

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
P.O. BOX 520
401 S. SECOND STREET
BANGS, TX 76823

Non-Profit
Organization
U.S. Postage Paid
Bangs, Texas
PERMIT NO. 9

FBC Bangs "The Messenger"
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or call: 325-752-6724

IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

November: Salvation Army Bell Ringer Sign Up, Holiday Food Drive for Bangs Food Pantry, Star Christmas Tree Project
Nov. 3rd: All Church Work Day
Nov. 4th: Fall back one hour to Standard Time at 2am, Missions Committee Meeting/Covered Dish Luncheon
Nov. 7th: October/November Business Meeting
Nov. 9th: FCA After Game Fellowship
Nov. 11th: CMT Meeting
Nov. 13th: Advanced Group Covered Dish Luncheon
Nov. 14th: Thanksgiving Meal and Praise Service
Nov. 21st: Church Office closes at noon, no meals or services in the evening
Nov. 22nd: Thanksgiving Day, the Church Office will be closed.
Nov. 23rd: The Church Office will be closed.
Nov. 25th: No Children's Church
Nov. 28th: Hanging of the Green
December: Star Christmas Tree Presents will be distributed.
Dec. 1st: All Church Work Day
Dec. 2nd-9th: Week of prayer for International Missions/Lottie Moon Christmas Offering
Dec. 5th: Deacons' Meeting for November & December
Dec. 8th: Christmas Parade, Nativity & Christmas in the Park
Dec 9th: Children's Christmas Musical
Dec. 11th: Advanced Group Covered Dish Luncheon
Dec. 12th: Christmas Meal, Happy Birthday Jesus Party, Business Meeting, Youth Christmas Party, Choir rehearsal
Dec. 16th: Celebration Choir Special Music

Dec. 19th: Yuletide Fellowship, no prepared meal or other services
Dec. 23rd: The Lord's Supper
Dec. 24th: Christmas Eve, Church Office closed, Christmas Eve Candlelight Service
Dec. 25th Christmas Day, Church Office closed
Dec. 26th: No meal or evening services
Dec. 31st: New Year's Eve, Church Office closed

Happy Thanksgiving! Merry Christmas, and a Blessed New Year!

THE CHURCH OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED:
THURSDAY & FRIDAY, NOV. 22ND & 23RD FOR THANKSGIVING
MONDAY & TUESDAY, DEC. 24TH & 25TH FOR CHRISTMAS
MONDAY & TUESDAY, DEC. 31ST & JAN. 1ST, 2019 FOR NEW YEARS



Standard Time returns at 2:00 am on Sunday, Nov. 4th. Don't forget to set your clocks back one hour on Saturday night, Nov. 3rd!

SENIOR PASTOR: Dr. Pepper Dill
ASSOCIATE PASTOR/YOUTH MINISTER: Seth Pitman
CHILDREN'S DIRECTOR: Joy Mitchell
OFFICE MANAGER: Cindy Boyle
OFFICE ASSISTANT/WEB MASTER: Marsha Zabecki



OFFICE: 752-6724

FAX: 752-7516

www.fbcbangs.com

Words of Encouragement...

Psalm 100: 4-5 – *Enter His gates with thanksgiving and His courts with praise. Give thanks to Him; bless His name. For the Lord is good; His loving-kindness is everlasting, and His faithfulness to all generations.*

Luke 2: 10, 14 – *...for behold, I bring you good news of great joy which shall be for all people; ... there has been born for you a Savior.... Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among men with whom He is pleased.*

Well, it's hard to believe November is here and December is right around the corner. In just a few short weeks we'll be celebrating Thanksgiving and well into the holiday season. And Christmas will be here before we know it.

This season of holidays has a common thread running through it, or at least it should have. There is more than the regular feasts of turkey and dressing that connects Thanksgiving and Christmas. The entire holiday season is, or should be, characterized by a heart of gratitude.

We launch the season with a day of thankfulness where we recount the blessings we've experienced throughout the year. Then we make it a season of praise, giving thanks and blessing *Him* for all His goodness toward us.

Each day we should express our gratitude by trying to remember some good things He has done for us. And, as we move closer to Christmas, we begin to reflect on His eternal loving-kindness and faithfulness to all generations. We rejoice in the greatest gift of all – the precious Gift of God's Son, Jesus our Savior.

That Gift given long ago Whom the prophets foretold – born of a virgin, meek and lowly. Not a very grand entrance for such a priceless and precious gift. But, oh how the angels sang, and all of heaven rejoiced at the promised arrival. They shouted and sang "Glory to God!" Now, true peace is available to all humanity.

Because of the advent of the Savior, reconciliation with a holy God is now possible and the hope of redemption is available. Such a tiny package delivered without much human fanfare. But the Hope of the ages was laid in a lowly manager, and the earth has never been the same.

It seems to me, that's a lot to be thankful for. We who have experienced His grace and mercy should bless His Holy Name. And in a spirit of gratitude, we should share with others the gift we've received.

