

perspective



John 1:14 states, "The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us." This great proclamation assures us that God has entered into human history through the incarnation of the Son. Each December, we prepare to celebrate this miraculous event through the season of Advent by simply waiting, almost like a child waits to open the presents under the tree. We prepare for the birth event by hearing stories of God's work in the past through the prophets of the Old Testament, by remembering what God has done in our present lives, and by reminding ourselves that God will bring His work to completion with His glorious return, the final trumpet, where the lion will lie down with the lamb, death will be swallowed up, and every tear will be wiped away. What Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love this promise brings to our souls!

For me, the themes of Advent come most alive through music. This Advent and Christmas Season, we have many opportunities for you to prepare and celebrate the birth of Christ through the Music Ministry of our church.

First, on **December 10th at 6:00 PM**, we will present the 10th Anniversary concert of *Celebrate!*, a musical collaboration between First Baptist Church, New Beginnings Baptist Church, and musicians from the Lufkin community and SFA. This year, I am excited to announce that we will have a special guest artist to sing with our choir and orchestra: Babbie Mason, a two-time Dove award-winning artist. Be sure to get here early to claim your seats. Doors will open at 5:15PM. Please bring canned food to support C.I.S.C.

On **December 17**, our handbell choir will lead in morning worship. Immediately following our Sunday morning service at 11:45, Tate Ashby will give a **Christmas Organ Recital**.

On **December 18 from 5:45 – 8:00 PM**, we will go caroling to shut-ins in our church. We will all gather in the parking lot off of Second Street.

Finally, on **December 24 at 5:30 PM**, we will have our annual Christmas Eve service of Carols, Candles, and Communion. All the time of preparation will culminate as we gather to celebrate the birth of Christ together. Children and families are welcome!

Advent: a time of waiting and preparation. Pick up an **Advent Guide** written by members of our congregation to lead you each day. Come and participate in the events above to help you and your soul prepare for Christmas, and during the hustle and bustle of December, I encourage you to be aware and conscious of God's actions in the past, present, and future.

Merry Christmas!

John Lassiter

Minister of Music

ADVENT 2023

Advent Worship

12/3 Hope

12/10 Peace

12/17 Joy

12/24 Love

Christmas Eve

Carols, Candles, Communion

5:30 p.m.

Giving Tree
BLESS THOSE IN NEED
SUNDAY, DEC 3 - ANGELS DISTRIBUTED
GIFTS DUE DEC 10
SUGGESTED PRICE \$40

Christmas Poinsettias
MEMORIALS OR HONORARIUMS
\$9 EACH
Order forms in the
welcome center
or the church office.
ORDER BY DECEMBER 3

Advent Kickoff
Wednesday, November 29
Dinner 5:30 p.m. // Kickoff 6:15 p.m.
It's our favorite time of year again as we journey through advent together with devotionals written by our own church members. Advent Guides will be handed out after dinner. If you are unable to attend, you may pick up your guide at the welcome desk in the Great Hall or in the church office.

ORGAN RECITAL
DECEMBER 17
IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING WORSHIP

memorials

Memorial Gifts have been given to the following Funds & Ministries of FBC:

Building Fund
In Memory of:
Roy Cates
Chris Sanders
Rita Breckenridge

Benevolence Fund
In Memory of:
Roy Cates

Youth Camp Scholarships
In Memory of:
Roy Cates

2024 Budget

The 2024 church budget was adopted at church conference on Wednesday, November 15. The \$1,726,235 Church Ministry Budget will be mailed to you, along with a letter from your finance committee in early December. Be watching your mailbox for this most important and exciting budget and letter.

Deacons for the month of December

Chuck Crowson
936-635-6892 (cell)

Hall Henderson
936-465-2240 (cell)

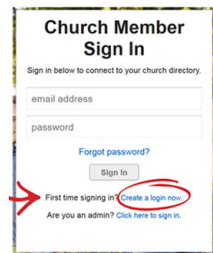
David Perkins
936-635-0659 (cell)

(936) 634-3386 / www.fbclufkin.org

Did you know we have a CHURCH DIRECTORY ONLINE?

You may access it by visiting this website:

members.instantchurchdirectory.com



You will be prompted to create a login and password using your email address that you have provided the church, contact the church to update your email address if necessary

You may also download the app to your smart phone:

1. Go to your device's App store.
2. Search for "instant church directory."
3. Enter your email address that you have provided the church.
4. Follow the directions on screen to complete the login process.



Sympathy to

Keith Allred in the loss of his brother, Dene Allred.

The family of Boe Freeman.

new members



David Mott

Church Office Hours

M - Th: 8:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Closed during the lunch hour (12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m.)
Friday: 8:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.

Financial Report Year to Date

Budget Needs	\$1,416,282.50
Budget Receipts	\$1,459,779.03
Building Fund	\$178,231.00
Other Designations	\$110,909.27
Other Receipts	\$121,138.25

Staff

Mark Newton, Senior Pastor
Katie Baker, Minister to Preschool & Children
John Lassitter, Minister of Music
Walker McWilliams, Associate Pastor/ Minister of Missions
Truett Newton, Minister to Students



Celebrate!
10th Anniversary
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 10
6 P.M.

A Christmas Musical presented by FBC and New Beginnings Baptist Church with special guest *Babbie Mason*

COLLECTING CANNED GOODS FOR CISC.