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Sing We Now of Christmas

A Service of Lessons and Carols



**Sunday, December 22
10:45 AM**



Tuesday, December 24 ~ 5PM



All are invited to join the
Baby Boomers Fellowship
Tuesday, December 31
8:00 to Midnight
Bring snacks and games and
Let's Ring in the New Year Together!

PASTOR'S PEN

A word from the heart

Pastor Micah Spicer

The Christmas season is designed to be merry and bright. Christmas lights, trees decorated with ornaments and angels, carolers singing hymns of the Messiah's birth, and figgy pudding make up the ambiance of the season. Gift exchanges and family gatherings highlight our favorite time of year. More importantly we celebrate the birth of Jesus, the Messiah, on Christmas. Children's Christmas plays reveal an adorable portrayal of Jesus' birth surrounded by angels, shepherds, sheep, and wise men offering gifts to the newborn king. Nativity scenes also reveal the charming nature of the event that would alter the cosmic course of history. This Christmas I would remind you that the first Christmas was anything but merry or bright.

Jesus was born an illegitimate child, according to his peers, to Joseph and Mary, a poor couple from an undesirable neighborhood. In order to prevent their newborn from being slaughtered at the hands of Herod the Great, the migrants smuggled the infant across the Egyptian border until it was safe to return to Israel. Growing up in Nazareth Jesus would, no doubt, have been relentlessly teased as a child for being poor and having a "scandalous" mother. This reality brings a whole new meaning to "treat others the way you want to be treated" (Luke 6:31). This is the harrowing tale of Christmas, the colossal event often referred to as the Incarnation. In this way God joins the human race to demonstrate His unending love and offer His perfect peace.

The story of Christmas is not as pretty as we present in the children's plays or pose in our nativity scenes. It is a frightening tragedy. The Christmas story

should even challenge our own preferred holiday traditions. When we swipe our credit card to purchase that final stocking stuffer, are we sharing the Christmas spirit? What about when we order that Barbie doll for that special girl in our life, you know the one who already has 14 Barbie dolls? Is this how Jesus really wants us to celebrate his birthday? Some say we should make every effort to "put Christ back in Christmas," but I wonder if we have corrupted Christmas to the point where Jesus would rather sit the holiday out. "Let Satan has this one," I can imagine Jesus saying.

Christmas is a vital part of God's redemptive plan for humanity. Christmas calls us to worship God, welcome the stranger in our midst, root out prejudices, and love others like God loves us. Only when we do this do we reclaim the theological truth of Christmas.

Merry Christmas!



Jan Lampkin
Children's Minister

"Train up a child in the way he should go; even
when he is old, he will not depart from it."

Proverbs 2:6

What a special time of the year! The busy schedules and trying to make so many events brings additional stress; but remembering the birth of Jesus Christ our Savior brings blessings that are too many to count. I want to take this time to thank all of the volunteers that help with the TBC children all year long. I am a "list" person. The church staff, the congregation, and the volunteers make this ministry successful. Without John and Jennifer helping me on a daily basis, my list would never be completed at the end of a day.

When God gave this ministry to TBC, He already knew that TBC would do everything possible to love and teach His blessed children. There are many events

and circumstances that we have conquered because of YOU. You are a huge part of the children's ministry. Whether it be candy, bakery items, money, clothing, prayers, or your time - YOU have been a vital part of this ministry. God chose US and YOU chose the children!

As we approach a new year let's remember all of those who have gone before us. Our children are living the life here at church I had 60 years ago. Many of those passed were mentors to me in different ways; Sunday school, mission activities, music, and giving back to the community. My parents made sure that I knew as a young child that giving to others was the way Jesus wanted me to

live. So when I wrapped that can of beans in the white sparkly paper each year to take to the pulpit on White Christmas Sunday, I knew that I was sharing and giving to those in need. Mom and Dad are no longer with me; but, I thank them for giving me a heart to give to others like they taught me years ago.

So, Merry Christmas Mom and Dad and thank you for loving me and for teaching me the ways of Jesus. My prayer is to continue to strive to be the person that Jesus wants me to be.

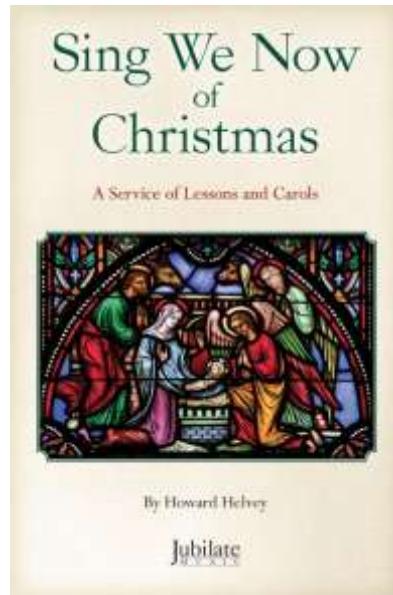
Merry Christmas TBC and thank you for being a part of the Children's Ministry.

