

# The Lamp Lighter



December is a very special month for all of us as we celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ. We have family gatherings and close out the year reflecting on the past while planning for a New Year. Often times the Holiday Season can be difficult for those who have lost family member or friends, have distant families or even life's struggles. The good news is that the Lord knows each concern, loves us and provides His wisdom to live by in His Word. As we look forward to 2026 a new challenge, a new commitment for all of us is to learn more about God's Word, apply that knowledge to our daily lives and then share it with others.

The division of the 66 Books of the Bible is broken down by category to provide us with a useful numeric memory tool to learn each section. Memorizing this can be fun and very helpful understanding of the Biblical structure. Cont. p.3

*What you  
have  
learned  
& received  
and heard  
and seen  
in me—  
practice  
these  
things,  
and the  
God of  
peace will  
be with  
you.*

**--Philippians 4:9**

**Sunday Morning Security Team :**  
**8:30 AM**

Dec. 07	Courtney H., VACANT	Melvin K., Patrick H.
Dec. 14	Norma S., VACANT	Robert H., Terry M.
Dec. 21	Kevin G., VACANT	Al L., Bob M.
Dec. 28	Marion S., VACANT	Brian M., Jamie H.

**Greeter Schedule :**  
**8:30 AM**

Dec. 07	Marion S.	Paul D.
Dec. 14	Gary B.	Ken D.
Dec. 21	Kevin G.	Billy M.
Dec. 28	Bobby J.	Henry N.

**Sunday Morning Nursery :**  
**Infant/Toddler**

Dec. 07	Norma S., Donna F.
Dec. 14	Norma S., Stephanie W., Abby P.
Dec. 21	Norma S., Adrielle L.
Dec. 28	Norma S., Cecelia S., Erin H.

**Children's Worship :**

Dec. 07	Stephanie W., Jonathan M., Kayla H.
Dec. 14	Jennifer C., Chloe C.
Dec. 21	Amanda N., Kristen G.
Dec. 28	Tara H., Abby P., Ayla H., Elle H.

Cont. from pg. 1

## The 39 Books of the Old Testament – OT (5, 12, 5, 5, 12)

5 - The Pentateuch – The first 5 books – Books of Moses

Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, Deuteronomy.

12- The Hebrew History

Joshua, Judges, Ruth, 1-2 Samuel, 1-2 Kings,

1-2 Chronicles, Ezra, Nehemiah, Esther

5- Hebrew poetry

Job, Ecclesiastes, Psalms, Song of Solomon, Proverbs

5- Major Prophets

Isaiah, Jeremiah, Lamentations, Ezekiel, Daniel

12- Minor Prophets

Hosea, Joel, Amos, Obadiah, Jonah, Micah, Nahum, Habakkuk,

Zephaniah, Haggai, Zechariah, Malachi



## The 27 Books of the New Testament – NT ( 4, 1, 21, 1)

4 - The Gospels Matthew, Mark, Luke and John

1 - Acts of Apostles - covers the beginning of the church

The Book of Acts

21 - Apostolic Letters

Romans, 1-2 Corinthians, Galatians, Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians, 1-2

Thessalonians, 1-2 Timothy, Titus, Philemon, Hebrews, James, 1-2 Peter, 1-3

John, Jude

1 – Revelation – The vision by John addressed to the seven churches in Asia is a message of victory of God and His people over their enemies.

The Book of Revelation

Cont. on p.5

If you want to be a part of FBC's Shepherd's Guide, please send the office your business/contact information.



Answers to Bible Trivia on page 4:

1. pigs (Luke 15:16)
2. his father's hired servants (15:17)
3. robe, ring, sandals (15:22)
4. music & dancing (15:25)
5. prostitutes (15:30)



## Build a Shoebox

You may order, build & pay for an OCC box entirely online using this QR code. The price covers the items and the shipping of the boxes. These boxes go to hard to reach areas that are considered "hard to reach" which means they are closed off to the Gospel.



## What is the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering?

In 1873, Lottie Moon was appointed as a missionary to China. She spent nearly 40 years sharing the gospel with love, courage, and unwavering faith.

Her letters home inspired churches to pray and give, leading to the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for International Missions. Today, this offering supports missionaries and helps take the life-transforming message of Jesus to the nations.

Let's honor her legacy by praying and giving so others can hear the hope of the gospel.

Our church goal is \$12,500. Please donate, if you are able, using designated offering envelopes.



Wanda Sellers has updated the Nativity village for Christmas.

Please stop by and take a look at all the changes!



The early service (8:30am) needs a new song leader! Contact Pastor Gary if you can serve the Lord & your church in this way.

Edify is rehearsing after the 11:00 service each Sunday.

Please vacate the sanctuary to facilitate the rehearsal. You are welcome to stay and fellowship in the foyer as long as you like.



Help us make music for Christmas! We would love more people for our choir & orchestra.

