



# FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

**December 2016**  
**newsletter**  
FBC Brady, TX  
325-597-2956  
<http://fbcbrady.org>  
Vol. 17, No. 11

## A dangerous Christmas

*by Dr. Kevin McDonald*

One of the elements of an American Christmas is safety. Everyone is home, inside, usually sitting around a fire while the snow falls. “The children were nestled all safe in their beds...” Sugar plums only dance when it is safe to do so.

But the first Christmas was full of danger. The wise men took a long, dangerous journey. They traveled through dangerous lands, and when they got to Israel, they had to deal with a murderous, psychopathic tyrant. The shepherds risked catastrophe by abandoning their flocks in the fields, to see the baby Jesus. The loss of their sheep would have meant the loss of their ability to feed themselves and others. Mary’s trip was risky as well. Riding a donkey and walking for about 100 miles surely puts many strains on a nearly completed pregnancy. Leaving home without hotel reservations isn’t the safest thing to do, and the odds-makers in Vegas will not give you good odds on a mother and baby surviving an un-attended birth in a stable/cave.

The first Christmas was full of danger, full of risk. The greatest risk though, was taken by God. He bet it all on people. He risked Himself on us and for us. He risked it all, all His love on us and Jesus. What if we rejected Jesus? What if the love of God for all humanity and for each individual human was spurned? What if the people he came to save rejected him? What if Jesus died?

All that and more happened, didn’t it? And yet here we are, Christians celebrating the birth of Jesus. In spite of (or because of?) all that happened, God’s great plan came to fruition. (Take that, odds-makers.)

I hope you will not play it safe at Christmas, loving only those who loved you first, giving gifts to only those who deserve them, or who you know will give you something too. It is apparent (from the biblical account, not your TV) that Christmas is a time for engaging in extravagantly risky behavior. Doing dangerous things like loving your fellow man, whoever it is, or giving extravagant gifts to people who have never done a thing for you and you will never see again. Christmas is a time for sharing the love of God and that, as we have seen, is some of the riskiest behavior anyone can engage in. Risk telling the story of you and Jesus to someone who may not receive it. Take a chance on giving without any guarantee of getting back. Take a chance on someone who doesn’t deserve it. You’ll be in VERY good company if you do.

Have a merry dangerous Christmas.

—Bro. Kevin

## Happy Birthday, Jesus!

The K-5th grade children will have a birthday party for Jesus on **Dec. 18** during Sunday School. All children are invited! Mission Friends will have a birthday party for Jesus during AWANA on **Dec. 14**.

## Christmas reception at Food Pantry

We will host a Christmas reception for our Food Pantry friends on Friday, **December 9**, during the regular food distribution time of 9:00-noon. Food, live music, and Christmas decorations are planned!

We will serve Christmas desserts, coffee, and punch to over 100 people. If you would like to provide something, please bring your “goodies” to Fellowship Hall that morning, or leave them in the kitchen (labeled Food Pantry reception) the day before, or call Becky at 456-1256 for pick up. Some sugar-free items would be appreciated.

You will be blessed by being part of this festive event!

**AWANA news:** TnT children will go Christmas caroling at Brady West and Jubilee House on **Dec 14**. Awana Clubs and mission organizations will not meet on Dec. 21, Dec. 28, or Jan. 4 because of the school holiday. See you Jan. 11!

## Church directory pictures Dec. 2, 3, and 4

Remember your appointment for your pictures! You will probably get a courtesy call reminder from a Lifetouch representative. Joyce Scott also has the appointment schedule . You can call her at 597-3590 or 456-3132.

## More Christmas events

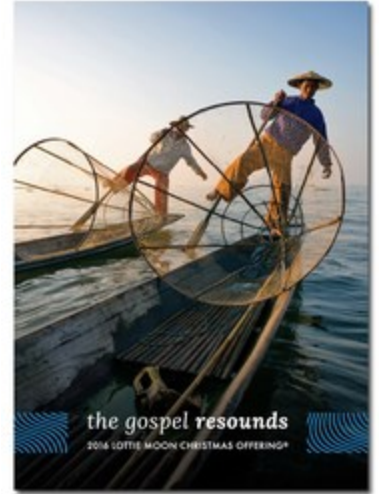
- The Gleaners Class and the Monday Bible study group will gather at Mary Ballew’s at 4:00 on **Dec. 12** for a Christmas party.
- The Good News class will have their Christmas party on **Dec. 16** at 6:00 at the home of Betty and Jim Smith.
- The Christmas Choir will sing during the **Dec. 18** morning service. They will have a final rehearsal on Saturday, **Dec. 17**, at 11:00.
- The preschool will have a special Christmas program on Thursday, **Dec. 22**, at 11:00 in the sanctuary. We are all invited!

