

# Lamplighter

Reaching Up, Reaching Out, Reaching In

Exalting the Savior by evangelizing the lost and equipping the saints



## FEAR NOT

Hi folks. On several occasions I have heard people say that the phrase "Fear Not" is found in Scripture 365 times (one for each day of the year). That may be true, I have not attempted to count the times it appears myself. However, even if it was only found one time in the Bible, it would be worth us paying attention to God's admonition to "Fear Not!"

Let's take a moment and consider the call to "Fear Not" located in the Christmas story. The angel said it to Zacharias to calm his anxiety and inform him that he and Elizabeth would have a son who would be John the Baptist (Lk. 1:13-14). He said it to Mary to help her accept that her pregnancy was from God (Lk. 1:30). He said it to Joseph to let him know that Mary had remained faithful to him (Mt. 1:20). And he said it to the shepherds to assure them that he meant them no harm (Lk. 2:2:10). It's a natural thing for a human to fear. The more guilt we have, the more things we fear.

But even though it's natural, God sends Jesus with the word, "Fear not!" [Hebrews 2:14](#) says: Jesus became man "that through death he might destroy him who has the power of death, that is, the devil, and deliver all those who through *fear* of death have been held in lifelong bondage." This last phrase implies something that can be tremendously liberating for our daily lives. If the worst fear—fear of death—has been taken away through the death and resurrection of Christ, then surely God does not want us to fear the lesser things in life like losing a job, or the decline of our health, or the end of a once enjoyable relationship, or missing the game winning shot, or failing a test, or being rejected by someone we like, etc.

The message of Christmas is *fear not!* God rules the world for the great good of his children. Believe his promises: "*Fear not for I am with you. Be not dismayed for I am your God. I will help you; I will strengthen you; I will uphold you with the right hand of my righteousness*" (Is. 41:10) and "*Cast all your anxieties on God because he cares for you*" (1 Pet. 5:7). Dear friends, there is nothing to fear when God is with us.

Have a wonderful Christmas season. Blessings in Christ.

Pastor Larry



One of the first Christmas commercials of the season had the following as their sales promotion: "Joy in the Present." Little did they know they were delivering a much needed Christian message- Joy is in the Present - the Present of Jesus Christ. Wouldn't it be wonderful if people took this to heart? Jesus is the only Present to bring true joy to the chaos of this world.

During the month of December, we will have two events involving the different choirs in our church that offer the message of Joy, Hope, and Peace.

**Sunday morning, December 22**, you are invited to *Peace Has Come*, a Christmas Cantata that delivers the message that Peace came to us in the form of a baby in Bethlehem many years ago, and is still given to us through the gift of the Holy Spirit, regardless of our circumstances. Jesus told His disciples that they would have trouble in this world but to be of good cheer because He has overcome the world. That message is just as meaningful and relevant to us today - we have definitely experienced trouble in our lives, but He promises His peace to all who will accept it. Join us as we share God's gift of peace in a world filled with trouble. Our service will begin at 10:30.

**Sunday morning, December 29 at 9:00 a.m.**, the Adult Choir invites you to our 5Alive Sunday morning donuts and coffee in the Social Hall. Please come and enjoy this fellowship time and maybe a little music while you eat. What a great way to start ushering in the New Year together.

## Breakfast with Santa



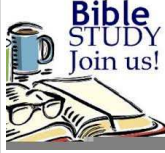
**Delicious Food  
Festive Crafts  
Photo with Santa**

***The Real Meaning of Christmas***

**Saturday, December 7**

**9:00 - 11:00am**

**FBC Social Hall**



**Tuesday Morning Bible Study  
with Pastor Larry  
10:00am  
SonShine Classroom  
Dec. 3 & 10 and then Jan. 7, 2025**



**Loving Hands Ministry**

**Will NOT meet during the month of  
December. We will resume on January 02, 2025**



**AWANA  
SUNDAYS @ 4:00PM  
For children 2 years to 5th Grade  
Meeting on Dec. 8 & 15 then Jan. 5, 2025**



**LOTTIE MOON POST OFFICE IS OPEN**

The Lottie Moon Post Office is now open for your convenience. The Post Office is open until December 24. Please bring all of your cards that you would like to exchange with other church members and leave them on the table. We ask that you give 10cents a card as a donation to the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering. Please use the U.S. Post Office to mail cards to our shut-ins.

