

FIRST NOTES 🎵

Never Too Old for Christmas December 15th at 6:00pm

Behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. Luke 2:10b

Have you ever felt lonely or unloved? Truth is we all get a little older every day. And perhaps you've asked yourself the question, "Will God and others still value me when I'm not as useful as I used to be?"... The good news is God loves us all no matter what. He sees worth and value in every person regardless of age, race, or gender. We are the reason God sent Jesus to the world.

This year our Christmas Drama and Musical, "*Never Too Old for Christmas*," addresses this important issue. The play is centered around a senior lady who feels unloved and abandoned. Throughout the play, she increasingly comes to discover that God loves her as she hears and imagines the first Christmas. This production is filled with comical moments, powerful choral anthems from our choir, as well as priceless moments sure to leave a lasting impact on all who come.

Church family, I encourage you not only come, but invite all friends and family to join in on this wonderful celebration of God's love. It will be a night to remember.

Carols and Cocoa December 22nd at 6:00pm

As a church body, we always want to encourage fellowship, and that's what **Carols and Cocoa** is all about. Come join us on Sunday, December 22nd at 6:00pm as we drink Cocoa and sing Christmas carols together. And this year we'll have a special fun game of Christmas Trivia. So come and test your knowledge of Christmas with your brothers and sisters in Christ. We may even have some special prizes to give away to the winners.

Hope to see you there!
Raymond

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.

IGNITE NEWS

Santa VS Jesus

I recently ran across a game that came out a few years ago entitled Santa VS Jesus. The tag line is "Who rules Christmas, Santa or Jesus?" Teams battle it out through a series of Christmas themed games to see who can win the most believers. The team that wins the most believers is declared the "true" ruler of Xmas.

MAD.....That was my first emotion. Who in their right mind would play much less invent a game like this. How dare they even suggest that Santa "Rules" Christmas. I was horrified at the characters on the cards and more horrified by the "Christmas themed games" that were shown. How could they reduce the best gift the world has ever seen to a game?

SAD.....My next emotion was sadness. 1 Corinthians 1:18 says, ***For the word of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.*** I am sad that the makers of this game have no clue as to the real meaning of Christmas. I am sad that people would buy this game and/or play it. I am sad that Santa has been placed on the same playing field as the Savior of the world.

Convicted.....How many times have I told my kids "Santa is watching" or "Santa knows if you've been bad or good." Don't get me wrong, I am not against Santa. I have become more aware of the tendencies I have to compare Santa to Jesus from supernatural abilities to being able to read minds to knowing all things good and evil.

Children are very literal and often take the things we say to be the truth. I'm fearful that if we continue to compare things the things of this world to the things of Heaven, our children may have trouble deciphering THE TRUTH later in their teenage years. Let's not compare the things of this world to Jesus. Let's not put ANYONE on the same level as Jesus.

Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. ^HFor unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord!

Lets elevate Christ this Christmas!

Tim

BASIC TRAINING

2nd - 6th Grades

March 6-8

@ King's Camp

\$50

Sign up today!

Sanctuary Quartet Celebration Dec., 7 at Delhi, FBC

Saturday, December 7 at 6:30pm The Sanctuary Quartet will celebrate 15 years of southern Gospel music ministry. The doors will open at 5:30 and no tickets needed. Enjoy the Sanctuary Qt, Ben Waites, The Touchets, Chad Tingle, Wayne Smart, Mark Goodman & Mike Freeman will be singing in this 15 year Celebration. Good Southern Gospel Music.

RICHLAND CELEBRATE RECOVERY A Parish Wide Ministry Thursdays, FBC Rayville Gym

Dealing with HURTS, HABITS, HANG-UPS? Do you know someone else who is? Join us on Thursday nights as we grow in the knowledge of God's mercy and grace in our lives.

5:30pm Fellowship Dinner,

6:30pm Large Group Meeting

7:30pm Open Share Groups

Life Issues & Chemical Dependency

8:30pm Solid Rock Café

Nursery Provided - Birth to 4 Years

Everyone is welcome to attend Large Group Worship at 6:30pm in the Gym.

To find out how you can help with this community ministry, please contact any of the following people:

Myrt Hales Claude Mercer Terry Doughty
Edward Greer Rayland Trisler

FIRST THOUGHTS

What a wonderful time of year. The leaves have changed colors and most have fallen to the ground. The air is cool, crisp and refreshing. Thanksgiving has come and gone and our attention turns to the birth of our Savior. I hope you will be able to worship with us every Sunday this month. On Sunday mornings we will be focusing our attention on four names for Jesus found in Isaiah 9:6 when God spoke through Isaiah about the coming Messiah. Last Sunday we examined the name Wonderful Counselor. Coming up we will study the names *Mighty God, Eternal Father, Prince of Peace*. Each name is significant and hopefully we will gain understanding and appreciation for each name.

