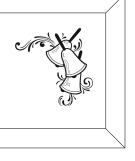


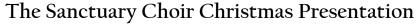
# **BLAST Children's Choir Presents.....**

"Jingle Bell Beach!" Sunday, December 10th 6:00 pm



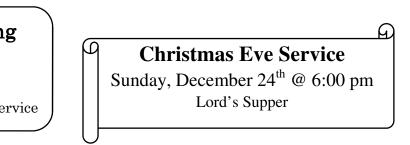
Handbell Program "An Evening of Bells" Sunday, December 17th 7:00 pm





Sunday, December 24th 10:15 am Service





From the Pastor's Heart

As you read this, Thanksgiving is behind us and the Advent season is upon us. Of course, if you have ventured out into the retail market, Christmas has been highly publicized for several weeks. Between the plethora of Christmas commercials and movies on television, the bright colors of advertisements in paper and stores, to the decorations of red, green, and gold on individual houses, is it any wonder that our children have trouble realizing the true meaning of Christmas. Do not read me wrong. I enjoy the trimmings and trappings (yes, feeling trapped) of Christmas as much as the next person. However, I have begun to ask God to help me feel and portray the true meaning of Christmas in

God so desired a relationship with me that He gave His only begotten Son. A gift I did not deserve, nor could I have ever earned. A gift that was so personal that it was exactly what I needed. Now I realize it was the one gift I really wanted. When I consider the depth of God's love, I cannot

Do you want to know the truly amazing Good News! He loves you too!

## Looking Ahead

December	3-10	Week of Prayer for International Missions
December	2	9:00 am Crafters
December	3	Advent of Hope 10:15 am Lord's Supper 12:00 pm Deacon/Wife Banquet 6:00 pm Community Youth Night Here @ FBC
December	6	5:00 pm BLAST 5:30 pm Annual Christmas Dinner Youth Christmas Party
December	10	<i>Advent of Peace</i> 5:00 pm Business Meeting 6:00 pm BLAST Choir Program
December	11	12:00 pm Bloodmobile
December	14	5:00 pm YAH Adventure - Joplin Little Theatre
December	16	7:00 am Random Acts of Kindness, Wrapping Gifts at Wal-Mart
December	17	<i>Advent of Joy</i> 7:00 pm Evening of Bells
December	20	No Youth
December		Advent of Love 10:15 am Adult Choir Presentation Receive Lottie Moon Offering 6:00 pm Christmas Eve Service Lord's Supper
<b>_</b>	~-	

December 25 Christmas - Office Closed

December 27 No Youth

Lord's Supper December 3rd & 24th

### Annual Churchwide

### Christmas Dinner

Wednesday, December 6th

5:30 pm Sign up sheets are in the Gathering Area or you may call the Church Office.

#### MINISTRY OF PRAYER CHURCH FAMILY

Elsie Ritchey Keith Divine Elaine Reynolds Junior Hammons Mae Cooper Bonnie O'Neal Glen Stone Joe Ramseyer Loyd Clements

### EXTENDED CHURCH FAMILY

Shirley Cook

Mary Woodhouse, friend of Sheila Stevens Rhonda McKee, daughter of Mae Cooper Chris Hall & Harvey Lee Vice, daughter & son of Harvey & Lorraine Vice Doug Linthicum & Mark Stewart, friends of Gary & Carol Melton

#### **MILITARY PERSONNEL**

Austin Potter - Marines, son of Dan & Tanya Potter Cole Markunas - Marines, friend of the Sandbergs Kaden Overstreet - National Guard Deployment, husband of Haley Overstreet Michael LeeMasters - National Guard - son of Sam & Jolene LeeMasters Brandon Lipe - Norfolk, VA, grandson of Noel & Lynn Grigery A1C Nathan Sanden - Turkey, grandson of Dwayne & Linda Jones Joey Rossiter - North Carolina, grandson of Sue Hobson Merissa Schmidt - Ft. Bragg, NC, granddaughter of Wanda Reno Landon McManis - Moody AFB, GA, grandson of Albert & Justine McManis Mark Jones - Okinawa, Japan, son of Dwayne and Linda Jones Patrick Beetler - Camp LaJeune, NC, son of Sherry Stettler Lt. Cody Rossiter - Ft. Bragg, NC, grandson of Sue Hobson Nathan Davis-National Guard, husband of Sarah Davis

