



The Good Word

“Exalting the Savior, Equipping the Saints, Evangelizing the Sinner”

December 2021, January & February 2022

I wanted to take this opportunity to share some words of encouragement with my church family.

“We give thanks to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, praying always for you.” Colossians 1:3 With Thanksgiving right around the corner, Sheri and I are encouraged to give thanks for the wonderful work of God in our lives and in the life of Hermitage FBC! We appreciate each one of you and know that God has a special place and plan for you in the ministry of FBC. Thank you for allowing Him to work in your hearts and lives, and for inviting Sheri and I to become a part of the ministry God continues to unfold in Hermitage. We also thank you for your words and gifts of appreciation in October...thank you for your support of our revival...praise God for the souls He has birthed into His kingdom...and always, we thank you for your prayers on our behalf. We are also looking forward to many opportunities to celebrate the birth of our Savior with you during the month of December! I challenge you as we enter the month to think of one person who does not know the Lord for whom you can begin praying. Pray each day for that person to come to know Jesus as his/her personal Lord and Savior. Next, I challenge you to invite one person to come with you to church in December. The Wednesday before Christmas, December 22nd, will be a special evening of family worship. Please put it on your calendar...you will be blessed.

I pray that the prospect of celebrating and worshipping in the new year brings with it a renewed passion to glorify the Lord Jesus Christ in everything we do and say in 2022! As we go about the business of making plans for the new year, I pray that the glorification of Jesus is first and foremost in our hearts and thoughts. May we live, love and do for others as if today is the last day of our lives, but may we also plan as if we will still be on the earth serving Jesus in 20 years.

I believe that just as the people of Israel were living in deep spiritual darkness back in the time of Isaiah, we are equally, if not more so, today. However, like Isaiah, I have good news to announce “The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who dwelt in the land of the shadow of death, upon them a light has shined.” Isaiah 9:2. That great light, of course, that came to shine on us is Jesus, the Light of the world. Don't let the darkness of the world...(or for that matter, the news that shipping delays may hinder the delivery of your most sought after Christmas gift!!) ruin Christmas for you. Christmas is not about the gifts we exchange or can't exchange; it's about what has already been given to us! Christ has come, and He is coming again! The only thing that can stop us from celebrating this news is our own attitude. I hope you choose to let His light shine this season, in your hearts, and in the world. “Arise, shine; for your light has come! And the glory of the LORD is risen upon you.” Isaiah 60:1

Bro. John



We have invited the community to come to hear the gospel presentation during our Christmas program. To show our love, we'll be giving away stocking stuffer gift bags to all visiting families.

Please help us collect these stocking stuffers as you do your holiday shopping, pick up orders or amazon deliveries. Collection tubs will be in the fellowship hall through Dec. 15.

Some stocking stuffer idea		
Chapsticks	Fun socks	Beef jerky
Crayons	Small baby toys/ rattles	Bags of coffee
Markers	Bubble bath	Fingernail clippers
\$5 gift cards	Baby snacks	Small toys
Yo-yos	Hair accessories	Bath bombs
Bouncy balls	Bracelets	Nail polish
Sm. makeup bags	Small dolls	Fidget toys
Matchbox cars	Gum	Snacks
Bubbles	Candy bars	Cards/games
Sidewalk chalk	Bags of candy	\$15 to purchase 25 pk
Small coloring/ activity books	Gloves/hats	Christmas Story
Journals	Tea bags	Action Bible comic style books
Gel pens	Hot chocolate	\$2 to purchase 1
Scratch pads	Mints	The Very First
Fun pencils	Lifesavers	Christmas Beginners
		Bible Story

Volunteers are also needed to help sort/pack gift bags on Saturday, Dec. 17, 10 a.m. during Christmas program dress rehearsal practice and Dec. 19 after the Christmas program to pass out gift bags to visiting families. See Vanessa Sawyer or Katie Murphy for details.

Tickets to the program are available to give away and invite those in the community

“HOW, THEN, CAN THEY CALL ON THE ONE THEY HAVE NOT BELIEVED IN? AND HOW CAN THEY BELIEVE IN THE ONE OF WHOM THEY HAVE NOT HEARD? AND HOW CAN THEY HEAR WITHOUT SOMEONE PREACHING TO THEM?”