God Bless!

Worship MINISTRY

DAVID ROBERSON

Sunday the Sanctuary Choir will present "Sing We Now of Christmas" a service of Lessons and Carols arranged by Howard Helvey. The lessons and carol service were first presented in England around 100 years ago and consist of a series of scripture readings (the lesson), and choral music and congregational music. The Handbell Choir will also be playing during the service, and the Children's Choirs will sing as well. I hope you will make a special effort to join us as we worship through music this Sunday morning.



- Goals for the New Year:
- * Put God first
 - * Read the Bible more
 - * Pray more
 - * Trust God always



Joe Bob Pierce
Formations

I always know it's Christmas time at Third Baptist Church when I see the red mailboxes near the south entrance of the Atrium! For those who may not know (although I think everyone knows this!), the mailboxes are provided for those who would like to give Christmas cards to a fellow church member. The boxes, which are alphabetized, allow you to deliver cards to church members without having to put a postage stamp on them. THEN, as the theory goes, you can save the postage money and contribute it to your favorite church offering or benevolence fund. I have used the mailboxes for several years, and they are very handy!



The Baby Boomer Fellowship is at it again! They are planning to hold a New Year's Eve Party in the church game room on New Year's Eve (obviously) which is Tuesday, December 31. This will be a casual affair, anyone who wishes to join in the festivity is welcome! Please bring some sort of snack food and any games or activities to offer to the group. We'll have great time of fellowship and welcoming in 2020!

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Reminder: 2019 CONTRIBUTIONS

All contributions must be received by December 31, 2019 or postmarked by that date to be included on your 2019 Contribution Tax Statement. Contributions received after this date will be recorded for 2020.

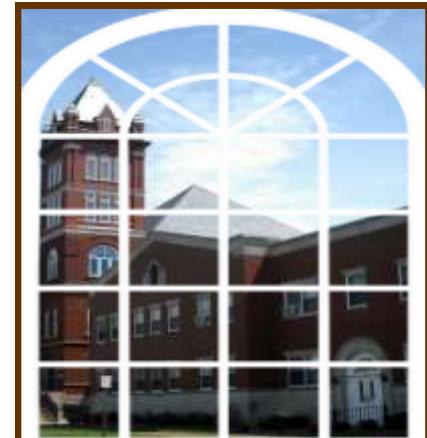
OFFERING ENVELOPES

for 2020 are located in the atrium for you to pick up on Sunday.

YOUR CHURCH NAME:
MAIN ST.
ANYTOWN, US 12345-6789



"I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit." John 15:5



Sponsor a Window in the Education Building

\$350 each

Goal: \$46,550

Year to Date: \$22,527

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 22
9:30 AM Sunday School
10:25 AM Coffee & Connection
10:45 AM Morning Worship
“Sing a Song of Christmas”

MONDAY, DECEMBER 23
12:00 PM Staff Christmas Party

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 24
5:00 PM Candlelight Service

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 25
Offices Closed

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 26
4:30 PM Community Meal

SYMPATHY

The Church expresses its deepest sympathy to the family of **Jewell Young.**

MEMORIALS

in memory of Donald Spicer
by Jerry & Sharlene Midkiff
in memory of Nadine Shaw
by Linda Celaya
in memory of
Frank Beller's grandson
by Bettie Kincaid
Jerry & Sharlene Midkiff

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 29
9:30 AM Sunday School
10:25 AM Coffee & Connection
10:45 AM Morning Worship

