

FIRST THOUGHTS

We have entered a wonderful time of the year. Thanksgiving through Christmas is a time set aside to turn our attention to the Lord. Though many in our country do not celebrate the holidays neither in the fashion Christians do nor the Savior Christians do, thankfully the United States still sets aside these days as holidays. I pray we will use this time to promote and exalt the name of Jesus. May we be conscious of opportunities to tell others about the hope we have because the God of all that is sent His Son, born of a virgin, who lived a sinless life, to die for our sins. He was raised that we may be raised. May God use us to draw others to Himself.

Don't forget a couple of items. On December 24 we will have our annual Christmas Eve Candlelight Service at 5:30. On Sunday December 25, there will be one service at 10 AM. Neither Sunday School nor Sunday Night Worship will meet on Christmas Day. Stay tuned for the January 1, 2017 schedule.

Also, don't forget about the Richland Baptist Association Choir production on Sunday night, December 6. Join us at Start Baptist Church as you will be blessed as we worship the Lord through song. Bro. Raymond and the choir have worked diligently on the production and they along with the other choirs in the area hope to be a blessing to all that attend.

2016 has been a great year and I pray we will continue to push toward greater heights in 2017. Let us discipline ourselves to pray more than we have ever prayed. May we ingest the Word of God every day through a personal time with God in His Word, the preaching of the Word and Sunday School attendance. Let us be generous with our time and our financial resources for the glory of God. May God bless FBC Rayville and use us in ways we never asked or imagined.

Dr. EW

IGNITE NEWS

Children's Christmas Music & UPWARD Basketball

Our children have been working on a Christmas musical entitled "For the Glory of the King." Pre-K through 4th graders will be presenting this musical on Sunday night, December 11. If your kids are like mine, they have been day dreaming about what to ask for this Christmas and have been preparing a wish list to be shared with anyone and everyone who might purchase them a gift. This musical will remind us all of the importance and significance of Christmas, and it will encourage a spirit of worship in our hearts. **There will be an extra practice, Friday, Dec. 9th, at 6:30pm.** I am looking forward to our children leading us in worship on the 11th.

UPWARD Basketball and Cheer is upon us! Children may sign up any time by going to our Facebook Page or by stopping by the church office. Evaluations will be in the Family Life Center on December 6th & 13th from 5PM to 7PM. Participants must attend one of these evaluations and be registered by December 16th. We will start practicing the week of January the 9th and only practice one night per week. We will play 8 games this year beginning January 28 and ending March 25th with an off week on March 4th. Our UPWARD celebration will be April 2nd at 6PM.

HELP WANTED.....We will be needing evaluators (on the 6th & 13th), coaches, score keepers, and volunteers for halftime devotions. Please contact me if you can help in any way. I hope you will take advantage of this wonderful opportunity for us to reach out to our community.

In Christ,
Tim

NEWS

Your caring, faith, and especially prayers, have been a blessing to me. My recovery is ongoing, but progressing with very little pain or discomfort. In Jesus' name, I am humbled and grateful for His love, power, and mercy. Please continue to pray that further treatment will not be necessary!

A heartfelt "THANK YOU!" to all of you, my brothers and sisters in Christ. Knowing you as my church family is an awesome privilege. May our Lord bless each of you with peace, love, and safety.

Sincerely,
Annette Newsome

The **2016 Operation Christmas Child** shoebox ministry ended last Monday, November 21. 160 shoeboxes were filled by FBC Rayville members and returned to the church, 41 shoeboxes were filled by the children from the 5th and 6th grades and 93 shoeboxes filled from donations. This gave a grand total of 294 shoeboxes from FBC Rayville.

First Baptist Rayville had the opportunity to be a "Relay Center" to collect shoeboxes from churches in our area. 873 shoeboxes were dropped off the week before Thanksgiving and packed in cartons for shipping. Volunteers from our church packed 71 cartons with 1167 shoeboxes for the Operation Christmas Child project. These cartons were delivered to Fair Park Baptist Church in West Monroe. A total of 21,191 shoeboxes were collected from Northeast Louisiana and delivered to Atlanta, GA.

Many thanks and much gratitude to the volunteers at FBC Rayville for the help they gave. For 8 days volunteers were available to accept shoeboxes from this area and pack them into the cartons to be shipped. They also continued to pack the remaining shoeboxes from FBC Rayville and fill out tons of paperwork necessary for this project. Thanks to the church staff for their support, encouragement, and prayers for this project. A special thanks goes to the Richland Parish Sheriff's office for transporting the cartons to the Fair Park Baptist Church in West Monroe.

This is a huge project but well worth our time and effort because the end result is that children and their families all over the world receive a gift and, more importantly, they learn about Christ.

Kaye Perritt

FIRST NOTES 🎵

Let Every Heart Prepare Him Room!

As we enter the Christmas season may these words of *Joy to the World* resonate in our hearts- "Let every heart prepare Him room!" Christmas is undoubtedly one of the busiest times of the year. We make all sorts of preparations in decorating our homes and buying gifts, but the most important preparation we can make is opening our hearts to the wonder of God's love in giving us Jesus Christ to be our Savior and Lord. May the joy of Christ fill your hearts this Christmas season. Lastly, let me encourage you not to miss out on all the wonderful opportunities we have as a church to celebrate Christ's birth this year!

Children Choir: *For the Glory of the King!*

Our children have been working hard on the dramatic Christmas musical, *For the Glory of the King*. The performance date is December 11th at 6:00pm. Come and celebrate our Savior's birth as our children lead us in worship through this fun and exciting musical experience.