ROMANS 10:14

Warriors for **CHRIST**

“Be watchful, stand firm in the faith, act like men, be strong.” 1 Corinthians 16:13

*“For the LORD gives wisdom; from His mouth come knowledge and understanding”
Proverbs 2:6*

The people of our nation and world have a desire to be “in the know”. We want to know what is going on, where it is happening, when it occurred, and what the so called “experts” think. All we need to do is turn on the computer, grab the TV remote, or open an app on our smartphone and we can have dozens of media and news outlets at our fingertips. These news outlets give us their version of the day’s events. We listen to commentator after commentator, each giving us their perspective of the news, as we try to make sense of the world around us. If we aren’t careful, our knowledge and understanding may be totally shaped by what these media outlets report.

Solomon understood that we would have a desire for knowledge and understanding. He also knew that there would be many different places to seek this knowledge. As we read through the book of Proverbs, Solomon instructs us where to find knowledge and whom to listen to for understanding. He writes in Proverbs 9:10 “the fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom”. Solomon doesn’t tell us to go to our favorite 24-hour news channel or open our favorite social media page. No! He teaches us that we need to begin our search for knowledge with the LORD! He continued in 2:6, “from His mouth come knowledge and understanding”. Isn’t this what we all desire? To not only know what is happening, but to have an understanding as well.

As we watch the news and events of our nation and try to understand what is happening, we must first seek the LORD and listen for His voice. It is only the LORD that will speak the knowledge and understanding that we desire.

Have a Merry Christmas and
Blessed New Year -- JM



joy SEEKERS

The Value of the Art

*"And God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; Male and female He created them."
Genesis 1:27*

Just this summer a tiny piece of art by Leonardo Da Vinci sold for over 12 million dollars! It was only about the size of a postage stamp and looked to me like a little doodling the artist made of a bear. It probably only took a few minutes for him to draw. But none the less, the purchaser thought it was of great value. Not likely because of the picture, but because of the signature on the bottom of the tiny work of art. It was drawn by a master.

I spend a lot of my days around teenagers, and most of the time, I love it! In a day I make many observations and a really sad one I've noticed is that some of this generation doesn't believe that their life is of value. I have heard jokes about their preference for death with every slightly challenging thing that comes their way. I've also heard the comment that they don't really care whether they live or die. Everything in me wants to scream, "You are valuable. You are loved. Your life matters." I know who your Creator is!

God says we have value, each one of us is specially designed by Him. We have been created by a master artisan. Just as any work by Da Vinci would sell for great value, so is your value. You were fashioned by the God Almighty! You contain His signature, His image. He wanted everyone to know you were His creation. You are such a valuable piece that when you were lost, the creator chose to purchase you back! And the price was unthinkably extravagant, much more than the 12 million dollars for the little bear picture. God chose to buy you back with the blood of His only Son. You are that valuable to Him, that He didn't even spare His Son's life to get you back.

So when you see a teenager, or maybe it is just you, remind them of the price of the artwork. You are God's valuable creation. You are stamped by him, and loved by him. It's the artist that determines your value.

In his love, Katie

Upcoming Bible Studies

The Next Ladies Bible Study will begin January 18th Tuesdays in the Fellowship Hall at 8:30 am. Look forward to more details about the study that we will be doing. Don't forget to sign up on the main bulletin board later this month.

A graphic for a couples event. It features a red background with scattered red hearts and confetti. In the center, there are two red cherries with a green heart-shaped outline above them. The text "a Sweet Time" is written in a large, elegant cursive font. Below it, "Couples Event" is written in a smaller, simpler font. At the bottom, "Saturday, Feb. 12 ♥ 5:30-8:30 p.m." is written in a medium-sized font, followed by "More info to come" in a smaller font.

a Sweet Time
Couples Event
Saturday, Feb. 12 ♥ 5:30-8:30 p.m.
More info to come

D.R.I.V.E.N. STUDENTS

DRIVEN Update:

We have finished up diving into the meaning of the acronym of D.R.I.V.E.N. which has been a great reminder for us all.

