

CHURCH WEEK

First Baptist Church
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MORGANTON, NC



COMING UP



- ♦ **Sunday, December 10**
9:45 AM - Sunday School
10:55 AM - Worship Service
Immediately Following Worship Service - Church Conference - Sanctuary
Noon-3:30 PM - Children's Church Extended Session.
5:00 PM - Combined Choirs Christmas Concert - Sanctuary
- ♦ **Monday, December 11**
5:15 PM - Trustees Meeting - Library
5:30 PM - Christian Education - K101
- ♦ **Tuesday, December 12**
11:30 AM - GMC - God's Maturing Children - Fellowship Hall
6:00 PM - Missions Committee - Library
- ♦ **Wednesday, December 13**
Last Church Family Night of 2017!
5:20 PM - Serving Line Opens
6:00 PM - Church Family Christmas Party!
7:15 PM - Chancel Choir
- ♦ **Friday, December 15**
9:45 AM - Women's Prayer Group - K101

First Baptist Church Week

Morganton, North Carolina

Advancing the Vision - Lighting the Way

VOLUME 44

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CHURCH FAMILY CHRISTMAS PARTY!

Wednesday, December 13

Supper begins at 5:20 Party begins at 6:00 PM



Evan Vaughn and Edward Bland, cellists, will provide musical entertainment. Our children will present "A Charlie Brown Christmas" adapted and directed by Stacie Burleson. It will be followed by a visit from our annual **Special Visitor!** and cookies and juice.

Please make supper reservations by calling Suzette at 828 437-2544 ext. 18 by noon on Tuesday, December 12.

GMC (GOD'S MATURING CHILDREN)

Tuesday, December 12, 2017

11:30 A.M. - 1:00 P.M. Fellowship Hall

Program: Music Provided by the Forest Hill Elementary School Fifth Grade Chorus



Menu: Baked Ham, Sweet Potato Casserole, Green Beans, Roll, and Dessert Cost: \$6.00

Please make meal reservations with Suzette 437-2544 ext. 18 by 2:00 P.M. on Sunday, December 10.

Remember the hungry with nonperishable food for the **FBC food pantry box.**

WORSHIP WITH US THIS SUNDAY!

December 10 10:55 AM In the Sanctuary
Second Sunday in Advent - "Peace Sunday"

Sermon: "The Gift of Peace" (I Peter 3:8-12)

Dr. Tom Bland, Jr., preaching

Chancel Choir Anthem: "No Golden Carriage, No Bright Toy"
by Gilbert Martin

Soloist: Tammy Gercken

The Chancel Ringers will play "As Lately We Watched"
arr Patricia Hurlbutt

Advent Readers: Ashley and Jeff Moon

Youth Readers: Katie Riebel and Sara Byrd Succop

Church Conference immediately following worship service for the purpose of voting on the 2018 church budget.

2017 Global Missions Offering

Though so many worthy local agencies and organizations, and so many more individuals and families, continue to need our help this Christmas, I trust that each of us will consider giving an additional gift through the church for our annual Global Missions Offering.

The Global Missions Offering continues to be a wonderful way to support the fulfillment of the Great Commission (Matthew 28:19-20) internationally.

Our overall goal for the 2017 Global Missions Offering is \$14,000.

Again this year, Sunday School classes can help a lot by setting class goals for the Offering and presenting those goals during morning worship on December 24.

The church will receive the Global Missions Offering through the end of January 2018.

Once again this year, our Missions Committee (chaired by Steve Bailey) has identified six options from which you may choose one (or more) if you decide to designate your gift. If you choose not to designate your offering to any particular purpose, then the Committee (according to longstanding policy) will simply divide your gift equally among all the choices.

Please note that, after careful consideration of a number of current, rather urgent priorities, the Missions Committee does intend also to extend some ongoing support to several longstanding mission partners from the past, including (among others) Janos Katona in Romania. But that support in 2018 will come from a source other than the 2017 Global Missions Offering.