The Arrival: Celebrating the Joy of His Birth

This year's musical is *The Arrival: Celebrating the Joy of His Birth*. It is a powerful and uplifting musical that is sure to stir our hearts to worship the Lord and celebrate His birth. Come join us for an uplifting performance of this musical by our Richland Association Mass Choir on December 4th at 6:00pm at Start Baptist Church. This will be your only opportunity to behold the musical in its entirety so you don't want to miss it.

The Greatest Gift Ever Given Part 2

Please be in prayer for our Christmas play this year, "The Greatest Gift Ever Given Part 2." This is a wonderful event where students across Richland Parish will have the opportunity to hear the true Christmas story. We will have a number of school performances, and the community wide performance is set for December 14th Wednesday at 6:00pm at the Richland Arts Center on the campus of Rayville High School.

Raymond

WEEKLY ACTIVITIES

SUNDAY

8:30am.....Worship Service
 9:45am.....Sunday School
 10:45am.....Worship Service
 6:00pm.....Evening Worship

MONDAY

1:30pm.....Helping Hands Ministry

TUESDAY

8:00am-12Noon.....Care & Share
 9:00am.....Les Feldick Bible Study

WEDNESDAY

9:30am.....“God Speaks”
 4:00pm.....“Through the Bible” Study
 5:00pm.....Supper
 5:20pm.....Praise Team
 5:30pm.....“God Speaks”
 5:30pm.....“What Every Christian Ought to Know”

5:30pm.....Men’s Study
 6:00pm.....IGNITE-Children’s Activities
 6:15pm.....REFUGE-Student Worship
 6:30pm.....Sanctuary Choir

THURSDAY

6:00am.....Men’s Prayer
 9:30am.....Ladies’ Prayer Group
 5:30pm.....Richland Celebrate Recovery

FRIDAY

8:00am-12Noon.....Care & Share



Issue #11
 The next issue will be Jan. 2017

Online Giving is now available!
 Go to www.fbcrayville.org and click on the GIVE button.

FBC STAFF

Dr. Eddie Wren
Pastor
 Raymond Perrin, Jr.
Minister of Music
 Tim Allen
Minister to Children
 Beth Livingston
Ministry Assistant
 Michael Anderson
 Annie Rucker
Custodians

For more information about our church please call or visit our website.

www.FBCRayville.org
Office 318-728-3231

SECOND HELPINGS

Saturday, Dec. 10th
 Family Life Center
8:00am Prep/Cook
9:00am Prep Food Boxes
10:00am Begin Deliveries

DEACONS’ MEETING

Sunday, Dec. 11th, 4:30pm

**Northeast La. Veterans Cemetery
 National Remembrance Day**

**Ceremony, Saturday
 Dec. 17th, 11:00am**

MEN’S PRAYER BREAKFAST

Sunday, Dec. 18th 7:00am
 In the Family Life Center



Monday, Dec. 19th, 6:00PM
 In the WMU Building

First Ray

UPWARD Basketball & Cheer League

Deadline to register is Dec. 16th

Cost: \$60

Register online at: registration.upward.org/UPW62896
 Registration forms can be picked up and turned in to the church office weekdays from 8:00am-4:00pm. We will play 8 games this year beginning January 28th and ending March 25th with an off week on March 4th. Our UPWARD celebration will be April 2nd at 6PM. All participants must attend one of the Evaluation dates.

Evaluation #1 - Dec. 6th Evaluation #2 - Dec. 13th

SENIOR ADULTS

Senior adults will be going to Crossett for a Christmas lighting tour on Friday, December 16th. We will be driving through the lights of the winner of a contest that many people saw on TV. The winner won \$50,000 to add to his lighting. The bus will leave at 5:00 and we will eat at The Fish House in Hamburg. Call the church to get your name on the list. The only cost will be your meal.

On Tuesday, January 24th the senior adults will be going to Temple Baptist Church in Ruston for lunch and music by Squire Parson. He has written many beautiful songs and one of his best is Beulah Land. We will also hear Phil Waldrup speak. He is a popular Christian communicator and author. You will not have any expenses, but you must have your name on the list before January 16th. Call the church.

Reatagae Wooden

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS					
3 Gail Roy	15 Rachel Head	21 Belinda Crawford	21 Kayla Bridges		
4 James Sepulvado	16 Joseph Morris	21 Randy Bell, Jr.	22 Carlette Cooper		
7 Mallory Collins	17 David Kervin	23 Kristi Odom	23 Gene Sorey		
8 Wyndell Wroten	17 Marigrace Morris	24 Max Peters	24 Hannah Gable		
8 Wayne McManus	18 Mallory Cater	25 Lucy Robinson	25 Lucy Robinson		
8 Kenneth Newsom	18 Mallory Cater	27 Emmett Greer, Jr.	27 Christine Allen		
9 Charles Johnston	19 Greg Gipson	27 Brian Allen	27 Megan Payne		
10 Barbara Guynes	19 Lyle Bennett	27 Megan Payne	31 Andy Stephenson		
10 Dell Hogg	19 Virginia Mills				
10 Brandon Stephenson	20 Katherine Payne				
11 Jay Livingston	20 Sam Wren				
12 Charlotte McKnight	20 Ben Parker				
12 Joann Bond	20 Josh Prine				
14 Crystal Barras					

UPCOMING EVENTS

December

4th Associational Christmas Music
 6th UPWARD Evaluation #1
 11th 6pm Children’s Choir Musical
 13th UPWARD Evaluation #2
 16th UPWARD registration deadline
 18th Men’s Prayer Breakfast
 19th Saints Alive
 24th Candlelight Service
 25th 10:00am - Christmas Day Worship

First Baptist Church
 PO Box 810
 Rayville, LA 71269-0810

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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 Permit No. 89
 Rayville, LA
 72169