- We will have a candlelight Christmas Eve service at 6:00 **Dec. 24**.
- On **Christmas morning** we will not have Sunday School but will gather to worship at 10:50.



## Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for International Missions

**Week of Prayer: Dec. 4-11**  
**Our goal: \$2500**



The Week of Prayer for International Missions is your opportunity to join the work of missionaries around the world.

Your prayers and gifts to the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering will help the gospel continue to resound throughout the nations as you send and sustain missionaries and their work.

This year we will pray specifically for these missionaries:

- The Harrell family in Nacala, Mozambique
- The Copland family in Verona, Italy
- David and Hanna Harris\* in South America
- The Haun family in Nalerigu, Ghana
- The Dove family in Sandefjord, Norway
- The Cregg family\* in South Asia
- Bethany Amber in Johannesburg, South Africa
- Layla Murphy\* in Southeast Asia

\*Name changed

100% of your gifts help send and sustain IMB missionaries around the world.

## Bell ringers needed!

FBC will be responsible for the Salvation Army Bell Ringers at Walmart on December 19-22 from 10:00 AM to 8:00 PM. We will work in 2-hour shifts. Please sign up and take a turn helping with this worthy cause!



## Youth News

Hello to all the Brady and surrounding area youth (grades 6th-12th) and to your parents! The purpose of this section of the FBCB Newsletter is to let you know of upcoming events and the accomplishments of our youth. Kids are allowed to begin arriving at the church/Family Life Center right after school on Wednesdays! We open at 3:30pm so all kids, middle school and high school, are welcome to come and do homework, play video games, play in the gym, outside, or play board games etc... At 6:30pm we eat a great meal together and around 7pm we head back to the youth room for worship and a lesson. Youth group ends at 8pm, so please make the proper arrangements to get home on time and PLEASE invite your friends from school to come join us.

Food is taken care of by Stephanie McKay, Matt Popnoe, Lynn Munden, Jeanagayle Behrens, and Jerlene Smith and we are very grateful! If anyone is interested in helping out with the youth or special events call or text Gabe @ [830-391-4367](tel:830-391-4367).

### Recurring events:

\*Ping-Pong – a group of us have been playing ping-pong at 6pm on Sunday nights! If you like to play please come out, join us and invite a friend.

\*Sunday Night Hoops - every Sunday night starting at 7:30pm the gym is open to high school age and up, to come fellowship and play some basketball. We have been averaging 20-25 a Sunday and would love to have you! Occasionally we will also play during the week on a Tuesday or Thursday at 7pm. Text Gabe to get updates on when the gym will be open.

\*Sunday school is ongoing every Sunday from 10:00 – 10:40am. I meet with the youth in the Family Life Center. We would like to have as many youth attend in the mornings.

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Lunch - I've enjoyed attending middle school lunches and high school lunches and have met a bunch of new kids! For high school kids, every Monday I am available to pick y'all up in front of the school and take y'all out to eat in town.

School Activities - Basketball season is upon us! I can't wait to see all of y'all play this season. Go dogs!

Youth THEME Dinner - we had a great meal last month with a Thanksgiving themed dinner which was orchestrated by Misty Urban and Victoria Norrell! Thanks for all who helped in making the awesome food! This month we would like to do a Christmas theme for dinner on the 14th. To help with cost of this event we ask that each kid bring \$1 for their meal.

Youth group - We've been continuing to grow each week since the beginning of school and the kids deserve a lot of the credit because they are inviting friends from school. Hopefully we can see that number continue to grow!

### Upcoming events:

Wednesday December 21st - we will either try and do some sort of caroling event throughout Brady or do a movie night at the church. This will be the last Wednesday we meet in December.

Mid-Winter Retreat - January 13-15 at Alto Frio, in Leakey, Texas.

Summer camp - Mt. Lebanon July 2-7.

FORMS for both of these retreats will be available this month.

IMPORTANT –

If a Wednesday is not listed here as a special event or as “no youth,” we are having a regular youth night.

If there are any concerns that you as students or parents may have please feel free to contact me. Thank you for your prayers and support.

