



First Baptist Church Montgomery

# BEACON

*bring them in...build them up...send them out*

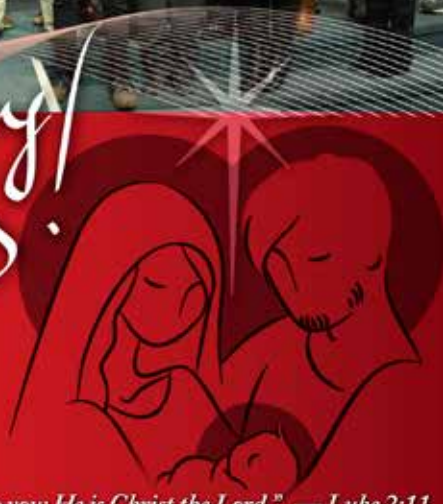
Volume 71 | Week of December 23, 2018 | Number 51

Celebrating the Joy of Christmas Together



*Merry!*  
*Christmas!*

from the First Baptist Staff



*Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; He is Christ the Lord.* — Luke 2:11

**FBC Stewardship Goal: \$6,825,000**

**Pledged to Date: \$5,907,242.00 (86.55%)**

**Remember, it's never too late to make your commitment!**

**[www.montgomeryfbc.org/stewardship](http://www.montgomeryfbc.org/stewardship)**

[www.montgomeryfbc.org](http://www.montgomeryfbc.org) | Office: 334.834.6310 | Prayer Line: 334.834.4585



# CONNECTIONS

from your Pastor's Heart

## The True Christmas Tree

*“Christ died for sins once and for all, a good man on behalf of sinners, in order to lead you to God. He was put to death physically, but made alive spiritually.” (1 Peter 3:18)*

As a child growing up in Texas, part of our family Christmas tradition included all seven of us piling into my Dad's blue truck and searching for the perfect tree. In the center of our hill country ranch, there stood a thick gathering of cedar trees. We would travel over to those stately evergreens and hunt for the perfect Christmas decoration. In reality, our “flawless” tree was generally short, squatty, and lop-sided. But in my young eyes, I thought our cedar monarch was the personification of perfection. My Dad would take his sharp ax and chop down the fragrant-smelling conifer and hoist it onto the back of the truck. We would return home and start the process of decorating. Dad would take the stump of the tree and wedge it tightly among some rocks in a galvanized bucket. Our decorations consisted of home-made ropes of threaded popcorn, silver tinsel that resembled icicles, some shiny red balls made of thin glass, and a strand of colorful lights. When the tree was properly adorned, we would sit on our green couch and admire our artistic endeavors!

What kind of Christmas tree will you have this year? ***The ultimate symbol of Christmas is not a decorated tree, but the cross of Calvary.*** Motivated by God's measureless love, Jesus quickly traveled from the cradle to the cross. Jesus explained, *“For God so loved the world that He gave His only Son and whoever believes in Him will not perish but have everlasting life.”* On the tree of Calvary, God fashioned the greatest gift of all by taking one Son, two boards, and three nails for making a bridge that stretches all the way from earth to heaven!

This year, when you see a Christmas tree, train your eyes to see the cross of Calvary which proclaims with angelic majesty: JESUS GAVE HIS LIFE FOR YOU SO GIVE YOUR LIFE FOR JESUS!

Praying for You to Have a Joyous  
and Peace-filled CHRISTmas,

**FBC Faithfulness | Sunday, December 16, 2018**

### ATTENDANCE

**Bible Fellowship Enrollment** 5183 | **Bible Fellowship Attendance** 1738  
**Weekly Attendance** 2153 | **Discipleship Attendance** 604

### OFFERING

**Required Weekly** \$128,365.38 | **Received Sunday** \$313,895.19  
**Required To Date** \$6,418,269.00 | **Received To Date** \$6,254,996.95  
**Building Fund Sunday** \$800.00 | **Building Fund to Date** \$21,241.35  
**Lottie Moon Christmas Offering** \$161,683.29

**Under Budget | \$163,272.05**

# Year-End Giving

All gifts must be postmarked by  
**Monday, December 31**

For more information, contact the  
FBC Business Office at 241.5181

## Ministry Announcements

### Preschool Ministry

**Mission Friends** will begin again on **Sunday, January 6** at 5:00 PM. Don't miss the opportunity to be a part of this exciting group.

### Children's Ministry

**GAs and RAs** will begin again on **Sunday, January 6** at 5:00 PM. Don't miss the opportunity to be a part of these exciting groups.

**Bible Drill** begins on **Sunday, January 6** for all 4th, 5th, and 6th grade students. Join us at 6:00 PM in room A311 as we learn the books of the Bible, the location of key scripture passages, and memorize scripture. Register online at [www.montgomeryfbc.org/childrens-bible-drill](http://www.montgomeryfbc.org/childrens-bible-drill).

### Student Ministry

Save the Date for **Disciple Now** on **Friday, January 18 through Sunday, January 20**. Register online at [www.montgomeryfbc.org/event-registration](http://www.montgomeryfbc.org/event-registration).

