

November/December 2019
Newsletter of First Baptist Church
Elkton, MD

FirstNews

Quarterly Refocus Offering

The special offering for the
Refocus fund will be received
on **November 3rd**.

Please come prepared to give.

This fund helps with building and
campus improvements.

Holiday Dinner

**Saturday, November 23
@ 5 PM**

Main dish and drinks
will be provided.

**Please bring side dish
AND dessert to share.**

Sign up to attend on the
bulletin board.

From Pastor's Desk...

Wow, can you believe that we are close to the end of another year? This year has certainly gone by fast and a lot has happened this year. As we look to December and November, please be on the lookout for the many gatherings we have during this time. Some are similar to what we have done in the past and some have changed this time.

However, the purpose remains the same. Everything we do here at First Baptist Church is because of the Great Commission and The Great Commandment. Now, what better time is there to begin to practice these two things Jesus gave us but at Thanksgiving and Christmas time. Don't get me wrong. They are important all year long but now is a good time.

So, when we have things going on like the Holiday Dinner, Christmas Musical, or Christmas Eve Service, invite people to come to these with you. Sometimes I hear: "But we have friends or family coming that weekend." Bring them along. In our household, it is always assumed that if you are visiting, you will come to church. One other thing: This time of year, is a great time to invite people to our Sunday morning services. Generally, people sometimes celebrate Christmas but don't celebrate the reason for Christmas. Let's change all that. Think about who you can ask and start asking. It might be the best gift you can give them for Christmas.

Pastor Arlen

Preschool News

The preschoolers have been busy in October. We had a visit from the fire department and a science lesson about magnets taught by Merri-Jo Godfrey. Our November is lining up to be just as busy.

Please plan to be in church on November 10th to see our preschoolers as they sing during the service. We also hope you will enjoy a fellowship lunch with us and meet the children and their families after the service. There will be a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board in the hallway to sign up to help us with food for the luncheon. We can really use your help.

In November we will be helping Merri-Jo as she will be taking small groups of children at a time to fill boxes for the Samaritan Purse Christmas gifts that will be sent all around the world. On the evening of Friday, December 6th from 6:00 to 7:30 we will be having our annual Gingerbread house party. More information about that event will be put on the bulletin board in November.

Thank you for all your prayers and support.

May God richly bless you as we all enjoy this wonderful holiday season.

Susan Musser
Preschool Director

*Let us come before
His presence with
thanksgiving;
Let us shout
joyfully to Him
with psalms.
For the Lord is
the great God,
And the great King
above all gods.
Psalm 95:2-3*

FBC Library Info.

The church library would like to highlight a new book:



What If ... God Has Other Plans?: Finding Hope When Life Throws You the Unexpected, a recently published book by **Charles Swindoll**.

Four of the Chapters are:
What If . . . a Longtime Friend Betrays You?,
What If . . . You Need to Confront Someone?,

What If . . . Someone Kicks You When You're Down?, and *What If . . . You Need a Second Chance?*

Books can be checked out of the library by writing your name, title of the book, and the date on the sign out sheet next to the door. Enjoy!

when you go
to bed on
Nov. 2nd...





Operation Christmas Child Shoe Boxes

Shoe boxes are now available for you and will be due back to the church by **Sunday, November 17**.
Contact Jenn Thompson with any questions.

Annual Shoe Box Packing Day

The Friday Morning Ladies Small Group wants to invite everyone (Ladies, Men, Teens, Children) to come and help pack shoeboxes for Operation Christmas Child. You may bring items to be included in a shoebox, but that is not necessary as materials will be provided. This will take place on **Friday, November 15th at 10 o'clock** in the fellowship hall. Come and be part of this exciting ministry. If you have any questions please contact Merri-Jo Godfrey.



Prayer and Blessing Ministry

The **Prayer and Blessing Ministry** will meet on **Friday, December 13**, at **10 AM** at the church.

This ministry prays for and sends cards to members of our congregation. If you have any questions, please contact Merri-Jo Godfrey.

Nursery Schedule & Info

11.3 Vera Whisner, Pat Nickle
11.10 Linda Snyder, Danielle Scott
11.17 Charo Buckland, Sue Musser
11.24 Belinda Porter, Sarah Lambert

12.1 Justine Johnson, Debbie Dutton
12.8 Belinda Porter, Jenn Thompson, Nick Porter
12.15 Phyllis Sweetman, Marsha Bowen
12.22 Belinda Porter, Danielle Scott
12.29 June Estock, Robin Barclay

**The FBC nursery could use some new workers for Sunday mornings. If you would like to help with this ministry, please contact Belinda Porter.
Thank you!**



Birthdays

- 11.4 Leann Stadelman
- 11.7 Brenda Boltz
- 11.12 Marsha Bowen, Diana Lane
- 11.15 Sheila May
- 11.19 Rachel Glessner, Abbey Pfenninger
- 11.21 Jeff Morehead
- 11.24 Deborah Hinzman, Chris Smith
- 11.26 Deborah Gravely, Peggy Holter
- 11.28 Joey Joseph
- 11.30 Lowell Cooper

- 12.1 Skip Sweetman
- 12.3 Bruce Hamilton
- 12.4 Al Hamilton, Linda Hendrickson
- 12.5 Taiwo Sapara, Jasaan Williams
- 12.10 Jennifer Thompson
- 12.11 Karen Thuresson
- 12.14 James Snyder
- 12.15 Rebecca Clute
- 12.20 Matt Glessner
- 12.27 Tyree Edwards, Jill Hagelin
- 12.28 Sherrie Gravely
- 12.30 Walter Ayers

Anniversaries

- 11.3 Bob & Ilene Young
- 11.7 Jim & Marsha Bowen
- 11.9 Charlie & Sheila May
- 11.11 Louis & Janice Nickel
- 11.28 Ted & Bobby Thomas

Mark Your Calendar

- 11.1 Ladies Small group: 10 AM
- Seasoned Citizens: noon
- 11.3 Refocus Offering
- Choir practice: 11:45 AM
- 11.5 Game Night @ Cassondra's: 6 PM
- 11.10 Preschool Sunday
- 11.12 Budget Meeting
- 11.15 Shoe Box Packing: 10 AM
- 11.17 Shoe Boxes due back to FBC
- Choir practice: noon
- 11.18 - 25 Shoe Box Collection @ FBC
- 11.19 Preschool Board mtg.: 4:30 PM
- 11.22 Ladies Small group: 10 AM
- 11.23 Holiday Dinner: 5 PM
- 11.24 Choir practice: noon
- 11.27- 29 Preschool closed
- 11.27 no Wednesday activities
- 11.28 **Happy Thanksgiving!**
(office closed)

- 12.1 Business Meeting: 11:30 AM
- Choir practice: 12:30 PM
- 12.3 Game Night @ Cassondra's: 6 PM
- Deacon Meeting: 6:30 PM
- 12.6 Seasoned Citizens: noon
- Gingerbread House Party: 6 PM
- 12.7 Choir Dress Rehearsal: 10 AM
- 12.8 Christmas Musical: 10:30 AM
- 12.13 Prayer & Blessing Ministry: 10 AM
- 12.17 Preschool Board mtg.: 4:30 PM
- 12.18 Christmas Caroling
- 12.20 Preschool Christmas program
- 12.23-1.3 Preschool closed
- 12.24 Candlelight Service: 5 PM
- 12.25 **Merry Christmas!**
(office closed)