a lot closer to Mary and Joseph's first Christmas than the one in the front yard or on the mantle.

Merry Christmas.

—Bro. Kevin

## Special Christmas events at FBC

- \* Nov. 30-Dec. 7: Week of Prayer for International Missions
- \* Dec. 7: Spain trip fundraiser meal after church
- \* Dec. 12 & 19: Christmas receptions for Food Pantry recipients
- \* Dec. 14: Children's Sunday School Christmas party during Sunday School hour
- \* Dec. 14: Christmas musical, morning worship
- \* Dec. 17: Preschool Christmas program, 11:00am, sanctuary
- \* Dec. 21: Special evening service

## Joshua Collier, Faith Bean host fundraiser for mission trip

Faith Bean and Joshua Collier, their families, and friends will serve a delicious lunch after church on December 7. The meal is a fundraiser to help Faith and Josh go on their mission trip to Spain next summer.

On the menu are beef spaghetti, chicken spaghetti, French bread, salad, and homemade desserts. Donations will be appreciated. The next deadline for the trip is Jan. 24, when each of the young people will have to send in \$1200.

Josh is available to hang Christmas lights, do yard work and odd jobs, etc. to raise money for the trip.

iGo Global is the sponsoring organization. All iGo Global teams work with the International Mission Board and their missionaries in the areas where the students are sent.

Please designate Spain Trip on any donation.

Our Missions Committee will assist with the meal. If you could provide a dessert or a loaf of French bread, that would help this mission effort! Contact Joyce at [joycecollier@yahoo.com](mailto:joycecollier@yahoo.com) or call the church office at 597-2956.

## Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for International Missions

Our goal: \$3000.00

The theme: "One Sacred Effort: Find your place in God's story."

Why should our church give to the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering?

Last year the nearly 4900 SBC missionaries reported:

- Nearly 1,700,000 heard a Gospel witness.
- More than 235,000 became new believers.
- 141 new people groups were engaged.

Those numbers represent changed lives with new hope and purpose, lives redeemed.

Every penny given to the LMCO goes to support international missionaries and their ministries.



## Youth News

- November 7<sup>th</sup> the senior high student had a lock-in and on November 21<sup>st</sup> the junior high students had a lock-in. We had lots of fun playing several different games, eating chili dogs, and just getting to hang out.
- Come and join us on Sunday mornings! Sunday school starts at 10:00am. We are going through James as a group sharing what God reveals to us personally in order to help each other grow in our walk with Christ!
- Also come join us for BREAKAWAY on Wednesday nights! Junior high service starts at 5:45 and the senior high service starts at 7:15.
- “Breakaway” is our Wednesday night service where junior high and senior high students can come and worship God! Students, come get challenged and encouraged as we dig into God's Word for strength to make it through our busy and difficult weeks. We need each other to stay focused on our mission in life as followers of Jesus Christ, and what that should look like in our everyday lives. We are so easily distracted, and this is one tool to help keep us on track! Don't miss this opportunity! I look forward to seeing you there!

- Jack Wells, Youth Minister

## Merry Christmas from Godly Impressions Preschool!

by Kim Coleman

For the month of December the children will be learning about “Winter Wonderland”, the letters “I”, “T”, “P”, the numbers “4”, and “14” the color “white” and the shape of a “square”.

The Bible lesson for the month is “God Is Love” featuring “The Nativity Story.” Our monthly Bible verse is “For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only son, whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.” John 3:16

The children are working hard on their Christmas songs for a Christmas Program on Wednesday, December 17<sup>th</sup>, at 11:00a.m. Please join us in the church sanctuary to watch the children perform. We hope to see you there!

The Preschool will be closed for Christmas on December 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup>. We hope that everyone has a safe and Merry Christmas!

Thank you all for the prayers and support!

God bless,

—Kim Coleman , Preschool Director



### Coats for Kids

The Brady Clergy Association is sponsoring Coats for Kids, an effort to provide new, warm coats for children in need in our community. Please contact Bro. Kevin for more information.

## Children’s Sunday School Christmas party

The Children’s Sunday School, (Nursery through 5<sup>th</sup> Grade) will have their annual Christmas party on Sunday morning, December 14<sup>th</sup>, from 9:45 am to 10:40 am. This will be during the Sunday School time.

Parents, please bring your children to the Fellowship Hall at that time. We will have games, Christmas songs, a Christmas story, refreshments for them, and a surprise!