### Music Ministry

It's a great time to jump into the Music Ministry opportunities. Join us on **Sunday, January 6** for One Heart and One Voice Youth Choir rehearsals and on **Wednesday, January 9** for Sanctuary Orchestra rehearsal at 5:30 PM; Preschool and Children's Choirs at 5:45 PM and Sanctuary Choir rehearsal at 6:35 PM.

### Missions Ministry

The **2019 Missions Menu** is now available! You can pick up your copy in the main sanctuary foyer or visit [www.montgomeryfbc.org](http://www.montgomeryfbc.org).

A special prayer event, **Journey of Prayer**, will take place on **Sunday, January 6** at 5:00 PM in the main sanctuary. This event is your opportunity to start the year in an attitude of worship and intercession. For more information, contact Brian Gay at 241.5131 or [briangay@montgomeryfbc.org](mailto:briangay@montgomeryfbc.org).

The **Jackie Swan Bible Study Group** will meet on **Thursday, January 10** in room 413. Sewing the day gowns for stillborns at Baptist Hospital begins at 10:30 AM

with lunch (bring a sandwich lunch) and the Bible study at 12:00 PM. We will be studying Liz Curtis Higgs' *Bad Girls of the Bible*. For more information, contact Sara Jane Lyon at 277.7240.

### **FBC will host a Disaster Relief Training on Friday, February 1.**

This training is required for all participants who desire to help with disaster relief. Training opportunities include Cleanup/Recovery, Chainsaw, and Chaplaincy. (Chainsaw training on February 1 & 2, Chaplaincy will be January 31 - February 2). Check [www.sbdr.org](http://www.sbdr.org) for further training information and to register. For more information contact, Steve Rutledge (334.467.3564 or [steverutledge1492@gmail.com](mailto:steverutledge1492@gmail.com)) or Ben Kelley ([bfkelley@gmail.com](mailto:bfkelley@gmail.com) or 334.549.4348).

## **First Baptist Foundation**

You're invited to join us in the fellowship hall after the 11:00 AM Worship Service on **Sunday, January 20** for **Lunch with Jay Wolf and world-class estate specialist, Dave Keesling**. Please make plans to come hear about our partnership with PhilanthroCorp, a Christian estate design firm whose professional services have been paid for by FBC. This is a great opportunity to receive free stewardship coaching! For more information or to RSVP, contact Alissa Parrish at 241.5127 or [airvin@montgomeryfbc.org](mailto:airvin@montgomeryfbc.org).

## **Churchwide News & Events**

There will be no **Churchwide Visitation** on **Sundays, December 23 or 30.**

**Interesting in becoming a foster parent or learning more about foster care ministry?** Alabama Baptist Children's Homes social worker Sasha Hosick will be teaching a 10-week foster parent training class from January 9 through March 13. The class will meet weekly at Vaughn Forest Church on Wednesdays from 5:30 to 8:30 PM. You must attend every meeting to receive a certificate. Childcare for 4 and under will be provided, as well as a light dinner. Contact Sasha Hosick with any questions and if you would like to sign up: [shosick@alabamachild.org](mailto:shosick@alabamachild.org) or 901.283.2869.

**Cruise to Alaska with Jay and Mary Ruth on September 18 through 25, 2019!** You don't want to miss this spectacular Alaska Inside Passage trip on Princess Cruises. Space is limited, and cabins are reserved first-come, first-served. Come see majestic scenery from God and hear His mighty Word revealed from Jay. For

## **New Members**

### **By Baptism**

**Mrs. Daniel Davenport (Emily)**  
3233 Mastin Lane | Montgomery, AL 36106

### **By Letter/Statement of Faith**

**Mr. Daniel Davenport**  
3233 Mastin Lane | Montgomery, AL 36106

**Mr. Levi Dunagan**  
5550 Woodside Circle | Montgomery, AL 36117

**Mr. Tim Glassford**  
4166 Wetumpka Highway | Montgomery, AL 36110

## **Our Church Family**

If you would like to add someone to the prayer list, contact Carolyn Bryan at 241.5120.

### **Sympathy Extended to**

- Dr. & Mrs. Harper Shannon (Elsie) in the death of his brother-in-law
- Mr. Charlie Lynn in the death of his wife, Jonnie
- Miss Rita Pearson-Daley in the death of her father
- Mr. & Mrs. Mike Newman (Pam) in the death of her mother, Maxine Bearden
- Mr. & Mrs. Trey Handey (Jennifer) in the death of her grandmother
- Mr. & Mrs. Streeter Wiatt (Leigh) in the death of her sister-in-law

### **Baptist East**

David Hataway • Bob Morris

### **Jackson**

Breezie Stewart

### **Capitol Hill Healthcare**

Renis Jones

### **Congratulations Extended to**

- Mr. & Mrs. William Trotman (Jessica) in the birth of a son; Mrs. John Trotman (Terri) in the birth of a grandson
- Mr. & Mrs. Mark Villacis (Lisa) in the birth of a son; Mr. & Mrs. Bobby Bright (Lynn) in the birth of a grandson

