

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage PAID
Permit No. 72
Murphysboro, IL



FBC MURPHY
C o n n e c t . G r o w . G o .
FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF MURPHYSBORO
401 NORTH FIFTEENTH STREET
MURPHYSBORO, ILLINOIS 62966
WWW.FBCMURPHY.ORG

SHAKER SAMUEL, PASTOR
KAY REIMAN, EDITOR

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

NOEL HALLELUJAH MERRY CHRISTMAS HAPPY NEW YEAR



MID-WEEK ACTIVITIES

Wednesdays, December 6, 20
3:30 pm FBC Kids Club
3:30 pm Crossfire M. S. Youth
5 pm Family Dinner
6 pm Crossfire H. S. Youth
6 pm Adult Bible Study
7:15 pm Choir Rehearsal

BUSINESS MEETING

11:15 am Sunday, December 3

CHRISTMAS BANQUET

5:30 pm Sunday, December 3

PRIMETIME TRIP

Alongi's Italian Restaurant
10:30 am Tuesday, December 5

CROSSFIRE CHRISTMAS PARTY

5 pm Sunday, December 10

PASTA WITH SANTA

5:30 pm Wednesday, December 13

CHRISTMAS CHORAL CELEBRATION

10 am Sunday, December 17

CHRISTMAS WORSHIP

10 am Sunday, December 24

CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT SERVICE

6 pm Sunday, December 24

THE CHRISTMAS CAROL PLAY

6 pm Friday, December 29

FBC MURPHY

Connect. Grow. Go.
DECEMBER 2017 BAPTIES NEWSLETTER

WHAT ARE YOU GIVING THIS CHRISTMAS?

"For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life."

John 3:16

Christmas is a time of giving gifts as we celebrate the birth of Jesus. God gave us a gift of His Son Jesus in the flesh. John 3:16 says, *"For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life."* God gave us His Son so He could give us eternal life. The Bible tells us that eternal life is a free gift from God. There is something interesting about this gift, not only is it not earned it is also not automatic. We need to receive it and share it with others.

This brings to memory a few years ago. I met a lady in her seventies. She knew I was traveling to West Africa. She asked if I could do something for her. She went on to say that she was unable to travel long distances, so would I do her a favor. She gave me money and asked if I could give it to someone in Africa who I felt was in need of some help. I gladly accepted and said I will do so.

One evening I took a stroll and came across a family who was living under a tree. I sat with them and found out that they had lived under this tree for years and it was their home. I asked them what do you do

when it rains? They said we have a tarp and we spread it across the branches and sit under it. When the rain passes they go back to their meager living. So I gave them a portion of the gift given to me by the lady. They were so amazed. I explained to them the gift was not from me but from a lady who made sure it was a gift I carried to give to them.

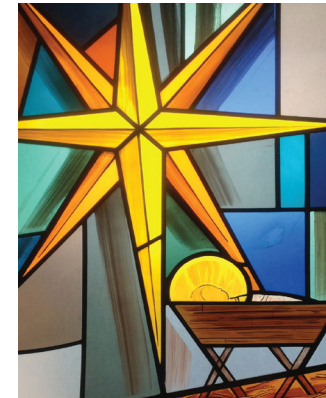
At my next stop there was a family of three who were living next to an abandoned building. Again I explained to them the gift was from someone other than me. I just passed the gift to them. I had the joy of distributing to four families who were surprised and tearfully rejoiced for the free gifts.

This reminds me of the gift God gave us through His Son Jesus Christ. Jesus trusts me to take the gift and give it away to the people who are desperate, needy, heart broken and to those who do not know there is a God who provides peace, joy, love and eternal life.

In the above story God used me as an instrument and extension of Him. The joy and pleasure was all mine.

This Christmas season let us ponder what are we giving to the needy and desperate. God would love to see us be the instruments to bring others to the living and loving

continues on page 11



Come, Join Us for Christmas!

17th Annual Christmas Banquet

Sunday, December 3

5:30 pm Appetizers 6 pm Dinner 7 pm Hands for Christ

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 inspring entertainment.

The cost is \$12 per person, \$5 for children, and children under 3 years old are free. Following the meal, Elkhville Christian Church's "Hands for Christ" will perform using music, black lights, and sign language. 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 17

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 Worship

10 am Sunday, December 24

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 & the amazing gifts He gives to the world.

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

6 pm Sunday, 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.

letter has been sent, will discuss in a Mission Moment. Upcoming meeting will be presented at end of the month during Stewardship moment.

