

# Centered in Christ

## Bonaire First Baptist Church

www.bonairefbc.org



2018

922-1924

12/1	Men's Breakfast 8:00 am
12/1	Youth Scavenger Hunt 6:00 pm
12/8	Camp Christmas
12/9	Deacons' Meeting 5:00 pm
12/11	W.O.M.
12/16	Christmas Musical
12/21	<i>Winter</i>
12/24	Christmas Eve Service
12/25	Merry Christmas
12/31	New Year's Eve

On December 16th during morning worship, the BFBC choir and worship band will be leading. This joyful time of music will incorporate songs from "Prince of Heaven," arranged by Travis Cottrell, that creatively leads us to reflect on the incarnate Christ. From the song "Arrival," consider these thoughtful lyrics:

*"Who is God that He would take our frame? The Artisan inside the paint. Or breathe the very air His breath sustains? The Architect inside the plan. Oh, come now! Hail, His arrival, the God of creation. Royalty robed in the flesh He created. Jesus, the Maker has made Himself known. All hail the infinite infant God!"*

Reflect on the chorus of "Prince of Heaven," the title song of the collection:

*"Hail! The Prince of Heaven comes. Angel choirs sound the call. For this Babe wrapped in a cloth is the incarnate Word of God. All the Kingdom and its pow'r resting now in this Child. Prince of Heaven, Jesus, Hope of the world."*

In addition to the music from "Prince of Heaven," the service will also include instrumental music, additional choral pieces, and congregational singing. It is our prayer that it will be a sweet and moving worship celebration.

We hope that you will plan to join us and perhaps bring along friends and family as we through word and music worship together the "Prince of Heaven!"



Christmas Eve Service  
December 24, 2018  
Music starts at 5:45 pm and the  
service starts at 6:00 pm.

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P.O. BOX 179 NON-PROFIT  
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OR CURRENT RESIDENT

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# Student Ministries

**Monthly**  
 Student Worship  
 Every Wed.  
 6:45 pm  
 Student Nursing  
 Home Ministry  
 4:00 pm  
 2nd Sunday in Dec. and Jan.

**DECEMBER**

Dec. 1st	Christmas Scavenger Hunt 6:00 pm
Dec. 2nd	Nursing Home Ministry 4:00 pm Caroling
Dec. 8th	Camp Christmas 9:00 am—1:00 pm

## COMING ★ UP...



More information will be in the January newsletter.

Merry Christmas!

I use this greeting frequently, and it is finally the time of year when people do not look at me strangely because of it. I do pray you have a wonderful celebration of the greatest miracle of birth ever - Jesus, our Savior, Christ, and Lord.

And it is through the grace of Jesus that I have been given an opportunity go and share His truth this March in Hungary. God has given me the opportunity to go and work with our missionaries there and teach apologetics to pastors.

Everyone is invited to the Weekday Preschool Christmas program on Tuesday, December 18th at 10:00 am.

The trip is coordinated by Bob Hartman International Ministries (BHIM) and done through the International Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC).

I am seeking partners for this endeavor. I need members of my church family to be praying for the preparations, the trip, and the hearts of the pastors serving there. If you would be willing to share with me by praying for work, please let me know and let me have your email address to keep you updated. Your prayers are a part of God's work and are used in His plan to further His kingdom, and I thank you greatly for them.



### December

- 5th Store Night
- 12th Club Night
- 19th, Theme Night  
No Room in the Inn  
End of 2nd Quarter
- 26th No Club



Please be praying for Bob Hartman as he continues this ministry. He began this when he retired from his pastorate and SBC work. Also be praying for the missionary couple in Hungary: Mike and Carolyn Miller, Debrecen, Hungary.

I have been asked about finances. This trip is self-funded as Bob Hartman does not raise funds nor does he charge anything for his ministry. His heart is to help missionaries around the world by sending pastors to train other pastors in the various countries. BHIM takes care of all the travel arrangements and communicates between the missionaries, the Mission Board, and the pastors who are serving. If you would like to help out financially, please pray first and only give as God leads. You can make checks out to BHIM, and give them to me or I can give you the ministry address.

I thank Brother Kenny, the elders, and the church for giving me the time me to go on this mission. I also thank you again for your prayers.

In His Footprints,  
 David



## Men's Ministries

**Men's Breakfast-**  
Saturday, December 1st  
8:00 a.m.

## *Ladies Ministries*

*Women on Mission  
Meeting  
Tuesday, December 11th  
at 10:00 a.m.*

### **Give Through United Way**

If you give to United Way on your job...did you know you can designate your contribution to go to Mission Dignity? Mission Dignity gives financial help to retired SBC ministers or their wives.

In the section of the donation form that asks for your contribution designation, simply fill in the following:  
GuideStone./Mission: Dignity  
2401 Cedar Springs Rd.  
Dallas, TX. 75201-1498



**No Joyful Hearts Luncheon**

The church office will be closed:  
December 25th and  
January 1, 2019

Several times a year we collect canned goods for the Christian Social Ministry. We are asking that you pray about helping at the CSM. There is a need for workers in the pantry and in the office. The days are Tuesday or Thursday from 9:30 am until 2:00 pm.