D = Discipling Believers (1 Timothy 4:6-16)

R = Reaching the Lost (Matthew 9:35-38)

I = Involved with the Body (Ephesians 4:11-16)

V = Victoriously Serving (Ephesians 6:5-9)

E = Exalting the Savior (Hebrews 1:1-4)

N = Never without Christ (John 15:1-11)

All the youth department has been encouraged to be intentional in bringing their Bible/App to Sunday School class. The church does have a "lost box" in the library if they have misplaced their Bible. They may want to check there. We also have some available given to us by the FCA director when he was here in October.

Middle School class will be continuing to meet with Jim & Connie for the winter quarter. The High School will have Robert & Vanessa join them.

The youth department will now be attending all business meetings. This is a great thing for all ages to be involved in and gain an understanding of how our church works.

UPCOMING events

Parent/Family meeting BYOU (Bring Your Own Utensil) December 5th—Noon-2:00 p.m.

All families are encouraged to attend and asked to bring a side dish and a two liter of soda for the spaghetti meal.

All youth group members need to bring any utensil for an activity. A Q&A time with leaders and the pastor will follow.



Parent/Family meeting
BYOU
Bring Your Own Utensil
Sunday, Dec. 5,
after morning worship

All youth group members need to bring any utensil for an activity.

A Q & A time with leaders and the pastor will be included.

All families are encouraged to attend and are asked to bring a side dish and a 2 liter soda for the spaghetti meal.



THANKSGIVING:

Here is a great devotion and visual to do with your kids about being Thank-full.

Give each child a deflated balloon.

Thanksgiving is a time to celebrate all the awesome things we are thankful for. Take turns calling out things everyone is thankful for and each time something is named, add a puff of air into your balloon.

As your kids keep naming things and adding puffs of air, call out something unpleasant such as "getting sick" or "my car broke down". I am sure someone will hesitate or refrain from adding air into their balloon after you say that. When good things happen we're all full of praise - like our balloons. But when bad things happen, it's like a deflated balloon. (*Instruct everyone to release their balloon and let them land deflated.*)

Why don't we thank God when bad things happen? Read Ephesians 5:20.

Why would God want us to thank him for everything-meaning the good things and the bad things? Share a time you experienced something good right in the middle of something bad.

Ask: Why don't we thank God when bad things happen?

Read aloud Ephesians 5:20. Ask your kids: Why would God want us to thank him for everything-meaning the good things *and the not-so-good things*? *Tell about a time you experienced something good right in the middle of something bad.*

It's easy to thank God for good things. But we can remember to thank God for hard things because often He can use those bad things for good. Instruct kids to fill up their balloons again; full of our praises - for the good and the not-so-good stuff.

CHRISTMAS:

We are very excited about the Christmas Cantata. The kids have been practicing hard. Please mark your calendars and plan to attend all the practices up until the Cantata performance night of the 19th.

NOW AVAILABLE: LIFEWAY FAMILY ADVENT GUIDE 2021

Use this guide to remember and celebrate Jesus' birth and the hope and joy He offers.

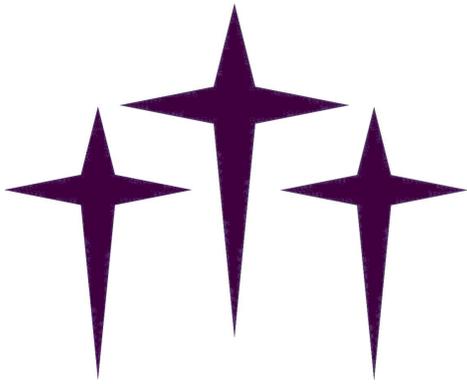
This guide can be found on our Facebook group page or I would be happy to email it to you. Just send an email with "Advent Guide" in the subject to sonshinekidshfbc@gmail.com and I will send it to you.

Have a safe and happy Thanksgiving and a Merry Christmas! From the SSK Team

Thanksgiving Jokes

1. Why can't you take a turkey to church?

1. Why did the turkey cross the road?



First Baptist Church

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