Nominating Team: Team will be Lou Polsgrove/Deacons. Patty Koenig/At Large, Angie Robinson/Leadership. Slate of names to be presented at meeting – Jessica Grammer, Patti Koenig, Deacons – Sylvia Carvell. They have more names that were suggested that they will be contacting.

Pastor's Report: Steve Wilkerson & Ron McLaughlin have been praying at houses in Murphysboro and leaving a door tag. Would like others to pair up and join them to reach every house in Murphysboro in the next 3 years. Asking for feedback for the budget – how can we increase giving – any ideas bring to the next meeting. What do we need to do/change to attract new families?

The next Leadership Council meeting will be Tuesday, November 14th, at 6:30 pm.

Trimester Business meeting: Dec. 3rd, 2017.

CHURCH OFFICE CLOSURES FOR HOLIDAYS

The church office will be closed **Friday, December 22nd** and **Monday, December 25th** so the staff may spend the Christmas holiday with their families. Please bring your holiday guests and family to the Christmas Worship at 10 am and Christmas Eve Candlelight Service at 6:00 pm on Sunday, December 24th.

The church office will also be closed on **Monday, January 1st.**

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

(continued from pg. 1)

knowledge of Jesus' sacrifice.

God was willing to squeeze His awesome greatness into human flesh--Baby Jesus-- so we would enjoy all we have.

Ephesians 2:8-10 says, "For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—not by works, so that no one can boast. For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do."

Hope you will have a wonderful Christmas season. Merry Christmas from the Samuel Family.

God Bless,
Pastor Shaker

OUR CHURCH FINANCES FOR OCTOBER 2017:

	<u>This Month</u>	<u>To Date</u>
Needed	\$ 28,517.65	\$ 328,907.73
Given	\$ 32,646.50	\$ 301,420.87
Over (Under)	\$ 4,128.85	\$ (27,486.86)

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 2017!

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

LEADERSHIP COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS OF OCTOBER 2017 MEETING

Meeting called to order with prayer.

Additions to the Agenda: Reminder: Leadership Conference – Roger Palmer from Crossings is scheduled on Jan. 20th.

September Meeting Minutes: Minutes were approved by consensus with the following addendum: Direct Deposit payroll would not be cost effective (\$50 per month) so will continue issuing paper checks. Jesse discussed the possibility of relinquishing his position sometime in 2018.

September Financial Report approved.

Outreach and Evangelism: It was suggested that the ministry teams meet to decide how to apportion their budget.

Missions: 2018 Mission Trip – Following the chicken & dumpling dinner the team will meet to decide on the destination. Young Estate Mission Funds--\$30,000 has been designated for missions. ABC Campus Ministry--we will check into what our funds are being used for. Shaker and Jesse met with Inter Varsity regarding Rachel's fundraising efforts. Kristy and Suzanne will meet with Rachel regarding financial support.

Children Discipleship: Looking into events at grade schools for Outreach. We want to do the 3-on-3 Basketball tournament again and would like to have more adults to mingle with the adults that attend. Will look into contacting the kids and parents to find out what they like about the after school program. Trunk R Treat at church is October 29th.

Youth Discipleship: There are several youth small groups for all ages at this time.

Adult Discipleship: SS Record Keeping will have a binder in each class, Laura Sims will get the numbers each month.

Staff Relations/Policies: Interviewed Grant Kelly and offered him the position as

Financial Secretary. Grant's salary this year for training will be \$1650 and will be taken out of the Kroger fund. Follow-up discussion regarding proposed budget reductions.

Finance and Stewardship: 2018 Budget Team Update – Received proposed 2018 budget update per conversations at the last meeting. Young Estate Fund Team: discussion of members to serve. ABC investment opportunities--will schedule meeting with representative and more information to be provided early year.

Building and Grounds: Gutting is scheduled. New parking lot to get painted parking lines. Emergency/Evacuation Plans is in the works. New Sound Mixer Board will cost approx. \$8000. Have a sponsor for \$6500 so our cost will be \$1500-2000. Approved and taken from the Building Fund. Drums – current set is borrowed, cost to replace is approx. \$700. Ordering new hinges for the fence, have been hit and broken when the lawn was mowed.

Special Events: Update on the ABC GRR Region conference 9/29. Church picnic 10/1 – well attended – fun family event – thanks to those who coordinated. Great job! Christmas Banquet will be December 3rd. ABC GRR Area 4 Meeting will be April 2018. 150th Anniversary Team will be 10/2019.

Worship Ministry: Hanging of the Greens will be held during morning worship on 11/26. Church decorating will start at 3:30 pm on 11/21. Youth will put up tree and start decorating. Everyone is to come when they can to join the decorating festivities. Christmas Eve and Christmas Services: Choir Christmas concert will be 12/17 and there will be 2 services on 12/24 – morning and evening.