**LOTTIE MOON HONORARIUM & MEMORIALS**

If you would like to give to the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering in honor or memory of a loved one, you can include that information on your offering envelope or drop it off at the church office by Sunday, December 15th. We will place a list in the bulletin on Sunday, December 22nd acknowledging these gifts.



**ATTENTION**

The Ladies Card Ministry will not meet in December. They will resume meeting again on January 13, 2025

**October Report**

Monthly Budget Offering needed	44,944
Monthly Budget Offering Received	35,347
Rental Income	1,913
Other Income	-0-
Monthly Budget Operating Expenses	38,674
Non Budget Expenses	-0-
Operating Account Balance	223,208
Weekday Education Acct. Balance	10,772
Communion Offering for Hurricane Area	2,256
Benevolence Fund	2,193
Project Hope	126
Bereavement Meal Ministry	1,366
Van Fund	13,398
Capital Campaign Fund	24,894

**In Sympathy:**

Louise Harmon, aunt of Debbie Linkous  
Sharon Wright, sister of Richard Wright



**Thank You, Thank You, Thank You,**

Thank you to all those who have helped to pack shoe boxes. We collected 901 shoeboxes. Thank you to the Loving Hands ministry that made all the craft items to go into the shoeboxes. Thank you to all those who contributed on a monthly basis to the items requested. Thank you to those who gave towards the shipping of the shoeboxes. Thank you to those who helped prepare the Spaghetti Meal to raise funds for the shipping. Thank you to those who helped move the boxes to Stone Memorial Christian Church. Now please continue to pray for the shoeboxes as they travel around the world to the children who need to experience God's love.

**FBCC Brotherhood Presents**

**Men Who Cook**

**Saturday, January 11 @ 5:00pm,  
FBCC Social Hall**

Make a donation to cast your vote for your favorite chef and dish, there will be a People's Choice Winner for each category!

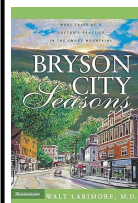
**Appetizers - Entrée - Dessert**

100% of ALL Donations will go to Disaster Relief!  
For any questions or more info. call 276-647-3774

**FBCC Library Book of the Month**

**Bryson City Seasons**

**By: Walt Larimore, M.D.**



Welcome to Bryson City, a small town tucked away in a fold of North Carolina's Smoky Mountains. The scenery is breathtaking, the home cooking can't be beat, the Maroon Devils football team is the pride of the town, and you won't find better steelhead fishing anywhere. But the best part is the people you're about to meet in the pages of *Bryson City Seasons*. (Check it out in the Church Library)

**Capital Campaign Fund Summary**

(March 01, 2022—October 31, 2024)

Received thru Building Improvement Fund	\$36,830.00
March-Dec. 2022 donations to Capital Campaign	\$76,124.91
Jan.—Dec. 2023 donations to Capital Campaign	\$45,933.16
Jan.—Sept. 2024 donations to Capital Campaign	\$27,276.25
October-2024 donation to Capital Campaign	\$ 1,800.00
<b>Total Received</b>	<b>\$187,964.32</b>
<b>Less Total spent for Roof</b>	<b>-\$ 76,160.00</b>
<b>Total Spent for Parking lot repair</b>	<b>-\$ 86,910.00</b>
<b>Capital Fund Balance</b>	<b>\$ 24,894.32</b>

## Women on Mission – *By Our Love*

### What We've Done

During the month of November, our different Missions groups created exam bags to deliver to our college students to offer them encouragement during those dreaded exam days. Thank you to all who brought gifts to help bring a smile to our students.