God bless,  
*Gabe Rios, Youth Minister*

## *Keith's Konnections*

*by Keith Simpson, Ministry Director, Lake Ivie Baptist Association*

“And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them; and they were sore afraid. And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord. And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger.” (Luke 2:8-12 KJV) The news that the angels proclaimed did not make the news on CNN, CBS, ABC, NBC, nor did it even make the news on FOX, Facebook, Instagram or the Bethlehem Battalion. There were probably other babies born on that day in Bethlehem, so no one in town was aware of the great gift God had just presented to mankind. This was a private moment between Joseph and Mary and with the angels who heralded the birth of the one who was to save the nations. It is interesting to note also that the proclamation was not made to kings and kingdoms, to the elite and rich, nor was it made to the religious leaders of the day. The proclamation was first given to the lowliest of the low, the meekest of the meek and the most helpless of the hopeless.

Why would God not proclaim this Good News to those in authority rather than proclaiming it to those stinking, social outcast shepherds? Simply put, God's greatest gift of all time was given for ALL people, both the rich and the poor, male and female, educated and ignorant, Jews and Gentiles alike. The God who rules the universe was aware that, even though the nation of Israel had long awaited the coming Messiah, no one could conceive that the Messiah would come in the form of a helpless, defenseless, crying baby, born in a feed bunker in the basement of the inn which refused them. This was NOT the way that the Jews had envisioned their Redeemer Messiah to come. He was to be a KING, riding in to town with a vast army to overthrow the oppression of the Roman government. Yet, He remained meek throughout His ministry and the religious leaders did not comprehend that the Kingdom He was going to set up was not of this world, but rather a Heavenly Kingdom with His Father.

This is still the Good News for today, and especially this time of year, we need to be reminded that the greatest gift given to all who choose to accept it is eternal life in this new kingdom in Heaven. “In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself: that where I am, there ye may be also.” (John 14:2-3 KJV) This gift is still open to all who will accept it. Let us not get caught up in the commercialism of this season, but take time to reflect on the GREATEST GIFT OF ALL TIME!!

May God richly bless you and yours this Christmas season and remember that HE IS THE REASON FOR THE SEASON. If we remove Christ from Christmas, all we have left is “mas” or (more). More confusion, more anarchy, more sin, more debauchery, more confusion, and more doom. MERRY CHRISTMAS AND HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL and God bless.

### **Upcoming Events!**

#### **December**

3<sup>rd</sup> Harmony Quartet @ Lohn Tabernacle  
 4<sup>th</sup> Cowboy Christmas @ Millersview  
 5<sup>th</sup> Brady Breakfast  
 6<sup>th</sup> H.O.T.B.E Christmas Dinner Theatre  
 12<sup>th</sup> Coleman Breakfast  
 19<sup>th</sup> Ballinger Breakfast  
 25<sup>th</sup> Merry Christmas  
 23<sup>rd</sup>-26<sup>th</sup> Liba Office will be closed for Christmas



Please continue to be in prayer for our pastor-less churches:

**El Cordero, Santa Anna  
 Tennyson Baptist Church  
 Hopewell Baptist Church  
 Seventh Street Baptist Church  
 Novice Baptist Church  
 Fellowship Baptist Church**

Heart of Texas Baptist Encampment will have a Dinner Theatre on December 6<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 pm (doors open at 6:00 pm) “The Christmas Night Show with Conny Jarson”

Tickets may be purchased online at [heartoftexasencampment.com](http://heartoftexasencampment.com) for \$10 per person limited to the first 300 to register!!

**Merry  
 Christmas**

**Cowboy Christmas at Millersview Baptist Church!!**

**3:00 Coffee and Cobbler followed by a program at 4:00 and a meal to follow!**

**Everyone is invited and encouraged to attend!!**

*Harmony Quartet will be performing at the Lohn Tabernacle on December 3<sup>rd</sup> beginning at 6:00 pm. Snacks and Fellowship to follow performance!*

**Keith Simpson**  
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 Cell: 325-718-7402  
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 Website: [www.lakeiviebaptist.com](http://www.lakeiviebaptist.com)

## The Birth of Jesus

### Luke 2:1-20, King James Version

<sup>2</sup>And it came to pass in those days, that there went out a decree from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be taxed.<sup>2</sup> (And this taxing was first made when Cyrenius was governor of Syria.)<sup>3</sup> And all went to be taxed, every one into his own city.

<sup>4</sup>And Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judaea, unto the city of David, which is called Bethlehem; (because he was of the house and lineage of David:)<sup>5</sup>To be taxed with Mary his espoused wife, being great with child.<sup>6</sup> And so it was, that, while they were there, the days were accomplished that she should be delivered. <sup>7</sup>And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn.