Here are the options for the 2017 Offering (listed and described in no particular order):

1. International Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention (Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for International Missions). Due to self-reported overspending during the past few years, the IMB has had to cut its missionary personnel from about 4,700 in 2015 to 3,612 as of September 2017. But even with this reduction in force, the SBC's IMB remains the largest evangelical missionary force in the world. The top priority of the IMB continues to be reaching the lost for Jesus Christ, primarily through aggressive church-planting efforts worldwide (approximately 3,800 new churches were started overseas in 2015, the last year for which statistics are available, and almost 55,000 persons overseas were baptized). Over the years, the Southern Baptists have sought to spread the Gospel, directly and indirectly, among around 1,000 people groups worldwide. The SBC IMB has a particular concern for some 3,250 people groups, many of them Muslim, worldwide where the Gospel has not been shared to any significant degree thus far.

2. Cooperative Baptist Fellowship (Global Missions Offering). Considerably smaller than the SBC, CBF has also reduced the number of affiliated missions personnel over the past year and a half (from 125 to just over 100). Nevertheless, CBF continues to engage in substantial mission endeavors worldwide. CBF's innovative approach to "doing missions without borders" has enabled this small mission force to focus primarily on "people groups" (such as the Romany gypsies in Europe, the "street children" of Kiev, Ukraine, and various refugee groups in Houston, Texas) rather than on specific nations and regions, though CBF is presently at work in 30 countries. A special emphasis for the past 13 years has been on aiding tsunami victims in Indonesia and in other areas of southern Asia, while yet another project continues to involve outreach to Africans, including Sudanese refugees living in Uganda, and, more recently, to about one million Syrian refugees who have fled civil war and ISIS and have relocated to Lebanon and elsewhere.

3. Mission Training Center in Guatemala. In 2012, Dr. John Whalley and others from First Baptist completed a successful mission trip to central Guatemala in cooperation with North Carolina Baptist Men (now called Baptists on Mission—men, women, and students) and the Quiche Baptist Association. Roger and Vickie Grossman, who oversee the work of the Good Shepherd Center, have come to First Baptist twice now and have shared important information with us about the mission and impact of this healthcare and evangelistic training ministry. The Center also provides a significant ministry to children under the auspices of the Baptist Children's Homes of NC. Let us do what we can to support this very worthy endeavor, especially in light of all the connections between Morganton and Guatemala.

4. "Faith Comes By Hearing" Military "BibleStick." For many years, the Faith Comes By Hearing organization has been distributing audio recordings of the Bible, and particularly of the New Testament, to numerous people groups throughout the world. These recordings are now available in over 900 languages. A relatively new program focuses on sending audio recordings of the New Testament to U.S. military personnel serving overseas. The Military BibleStick is a very small, portable, battery-powered audio digital player loaded with a recording of the New Testament. A service member deployed overseas can listen to it though any of several devices for just 28 minutes per day, and in 40 days he or she can hear the entire New Testament. All donations to Faith Comes By Hearing will be designated for BibleSticks for our military personnel.

5. The Rock Church in Chateaugay, Quebec, Canada. Two years ago, the Rev. Daniel Cimone, pastor of this church, visited First Baptist and enlightened many of us about the church's ministries. Our youth have taken two mission trips to Chateaugay to assist Rev. Cimone and his members with the Rock Church's very significant Food Bank ministry. Meanwhile, the Rock Church itself merits our support. Located in an economically deprived, and spiritually undernourished, area, the Rock Church is making great inroads toward helping many people there come to know the love and the saving power of Jesus Christ.

6. Kudvumisa Foundation of Swaziland, Africa. In 2015, at a brief Wednesday evening presentation, Mr. Daran Rehmeyer, Co-founder and Director of this Foundation, described the work of his organization. Kudvumisa ministers to the physical and spiritual needs of thousands of impoverished people, including many afflicted with HIV/AIDS, in this very poor country in southern Africa. Greg and Hannah Poe, who have been to Swaziland several times, have presented a couple of Wednesday evening programs over the past two years about the life-saving, life-changing ministries that Kudvumisa provides in the name of Christ to people largely forgotten or ignored by the rest of the world.

