

FIRST NOTES 🎵

Christmas Reflections

There are so many wonderful things to enjoy throughout the Christmas season. For most children, I'm sure presents and gifts mark the climax of their Christmas. Perhaps others of us are more nostalgic in our taste, relishing the decorations, lights, and festivities of Christmas. And let's not forget about the food and fellowship. What could be more enjoyable than sitting around the table together with family and friends enjoying a delicious meal and tasty desserts?

All of these things are wonderful and enjoyable, but the best part of Christmas is and always will be Jesus. Jesus makes Christmas not just a great day but a holy day! The season of Christmas above all beckons us to remember God's love and gift of salvation through the birth of Jesus Christ. And what could be more satisfying and enjoyable than knowing Christ Jesus personally as Lord and Savior? So whether or not we receive gifts, see decorations, or have a delightful meal, we can still enjoy Christmas to the fullest because of Jesus. Brothers and Sisters, as we prepare for Christmas this year, let us remember the true reason for the season, and may that lead us to adore and worship Christ our King!

Church Family,
Let me remind you of some wonderful festivities to take part in and celebrate Jesus this Christmas season!

Richland Christmas Choir Fest: Sunday, December 9th at 6:00pm at Start Baptist Church

Everyone's Christmas Story- School Play: Wednesday, December 12th at 6:00pm at Richland Arts Center

Christmas! We Remember, Rejoice, and Worship presented by Sanctuary Choir and **A Crazy, Busy, Peaceful, Holy Night:** presented by Children's Choir
On Sunday, December 16th at 6:00pm

Carols, Cocoa, Cookies, & Karaoke Fellowship: Sunday, December 23rd at 6:00pm.

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service: Monday, December 24th at 5:00pm

To Jesus be Glory in the Highest!!!
Raymond

IGNITE NEWS

Upward Basketball Evaluations are next week!

God has called us to reach our city, state, nation, and the world for Him! We have an awesome opportunity to reach families in our community for Jesus through UPWARD Basketball. You can help by coaching a team. It only takes 2 hrs a week! You do not have to have ANY prior basketball knowledge to coach. Just a willing heart! Call me today to sign up!

We also need help running the Evaluations Monday and Friday nights from 5:00 until 7:30 next week. There will be a spot for anyone willing to help. We need greeters, stop-watch operators, and people to help kids select the correct size uniforms. Please be here at 4:30 if you can help on these nights.



2nd Annual Connect Conference

Our 2nd Connect conference will be held January 11-12 in the WMU. This year's speaker is Dan Seaborn from *Winning at Home*.

Dan will encourage us to lead Christ-centered homes. His practical illustrations and memorable real-life examples will teach us how to win at home. Through energetic and memorable presentations, Dan talks openly about family life—often by revealing his own struggles or failures. His sincerity leaves audiences nodding in agreement and his quick wit leaves them laughing, but ultimately it is Dan's commitment to God and family that captivates and challenges listeners of all ages.

RightNow Media

I'm excited that our church now has access to an extensive, new video library called RightNow Media! It's like the "Netflix of Video Bible Studies" and has a HUGE library of faith-based videos that you can access whenever and wherever you want—on your phone, iPad, computer, or at home on your TV.

RightNow Media is a tool to help you live out your faith. There are videos for everyone—kids, youth, parents, married couples, college students, single adults, working professionals—all aimed at helping you grow.

Please contact me if you have not received an email with the link to sign up. You do NOT want to miss out on this amazing opportunity!!

In Christ,
Tim

IMPACT

As we enter the Christmas season I catch myself getting caught up in buying presents and trying to make this the best Christmas I can for our children. We already have our lights on the house and have been watching Christmas movies every night. Last night we watched a movie called, *The Star*. *The Star* is a children's modern day representation of the true Christmas story. As I watched I began to think about all of the movies and shows we have watched to this point. None of them mention the true meaning of Christmas. The story of Jesus' birth is the exception not the rule. I am afraid that in my life and in the lives of many Christians, the birth of Jesus is not the focus of Christmas. It is my prayer that Jesus would be our focus during this season and throughout the year. What if we focused on why we celebrate instead of how we celebrate. Then maybe this Christmas would mean much more.

The month of November was a wonderful month in the life of our student ministry. We had over 175 students in attendance for Engage an area-wide worship night on November 3rd. This event was designed to reach all the students from our area to be encouraged to engage the culture with the gospel. This night was a wonderful night as the students worshiped our Lord and Savior together. Later in the month on November 18th and 19th, our students attended the Youth Evangelism Conference in Alexandria, LA. This event is put on by the Louisiana Baptist Convention to both present the gospel to students and show the students how to present the gospel. We took 40 students to this event and had one commitment of faith.

Randy

Youth CentriFuge

July 5 - 9, 2019

\$100 deposit due by Jan. 20th

CentriKid

July 28 - Aug 1

\$100 deposit due by Jan. 20th

FIRST THOUGHTS

Thank you for your pledge to the "Finish This" emphasis concerning the debt we owe for the education building and renovations made to the other FBC facilities. Your generosity shown through as the pledge amounts were counted. You pledged to give \$234,502 over the next year! Praise the Lord! By His grace we will knock out the debt we owe in the coming year!