### What We're Doing

In December, our project is to take gifts to our shut-ins and spend some time with each one of them. Each year, the shut-ins look forward to these visits and gifts, and it is such a privilege to let them see how much their church family truly loves them. Each mission's group will be manning the Lottie Moon Christmas Post Office, sorting the cards and making sure every card is where it is supposed to be. Ladies, be sure to check with your group to see which week you are helping.

## Can You spare a Box of CHOCOLATE CAKE MIX?



The Touchdown Club of Bassett High School's football team is providing the players with Protein Shakes. They use Chocolate Cake Mix as part of the ingredients for the Protein Shakes. If you would like to bring a box of cake mix for this effort, you can give it to Sherry Flanagan, put it by the computer table in the balcony or drop it by the church office during the week. This is a good outreach project to benefit the football team at Bassett High School.

## Week of Prayer for International Missions December 1-8, 2024 FBCC's Goal for 2024 \$10,000.00

Southern Baptist observe a Week of Prayer for International Missions each year before the annual Lottie Moon Christmas Offering emphasis. Will you join your heart with others to pray for missionaries around the world who are faithfully sharing the gospel?



### ATTENTION

*The church Office will be closed on Tues, Dec. 24 and Wed., Dec. 25 in observance of Christmas. Pastor*

*Larry, Pastor Christian, Sandy, Ruby, Penny, Kim, Sally, Paige, Sarah and Brittany would like to wish each of you a wonderful and blessed Christmas!*

## 2025 BUDGET VOTE

The vote on Nov. 24, 2024 to  
approve the 2025 Budget was

109-YES 1-NO

## To my FBCC church Family,

As most of you know, my last day at FBCC will be Dec. 4th. Thank you thank you thank you. You welcomed this Yankee born in Pa but living in North Carolina with open arms. You gave me a chance and I'll never forget it. Whether it's the first hug from Ms. Betty or being invited to a meal with many others I have been so blessed. When the challenges of my family situation began, I could not have been in a better place. Hope and Joe opened up their home for a place to stay and many others blessed me and Savannah tremendously when it was time for me to get my own place. Beyond giving financially you prayed your hearts out and I felt that every step of the way.

Church, there is a lot of work to be done here in Henry County, there are still lots of people that need to hear, and see, and feel the Gospel of Christ. I want to challenge you to keep serving. Thank you for being my Virginia family. You will be missed but never forgotten.

Matthew 5:14-16

<sup>14</sup> "You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden.<sup>15</sup> Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead, they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house.<sup>16</sup> In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.

With Much Love and Appreciation  
Pastor Christian

## Christmas Morning Breakfast for On-Duty Law Enforcement & First Responders of Martinsville & Henry Co. DECEMBER 25—8:00 am—10:00 am



FBCC is preparing breakfast for

All Law Enforcement and First  
Responders of Martinsville and

Henry County working on Christmas Day. We will be serving the ones who can come by to eat and taking breakfast out to the ones who can not leave their job.

We need **volunteers to prepare and drop off Breakfast Casseroles to the church by 7:30am on Christmas morning.** We also need **volunteers here by 7:00am** to help prepare, serve, pack-to-go plates and help with clean up. We expect to finish up around 10:30am.

If you can help with either need, please sign-up on the Sign-Up Sheet located on the Bulletin Board outside Christian's office indicating what you would like to do.

Any Questions???? Contact Mark Martin at 276-930-9209.