Strategic Action Team: Legacy Giving



CALLING ALL CHILDREN PASTA W/ SANTA WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 13 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 10TH 5 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 5:00 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.

White Elephant Gift Exchange



FBC Kids



Christmas Party

FBC KIDS CLUB CHRISTMAS PARTY WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 20TH, 3:30-6 PM

All children Kindergarten through the 5th grade are invited to a Christmas party with all the trimmings Wednesday Night FBC Kids Club. 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.

WEDNESDAY NIGHT ACTIVITIES TAKING A CHRISTMAS BREAK

The Wednesday night groups will only meet December 6th and 20th. FBC Kids Club, Crossfire Youth, Family Dinner and Bible Study with Pastor will NOT meet on Wednesdays, December 13th, 27th, and January 3rd due to Pasta with Santa and the school Christmas break. All activities will resume on Wednesday, January 10th, 2018.

FBC Kids presents...

A Christmas Carol

Friday,
December 29
6:00 pm
in the
Sanctuary



This is an event for the whole family. The FBC Kids Club has been rehearsing and will present their rendition of the Charles Dickens classic "The Christmas Carol." Make plans to attend and be sure to invite your family, friends, and neighbors. A good will offering will be taken and all the proceeds will help the kids go to summer camp.



PRIMETIME TRIP

On **Tuesday, December 5th**, the PrimeTimers will be enjoying a leisurely lunch at Alongi's Italian Restaurant in Du Quoin. The bus will leave the church at 10:30 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 14th 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.



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 11th**. 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 10th**. 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.

BUSINESS MEETING PLANNED

There will be a business meeting on **Sunday, December 3rd**, immediately following the morning worship service at approximately **11:15 am**. The 2018 budget and Leadership and Deacon nominees are on the agenda. Please make plans to stay for the meeting. Thank you.



"What a morning! The angels were devils and the wisemen were wise guys."





NURSERY VOLUNTEERS

December 3
Carmella Schuman

December 10
Katie Tolbert

December 17
Savanah Schuman

December 24
Mayah Kelley

December 31
Carmella Schuman

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

COFFEE HOUR HOSTS

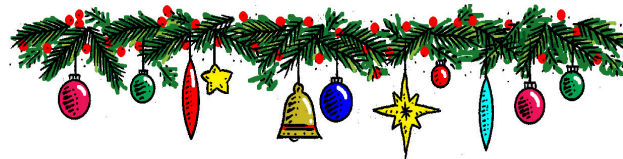
December 3
J. Goforth, K. Dunning, G. Hunziker

December 10
Leah Rowe

December 17
Keith & Carol Klaine

December 24
Albert & Trish Boudet

December 31
Jeff & Linda Wright
If you are unable to help, please
contact the church office.



MEALS ON WHEELS

December 26-29

Monday
No Delivery

Tuesday
Lou Polsgrove & Mary Leady
Christina Smith & Frank Aldridge

Wednesday
Jane Beese & 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 3
Paul & Sheila Echols

December 10
Buddy & Helen Payne

December 17
Van & Angie Robinson

December 24
Marsha Heiple & Joan Mifflin

December 31
Tony & Cindy Stamm
If you are unable to help, please
contact Cindy Stamm at 319-0781.

WELCOME CENTER

December 3
Lou Polsgrove

December 10
Albert & Trish Boudet

December 17
Anna Jenkins

December 24
Vic & Patty Koenig

December 31
Jeff & Linda Wright

HAPPY DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS!