Please give as generously as you can to the 2017 Global Missions Offering! And may God richly bless you during this wonderful season of Advent and Christmas!

Love,




EXTRAVAGANT GENEROSITY UPDATE

Offering Received December 3.....\$21,227
Budget Required to Date.....\$789,880
Budget Received to Date.....\$768,479
Organ /AV Fund Donations to Date.....\$174,497

There are only four more Sundays to meet our required budget for 2017. All gifts must be in the church office by December 31 or postmarked by December 31 to count for your 2017 contributions.

SUNDAY SCHOOL CHALLENGE FOR GLOBAL MISSIONS

This Sunday, Youth and Adult classes are urged to set a *challenging* goal toward our 2017 Global Missions Offering.

YOUTH MINISTRY

Sunday, December 10
9:45 AM-Info and Prayer Time
10:00 AM-Bible Study

COMING UP

December 17 4:00-8:00 PM
Caroling and Progressive Dinner

FAMILY NIGHT MENU

Wednesday, December 13

Roasted Chicken with Smoked Gouda
Cream/Potato-Onion Hash//Sautéed
Broccoli/Yeast Rolls/Beverage
OR

All You Can Eat Salad Bar w/ Baked
Potato, Rolls and Beverage
(PLEASE RSVP for this option)
Kid's Meal—Chicken Fillet Sandwich/
Fries/Sliced Oranges/Beverage
Serving Team—Claudette Reece

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to
Lindsey and Gus Roberson on the
birth of their son *Rowan Augustus* who
was born on December 3.
Proud grandparents are
Tammy and Wayne Packard.

ATTENTION CHILDREN'S CHURCH OLDER GROUP!

On *Sunday, December 10* we will
have a *fabulous Advent X-tended
Session and Caroling Party for
kids in grades 2-5!* Right after wor-
ship we will *extend* Children's Church
by having a delicious pizza lunch, work
on a craft, and have zany recreation.
Then we will go caroling to a couple of
our homebound members. We will end
up at Sara Black's home where her
Mom, Laura, and Dad, Scott, will host
us with hot chocolate and cookies! Par-
ents can pick up kids at the Black's
home or meet us back at the church
around 3:30 PM. *This is gonna be a
blast! Come and bring friends!*

DEACON OF THE WEEK

December 10
Ed Hardin

IN MEMORY

Gifts have been given in memory of
Margaret Franklin and
Jeanette P. Lingerfelt.

ADVENT DEVOTION GUIDE

Copies of the *2017 First Baptist Church
Advent Devotion Guide* are available in
the church office, and they will also be in
the narthex on Sunday morning
December 10.

ADVENT COLORING BOOKS

Our new FBCM Children's Advent and
Christmas Coloring Books are also
available in the church office.

