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FBC MURPHY
Connect. Grow. Go.
FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF MURPHYSBORO
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MURPHYSBORO, ILLINOIS 62966
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SHAKER SAMUEL, PASTOR
KAY REIMAN, EDITOR

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

NOEL HALLELUJAH MERRY CHRISTMAS HAPPY NEW YEAR



MID-WEEK ACTVIITIES

Wednesdays, December 14, 21
3:30 pm FBC Kids Club
3:30 pm Crossfire Youth
5 pm Family Dinner
6 pm Adult Bible Study
7:15 pm Choir Rehearsal

CHRISTMAS BANQUET

5:30 pm Sunday, December 4

PRIMETIME TRIP

Pagliari's in Carbondale
10:30 am Tuesday, December 6

PASTA WITH SANTA

5:30 pm Wednesday, December 7

MCALISTER FUNDRAISER

5-8 pm Thursday, December 8

SPECIAL BUSINESS MEETING

11:15 am Sunday, December 11

CROSSFIRE CHRISTMAS PARTY

4 pm Sunday, December 11

CHRISTMAS CHORAL CELEBRATION

10 am Sunday, December 18

**CHRISTMAS EVE
CANDLELIGHT SERVICE**

6 pm Saturday, December 24

CHRISTMAS WORSHIP

10 am Sunday, December 25

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DECEMBER 2016 BAPTIES NEWSLETTER

GIFT

"Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift!"
2 Corinthians 9:15

Christmas is right around the corner and most of us are busy getting ready to find the right gift to give each person on our list. Sometimes we even exchange the first gift because we find a better one. We forget that the first Christmas was very simple, Joseph and Mary looking for the right place to bring the baby, who would one day bring salvation. Should we be asking, are we putting so much time and energy on things which are fleeting? Should we be thinking of how we are to relate to a child who is asking: what is Hanging of the Greens all about or what is advent? Maybe we should be thinking more of the event when God gave us the gift of HIS Son.



God is the greatest giver. The truth that Jesus Christ is the "gift" of God who had far reaching impact on the world. Not just at the time of His birth, but even today. By forgetting that Christ is a gift, we tend to forget the Father's compassion for us. Secondly, if Christ is the "gift" of God then we should acknowledge the Father's GRACE. There was no obligation of God to mankind who had strayed away from the creator. As sinners we do not have any right to expect such a "gift." It is altogether unmerited and undeserved. The Father giving the Son was an expression of the

purest form of GRACE.

If Jesus is the "gift" we can see the concern of the father to bring us back to Himself. He gave His son to die on the cross so our fellowship will come to a full circle back to Him. So one thing is obvious that only those who have received the "gift" can become part of the family. Romans 8:32 says, *"He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all—how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things?"*

Christ was a king who came not to take, but to give. His gift was the ultimate sacrifice and therefore each of our Christmas gifts bring the focus back to where it should belong.

So, let us remember what the "Gift" is--this Christmas season. Here is a Christmas prayer to go along with our gift. "Please Lord Jesus forgive me for being

so grumpy as I trudge through the never-ending tasks set before me this holiday season. My to-do list seems to keep growing with shopping, church services, and family gatherings--and I'm running short on time! Restore the joy of Christmas to my heart... and help me to relax each day and make time for YOU...my one true source of Joy. In the name of Christ my Lord, Amen."

Have a Merry Christmas
from the Samuel Family!

Come, Join Us for Christmas!

16th Annual Christmas Banquet

Sunday, December 4

5:30 pm Appetizers 6 pm Dinner 7 pm FBC Kids Christmas Sing

The Christmas Banquet is a wonderful event for the church family to gather together for an elegant evening of great food, warm fellowship and heart warming entertainment. The cost is \$12 per person, \$5 for children, and children under 3 years old are free. Bring your family and friends to a wonderful evening filled with Christ centered holiday spirit. Make your reservations today by contacting Kathie Grob or the church office.

Christmas Choral Celebration

10 am Sunday, December 18

It will be a morning of inspirational Christmas music with the FBC Choir proclaiming, "Not Just Any Baby, But the Son of God!" during the morning worship service. It will be a wonderful service for family, friends, and neighbors.

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

6 pm Saturday, December 24

This is a very special service with our church being decorated with candlelight, holiday decor and the sounds of the Christmas season. It will be a beautiful and reflective service of the wondrous gift of Jesus' birth.

Christmas Day Worship

10 am Sunday, December 25

Hallelujah, Jesus Is Here! It will be a service of great celebration of our Lord's birth and will have it all...carols, worship, praise, prayer and a message filled with the most glorious gift of all...the message of Jesus Christ and the amazing gifts He gives to the world.