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



DECEMBER 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
26 8:30 AM Coffee Hour 8:30 AM Prayer in Pastor's Study 9:00 AM FBC Kids' Worship 9:00 AM Sunday School & Life Groups 10:00 AM Hanging of the Greens 1:00 PM Youth Worship Band Rehearsal	27 Meals on Wheels 7:30 AM Prayer in Pastor's Study 5:30 PM M.S. Girls Group 5:45 PM Worship Meeting 7:00 PM Praise Team Rehearsal	28 Meals on Wheels 7:30 AM Prayer in Pastor's Study 6:30 PM H.S. Girls Group 7:00 PM H.S. Guys Groups	29 Meals on Wheels 7:30 AM Prayer in Pastor's Study 3:30 PM Crossfire M.S. Youth 3:30 PM FBC Kids Club 5:00 PM Family Dinner 6:00 PM Bible Study w/ Pastor 6:00 PM Crossfire H.S. Youth 7:15 PM Choir Rehearsal	30 Meals on Wheels 7:30 AM Prayer in Pastor's Study 6:30 PM Adult Small Group	1 Meals on Wheels 7:30 AM Prayer in Pastor's Study	2 Private Party in Fellowship Hall 9:00 AM Community Prayer Walk
3 8:30 AM Coffee Hour 8:30 AM Prayer in Pastor's Study 9:00 AM FBC Kids' Worship 9:00 AM Sunday School & Life Groups 10:00 AM Worship 11:15 AM Business Meeting 1:00 PM Youth Worship Band Rehearsal 5:30 PM Christmas Banquet 7:00 PM Hands for Christ	4 7:30 AM Prayer in Pastor's Study 5:30 PM M.S. Girls Group 5:45 PM Worship Meeting 7:00 PM Praise Team Rehearsal	5 7:30 AM Prayer in Pastor's Study 10:30 AM PrimeTime Trip 6:30 PM H.S. Girls Group 7:00 PM H.S. Guys Groups	6 7:30 AM Prayer in Pastor's Study 3:30 PM Crossfire M.S. Youth 3:30 PM FBC Kids Club 5:00 PM Family Dinner 6:00 PM Bible Study w/ Pastor 6:00 PM Crossfire H.S. Youth 7:15 PM Choir Rehearsal	7 7:30 AM Prayer in Pastor's Study 6:30 PM Adult Small Group	8 King & Country Concert 7:30 AM Prayer in Pastor's Study 5:30 PM Piano Recital	9 5:30 PM Piano Recital
10 8:30 AM Coffee Hour 8:30 AM Prayer in Pastor's Study 9:00 AM FBC Kids' Worship 9:00 AM Sunday School & Life Groups 10:00 AM Worship 1:00 PM Youth Worship Band Rehearsal 5:00 PM Crossfire Christmas Party	11 7:30 AM Prayer in Pastor's Study 9:00 AM Deacon Christmas Care Packages 5:30 PM M.S. Girls Group 5:45 PM Worship Meeting 7:00 PM Praise Team Rehearsal	12 7:30 AM Prayer in Pastor's Study 6:30 PM H.S. Girls Group 7:00 PM H.S. Guys Groups	13 7:30 AM Prayer in Pastor's Study 5:30 PM Pasta with Santa 7:15 PM Choir Rehearsal	14 7:30 AM Prayer in Pastor's Study 6:00 PM Communion Service at River to River 6:30 PM Adult Small Group	15 7:30 AM Prayer in Pastor's Study	16
17 8:30 AM Coffee Hour 8:30 AM Prayer in Pastor's Study 9:00 AM FBC Kids' Worship 9:00 AM Sunday School & Life Groups 10:00 AM Christmas Choral Celebration 1:00 PM Youth Worship Band Rehearsal	18 7:30 AM Prayer in Pastor's Study 5:30 PM M.S. Girls Group 5:45 PM Worship Meeting 7:00 PM Praise Team Rehearsal	19 7:30 AM Prayer in Pastor's Study 6:30 PM H.S. Girls Group 6:30 PM Leadership Council Meeting 7:00 PM H.S. Guys Groups	20 7:30 AM Prayer in Pastor's Study 3:30 PM Crossfire M.S. Youth 3:30 PM FBC Kids Club Christmas Party 5:00 PM Family Dinner 6:00 PM Bible Study w/ Pastor 6:00 PM Crossfire H.S. Youth 7:15 PM Choir Rehearsal	21 7:30 AM Prayer in Pastor's Study 6:30 PM Adult Small Group	22 Church Office Closed 7:30 AM Prayer in Pastor's Study	23
24 Christmas Eve 8:30 AM Coffee Hour 8:30 AM Prayer in Pastor's Study 9:00 AM FBC Kids' Worship 9:00 AM Sunday School & Life Groups 10:00 AM Christmas Worship 6:00 PM Christmas Eve Candlelight Service	25 MERRY CHRISTMAS!!	26 Meals on Wheels	27 Meals on Wheels 7:15 PM Choir Rehearsal	28 Meals on Wheels 6:30 PM Adult Small Group	29 Meals on Wheels 2:00 PM Kids Pre-Show Dress Rehearsal w/ Pizza & Games 6:00 PM FBC Kids Present "A Christmas Carol"	30
31 8:30 AM Coffee Hour 8:30 AM Prayer in Pastor's Study 9:00 AM FBC Kids' Worship 9:00 AM Sunday School & Life Groups 10:00 AM Worship 1:00 PM Youth Worship Band Rehearsal	1 Church Office Closed Happy New Year!	2	3 7:15 PM Choir Rehearsal	4 6:30 PM Adult Small Group	5	6