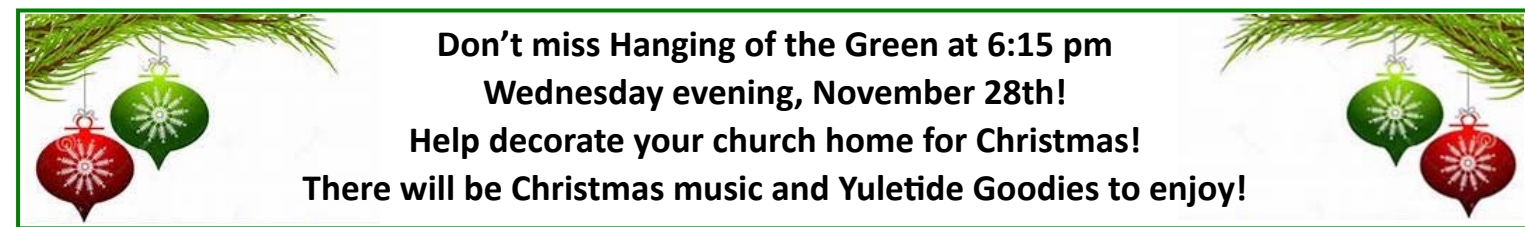
We also refer to the time between Thanksgiving and Christmas as the season of giving. Begin first by giving praise and thanks to the One Who made eternal life possible and bridged the gulf of sin and judgment we could never cross on our own. Then begin to think of others whom you could bless by kindness of words and deeds. Let your acts of giving spring forth from a heart of gratitude.

Look for opportunities to give to individuals. And remember, there are opportunities to give to the needs of our church and the Christ-honoring ministries we support.

The holidays of Thanksgiving and Christmas *are connected* by more than turkey and dressing dinners. The strand of gratitude and the heart of praise tie them together. And as we count our blessings, the Gift of Jesus must hold first place.

Blessings to you and your household during this thankful season! I am so thankful for you – and the work of grace He is doing in our midst. May you have a blessed holiday season celebrated by a heart of giving.

Pepper



CHILDREN'S NEWS



SAVE THE DATES!

- Nov. 3rd: Work Day 8am-12pm
- Nov. 11th: CMT Meeting
- Nov. 14th: Kids will sing in the Thanksgiving Praise Service/ Thanksgiving Meal
- Nov. 25th: Kids will say Memory Verse in AM service
- Nov. 28th: Hanging of the Green
- Dec. 1st: Work Day 8am-12pm
- Dec. 2nd: Decorate for Musical (time TBA)/ Kid's Choir Dress Rehearsal
- Dec. 8th: Parade & Christmas in the Park, meet at 5:15 pm, parade starts at 6 pm
- Dec. 9th: Christmas Musical - "Crazy, Busy, Peaceful, Holy Night"
- Dec. 12th: Christmas Meal/Happy Birthday Jesus Party
- Dec. 30th: Kids will say Memory Verse in AM service

Christmas time is often extremely crazy and busy with so many things to do. From parties to shopping, from recitals to exams—it is easy to lose focus on the Prince of Peace that was born in Bethlehem that holy night. Today, our Christmas is not usually quiet, calm or silent. As we read how the story unfolded, we can see that first Christmas was crazy and busy too! Thankfully, Jesus came to bring peace and hope to the chaos in our

"I was lost, now I'm found by the father
I've been changed from a ruin to treasure
I've been given a hope and a future
I've been blessed beyond all measure
I am counting every blessing, counting every blessing
Letting go and trusting when I cannot see
I am counting every blessing, counting every blessing
Surely every season you are good to me
Oh, you are good to me"
Lyrics from Counting Every Blessing by Rend Collective

This season, let us model a heart of thanksgiving for our children! Even in the storms of life, there are many blessings, including the opportunity to grow in our faith and understanding! The lessons the disciples learned in the boat during the storm could never be taught from the safety of the shore. One of our sweet little girls recently prayed a MIGHTY WARRIOR PRAYER and said, "God thank you for the good days and thank you for the bad days." WHAT WHAT??? The bad days? Yes, even the bad days – we thank you! Wow! This made my whole heart smile! Thank you to her parents and teachers for teaching her to **BE THANKFUL....IN ALL THINGS!**

Happy Thanksgiving and Merry Christmas!

STUDENT MINISTRY NEWS

IMPORTANT DATES

- Nov. 3rd: All Church Work Day
- Nov. 9th: After Game Fellowship
- Dec. 1st: All Church Work Day
- Dec. 12th: Christmas Around the World Youth Christmas Party
- Dec. 15th: Main Street Bethlehem, Burnet TX (6-9pm)

"Lord, will you at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?"
(Acts 1:6)

Anticipation. It's not just an old song, it's what embodies the human psyche during these last few months of the year. If we are completely honest, anticipation probably started the moment school supplies were replaced with Christmas decorations.

That's right. I'm talking about the build up to Christmas morning. The parties. The presents. The vacations. The food. The Family. From September to December 25th, there is an anticipation that creates a huge buildup of emotions. It builds and builds and builds—then suddenly, BOOM! Christmas morning has arrived, and the mayhem of wrapping paper and putting batteries into new toys replaces songs of peace and goodwill. And, then, after a few moments of organized chaos, we look around and think, "Is this it?"