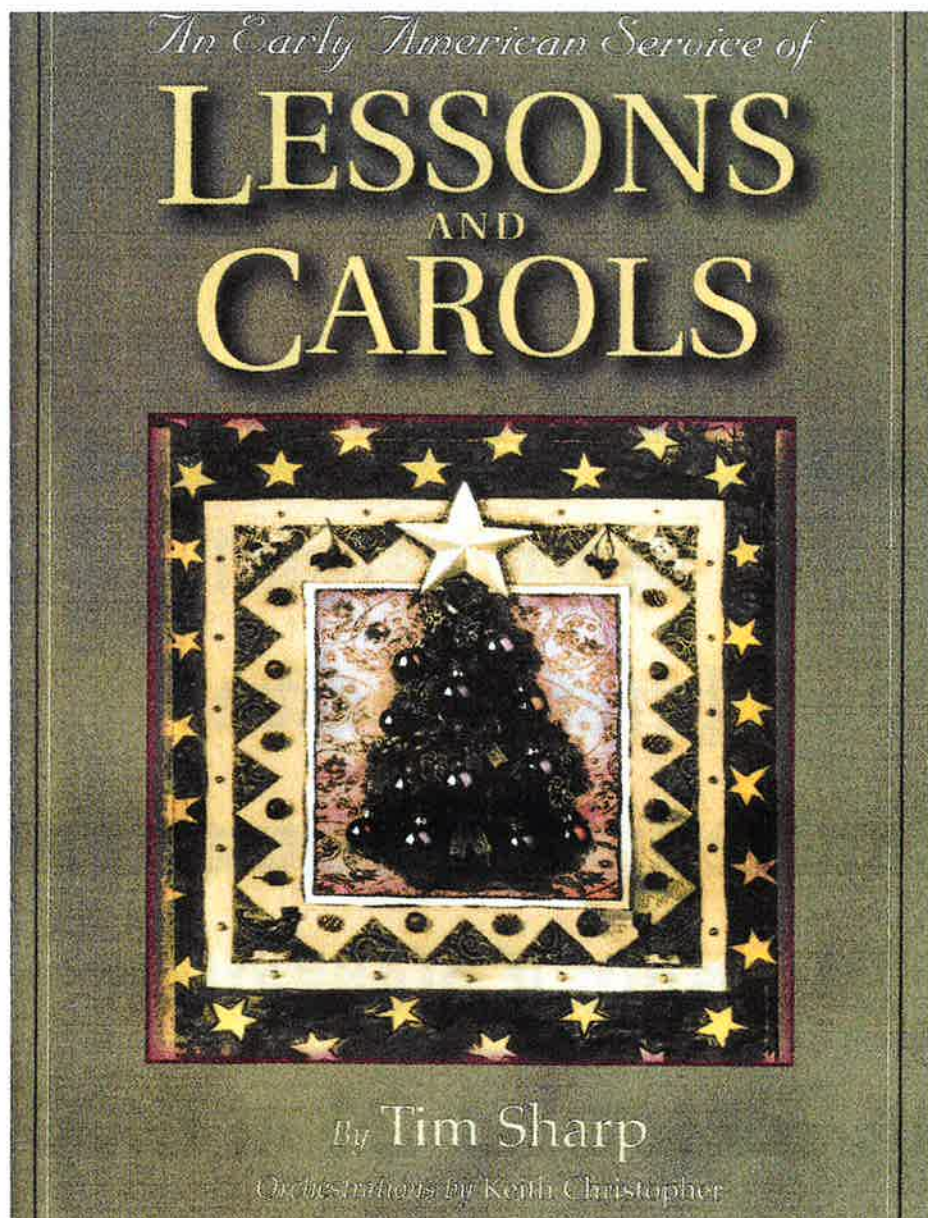
THE 64TH ANNUAL MORGANTON COMBINED CHOIR CHRISTMAS CONCERT

First Baptist Church
Sunday, December 10 5:00 p.m.
Jim Gossler and Jim Williams,
directors
Robert A. Smith, *accompanist*
with Special Guests Forest Hill
Elementary School Chorus
Wendy G. Cooper, *director*.
Get into the spirit of the season!
There will be something for
everyone to enjoy!

POINSETTIAS

If you would like to place a
poinsettia in the sanctuary in memory
or in honor of someone, please
complete the form below and return it
along with a check to the church
office. Cost is \$8.
Please make checks payable to
First Baptist Church.
Deadline is December 19.
In Honor of _____
In Memory of _____
Name _____
Phone # _____

*The Chancel Choir
of the First Baptist Church
of Morganton, North Carolina
with Early American Instrumental Ensemble
presents*



**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 17TH, 2017, 10:55A.M.
502 W. UNION STREET
MORGANTON, NORTH CAROLINA**

All Are Welcome!

Is there someone you know who does not have a church home, a co-worker, or neighbor, a person without family here - who would love to be a part of this beautiful, Christ-honoring experience?

Please prayerfully consider inviting them to join you!



Ⓞ Holy Night!

Christmas Eve

Candlelight Communion

Worship Celebration

Sunday, December 24 at 6:00 p.m.

in our Sanctuary

Special Guests: Harpists Lelia and Mary Lattimore

A nursery is provided.