## Whoooo's Ready to serve?

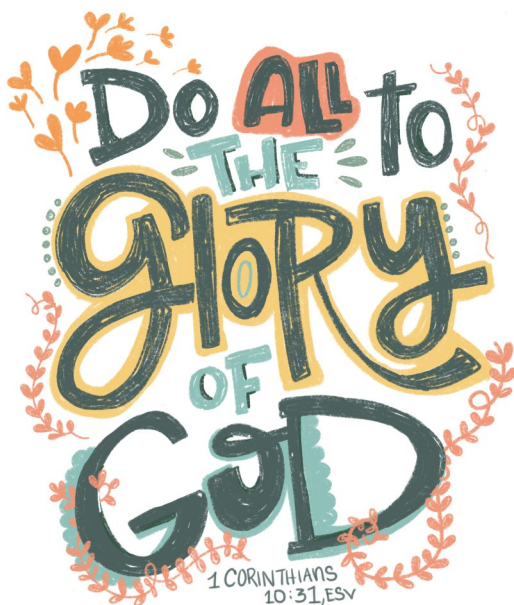
### Bible Challenge: "The Parable of the Son Who Moved Back in with His Parents" Read Luke 15:11-32

1. What animal did the younger son grow jealous of because it had food?
2. Who did the younger son realize had it better than him, causing the younger son to return home?
3. What three things did the father put on the son when he arrived home?
4. What did the older son hear as he came in from the fields?
5. What did the older brother accuse his younger brother of squandering their father's money on?

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Taken from *The American Bible Challenge* by Troy Schmidt  
Answers can be found on pg. 3 of newsletter





As you're getting rid of things before and after Christmas, please consider donating any lamps or light sources to the church for VBS 2026.

Cont. from p. 3

A closing thought for each of us.

A great lesson from someone who went back to the basics was legendary football coach, Vince Lombardi. It was said that once he took the head coach position of the Green Bay Packers he called the team together, knelt down picked up a football and simply said, "Let's start from the beginning, this is a football." The team became very successful and is a good reminder of how getting back to the basics is important. Understanding the basics of the Bible are very important to obtain wisdom as we mature in our faith.

So let's take this challenge using a simple memory tool - OT 5, 12, 5, 5, 12 and the NT 4, 1, 21, 1, memorize it, have fun and share with others, as we learn more about God's Word.

Philippians 4:9 what you have learned and received and heard and seen in me—practice these things, and the God of peace will be with you.

Merry Christmas and May the Lord bless each of you during this special time of Year... Now go and share the Lord with as many people as possible.

*Billy Moore*

If anyone is interested, a group will be going Dec. 18 to the Museum of the Bible in DC to see *Everlasting Light: Singing the Story of Christmas*.

Tickets are on your own.

Carpooling is an option.

Sign up at Welcome Center.

Christ is  
BORN  
WONDERFUL  
COUNSELOR  
MIGHTY GOD  
EVERLASTING FATHER  
PRINCE OF PEACE

On 11/1 William & Sharon Bruce celebrated their 50th Wedding Anniversary! Their family through them a small party to celebrate!



## JUST A NOTE...

The Deacon family ministry bulletin board has been updated with family names. Please check it out to see who your deacon is.



Have you visited our church library recently? We have a wide variety of materials, including books of Fiction & Non-fiction for adults, teens, young adults & children! We have DVD's, Books on CD & Audio Adventures. Check us out today!

**New on the shelf:** 4 book series: *Cities of Refuge* by Connilyn Cossette

On 11/11 a group went to see *Noah* at the Sight & Sound Theater in Lancaster, PA. We rode on a bus driven fearlessly by Jennifer Miller. It was a fun day!





# Christmas

## ACTIVITIES

## Hanging of the Greens 6:45 PM

# Christmas Dinner 5:30 PM

## Glory Way 6:30 PM

## Drive Through Nativity 7-8:30 PM

# White Elephant Gift Exchange, 9 AM

## Journey to Bethlehem Movie 7 PM

## Choir Cantata/ Bell Choir 11 AM

# Jennifer Cherest Concert 7 PM

## Candlelight Service 7 PM

The logo for Youth Group News features the word "youth" in a bold, lowercase, sans-serif font, with "youth" in a dark green color and "group" in a lighter green color. To the right of "youth" is the word "NEWS" in a tall, thin, uppercase, serif font, colored in a medium green.

**Women on Mission**  
**12/4 9:45 AM**

# Merry Widows

Christmas celebration  
12/5 12 PM

VISITATION MINISTRY WILL MEET  
THURS., DEC., 18<sup>TH</sup>, 9:45 AM



Congratulations to our Trunk or Treat winners but we appreciate everyone who participated!