I can imagine that the anticipation of the coming of our LORD was met with similar feelings during the first century. The disciples spent

three years with the Messiah. They listened to His message. They witnessed His miracles. As the time drew closer to the crucifixion, the intensity and anticipation rose. All of this culminated by the events of the Passion—leaving the disciples wondering, "Is this it?"

Like us, the disciples wanted a hard date. "Are you now ready to usher in your kingdom?" they asked. However, Jesus knew that the end (the return of Jesus) was not the point. The point is the anticipation. We long for the return of the King, but the real joy is the anticipation for the return of the King. It drives us. It causes us to reach out to our neighbors. It focuses us on the Kingdom of God.

Our focus this time of year is pointed toward December 25th and that is ok. But, what would that kind of anticipation look like year-round? We might have that conversation. We might give that extra dollar. We might actually usher in the "Kingdom of God" here on earth by our own actions—as we anticipate the return of the King!

Happy Thanksgiving and Merry Christmas!

Seth



MISSIONS

Bangs Food Pantry OPEN! First and Third Thursdays from 10:00 am to 3:00 pm..

Every church.

Every nation.

LOTTIE MOON CHRISTMAS OFFERING FOR INTERNATIONAL MISSIONS

Week of Prayer: Dec. 2nd-9th

Our Goal: \$3,500.00

Watch for a Special Offering in December!



The Bangs Community Food Pantry needs your help to fill Thanksgiving and Christmas Baskets!

Please donate funds that can be used to fill holiday baskets. Place your donation in the Sunday Offering Plate labeled "Holiday Food Baskets" or drop your gift off at the church office. Thank you for your generous giving!



"Mail" your holiday cards to your church family in the post office boxes in the foyer. Add the postage you would have spent to your Lottie Moon Offering!



Share the Joy!

- Participate in the Star Christmas Tree Project! Watch for more information and watch for the Star Tree in the church foyer!
- Sign up to be a Salvation Army Bell Ringer! Call Jeremy Tension at 325-203-6253. This is a great opportunity for families, Sunday School Classes, or Life Groups!

CHILDREN'S NEWS Continued

world. Is your family running in every direction? Don't miss the peace of Christ in the midst of Christmas craziness.

Join us for a very special Christmas Musical – **Crazy, Busy, Peaceful, Holy Night** - on Sunday, Dec. 9th in the morning worship service as we CELEBRATE CHRISTMAS!

Camp Fundraisers

Camp cost \$175 - June 7th-10th (Fri.-Mon.)
Oct. – Mixed Bags – See Mrs. Dodson or Mrs. Joy for a catalog!
Nov. - T-shirts - More info coming soon!

Camp Scholarships & Work Days

We would like to partner with parents to assist with summer camp cost. If your student participates in 3 work days at the church between now and March, we will pay \$88 of your camp cost. The remaining \$87 can be raised by fundraisers or paid by the camper.

BUSINESS MEETING NOTES

AUGUST 2018 MEETING MINUTES

- ♦ July 2018 minutes were approved as printed.
- ♦ Reports were accepted. Letters were granted, and new members approved.
- ♦ Approval was given for the remaining 2018 Minister of Worship's salary to be moved to the Activity Account for 2019 office staff training.
- ♦ Approval was given to use the remaining Roof Fund money for the construction of a new sidewalk on the north side of the church.
- ♦ Miscellaneous items were discussed.

AUGUST 2018 GENERAL FUND

Total Contributions:	\$35,292.59
Weekly Average:	\$8,823.15
Weekly Requirement:	\$8,437.98
Fund Balance:	\$14,536.94
BUILDING SAVINGS ACCOUNT BALANCE:	\$68,364.81 (8/31/2018)*
CHURCH ROOFS ACCOUNT BALANCE:	\$12,536.81 (8/31/2018)
GENERAL SAVINGS ACCOUNT BALANCE:	\$8,285.34 (8/31/2018)

* Includes funds for the roof projects

SEPTEMBER 2018 MINUTES

- ♦ August 2018 minutes were approved as printed.
- ♦ Reports were accepted, and new members were approved.
- ♦ The Annual Church Profile was approved.
- ♦ The following were approved to serve on the Minister of Worship Search Committee: Jenny Patrick, Leesa Stephens, Diane Newton, Allan Bass, Kenny Prescott, Linda Skipper, Stacy Walker, and Rodney James. Seth Pitman will chair the committee.
- ♦ Approval was given to move \$2,000 from the Building Fund Savings Account to the Building Maintenance Activity Fund to cover needs for the remainder of 2018.
- ♦ Miscellaneous items were discussed.

SEPTEMBER 2018 GENERAL FUND

Total Contributions:	\$40,176.93
Weekly Average:	\$8,035.39 (5 Sundays)
Weekly Requirement:	\$8,437.98
Fund Balance:	\$15,000.00
BUILDING SAVINGS ACCOUNT BALANCE:	\$57,090.84 (9/30/2018)
CHURCH ROOFS ACCOUNT BALANCE:	\$0- (9/30/2018)
GENERAL SAVINGS ACCOUNT BALANCE:	\$8,286.45 (9/30/2018)