During the month of December we have lots of events designed to help celebrate the birth of Jesus. Brother Raymond and the choir will present a musical with drama on December 15. On December 22, we will participate in Carols and Cocoa, our annual night of singing Christmas Carols will enjoying homemade snacks with Cocoa or Coffee. One of my favorite nights of the year is Christmas Eve as the church gathers for the candle-light service. I love to witness our families taking the Lord's Supper together, sitting under the Scriptures and singing songs of praise to God. Be sure to join us for that special night.

Pray for the Student Minister Search team as they seek God's man for the His church.

Dr. EW

DISCIPLE'S PRAYER LIFE
A Bible Study led by Dr. Wren
Begins Wed., Jan. 8, 5:45pm
Call the church office 728-3231 to sign up.

HELPING HANDS MINISTRY
of NORTHEAST LOUISIANA
Mondays - 1:30pm to 3:30pm
Join us at our weekly crochet circle. Visitors are welcome for fun and fellowship. If you'd like to learn to crochet, we can teach you!!

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

- 5:20pm Praise Team
- 5:45pm Adult Bible Studies
- 5:45pm IGNITE-Children's Activities
- 5:45pm REFUGE-Student Worship
- 7:00pm 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

- 1 Richland Association Choir Fest
- 7 Delhi FBC Sanctuary Quartet Celebration
- 10 Adult Game Day
- 9-11 Memphis Trip
- 13 Singing Christmas Tree—Jackson
- 15 "Never Too Old Christmas"
- 16 Saints Alive
- 17 Baton Rouge Trip
- 22 Carols & Cocoa
- 24 Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

JANUARY

- 11 Second Helpings
- 19 Men's Prayer Breakfast
- 27 Saints Alive



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Please note that our mailing address has changed to 1307 Julia Street, Rayville, LA. We no longer have the post office box. Also, if you have checks/mail that are automatically sent to us each month please change the mailing address in your system. The post office will not forward our mail much longer!

First Baptist Church
 1307 Julia Street
 Rayville, LA 71269-3224
 RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Non-Profit Auto
 U.S. POSTAGE
 PAID
 Permit No. 89
 Rayville, LA
 72169

FBC STAFF

Dr. Eddie Wren
Pastor

Raymond Perrin, Jr.
Minister of Music

Tim Allen
Minister to Children

Beth Livingston
Ministry Assistant

Annie Rucker
Bill Martin
Custodian

Office phone 318-728-3231
www.fbcrayville.org
Office@fbcrayville.org

DEACONS' MEETING
Dec. 8th
5:00pm

SECOND HELPINGS
Dec. 14th

- 8:00am Begin set-up & cooking
- 9:00am Serve up food trays
- 10:00am Begin delivery routes

If you are interested in helping with this ministry and would like more information, please contact Barry Collins at 680-5818 or Lori Morris at 366-1571.

MEN'S PRAYER BREAKFAST
Dec. 15th
8:00am in the Gym

CARE & SHARE MINISTRY
Tuesdays & Fridays:
8:00am-12Noon

THRIFT STORE
(Open to the public-
Everything 1/2 off)
First Saturday of each month:
8:00am-12Noon

First Ray

"Never Too Old for Christmas"
A Christmas Musical Drama
December 15th at 6:00pm
FBC Sanctuary

Carols and Cocoa
December 22nd
6:00pm in the WMU Building

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service
Dec. 24th - 5:00pm
FBC Sanctuary



Monday, DEC. 16, 6:00pm
Christmas Carols with the Jacksons
Sandwich trays provided - Bring Finger Foods

December Birthdays			
Kimber Morris	3	Randy Bell, Jr	21
Gail Roy	3	Carlette Cooper	22
Brenda Hooks	5	Gene Sorey	23
Wayne McManus	8	Max Peters	24
Kenneth Newsom	8	Erin Tutt	15
Charles Johnston	9	Mallory Cater	18
Brandon Stephenson	10	Lyle Bennett	19
Jay Livingston	11	Virginia Mills	19
Charlotte McKnight	12	Katherine Payne	20
Joann Bond	12	Sam Wren	20
Crystal Barras	14	Josh Prine	20
		Hannah Gable	25
		Lucy Robinson	25
		Christine Allen	27
		Brian Allen	27
		Megan Payne	27
		Marissa Peacock	28
		Angie Mills	30