

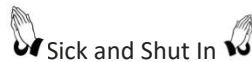
**D
e
c
e
m
b
e
r

B
i
r
t
h
d
a
y
s**

- 12/01 Geneisha McNatt, Arthur McCallum, Lauren Holloway, Angela Brown
- 12/02 +Maurice Evans
- 12/03 Marqual Evans, +Ernestine Baldwin
- 12/04 Todd Southerland
- 12/05 Sharon Scott
- 12/06 Adrienne Kennedy
- 12/07 Jermita McNatt, Maya Bennett, John Kennedy
- 12/08 Derek Southerland
- 12/10 Adrianna Thompson, +Mamie Patrick
- 12/12 Nikki Love
- 12/13 Jasmine Thompson, William Dudley Jr, Martez Evans, Tony Bridgett
- 12/14 Aquilla Faust, Jean Bridgett, Billy Love, +Phillip McDougald
- 12/16 Abdul Ellis, Thomas Southerland
- 12/17 Antonio Morris, Maggie Holly
- 12/18 Jessica Underwood, Rev. & Mrs. Arthur Foy
- 12/19 Bria Holly
- 12/20 Shamika Campbell, George Kennedy, Gerald Mosby, Marlon McNair, Tyreik McCallum
- 12/21 Damorion Johnson, Jacquell Hill
- 12/22 Edward Hines
- 12/23 Leann McKiver
- 12/24 Mr. &Mrs. Samuel Leazer, Grace Kennedy, +Annie Southerland
- 12/25 +Horace Blount Jr.
- 12/26 Clarence Stockton
- 12/28 Kanisha Addison, George Lessane, Zay Ginns
- 12/29 Mary Houston, +Delois Hemphil, Shirley Blount, Montese Davis
- 12/30 Branlyn Mosby

Upcoming Events

- **Every Sunday – In person Sunday School @ 9:00am**
- **December 19th – Christmas Program, Wear Red Sunday**
- **December 23rd – Youth Ministry Christmas Caroling @6:30**
 - **Office Hours: Monday-Friday 8:30-1:30**
 - **Website: www.firstbaptistlumberton.com**
 - **Conference Call: 435-777-2200 ID #: 739-3939**
 - **Text to give: Text “give” to (910) 407-7393**
 - **Cash App: @fbcilton**



Sick and Shut In

- | | | |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|---------------------|
| Sis. Lela Crawford | Sis. Melissa Stephens | Bro. Willie Hall |
| Bro. Joe Hall | Sis. Laura Cade | Sis. Shirley Blount |
| Bro. James Dockery | Sis. Betty McNeill | Sis. Alma Dawson |
| Sis. Louise Underwood | Sis. Linda Blackmon | Bro. Tony Bridgett |

December Newsletter

Merry Christmas!



First Baptist Church
504 West 2nd Street
Lumberton, N.C. 28358

Content

Page 1

Season Saint
Spotlight

Page 2

A moment in Black
History
What do Christmas
means to you?

Page 3

Emmanuel
By Rev. Paul
Matthews
Keeping In Touch
by Sis. Kanisha
Addison

Page 4

December
Birthdays
Upcoming Events
Sick &Shut-In
Insert
What Does Christmas
Means to You?(cont.)

Seasoned Spotlight
Sis. Lela Crawford



Mrs. Lela Gray Crawford was born June 16, 1929 in Fairmont NC. She lives in south Lumberton and is the wife of the late Deacon Willie T. Crawford. Mrs. Crawford was an active deaconess until her health began to fail. She was also a member of the Senior Choir and the United Order of Tents of First Baptist Church.

She is soft spoken and always has a smile on her face. She is a mother, grandmother and great grandmother to many.

A Moment in Black History

December 01, 1955 – In Montgomery, Alabama, Parks refused to obey bus driver James F. Blake's order to give up her seat in the colored section to a white passenger, after the white section was filled. Parks was not the first person to resist bus segregation.

December 08, 1863 – On this day, President Lincoln issued his Proclamation on Amnesty and Reconstruction for the restoration of the Confederate states into the Union. He offered them a full pardon and restoration of their rights if they were willing to take an oath of loyalty to the Union and accept the end of slavery.

December 13, 1867 –Madame C.J. Walker, born Sarah Breedlove on this day, starts a Black hair-care business in Denver, CO; she alters curling irons that were popularized by the French to suit the texture of Black women's hair. She is arguably there first woman millionaire in the U.S.

What Does Christmas Means to You?

Youth

“What Christmas means to me is spending time with family and friends not presents. I enjoy watching movies, making cookies, drinking hot chocolate, and playing games.”

~Darius

“To me Christmas means family and friends having fun with everybody and we get to open presents. We also celebrate Jesus birthday!”

~Au'Bri

Young Adult

“Christmas to me means family and smiles!”

~Bianca

“Christmas to me is a time for family to get together spends time together, decorate the tree and house. It is a time to celebrate and learn the birth of Jesus. Jesus was born in a stable, lived a sinless life, died on the cross for our sins and rose again from the dead, in the hope that we will have joy and peace.

~Unknown

Senior

“Love, Friendship, and togetherness!”

~Ruth

EMMANUEL

“Behold, a virgin shall be with child, and shall bring forth a son, and they shall call his name Emmanuel, which being interpreted is, God with us.” –

Matthew 1:23

The Christmas story has been shared yearly during this time in December. We are often smiling and excited when we see the nativity scene with Mary, Joseph and Baby Jesus. With the many decorations of the season, we often think that the first Christmas was an event filled with wonderful moments.