<sup>8</sup>And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night.<sup>9</sup> And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid.<sup>10</sup> And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people.<sup>11</sup> For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord.<sup>12</sup> And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger.

<sup>13</sup>And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying,<sup>14</sup> Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.

<sup>15</sup>And it came to pass, as the angels were gone away from them into heaven, the shepherds said one to another, Let us now go even unto Bethlehem, and see this thing which is come to pass, which the Lord hath made known unto us.

<sup>16</sup>And they came with haste, and found Mary, and Joseph, and the babe lying in a manger.<sup>17</sup> And when they had seen it, they made known abroad the saying which was told them concerning this child.<sup>18</sup> And all they that heard it wondered at those things which were told them by the shepherds.<sup>19</sup> But Mary kept all these things, and pondered them in her heart.<sup>20</sup> And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things that they had heard and seen, as it was told unto them.

*Merry Christmas from your newsletter team:*



*Becky Martin*  
*Kevin McDonald*  
*Gabe Rios*  
*Joyce Hollingsworth*  
*Laurie Morton*  
*RaNon Caraway*  
*Kay Curry*  
*Maurice Mallow*  
*Holly Stewart*  
*Keith Simpson*  
*Starr Sims*



# December 2016

| SUN  | MON  | TUE   | WED  | THU   | FRI  | SAT  |
|--|--|---|--|---|--|--|
|  |  |   |  | 1<br>Jessica Castillo<br>Jackie Maxcey  | 2<br><div>Lifetouch Photos for Directory</div>   | 3Cheyenne<br>Huckins<br>Robin Cook<br>Harmony Quartet,<br>Lohn, 6:00                                     |
| 4<br>Deacons meeting<br>Cowboy Christmas<br>at Millersview, 3;00   | 5<br>Berniece Taylor<br>LIBA Brady<br>breakfast, 8:30, El<br>Flamingo                          | 6<br>HOTBE Christ-<br>mas dinner theater<br>6:30, Brownwood | 7<br>Freddie Perales   | 8   | 9 Lois Patton<br>Jeremy Edwards<br>Food Pantry food<br>distribution and<br>Christmas reception<br>9:00-12:00 | 10<br><div>Week of Prayer for International Missions and Lottie Moon Christmas Offering, Dec. 4-11</div> |
| 11<br>RaNon Caraway<br>Business meeting  | 12<br>Charles Jordan<br>Triple S, noon<br>Gleaners and<br>friends Christmas<br>at Mary's, 4:00 | 13  | 14<br>TnT children will<br>go Christmas<br>caroling<br>Youth Christmas<br>dinner | 15<br>Jerry Caraway   | 16<br>Good News class<br>party, 6:00, at the<br>Smith's  | 17<br>Maurice Mallow<br>Christmas Choir<br>rehearsal, 11:00  |
| 18 Roy Guthrie<br>Birthday party for<br>Jesus during chil-<br>dren's SS<br>Christmas Choir in<br>morning service | 19<br><div>Salvation Army bell ringers at Walmart, 10:00 AM-8:00 PM</div>                      | 20<br>Gwen Bush<br>Claire Bishop                            | 21 James Ridout<br>Josh Day<br>No AWANA, but<br>youth will meet                  | 22 Cooper Bean<br>Kannon Kirk<br>Lane Coston<br>Preschool C-mas<br>program, 11:00 | 23   | 24<br>Christmas Eve<br>candlelight ser-<br>vice, 6:00  |
| 25<br>Christmas Day<br>No Sunday School<br>Morning service at<br>10:50   | 26<br>Triple S, 5:30   | 27<br>Rita Estes<br>Isaac Escobar                           | 28<br>Mary Ann Wilton<br>No AWANA  | 29<br>James Mallow<br>Reno Alonzo   | 30<br>Ed Weber<br>Laney Woodard<br>Raegyn Virdell  | 31   |
|  |  |   |  |   |  |  |

## Weekly Events

### Sunday

- 9:45 AM Sunday School
- 10:50 AM Morning Worship
- 6:00 Bible study (not on 11-6)
- 7:30 Sunday Night Hoops, FLC

### Monday

- 4:00 Ladies Bible study  
home of Mary Ballew
- 6:30 CWJC, Building Men for Christ
- 7:00-8:30 Christmas Choir rehearsal