**First Baptist Church**  
 3339 Virginia Ave.  
 Collinsville, VA 24078

Pastor: Rev. Larry Cheek 276-790-3898  
 Cell: 276-618-2497  
 pastorlarrycheek@gmail.com

Pastor Christian Lund 434-851-9459  
 pastorchristianlund@gmail.com

Phone: 276-647-3774 Fax: 276-647-3775  
 Prayer Room Ministry: 276-647-3777

e-mail address: firstbaptistcollinsvilleva@gmail.com  
 web site: www.firstbaptistcollinsville.org

Sunday School	9:30am
Worship Service	10:30am
Children's Church	
Awana (May - Sept.)	4:00pm
Youth	4:00pm
Adult Bible Studies	4:00pm
Wednesday Evening Activities:	
Children's Choir Practice	5:15pm
Fellowship Meal	6:00pm
RA's & GA's	6:30pm
Youth (Middle & High School)	6:30pm
Mission Friends	6:30pm
Prayer Service & Bible Study	6:45pm
Adult Choir Practice	7:30pm

**Non-Profit  
 Organization  
 U.S. Postage  
 Paid  
 Permit No. 5**

*Return Service  
 Requested*

**Birthdays & Anniversaries**

- December 2024 Birthdays**
- 28 Chase Frazier
  - 01 Joe Johnson
  - 02 Melody Oliver
  - 03 Yvonne Harris
  - 04 Kevin Shropshire
  - 05 Sarah Scott
  - 06 Paige Collins
  - 08 Taylor Draper
  - 09 Kenny Inman
  - 09 Susan Rodies
  - 10 Nathan Roetken
  - 11 Tim Ramsey
  - 13 Jennifer Mize
  - 14 Ann Amos
  - 15 Beverly Inman
  - 15 Taujinia Martin
  - 17 Kelly Kisner
  - 18 Talyn Andrews
  - 18 Jerry Robertson
  - 18 Leslie Houston
  - 20 Sue Ella Ferguson
  - 20 Martha Newman
  - 23 John Mayberry
  - 23 Rebecca Vernon
  - 27 Shirley Pagans
  - 27 Michelle Pace
  - 28 Gary Walker
  - 28 Walt Shaw
  - 28 Robbie Wilson
  - 28 Nic Houston
- January 2025 Birthdays**
- 01 Sharon Anderson
  - 01 David Conner
  - 01 William Wagoner
  - 02 David Joyce
  - 02 Bill Wagoner
  - 06 Jamie Collins
  - 06 Carri Turner
  - 06 Lacey Flanagan
  - 06 Jackson Crane
  - 07 Carolyn Bowles
  - 07 Chris Rivera
  - 07 Lena Rivera
- December 2024 Anniversaries**
- 05 Raymond & Barbara Prillaman
  - 08 Teddy & Sharon Belcher
  - 12 Kevin & Amanda Harter
  - 13 Jose & Karen Castro
  - 14 Tommy & Yvonne Harris
  - 15 John & Terri Anthony
  - 19 Mark & Betsy Ivey
  - 22 Eddie & Becky Conner

- 23 Keith & Melody Oliver
- 23 Jeff & Dee Webb
- 28 George Collins & Lisa West

**January 2025 Anniversaries**

- 06 Bill & Susan Wagoner

**Grace Network  
 DECEMBER FOOD  
 ITEM  
 Creamed Corn 15 oz.  
 (not regular corn)**

**DECEMBER FEATURE  
 ITEMS  
 Dish Detergent,  
 Deodorant  
 Laundry Detergent**



**Dates to Remember.....**

- Dec. 07:** Breakfast with Santa
- Dec. 07:** Sunshine Class (Special Needs) Christmas Party
- Dec. 10:** Betty Westover Group (Social Hall)
- Dec. 11:** Weekday Early Ed. Christmas Program
- Dec. 14:** Sr. Adults to Thomas Roads Baptist Church for Christmas Play
- Dec. 19:** Joyce Newman Group (Location to be determined)
- Dec. 22:** Christmas Cantata
- Dec. 24:** Christmas Eve Communion Service
- Dec. 24:** Christmas Eve (Office Closed)
- Dec. 25:** Christmas Day
- Dec. 25:** Church Office Closed
- Dec. 25:** Breakfast for on Duty Law Enforcements and First Responders
- Dec. 29:** 5 Alive (5th Sunday) Donuts and Coffee/S. Hall
- Jan. 01:** New Years Day/Office Closed
- Jan. 11:** Brotherhood Men "Men Who Cook" Competition