

### ***Prayer Concerns***

Angie Baskins - Mary Lou Gamble - Joe Litaker  
Ken Murray - Audrey Bales - Jane Benton  
Missy Walters, daughter-in-law of Nancy Walters  
Betty McWhorter, sister of Carol Tyson  
Glenda Poindexter, former member  
Betty Jo Hawkins, sister-in-law of Jane Hawkins  
Junie Tuggle, mother of Larry Tuggle  
Kevin Casner, son of Ray and Gerry Casner  
Jane McNeely-Sowell, friend of Carolyn White  
Wayne Barnhill, brother of Diane Whitley  
Dewitt Fincannon, brother of Letha Turner

### **Church Calendar**

#### **Sunday, December 30**

8:30 am Prayer Ministry Team - *Parlor*  
9:40 am Bible Fellowship  
10:30 am Child Care - *Nursery*  
10:45 am Service of Worship - *Sanctuary*

#### **Tuesday, January 1**

Church Offices Closed

#### **Wednesday, January 2**

5:30 pm Family Fellowship Meal - *Family Life Center*  
*Menu: stew beef, rice, greens, lima beans, bread, dessert*  
6:15 pm Youth Study/Fellowship - *Room 310*  
6:20 pm Prayer Meeting - *Family Life Center*  
Children's Bible Fellowship - *Room 302*  
6:30 pm Adult Study - *Family Life Center*  
Young Adult Bible Fellowship - *Parlor*  
7:15 pm Chancel Choir - *Choir Room*

### ***Announcements***

#### **Poinsettias**

If you purchased a poinsettia (or poinsettias) for the sanctuary for this holiday season, following worship today please feel free to choose them to take home or to give to someone else.

#### **Wednesday Evenings**

Regular Wednesday evening activities will resume this week. You are encouraged to attend the study on the U-Turn Church at 6:30, as we seek ways to lead First Baptist into the future.

#### **Flower Calendar**

If you would like to provide flowers for Sunday Worship in 2019 either in memory or honor of someone, sign up on the Flower Calendar outside of the church office. Cost remains at \$60.00.

#### **Quilting Retreat**

There will be a Quilting Retreat in the Family Life Center on Friday and Saturday, January 11 and 12, beginning at 9:30 a.m. both days. If you know of someone interested in quilting, call and invite them to attend.

## ***The Worship of God***



***30 December 2018 at Ten Forty-five in the Morning***

### **The Community Gathers Before God**

#### **Centering Thoughts for Worship**

*In our humanity, we often miss the miracles happening around us. We don't take the time to ponder, and wonder in our hearts at the mystery of God's love for us. The joy that might be found sometimes gets swept under the rug as the memories of yesterday fade. But, God is with us, now and always. We need to live with the spirit of wonder, awe, and praise in our hearts all year long, knowing that in Christ there is always new life.*

#### **Words of Welcome**

Dr. Dawson

*If you are our guest today, we welcome you and ask that you complete a Visitor's Card available from a Greeter in the narthex, or in the pew racks. Please include your address, phone number and email. If you are interested in learning more about our church, we invite you to note this on the card. Thank you and welcome to First Baptist Church.*

#### **Call to Worship**

Rev. Owens

#### **Opening Voluntary**

Suzanne Lowry, *guest organist*

*Fantasia on "The First Nowell"*

arr. by Richard J. Hughes

#### **Reading of the Old Testament – Isaiah 61:10 - 62:3**

Rev. Owens

#### **† Hymn of Christmas**

Hymn No. 159

*"Sing We Now of Christmas"*

NOEL NOUVELET

*Children Age 3 - Grade 2 are invited to leave for Worship & Wonder*

**Reading of the Epistle** – Galatians 3:23-25; 4:4-7 Rev. Owens

**Prayer for the People** Rev. Owens

**The Lord's Prayer**

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy Name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

† **Hymn of Assurance** Hymn No. 150  
"What Child Is This?" GREENSLEEVES

**Music at the Offering** Suzanne Lowry, organ  
"Pastorale" (Forest Green) arr. by Richard Purvis

† **The Doxology** VENI EMMANUEL

Praise God from whom all blessings flow. Praise God, all creatures  
here be - low. Praise God a - bove, ye heaven - ly host. Praise  
Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost. Re - jice! Re - jice! Em -  
man - u - el Shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el.

*The congregation is asked to stand at the moment the Offertory Ushers pass their pew. This act of presentation to God enacts our self-offering and gratitude to God.*

† **Prayer of Dedication** Rev. Owens

**The Word of God is Proclaimed and Heard**

**Sermon Text** Dr. Dawson  
Matthew 5:13-16; Romans 12:2

**Sermon** Dr. Dawson  
"A New Year"

**Prayer** Dr. Dawson

**The Congregation Responds to the Word of God**

† **Hymn of Response** Hymn No. 710  
"We Are Called to Be God's People" AUSTRIAN HYMN

† **Benediction** Dr. Dawson

† **Closing Voluntary** Suzanne Lowry, organ  
"Hark! The Herald Angels Sing" Mendelssohn/arr. by Shalk

† Those who are able may stand

**Loose Change Offering**

The Loose Change Offering for December will benefit the HELP Crisis Pregnancy Center



**LIGHT: Living Into God's Holy Transformation**  
First Baptist Church Christian Education theme for 2018-2019

**Today's Committees**

**Security:** Gathering Area: Ken Handy. Narthex: Don Haver, Dannie Tuggle.  
Parking Area Greeter: Lorey White  
**Nursery:** Chrissy Bassler, Sydney Dawson  
**Children Worship & Wonder:** Julie Laytham  
**Ushers:** Lorey White, Diane Simpson, Barbara Austin, Aileen Sowder  
**Offertory:** Diane Simpson, Barbara Austin, Larry Tuggle



Personal listening devices are available for worship.  
Please see and request one from an usher.

Large print bulletins are available in the narthex.

Music reprinted under OneLicense.net Number A-707320.

Audio CDs of our worship services are available through the church office.



**Church Staff**

Dr. Christopher S. Dawson, *Senior Minister*  
Rev. Joshua K. Owens, *Associate Minister*  
Dr. Timothy D. Belflowers, *Minister of Music & Organist*  
Marsha Sexton, *Business Manager*  
Kathy Cole, *Ministry Coordinator*  
Jennifer Trull, *Weekday Preschool Director*  
Dennis Butler, *Food Services Director*  
Richard Collins, *Music Intern*



**FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH**

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**Vision Statement:**

*First Baptist Church Monroe exists to  
Love God, Love Within, and Love Beyond*