CHURCH CANCELLED...GET A TEXT MESSAGE

During the winter months weather conditions may make it necessary for worship and other church events to be cancelled. We will send out a mass text message to all those who have cell phones. If you do not get our reminder texts and would like to receive them, you can sign up by text 313131, type "fbcmurphy" in the message box and send.

It will send you a text message confirming your sign up. If you have questions or need help, feel free to contact Jesse or the church office.

SPECIAL BUSINESS MEETING PLANNED

There will be a special business meeting on **Sunday, December 11th**, immediately following the morning worship service at approximately **11:15 am**. The 2017 budget is on the agenda. Please make plans to stay for this short meeting. Thank you.

OUR CHURCH FINANCES FOR OCTOBER 2016:

	This Month	To Date
Needed	\$ 30,222.25	\$ 307,362.19
Given	\$ 36,312.75	\$ 298,718.32
Over (Under)	\$ 6,090.50	\$ (8,643.87)

CHURCH OFFICE CLOSURES FOR HOLIDAYS

The church office will be closed **Friday, December 23rd** and **Monday, December 26th** so the staff may spend the Christmas holiday with their families. Please bring your holiday guests and family to the Christmas Eve Candlelight Service at 6:00 pm and Sunday Christmas Worship at 10 am.

The church office will also be closed on **Monday, January 2nd**.

In case of an emergency, please contact Pastor Shaker or Vicki Ardrey at home.



During this Christmas season, your church staff wishes you the gift of faith, the blessing of hope and the peace that knowing Jesus brings.

May your Christmas be filled with joy. May God continue to bless you in the coming year as He has blessed us so richly this past year.

Thank you for letting us serve you in 2016!

Pastor Shaker, Kay, Ron, Jesse, Barb, Traci, Karen, Lynn, Kathie, Jonathan, Moses, James, & Nowel



LEADERSHIP COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS OF OCTOBER 2016 MEETING

September minutes and financial report approved.

Deacons Report: Deacons to host at the Stand Up for Vets event in Murphysboro, November 5th. Will collect toiletries, food items and clothing to give to local vets. A donation to the Elks Children's Fund was sent in loving memory of Mike Porter. Christmas gifts will be delivered to our shut-ins on December 12th. Deacons will be providing the desserts for the new members luncheon on November 6th.

Outreach & Evangelism Report: Moses Gary is organizing the Halloween Outreach.

Missions Report: Discussed summer mission trip to Jamaica. Jovan Davis, from the church in Jamaica, would like to visit FBC. First Mission trip meeting for those who would like to go is following the chicken & dumpling dinner.

Children's Discipleship Report: 4-7 children will be baptized on Nov. 6th. There will be a live nativity at the Hanging of the Greens. FBC Kids will provide the entrainment for the Christmas Banquet.

Youth Discipleship Report: Youth are going to Sikeston to the corn maze and Kristy & John Dunning are hosting bonfire/wiener roast for the youth and their families.

Adult Discipleship Report: The Women's Conference was enjoyed by many.

Technology Report: New light switch was installed downstairs and is working. New light bulbs for the digital projector on the ceiling cost \$570 each.

Staff Relations Report: The Pastoral Relations meeting was last night. An opportunity has presented itself to send Shaker and Nicolette on a Max Lacado Ministries trip to the Holy Land in March. This is a wonderful way to

mark the anniversary of Shaker's 10th year at FBC. The Council decided by consensus to go ahead and purchase the tickets and send out a letter to all of our members seeking love gifts to pay for the trip.

Finance & Stewardship Report: Kevin Lipe presented the first draft of the 2017 budget. Buildings & Grounds Report: A basketball court by the alley might require the fence to be moved. Darrell Ewbank obtained a quote of \$2450. This might be too costly so other remedies are being sought. The windows in the youth house have been repaired. The toilet needs to be replaced in the rental house. Vic Koenig has ordered the running boards for the van and will have them installed.

Special Events: Christmas Banquet will be December 4.

Worship & Ministry Team Report: Hanging of the Greens is Nov. 27th. Jesse Boudet, George Kuhlman, David Brooks, and Nicolette Samuel are planning the service. Christmas choral presentation is Dec. 18th, Christmas Eve service is Dec. 24th, and Christmas day worship is Sunday, Dec. 25th. The Trimester Business meeting will be Nov. 27th.

2016-2017 Nominating Team: Lou Polsgrove will serve from the Deacons, Elaine Hardwig from the Leadership Council and Chuck Grammer is the at-large member. Several nominations are needed and the new Leadership Council, Deacons and officers will be voted on at the next business meeting in November.