MONDAY, DECEMBER 30
6:00 PM Ladies Prayer Group

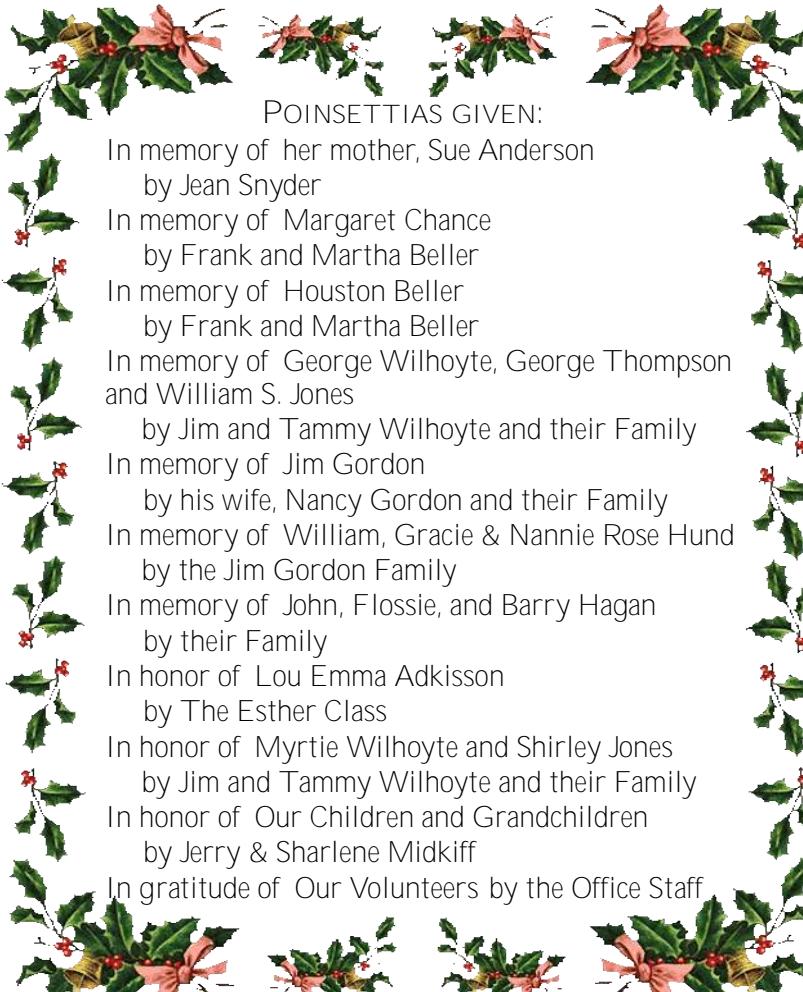
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 31
8:00 PM New Year's Eve Celebration
Game Room/Gym

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 1
Office Closed - No Activities

THURSDAY, JANUARY 2
4:30 PM Community Meal
6:00 PM Leadership Ministry Team

*God made Christmas happen;
Friends make Christmas beautiful;
Music makes Christmas festive;
Giving makes Christmas joyous;
Love makes Christmas complete.*
~William Arthur Ward

*Merry Christmas to you
from your staff at
Third Baptist Church*



POINSETTIAS GIVEN:

In memory of her mother, Sue Anderson
by Jean Snyder
In memory of Margaret Chance
by Frank and Martha Beller
In memory of Houston Beller
by Frank and Martha Beller
In memory of George Wilhoite, George Thompson
and William S. Jones
by Jim and Tammy Wilhoite and their Family
In memory of Jim Gordon
by his wife, Nancy Gordon and their Family
In memory of William, Gracie & Nannie Rose Hund
by the Jim Gordon Family
In memory of John, Flossie, and Barry Hagan
by their Family
In honor of Lou Emma Adkisson
by The Esther Class
In honor of Myrtle Wilhoite and Shirley Jones
by Jim and Tammy Wilhoite and their Family
In honor of Our Children and Grandchildren
by Jerry & Sharlene Midkiff
In gratitude of Our Volunteers by the Office Staff

DEACON INFORMATION

December 22
Ron Williams, Chris Holbrook

Hope and Harvest Team
Ron Williams, Hawes Mercer

December 29
Harold Wilson, Gary Kirtley

Hope and Harvest Team
Harold Wilson, Cissy Bishop

January 5
Cissy Bishop, Hawes Mercer

January 12
Larry Catron, Pat Settle

PRESCHOOL/CHILDREN

December 22
Patty Ray, Jean Snyder

December 29
Jan Lampkin, Janice Raby

atrium social

December 22
Esther Class

December 29
Pairs & Spares

MAY I HAVE YOUR ATTENTION PLEASE?

DEACONS RETREAT

Saturday, January 11
8:30 AM Game Room

ALL STAFF, DEACONS, VOLUNTEERS, TEACHERS AND VAN DRIVERS!

A Security and Safety Training Session
will be held

Saturday, January 11 at 10:00
in the Game Room.

Please make every effort to attend!

ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING FOR ALL COMMITTEES & TEAMS

Sunday, January 19 from 5 - 6PM

We will meet those on our team,
organize, plan and prepare for 2020.

BUSINESS MEETING

Sunday, January 19 at 6 PM