### MISSION OUTREACH

Pastoral Staff Missionary Tony Pitaniello Building Committee Lamar's Unchurched

## **Community Youth Night**

Sunday, December 3rd Here @ FBC Youth eat at 6:00 pm Service at 6:30 opm

## Random Acts of Kindness Gift Wrapping @ Walmart

Saturday, December 16th

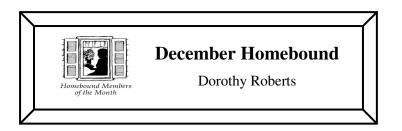
7:00 am - 10:30 pm

Once again we will be wrapping Christmas Gifts inside Walmart for anyone that would like us to. We are in need of Volunteers for one: hour time slots. Sign up sheets are in the Gathering Area. Any donations of large gift bags would be appreciated. If you have any questions please contact Sue Ann Noll.

# Family Ministries

I like to read. And one of my favorite places to Biblical hope carries no doubt. Biblical hope is a sure read is a web site called, www.gotquestions.org. foundation upon which we base our lives, believing As I've been preparing for the Advent Season I read that God always keeps His promises. Hope, or this in one of their articles: "One of the verses in confident assurance, can be ours when we trust the words, "He who believes in Me has everlasting which we find the word hope is (Hebrews 11:1). "Now faith is being sure of what we hope for and life" (John 6:47). Accepting that gift of eternal life certain of what we do not see." This verse at the means our hope is no longer filled with doubt but, rather, has at its sure foundation the whole of God's beginning of the faith chapter, carries with it all of the confidence that comes with knowing for sure, with no Word, the entirety of God's character, and the question, what we have been promised by God in His finished work of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Word. Our faith is confident assurance, for it is So, what is your hope in? Who is your hope in? founded upon the Rock of our salvation, the Lord This is a question I ask myself almost daily. May we Jesus Christ. All of the actions of the heroes of the always find our "Hope" in Christ alone. faith recorded in (Hebrews 11) were made possible because they had this faith based in their confident God Bless, Steve assurance, or hope in God.

Therefore, biblical hope is a reality and not a feeling.



# **PRAYER WARRIORS**

Teacher gifts for December need to be in the Church Office by Wednesday, December 6th for delivery on Thursday, December 7th.

## Young At Heart December Outing

Joplin Little Theatre "*I'll Be Home for Christmas*" Thursday, December 14th 7:30 pm - 9:30 pm Cost: \$5 per person Meal: Carthage Sirloin Stockade We will leave the church at 5:00 pm We have 25 tickets. Call the church office to sign up.

I'll be home for Christmas is a faith-based story about a family right before World War II, complete with songs and radio shows from the big band swing era. THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU!

Thank you to our church family for your participation in Operation Christmas Child shoeboxes, **290** shoeboxes collected. Each child that will receive a shoebox will also have an opportunity to hear about God and His love for them. Please continue to pray for these children.

Thank you also for the volunteers that helped during Collection Week, as our church served as a drop-off sight. There were **1303** shoeboxes dropped off, packed into shipping cartons and delivered to Joplin to begin their journey to child all over the world.

## Ladies' Night Out

Tuesday, December 12th 6:00 pm - 8:00 pm Come & Go Sandy McDown's Home @ <u>1304 Crestwood Dr.</u> *Menu: TBA* 

#### Vital Signs for November, 2017

Average Attendance for November Morning Worship - 259 Sunday School - 158 Small Groups - 61 Evening Worship - 40

Treasurer's Report for November 2017 Business Meeting Total Income: \$63,346.05 Total Expenditures: \$39,359.17