If your child is allergic to any foods, please send a note with them that morning or call Maurice Mallow, 597-2373, or Claudette Young, 597-2485.

For more information, you can call either of these ladies. See you there!



### Navajo Mission Trip 2015

June 26-July 5

Eagle Springs Baptist Church (near Cuba, NM)

Volunteers from FBC will join others from Broadway Baptist Church in Fort Worth. Families are encouraged to make this a family mission; children kindergarten age and over are welcome.

Contact Betty Smith FMI 597-0740.



# December 2014

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 Jessica Castillo Jackie Maxcey	2	3	4	5 Berniece Taylor	6
<i>Week of Prayer for International Missions, Nov. 30-Dec. 7</i>						
7 <i>Spain mission trip fundraiser spaghetti lunch</i>	8 <i>Triple S lunch, noon, Fellowship Hall</i>	9 Lois Patton Jeremy Edwards	10	11 RaNon Caraway	12 Charles Jordan <i>Food Distribution, 10:00-12:00</i>	13
14 Camille Sparks <i>Children's SS Christmas party; Christmas Musical, morning service; Business meeting 5:30</i>	15 Jerry Caraway	16	17 Maurice Mallow <i>Preschool Christmas program, 11:00am</i>	18 Roy Guthrie	19 <i>Food Distribution, 10:00-12:00</i>	20 Gwen Bush Claire Bishop
21 James Ridout Josh Day Denise Simmons <i>Special evening service</i>	22 Cooper Bean Kannon Kirk Lana Coston <i>Triple S meal and game night, 6:00</i>	23	24	25 <i>Christmas Day</i>	26	27 Rita Estes Isaac Escobar Suzanne Francis
28 Mary Ann Wilton	29 James Mallow Reno Alonzo	30 Ed Weber Laney Woodard	31 <i>New Year's Eve service, Presbyterian Church</i>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> <p>Deacons on call for December Jim Smith 597-0740 Jerry Caraway 792-8749</p> </div>		

### Weekly Events

<b>Sunday</b>	
9:45 AM	Sunday School
10:50 AM	Morning Worship
6:00 PM	Bible study
<b>Monday</b>	
4:00 PM	Ladies Bible study home of Mary Ballew
6:30 PM	CWJC, Building Men for Christ
<b>Wednesday</b>	
7:00 AM	Men's Prayer Breakfast Presbyterian Church
5:30 to 7:15	AWANA, mission groups
5:45	Middle School Youth group
7:15	High School Youth group
6:00	Adult prayer meeting
7:15	Christmas choir practice
<b>Thursday</b>	
9:30-11:00	Dorcas quilting ministry
9:45-12:00	Food Pantry: donated food brought from Walmart to the church
<b>Greeters for December</b>	
	East Door
Dec. 7	Virgil and Glenda Middleton
Dec. 14	Jim and Betty Smith
Dec. 21	Pete and Oralia Barrera
Dec. 28	Welman and Becky Bauer
	West Door: Youth

### Broadcasts on KNEL 95.3 FM

*Sunday morning:* live broadcast at 11:00 AM  
*Weekdays:* Morning Devotional at 7:45 AM

Thanks to Gwen Bush, Kay Holloway, Judy Mitzel, and Kevin McDonald for recording radio spots for November.

December devotionals will be done by Jeanagayle Behrens, Claudette Young, Wanda Burns, Kevin McDonald, and Charlie or Becky Elliott.



FYI: Our church provided 52 boxes for Operation Christmas Child. Thanks, everybody!

### Food Ministry Report

#### November 2014

- 153 families
- 188 adults under 65
- 104 children under 18
- 64 adults 65 and older

December food distribution will be Friday, December 12, and Friday, December 19, from 10:00 to noon. Help is also needed on Thursday mornings from 9:45 to noon to bring donated food from Walmart to the Food Pantry in the FLC.



We will host Christmas receptions for the Food Pantry recipients during the food distribution hours on Dec. 12 and 19. If you would like to provide a batch of cookies, a pie, cake, or Christmas candy, your gift would be greatly appreciated!

Please contact Becky Martin (597-1372) or just bring the sweets to Fellowship Hall on either of the dates.