**1. Kids' Choice**

1st: Henry & Janet Norton  
"David & Goliath"

**2. Best Overall:**

1st: Conant Family  
"Wheel of Scripture"

2nd: Jones Family  
"Jurassic Park"

**3. Funniest:**

1st: Pastor Gary  
"Game Show"

2nd: Ashley M. & Logan I.  
"Shrek"

**4. Best Group:**

1st: Hannah H. & Adrielle L.  
"Bluey and Bingo"

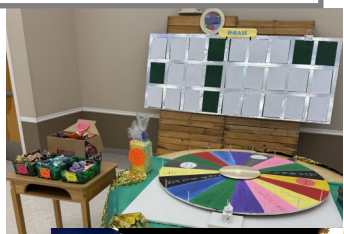
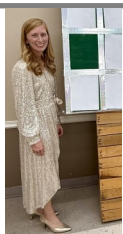
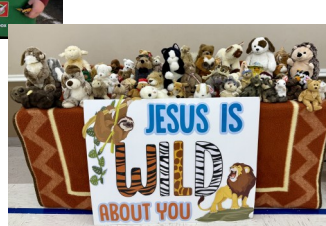
**5. Creative/Best Costume:**

1st: Conant Family  
"Wheel of Scripture"

2nd: Sheri Bresnahan  
"Cowgirl"

**6. Pastor's Choice:**

Bode Family  
"Goats"





Women on Mission made about 90 "Agape Bags" for the congregation to hand out to those in need. Please be sure to take some with you to hand out. Also, there are blank bags left if you would like to decorate some to bring back.



**New**  
**BIBLE**  
*study*

Begins: 12/4 & runs every Thurs. @ 7 PM.  
Meets in College & Career Sunday school classroom.  
Contact Bobby Jones with questions.

For: College & Beyond Age



Please bring in warm hats, mittens, gloves, &/or scarves and add them to our tree. WOM will donate them to children in need of some warmth this season.

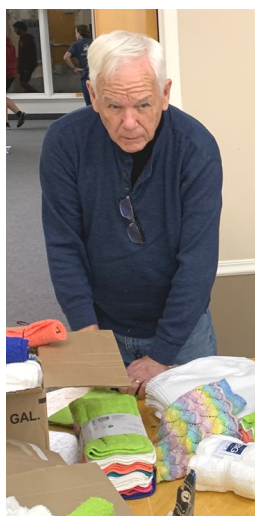
The **TRAIN DISPLAY** will be up & running on 12/7. Please stop by the stage in the Fellowship Hall & check it out! New items will be added weekly.

*Christmas Card Exchange*  
will begin on 12/7. Please start to bring in your cards. There are updated church directories available for you to use.



# OCC Box Collection Totals:

- Dropped off by our congregation or packed here: 1,038
  - Dropped off at FBC by others: 1,325  
(Total: 2,363)
- Total collected in Charles County: 6,267







# Operation Christmas Child

## The Power of a Simple Gift

### Monthly Ideas: December: PRAYER

#### *Livia and the Hairclips*

Livia received her shoebox in a Romanian orphanage when she was 12.

All my life I really wanted hairclips but growing up in an orphanage where we had very little I could never get them. But I really, really wanted hairclips.

Then Operation Christmas Child came and there it was—a big packet of hairclips sitting at the very top of my shoebox! I couldn't believe my eyes. I thought, How can someone give me something that I've wanted for so many years? Someone far away decided to pack it up, never knowing that it would be somebody's dream come true.

I took the packet out. I tore it open and tried to put every single one of them in my hair. And I did!

There was a woman named Connie who was with me, an American missionary who was helping pass out the shoeboxes. She was trying to tell me to slow down. I said, "No, no. I want all my hairclips in."

"Just put one to the right and one to the left, and you'll look much better," she said.

"No, I want all the hairclips in," I insisted. So I put them all in and had them on the whole day.

I really wanted something to keep my hair off my face. I wanted to feel the wind touch my neck. When I got those hairclips I was so excited to finally be free of all the stuff that covers your face or neck or ears. Receiving those hairclips meant a lot.

*"As they went on about the Gospel, I was mesmerized by the words of love."*

Before we even got the shoebox gifts they shared the Gospel with us. That was something brand new to me. When I got the hairclips I just couldn't believe how God could make something like that possible. It made me realize that there is a God who loves me. He loves me because he wanted me to have the hairclips.

As they went on about the Gospel, I was mesmerized by the words of love. How could anyone possibly love me? After 10 years of living in the orphanage, all of a sudden people were telling me that I'm loved.

I thought, There's no way. How am I supposed to take this? I was really shocked to hear the news of not only God loving us but also people from all over the world. Love was a brand new word in my vocabulary.



The same year I received the shoebox I accepted Christ into my heart. The shoebox is almost nothing compared to knowing Jesus. There was so much joy. I wished I could tell everybody in the world that I accepted Christ.

It's a different feeling because the things in the shoebox gift get lost or broken or used up, but our Savior never does. He's always there for us. That's what I love about it.

To have a God who loves us unconditionally every day to make up for the years of my life living in an orphanage, **that's the greatest gift of all right there.**