Right now the CSM is in need of rice, sugar and canned goods. In the past three weeks they have helped over 300 families. If you would like to help with a monetary donation, please make the check out to Bonaire FBC with CSM on the memo line.

Your Prayers Transform Lives  
Week of Prayer for International Mission Board

Dec. 2– 9, 2018

*Acts 1:8*— “But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.”

Where is our uttermost part today? In 2018, the most visible need worldwide is refugees. Some refugee statistics include:

Fifty five percent of refugees worldwide come from three countries: Syria (5.5 million), Afghanistan (2.5 million) and south Sudan (1.4 million).

Over 550,000 refugees returned to their home countries in 2016, however, their returns were less than ideal solutions.

Turkey hosts the largest numbered of refugees worldwide.

Since 1980, the US has received approximately 3 million refugees.

How can we help? Our prayers and financial donations to the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering are vital to support missionaries to reach refugees for Christ.



To the Beloved Saints at Bonaire FBC,

Note: Late last summer I was musing over my 30 years here at BFBC, and I wrote down some thoughts about this time. I had decided not to put these thoughts in the newsletter. But, that changed with the surprise anniversary event that the church celebrated along with Pastor Appreciation day for David and Phil. This event was so meaningful for me and your gift so generous that I decided to share these thoughts with you in this month's newsletter. As you read them please note that I don't think I am dying or resigning in the immediate future (if GOD wills otherwise it will be somewhat of a surprise). It's just a few thoughts about the special journey GOD has gifted me to enjoy with you. I love all of you so much and I count it a great privilege to be your friend in Christ.

Greetings to all of you in the name of our gracious and loving Savior, Jesus the Christ of GOD. I pray that all of you are good and well-doing.

This past July, Brenda and I marked 30 years serving as the pastor of Bonaire First Baptist Church. In some ways it seems like yesterday, and in others, half a lifetime. Someone said that when you are working every day, the days just run together and the time seems short, but when you think back over the moments, the time seems longer. All I can say is that time flies – whether you are having fun or not. This anniversary has caused me to think back over the past 30 years; please allow me to reminisce.

Before I became pastor here, I thought of Bonaire as “the crossroads of Highway 96 and 247” or “the place where the White Diamond is.” But Bonaire was so much more. The elementary school, Davidson's Grocery, and the Hardware Store were major landmarks. The people of Bonaire frequented these places and through the years I grew to love the people and this community. There were two churches across from each other at the intersection of Elm and Church Street that had been there for almost a hundred years: Bonaire First Baptist since 1910 and the Methodist church since the late 1800s. Their congregations got along well and I have known most of their pastors (They have had six different pastors in the time I have served here).

When Brenda and I arrived here we had been married eleven years. We had two boys – Ken-6 and Blake-3. Karlee would be born eight years later in 1996– the same year my father died.

In 1990 I completely moved my farming operations from Bleckley and Dodge Counties to Schley County. My brother and I became partners and since then have made 28 crops together. In 1989 my family moved into the parsonage on Church Street and in 2000 we built our house on Barnstable Road.

There have been six U.S. presidents (same as Methodist pastors) since I came here. People were just beginning to own personal computers, and the internet had not been invented. People were still talking on phones with cords. In 1988 there were more toilets in the world than mobile phones.

Most of you were not here when GOD sent me in 1988. I asked Jim Stallings for some advice before I decided to accept the church's call, and I never forgot what he said – “Just go love the people.” Sound advice from my long-time pastor and friend. Well, I have loved you- it has been my joy and privilege. Some of you reading this have known me from the beginning, and we have been friends for 30 years. Some of you came just before the church relocated 20 years ago. Many more have come in the last decade and it is a great blessing to walk in Christ's church with all of you. GOD has blessed me to make friends fast – something very important in a military town.

Our church is in the orbit of Robins AFB. Most of my life I have studied military history and admired the achievements and sacrifices of our soldiers. We have had many members from the military, two standouts being George Adams and Lake Holt – both colonels. George was my friend for ten years and I cannot tell you how much I loved him. The Holts were here, and then they left. We stayed in touch and years later they came back and have been used greatly by the Holy Spirit here. Their friendship is priceless. So many others have passed through... their contribution and friendships will always be remembered. I think the hardest thing about serving here is having to watch people leave for other assignments.

A few more notes and I will bring my sentimental journey to an end. First, the staff here has served the church faithfully for years and I count them all as fellow laborers and friends in Christ. Their work makes my task so much easier and they all have my loyal support and trust. Secondly, as I write this I couldn't help thinking of Ford Wilson Sr. He was a Bonaire icon for many decades and I can appreciate his love for the community. Finally, besides my salvation, my family, and the gifts for gospel ministry, I count the opportunity to know and serve you – the people of BFBC as one of GOD's greatest blessings in my life and I am thankful He has kept me here and helped you to put up with me.

Merry Christmas!

Kenny