*Pray without ceasing. . .*

But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord." *Luke 2:9-11*

- our nation's leaders
- our members in the nursing homes
- our homebound members
- the lost and un-churched in our community
- Brady children & youth
- Our Sunday School
- Our preschool
- Faith Bean and Josh Collier: mission trip

Richard Aguirre  
 Mary Ballew  
 Pam Beasley  
 Maggie Behrens  
 David Bishop  
 Joyce Blackwell  
 Michelle Bradshaw  
 Marcus Burell

Chris Burkhart  
 April Carson  
 Sue Crow  
 Dayton Dennard  
 Fayrene Easley  
 Terri Lee Edwards  
 Glenn Elliott  
 Roy Guthrie  
 Curtis and Genna Jennings  
 Velma Hendley  
 Robert Kibbe  
 George Koehl and wife  
 Lisa Linder  
 Mike Lowery  
 Sue Lubke  
 Louise Morrow  
 Paul and Connie Nix  
 Kathy Parsley  
 Tracy Parsley  
 James Patton

Jon Randles  
 Ann Roberts  
 Michael Sandoval  
 Harry Sellers  
 Red Simpson  
 Mike and Laurie Slone  
 Jennifer Thomas  
 Jack and Susan Turk  
 Richard Valdez  
 Tess Warren  
 Bob and Jana Watts  
 Chelsea Watts  
 Billy and Doris Whitaker  
 Lilly Williams  
 Tanya Wilk  
 Kristan Wilson  
 Wes Woodard  
 Alice Young

*In military:*  
 Daryl Booth  
 Jon Bradshaw  
 Brandon Haymon  
 Talisha Hendley  
 David Hernandez  
 Jose Lopez  
 Moses Marmolejo  
 Concho Moore  
 Jace Telford  
 Jonathan Torres  
 Alisha Slone  
 Wes Stark  
 Justin Williams  
 Ricky Williams, Jr.

We extend sympathy to the families of Opal Smyrl and Patsy Finley.

Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.

*Matthew 28:19-20*



First Baptist Church  
 (325) 597-2956  
 1103 W. 17<sup>th</sup> St.  
 Brady, TX 76825  
<http://www.fbcbrady.org>  
**Dr. Kevin McDonald**, Pastor  
[fbcbrady.org@gmail.com](mailto:fbcbrady.org@gmail.com)  
 597-1926  
**RaNon Caraway**, Secretary  
[mrc48nona@yahoo.com](mailto:mrc48nona@yahoo.com)  
**Tyler Cooper**, Minister of Music  
[tyler.cooper@hputx.edu](mailto:tyler.cooper@hputx.edu)  
 325-200-7454  
**Jack Wells**, Youth Minister  
[jack\\_wells@hputx.edu](mailto:jack_wells@hputx.edu)  
 214-578-3967  
**Kim Coleman**, Preschool Director  
[godlyimpressionsfbc@gmail.com](mailto:godlyimpressionsfbc@gmail.com)  
 325-792-6529  
**Norma Ridout**, Pianist  
**Deryl Bishop**, Organist

The newsletter is available on the church website: [fbcbrady.org](http://fbcbrady.org). It can also be sent to your email address each month; just send your address to [becky@scottmartin.net](mailto:becky@scottmartin.net).

Church Family,  
 Thank you so much for your bold prayers and intercession for Wes (Brad's twin brother) and our family in August and September. We truly Experienced God as we saw Jesus intervene and save Wes's life to give him True Life through salvation. He is recovering miraculously and he, his wife, and new baby are doing incredible. All Glory to God. Your reaching out being a family to us meant more than we can describe. Thank you from the bottom of our hearts.  
 Brad & Linsey Woodard

Church Family,  
 We would like to thank everyone for their prayers, the calls, the dinners, and helping with our children. We appreciate everything.  
 To all the men that came over to finish our well so we could have running water in our home so we wouldn't have to haul it in, Thank you, Thank you!  
 It is so exciting. It has made our lives much better.  
 In times like these you can really see all the blessings that God gives us every day. We are so blessed and so thankful for this church family. May God bless you all, as much as you have blessed us.  
 Love in Christ,  
 The Edwards Family

To the FBC Food Pantry:  
 Thank you for offering this outreach to the people of McCulloch County!  
 May God bless your time and efforts!  
 Larry and Jan Donop

Church Family,  
 We want to thank each of you for your love, phone calls, prayers, food, and memorial gifts in memory of my Mother, Opal Smyrl.  
 Thanks for all your support. This trying time was made easier thanks to you.  
 Pat and George Matula

Thank you for supporting life through the Pregnancy Care Center  
 We appreciate you!