Pastor's report: There will be baptisms on Nov. 6th and also inducting new members. Pastor Shaker is planning a prayer march around the church block in November. FBC is hosting a 3 on 3 basketball tournament in March. The Kelly family is organizing our kids' participation.

Next Leadership Council meeting is Nov. 15th.



CALLING ALL CHILDREN PASTA W/ SANTA WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 7 AT 5:30 - 7:00 PM

All children and their families are invited to have dinner with Santa. Pasta, salad, drink, and Christmas cookies will be served. Santa will be on hand for consultations. So, kids make your list and be ready to have a heart to heart talk with Santa. He will have time for every child.

CROSSFIRE CHRISTMAS PARTY SUNDAY, DECEMBER 11TH 4 PM

All middle and high school students are invited to an evening of Christmas food, games, gifts and fun. Everyone is to meet at the church at 4:00 pm and will board the church bus for a Progressive Dinner; going from house to house enjoying what their hostesses and hosts have prepared. Following dinner, everyone will return to the church for some big giveaways, an ugly sweater contest and a white elephant gift exchange. It will be a fun filled evening.



FBC Kids Christmas Party



FBC KIDS CLUB HAVING A CHRISTMAS PARTY

All children Kindergarten through the 5th grade are invited for a Christmas party with all the trimmings on **Wednesday, December 21st** from **3:30-5:00 pm**. There will be Christmas music, Christmas crafts, Christmas games, the Christmas story...Christmas, Christmas all afternoon. Dinner will be served at 5:00 pm and pick up time is 6:00 pm.

2016 BRINGS CHRISTMAS DAY ON A SUNDAY

Cool fact!!! 5 years, 6 years, 11 years, 6 years...that is the cycle of years when Christmas will land on a Sunday. The last one was 2011, 5 years later 2016, the next will be 2022 (6 yrs.) the following will be 2033 (11 yrs.) and then 2039. Then it will start all over 2044, 2050... FYI...There will only be **Christmas Day Worship at 10:00 am**. There will be NO Coffee Hour, Sunday School, and Small Groups. Please plan to attend this holiday service.





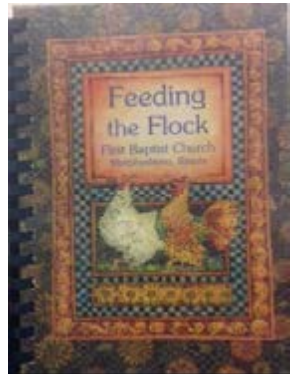
DINNER AT MCALISTERS TO HELP 2017 JAMAICA SUMMER MISSION TRIP

Here is a great excuse for not cooking dinner. On **Thursday, December 8th** from **5-8:00 pm** McAlister's Deli in Carbondale will be donating 10% of all its sales to the 2017 Jamaica Summer Mission Trip. Take the whole family and buy dinner at McAlister's. FYI...you don't even have to get out of your car...sales through the drive-up apply. The food is good and the tea is great. It's a great place for the whole family.

HOMEMADE COOKIES & CANDIES ARE NEEDED

The Deacon Care Team will be assembling and delivering Christmas care packages to our church's nursing home residents and shut-ins on **Monday, December 12th**. If you would like to brighten the holidays for our home-bound and nursing home seniors, make some home-made cookies and candy. Please have your goodies at the church no later than **Sunday, December 11th**. Thank you for bringing some holiday spirit to those who

are unable to participate in our church family holiday events. Your thoughtfulness will be a blessing to you and our beloved shut-ins.



JUST IN TIME FOR CHRISTMAS!!

IT'S HERE!! The Gift of Hope "Feeding The Flock" Cookbook is now available. FBC has some of the best cooks in town and this cookbook is filled with their favorites. The cost is \$15 per copy. If you would like a copy, they are available in the Parlor on Sunday mornings and in the church office through the week. The proceeds from the cookbooks will go to The Gift of Hope Orphan Ministries. This ministry provides assistance to orphan ministries and to families who are adopting a child or children.

PREPARING FOR THE 23RD ANNUAL COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS DINNER

Don't forget the Annual Community Christmas Dinner on Christmas Day at the Knights of Columbus Hall...the meal is free and open to everyone. If you would like to give a monetary gift, please send your donation to Annual Community Christmas Dinner, c/o United Methodist Church, 1500 Pine St., Murphysboro, IL. If you have any questions, contact Ed or Jennifer O'Donnell at 618-534-3822.