### Tuesday

- 6:30 Tuesday night ping-pong

### Wednesday

- 7:00 AM Men's Prayer Breakfast  
Presbyterian Church
- 3:30 FLC open for youth
- 5:30-7:15 AWANA (not on 12-21 or 12-28)
- 6:00 Adult prayer meeting
- 6:30 Youth meal
- 7:00-8:00 Youth worship and Bible study

### Thursday

- 9:45-12:00 Food Pantry: donated food  
brought from Walmart to the  
church
- 2:00-3:30 Dorcas quilting ministry

## Greeters for December

- Dec. 4 Joyce Scott & Darlene Friar
- Dec. 11 Jackie Maxcey & Joyce  
Hollingsworth
- Dec. 18 Melanie & Jeremy Couvillion
- Dec. 25 Laurie Morton & Kasen Franco

## Deacons on call in December

- Bobby Williams 597-7573
- Randy Bedwell 210-213-2132

## Food Ministry Report

### November 2016

- 128 families
- 167adults
- 51 children under 18
- 30 adults over 65
- Total fed: 248



Food distribution day for this month is December 9 from 9:00-12:00. We will have a Christmas reception for all who come. (Cookies needed!)

### Broadcasts on KNEL 95.3 FM

Sunday morning: live broadcast at 11:00 AM

Weekdays: Morning Devotional at 7:45 AM

Thanks to Jeanagayle Behrens, Norma Ridout, Kevin McDonald, and Joyce Scott for recording radio spots in November.

December devotionals will be done by Albert Pearson, Joyce Hollingsworth, Kevin McDonald, and Lisa Remini.

We donated 79 shoebox gifts to Operation Christmas Child in November—plus 23 more that were brought in by friends at Melvin.

Thanks to all who started their Christmas season with these generous gifts to children in need.



## Pray without ceasing. . .

The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

*John 1:14*

- 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
- AWANA

Joseph Aguirre  
Louise Baker  
David Bishop  
Tina Durst Cellars  
Judy Coor  
Tammy Childs

Sherry Cox  
Susan Davenport  
Sandra Dittrick  
Jacque Elliott  
Amy Faulkner  
Holly Groves  
Velma Hendley  
Jimmy and Sherrie Hodges  
Curtis and Genna Jennings  
Charles and Jerry Jordan  
Stephanie LaFuentes  
Margaret Langley  
Mary Beth Lewis  
Mike Lowery  
Gary Matula  
Ms. Newport  
Norma Ridout

Wynell Roper  
Edith Slaughter  
Joe Solis  
Lorene Trujillo  
Jack and Susan Turk  
Adele Waide  
Glen Wallace  
Tess Warren  
Kay Dawn Wilson  
Kristan Wilson

### *In military:*

Jon Bradshaw  
Howard Brown  
Brandon Haymon  
Talisha Hendley  
David Hernandez

Jose Lopez  
Moses Marmolejo  
Concho Moore  
Brandon Pfannenstiel  
Jace Telford  
Joseph Telford  
Jonathan Torres  
Alisha Slone  
Wes Stark  
Justin Williams  
Ricky Williams, Jr.

We extend sympathy to the families of Jim Spurgeon, Barbara Simmons, Red Simpson, and Charles Smith.

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

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**Deryl Bishop**, Organist  
**Becky Martin**, newsletter and website editor  
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**FIRST BAPTIST**  
C H U R C H

*the gospel resounds*

*Lottie Moon Christmas Offering  
for International Missions  
Week of Prayer: Dec. 4-11*

## Godly Impressions

*Connecting children to the love of Christ through Godly Impressions.*

"Today in the city of David a Savior has been born to you; He is Christ the Lord," Luke 2:11. This is the Bible verse that all of our preschoolers will be memorizing this month in preparation for the coming of our Savior.



We are so very excited about the Christmas season, and we have many adventures planned for this month including a ride on the Polar Express in our PJs.

We have a very special Christmas program written by our very own Miss Kaja, which we will share on Thursday, Dec. 22 at 11:00 a.m. in the sanctuary. Everyone is invited to attend and then enjoy our birthday party for Jesus which will follow in the fellowship hall.

We will be closed for the Christmas holidays on Friday, Dec. 23 and Monday, Dec. 26. In January we will be "blasting off" into the new year with a study about space.

From all of us at Godly Impressions, we wish you a joyous holiday season!

In His service,  
Holly Stewart, director  
Kaja Williamson, co-director

Caregivers: Staci Norvell, Jessica Evans, Genisha Spencer, Frankie Wernick,  
Misty Urban, Drea Torrez, Krissy Morton, Dana Walker,  
Mary Ann Wilton and Jennifer Asbill