I want to encourage you on the front end to make good on your pledge. Know, there will be events and circumstances in the next year that will tempt you to walk away from your pledge. But remember, those circumstances may be tests from the Lord. Do not allow the circumstances of the world to hinder you from doing what God has placed on your heart to do. Resist the temptation from the enemy and watch how God blesses you. God said, **"Test Me now in this . . . if I will not open for you the windows of heaven and pour out for you a blessing until it overflows"** (Malachi 3:10).

We thank the Lord for sending Randy, Chelby, Maddox and Maddie Belle to FBC. From day one Randy and Chelby have been a part of our family. Watching God grow them and bless them has been a great joy and privilege for all of us. Sunday we have the honor of participating in Bro. Randy's ordination as we acknowledge God's grace in calling He and Chelby to the ministry.

We look forward to celebrating Christmas the whole month of December! Of course, for my family, the high point of celebrating the Lord's birth is the Christmas Eve Candlelight Service. Make plans to join us on December 24 at 5 PM as we participate in the Lord's supper and Worship our Lord.

I love you all. I thank God for the privilege of being your pastor.

Dr. EW

ONLINE GIVING

Go to our church website at www.fbcrayville.org and click on the GIVE button. After creating an account, you're able to give a donation or schedule a series of donations directly from your checking account or by using your debit or credit card.

WEEKLY ACTIVITIES

SUNDAY
 9:00am Morning Praise and Worship
 10:10am Sunday School
 6:00pm Evening Gathering
 6:00pm Joy Explosion

MONDAY
 1:30pm Helping Hands Ministry

TUESDAY
 8:00am-12Noon Care & Share

WEDNESDAY
 5:00pm SUPPER
 5:20pm Praise Team
 5:30pm Remaining Faithful in an Ungodly Culture
 5:30pm Men's Bible Study
 6:00pm Young Women's Bible 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-Noon Care & Share

UPCOMING EVENTS

DECEMBER
 2nd Senior Adult Sunday
 2nd Randy Zeigler's Ordination
 9th Richland Association Christmas Musical
 8th Second Helpings
 16th Music by Sanctuary & Children Choir
 23rd Carols, Cocoa, Cookies & Karaoke
 24th 5:00pm Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

JANUARY
 11th-12th Connect Conference
 20th CentriFuge & CentriKid deposits due



LIVESTREAM WORSHIP

If you are out of town or can't be in church join us live anytime on Facebook under First Baptist Church, Rayville La.

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

Non-Profit Auto
 U.S. POSTAGE
 P A I D
 Permit No. 89
 Rayville, LA
 72169

FBC STAFF

Dr. Eddie Wren
Pastor
 Raymond Perrin, Jr.
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 Tim Allen
Minister to Children
 Randy Zeigler
Minister to Youth
 Beth Livingston
Ministry Assistant
 Annie Rucker
 Bill Martin
Custodian

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SECOND HELPINGS

December 8th
 Family Life Center

DEACONS' MEETING

Dec. 2nd, 4:30pm

MEN'S BREAKFAST

November 16th
 8:00am in the Family life Center

Saints Alive!

Dec. 17th, 6:00pm, in the WMU
A Very Special Christmas Story
 Bring finger foods
 Sandwiches will be provided!



First Ray

SENIOR ADULT SUNDAY

**DEC. 2nd
 9:00am**

Join us as we honor those who have provided for the blessings we now enjoy.

Randy Zeigler's Ordination

Sunday, Dec. 2nd, 6:00pm

A reception will be held in the WMU Building immediately following the

The Richland Baptist Association Christmas Musical

Start Baptist Church
 Dec. 9th at 6:00pm

Christmas Music by our Sanctuary and Children's Choirs

Sunday, Dec. 16th, 6:00pm
 FBC Sanctuary



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				December Birthdays				
Kimber	Morris	3	Erin	Tutt	15	Randy	Bell, Jr.	21
Gail	Roy	3	Joseph	Morris	16	Carlette	Cooper	22
James	Sepulvado	4	Mallory	Cater	18	Gene	Sorey	23
Wayne	McManus	8	Lyle	Bennett	19	Max	Peters	24
Kenneth	Newsom	8	Virginia	Mills	19	Tracy	McCullough	24
Charles	Johnston	9	Katherine	Payne	20	Hannah	Gable	25
Dell	Hogg	10	Sam	Wren	20	Lucy	Robinson	25
Brandon	Stephenson	10	Josh	Prine	20	Christine	Allen	27
Jay	Livingston	11	Belinda	Crawford	21	Brian	Allen	27
Charlotte	McKnight	12				Megan	Payne	27
Joann	Bond	12				Marissa	Peacock	28
Crystal	Barras	14				Andy	Stephenson	31