PRIMETIME TRIP

On **Tuesday, December 6th**, the PrimeTimers will be enjoying a leisurely lunch at Pagliai's Italian Restaurant in Carbondale. The bus will leave the church at 10:45 am. Lunch is dutch treat. If you would like to go, the sign up sheet is available on the bulletin board in the fellowship hall or contact the church office to have your name added to the list. All active senior adults are invited!!!



COMMUNION AT RIVER TO RIVER ASSISTED LIVING

Our Deacon Team is planning their quarterly Communion Service at the River to River Assisted Living facility on **Thursday, December 15th at 6:00 pm** in the east building. Everyone is invited to be a part of the service. The residents love having the fellowship, so please plan to attend.

FROM PASTOR...JUST FOR FUN BOOK EXCERPT FROM BECAUSE OF BETHLEHEM

Dear Ladies,

We know you mean well. We know you think you know best. But enough is enough. We have suffered in silence for too long. Having shared our pain with one another, we husbands hereby step out of the shadows and open our hearts. This year as you shop for our Christmas gifts, please don't buy us what we need.

We know we need to smell better and look nicer. We know you like us in warm pajamas and new underwear. But we do not know what to say when we open these gifts. How can you fake enthusiasm over house slippers? How can you look happy holding a nose-hair trimmer? We've lied long enough. For the sake of integrity on Christmas morning, we offer this guidance. As you look at any potential gift, ask yourself these questions: Can he play with it? Does it swing, bounce, shuffle, cast, or roll? Can you find a trigger, grip, rip cord, or stick shift? Does it consume oil or dog food? Does it have a big screen and a remote control? If it does, buy it. Doesn't matter that he already has one. This is no time to be practical. When considering an item of men's apparel, ask yourself, is it brown and green and rain resistant? You can't lose with any garment that is. Realizing that many women prefer to shop anywhere but the gun department, we offer these two questions. Does it make him look cute? Does it make him look like a hunk? If the clothing makes him look cute, drop it immediately. If it makes him look like a hunk, buy two.

When all else fails, ask, can he eat it? Note, the question is not, would you eat it? Or do other humans eat it? Or is it edible? Don't occupy yourself with trivialities. The question is, can he eat it? Anytime the answer is affirmative, consider yourself on safe ground. In closing we extend this offer. If you will buy us what we want, we will do the same for you. Without revealing any details we will tell you this. A large vacuum cleaner company has offered us a group discount. (And you thought we were insensitive.)

No need to thank us, Your husbands



NURSERY VOLUNTEERS

December 4

Kathie Grob
Carmelia Schuman

December 11

Kathie Grob
Katie Tolbert

December 18

Kathie Grob
Savanah Schuman

December 25

Kathie Grob
Mayah Kelley

Unable to help? Please contact
Kathie Grob at 924-7017.

COFFEE HOUR HOSTS

December 4

Rodney & Carol Brown

December 11

Matt & Elaine Hardwig

December 18

Suzanne Goad Family

December 25

No Coffee Hour Christmas Morning

If you are unable to help, please
contact the church office.



MEALS ON WHEELS

December 26-30

Monday

No Delivery

Tuesday

Lou Polsgrove & Mary Leady
Christina Smith & Frank Aldridge

Wednesday

Candy Watt & Alice Berry
Mark & Darlene Pautler

Thursday

Jane Beese & Alice Berry
Lou Polsgrove & Mary Leady

Friday

Jane Beese & Alice Berry
Lou Polsgrove & Mary Leady



December

POST THIS ON YOUR
REFRIGERATOR!

VOLUNTEERS

Thanks to our many

GREETERS

December 4

Chuck & Kim Grammer

December 11

Lou Bigler & Lou Polsgrove

December 18

Frank & Shirley Aldridge

December 25

Tina Shinskey & Carol Klaine

If you are unable to help, please
contact Cindy Stamm at 319-0781.

WELCOME CENTER

December 4

Anna Jenkins

December 11

Vic & Patty Koenig

December 18

Glenann Kiel

December 25

Jeff & Linda Wright

HAPPY DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS!

3	Carol Brown	27	Connor McBride
3	Verna Nobel	27	Karter Holland
5	Justin Raines	28	Courtney Raines
6	Karen Rahming	28	Ethan Penrod
6	Machelle Mifflin	29	Terri Miller
7	Glenann Kiel	29	Greg Kerns
9	Maddie Rowe	30	Christina Hunziker
13	Kay Hamilton	31	Mike Mifflin
13	Traci Hunziker	31	Joel Samuel
13	Nancy Childers		
14	Zander Smith		
14	Dakota Smith		
16	Tylor Grob		
21	Sylvia Carvell		
21	Jesse Stilley		
27	Helen Payne		