The truth of the matter is that birth of Christ was surrounded around stress, disappointment and worry. Zacharias the priest didn't believe that God was able to do the impossible, Mary received a promise that put her in a position that Joseph may not accept and others would shame her; and Joseph was disappointed thinking that Mary had been unfaithful.

We can hear the music and see the lights of the Christmas season but yet be overwhelmed with stress, grief and worry. There was once a scientific study on worry that discovered:

40% of our worries never happen

30% of our worries concern the past

12% of our worries are needless worries about our health

10% of our worries are insignificant or petty concerns

8% of our worries are really legitimate concerns

While Joseph pondered on how to deal with the situation, God spoke to him in a dream. The angel told Joseph that he should still take Mary because this was a move by the Holy Spirit. The angel told Joseph that the child that Mary was pregnant with was Jesus because He will save or be our salvation.

This was fulfillment of the Old Testament prophecy that stated that a virgin shall bring forth a son and he would be called Emmanuel which means, “God Is with Us”.

This is good news to the family of God! As we hear God's voice through the scriptures, we can be assured that in spite of what we face or is around the corner; we are never alone because God is With Us!

Keeping In Touch

Hello fellow church members and friends. I hope everyone is staying safe and practicing social distancing. I would like to encourage anyone who would like to write an article or have some information, or an upcoming event that they would like to be in the newsletter, please email me at kanishaaddiosn@gmail.com or drop it off at the church. In case you would like to submit an article for the upcoming month newsletter, you would need to have it in by the last Wednesday of the month. So if you would like to do an article for the month of July, you would need to turn it in no later than June 30th. Thank you and continue to be blessed!

Sincerely,
Kanisha Addison
Executive Secretary
Page 3

What Christmas Means To You? (cont.)

Christmas first and foremost means to me is giving thanks to the Lord and savior for sending his son to give us a choice for redemption and to save mankind through our choice.

An opportunity to redeem ourselves from our evil ways as mankind to seek his salvation and to do unto other's with kind deeds and blessing's as he has done unto us. To remember family, neighbors, community as we journey forward thanking the master for the golden opportunity to be alive on this very day. Remember others that have gone on before us not to bury them. But to cherish the lives that they have lived among us that we may live and do something within our lives through his grace and mercy that he God may say in the mist of all things has tried to something's in his name through a shared faith he lives and at this time of year. Putting forth a concentrated effort to forgive other's as he has forgiven us with love and mercy. Most of all remember the reason for this season a time to drawn closer to God and honor our servant in our church. Merry Christmas!

~Chris

Teach the Children the true meaning of Christmas

This is how it happened....I heard a noise in the front of the house, I opened the front door and to my surprise, Santa himself stepped out from behind the Christmas tree.

He placed his finger over his mouth so I would not cry out. "What are you doing? I started to ask. The words choked Up in my throat, and I saw he had tears in his eyes. His usual jolly manner was gone. Gone was the eager, Boisterous soul we all know. He then answered me with a simple statement. "TEACH THE CHILDREN!"

I was puzzled; what did he mean? He anticipated my question, and with one quick movement brought forth a miniature toy bag from Behind the tree. As I stood bewildered, Santa said, "Teach the children! Teach them the old meaning of Christmas. The meaning that nowadays Christmas has forgotten."

Santa then reached in his bag and pulled out a FIR TREE and placed it before the mantle. "Teach the children that The pure green color of the stately Fir Tree remains green all year round, depicting the everlasting hope of mankind, All the needles point heavenward, making it a symbol of man's thoughts turning toward heaven." He again reached into his Bag and pulled out a brilliant STAR. "Teach the children that the star was the heavenly sign of promises long ago. God promised a Savior for the world and the star was the sign of fulfillment of His promise," He then pulled out a CANDLE. "Teach the children that the candle symbolizes that Christ is the light of the world and when we see this great light we Are reminded of He who displaces the darkness."

Once again, he reached into his bag and removed a WREATH and placed it on the tree. "Teach the children that the wreath Symbolizes the real nature of love. Real love never ceases. Love is one continuous round of affection." Next, he pulled Out an ornament of himself. "Teach the children that I, Santa Clause symbolize the generosity and good will we feel During the month of December." He then brought out a HOLLY LEAF. "Teach the children that the holly plant represents The crown of thorns worn by our Savior. The red holly represents the bloodshed by Him." Next, he pulled out a GIFT and said "Teach the children that God so loved the world that He gave HIS only begotten SON....." "Thanks be to God for His unspeakable Gift.

Teach the children that the wise men bowed before the Holy BABE and presented HIM with gold, frankincense and myrrh. We Should always give gifts in the same spirit of the wise men." Santa then pulled out a CANDY CANE and hung it on the tree. "Teach the children that the candy cane represents the shepherds' crook. The crook on the staff helps to bring back strayed Sheep to the flock. The candy cane is the symbol that we are our brother's keeper." He reached in again and pulled out an ANGEL. "Teach the children that it was the angels that heralded in the glorious news of the Savior's birth. The angels sang 'Glory to God in the highest, on earth peace and good will toward men.'" Suddenly I heard a soft twinkling sound, and from his bag he pulled out a BELL. "Teach the children that as the lost sheep are found by the sound of the bell, it should ring mankind to the fold. The bell Symbolizes guidance and returns."

Santa looked back and was pleased. He looked back at me and I saw that the twinkle was back in his eyes. He said, "Remember, Teach the children the true meaning of Christmas and do not put me in the center, for I am but a humble servant of the One that is, I Bow down to worship HIM, our LORD, our GOD!"

~Unknown