# Winter 2019 FBC Discipleship Classes

For a complete list visit [www.montgomeryfbc.org/discipleshipclasses](http://www.montgomeryfbc.org/discipleshipclasses)

## Positive Parenting

Wednesdays, January 9 through April 24 | 5:45 PM | B402

## DivorceCare

Wednesdays, January 9 through April 24 | 6:40 PM | B405

## ABCs of Evangelism

Sundays, January 13 through March 24 | 4:30 PM | 413

## Return to Mayberry

Sundays, January 13 through April 28 | 5:00 PM | B405

## Ladies Bible Study: Job (A Story of Untimely Joy)

Sundays, January 13 through February 24 | 5:00 PM | 443

## Praying for Missions

Sundays, January 13 through April 28 | 5:00 PM | B403

## DiscipleMaker Mentor Training

Sundays, January 13 through April 28 | 5:00 PM | B416

## Citizenship Classes

Sundays, January 13 through April 28 | 5:00 PM | B415

## Personal Discipleship: Prayer, Purity and Purpose

Sundays, January 27 through March 3 | 4:30 PM | B408

**WAR ROOM**  
PRAYER IS A POWERFUL WEAPON  
01.02.19 :: MAIN SANCTUARY :: 12:10 TO 12:50 PM

**DISCOVER**

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

*Interested in joining First Baptist?  
Want to know more?*

**SUNDAY, JANUARY 13**  
12:15 PM | FELLOWSHIP HALL

**There will be NO *Beacon* printed  
the week of December 30.**

more information, contact Ben Hulseley at [ebjhulseley@gmail.com](mailto:ebjhulseley@gmail.com) or 399.9876.

**Will you be away from FBC on Sunday?** Then join us **Sunday** at 11:00 AM as we broadcast our service live on the FBC app and website ([www.montgomeryfbc.org/livestream](http://www.montgomeryfbc.org/livestream)) as well as our main **Facebook page, First Baptist Church Montgomery** (@montgomeryfirstbaptist).

## This week at FBC

For the complete calendar, visit  
[www.montgomeryfbc.org](http://www.montgomeryfbc.org).

### Sunday, December 23

- 8:30 Worship Service  
Prayer Room in Media Center
- 9:45 Bible Fellowship Classes
- 11:00 Worship Service  
Prayer Room in Media Center

### Monday, December 24

- FBC Offices Closed
- 3:30 Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship
- 5:00 Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship

### Tuesday, December 25

Merry Christmas // FBC Offices Closed

### Wednesday, December 26

No PM Service or Activities

### Thursday, December 27

- 10:00 Caregivers Support Group

### Friday, December 28

Mission Project: South Africa

### Saturday, December 29

Mission Project: South Africa

- 7:00 Narcotics Anonymous

### Sunday, December 30

Mission Project: South Africa

- 8:30 Worship Service  
Prayer Room in Media Center
- 9:45 Bible Fellowship Classes
- 11:00 Worship Service  
Prayer Room in Media Center

### Monday, December 31

Mission Project: South Africa

### Tuesday, January 1

Happy New Year! // FBC Offices Closed  
Mission Project: South Africa

### Wednesday, January 2

Mission Project: South Africa  
No PM Service or Activities

### Thursday, January 3

- Mission Project: South Africa
- 10:00 Caregivers Support Group

### Friday, January 4

Mission Project: South Africa

### Saturday, January 5

- Mission Project: South Africa
- 7:00 Narcotics Anonymous

## In Home Ministry Member Boyd Christenberry

3801 Oak Grove Drive, Apt 124  
Montgomery, AL 36116



305 South Perry Street  
Montgomery, AL 36104

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH  
montgomery

### Morning Worship (8:30 & 11:00 AM)

#### *Light of the World*

Wendy, Gray & Cate Scott Brendle

**Message** | Jay Wolf

#### **Prayer Room**

Mike Spivey (McLemore Class)



## CrossRoads Broadcast Schedule for the Living Christmas Tree

Watch the sermon at the time below or  
online at [www.montgomeryfbc.org](http://www.montgomeryfbc.org).

**Frazer Channel 13** (Montgomery & Prattville)

**BrightHouse Channel 122** (Elmore County)

Sunday, December 23 | 1:30 PM\* & 6:00 PM

Tuesday, December 25 | 8:00 PM

Tuesday, 8:00 PM; Thursday, 1:30 PM & 6:00 PM

Sunday, 1:30 PM (full hour) & 6:00 PM

**WSFA-TV Channel 12**

Sunday, December 23 | 10:30 AM

Tuesday, December 25 | 2:00 AM\* & 4:00 PM\*

Sundays | 10:30 AM

\*full hour

The **Beacon** (USPS #046-620) is published and printed weekly by First Baptist Church, 305 South Perry Street, Montgomery, Alabama 36104-4292. Periodical postage paid at Montgomery, Alabama. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to The Beacon, 305 South Perry Street, Montgomery, Alabama 36104-4292.