



Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom, and as you sing psalms, hymns and spiritual songs with gratitude in your hearts to God. And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

Colossians 3:15-17 (NIV)

Greetings in Christ,

As I am writing this December newsletter article, Thanksgiving is still a week away. So while I give thought to the celebration of the birth of Christ next month, it only increases the joy and thanksgiving that I have.

In my chapel services to our preschoolers at Sonshine, I have been singing them the hymn of old:

Count your blessings, name them one by one.

Count your blessings, see what God has done.

Count your many blessings, name them one by one.

Count your many blessings see what God has done.

At our annual business meeting this month, we were able to count the many things that God has done through the people of FBCG! So many amazing things have happened and I thank God for all our boards, missions, new members, baptisms, bible studies, outreaches, acts of love towards one another, our interns and staff, Sonshine school and capital campaign goals reached!

I pray that you will join me in pondering the many things that God has done in your life and the many things that he has promised to do. Especially as we remember God's love for us in sending Yashua, Emmanuel, God with us!

His Joy, Peace and Love,

PC

And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord. This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger." Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to men on whom his favor rests." Luke 2:8-14 (NIV)



DECEMBER

**I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I now live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.
Galatians 2:20**

Christmas time already?! We hope and pray everyone had a great Thanksgiving and enjoyed a nice break from school. You all deserve a break and I know a lot of teachers these days give homework to be done during holiday breaks, so I pray you really did get some down time from school. Thank you to everyone who came out for our capture the flag night and other events in November, we had a great time! Speaking of time, that time change seems to hit harder and harder with each year I get older, but one thing that will never change with time is God. Nothing is ever too hard, difficult, traumatizing, or different for God, and nothing can change him, Malachi 3:6, "For I the Lord do not change; therefore you, O children of Jacob, are not consumed." Let's remember that amazing quality about God this season. As Christmas comes and the New Year is not far behind, we can get caught up in the changes of life, but let's hold on to what and who is sturdy, steadfast, and never changing.

We have lots of things coming up and would love to see your 6th-12th grade students at the events listed below. Keep an eye out for our new cookie decorating party this month!

December

Dec. 1st: NO FUSION, Thanksgiving weekend

Dec. 8th: FUSION 6pm-8pm

Dec. 15th: FUSION CHRISTMAS PARTY & Birthday Game Night 6pm-8pm

Dec. 20th: FUSION Cookie Decorating Night 6:30pm-8:30pm

Dec. 22nd: NO FUSION, Christmas week

Dec. 29th: NO FUSION, New Years week

January

Jan 3rd & Jan 4th: Fusion Prayer Retreat 6pm-9am

Jan 5th: Fusion Youth Leaders Meeting after second service in youth room

Jan 5th: FUSION Birthday Game Night 6pm-8pm (Bowling sign up deadline)

Jan 12th: FUSION 6pm-8pm

Jan 19th: Parent Meeting, in music room after each service

Jan 19th: FUSION 6pm-8pm

Jan 20th: Fusion Bowling Night 6:30pm-8:30pm

Jan 26th: FUSION 6pm-8pm (Snow tubing sign-up deadline)

Jan 30th: Youth Sunday Practice 6pm-8pm (worship team)

Jan 31st: Youth Sunday Practice 6pm-8pm (skit team)

February

Feb 1st: Youth Sunday Full Run Through Practice 9:30am-11:30am (lunch for students involved)

Feb 2nd: YOUTH SUNDAY!!! NO FUSION

Feb 7th-9th: High School Retreat 3pm (2/7) -3:30pm (2/9)

Feb 9th: NO FUSION

Feb 14th: Fusion Snow Tubing Trip at Ski Liberty 7pm-9pm

Feb 16th: FUSION Birthday Game Night 6pm-8pm

Feb 23rd: FUSION 6pm-8pm

***If your student (s) is involved in extracurricular activities such as sports, music, drama, etc. please give me or Faith a copy of their schedules/dates if they would like us to come watch them. We love supporting our students in this way and really love seeing them in their element!**

For more information about these events please find us on Facebook at Fusion Youth Ministry, email us at fusionfbcg@gmail.com, check out our Fusion Youth table in the youth building, or see Pastor Matt.



"Fear not, for I am with you"
Isaiah 41:10

ScriptureWay.com

Submitted by Whitney V. Myers (www.ScriptureWay.com)



If you would like to become a member of our church, Pastor Carl will be having a membership class on two Saturdays. Come out on Saturday, December 7th and Saturday December 14th from 9am - 10:30. See Pastor for details.



W2 GROUP

This group of Widows and Widowers meet on the last Sunday of each month after 2nd service to support and love each other.

NEXT: Jan 26



Monday, December 2nd
8:00am - 5:30pm
in LEWIS HALL

Recital!
Saturday, December 7th
@ 7pm

**REBECCA NEGRO WILL ONCE AGAIN
HAVE A VOICE RECITAL ON
DECEMBER 7TH. SHE WILL BE
JOINED BY THREE OTHER
STUDENTS. THERE WILL BE SOLOS
AND GROUP PERFORMANCES. COME
OUT FOR
A GREAT NIGHT**

SUNDAY

**COMBINED
WORSHIP**

December 22
10:00 am
No Sunday Classes

Candlelight Service

Tuesday
December 24th
@ 7pm

BRING YOUR BELLS!!



BIBLE STUDY



THURSDAYS

Men's study of Romans - 5:30am led by Pastor Carl in his office

9:30am study of Zechariah led by Pastor Carl in his office

Let's Dig In together

Sunday School Hour

SUNDAYS

The Foundations
Led by McBeths @ 9am
in Lewis Hall

Ecclesiastes - Open discussion
in kitchen 9am

Book of Genesis
led by Mark Punchard
@ 10:30am

THE BIBLE HAS THE ANSWER

One of the things at Christmas that never ceases to amaze me is the number of prophecies of Jesus' first coming that were completely fulfilled as predicted by many different prophets.

I would like to share some of these with you now and maybe we all can appreciate even more the accuracy of the Scriptures.

There are over 4000 religions in the world today and Christianity is the only one that has a Bible that is all truth and never changes.

A Messianic Prophecy is a prediction of the future made under divine inspiration or a revelation of God concerning the Anointed One (Messiah)

A total of 18 prophecies were fulfilled at the birth of Jesus in Bethlehem in Judea. There are two Bethlehems in Israel. The one is in Galilee (near Nazareth) and is only mentioned once in Scripture (Joshua 19:10,15). The Bethlehem that is near Jerusalem in Judah is the one best known in Scripture. Not only is it the place of Jesus' birth (Micah 5:2), but is where Jacob's wife Rachel is buried (Genesis 35:19-20). It is where the story of Ruth took place. King David was born there (I Samuel 17:15), David was also anointed by the prophet Samuel (I Samuel 16:4-13). Joseph and Mary were from Bethlehem (Luke 2:1-7).

Here are some Old Testament prophecies pointing to Christ: (1) He would be a descendant of Noah's son, Shem Gen. 9:26, (2) A descendent of Abraham Gen. 12:3, (3) Through Abraham's son Isaac – Gen. 17:21, (4) Through Isaac's son, Jacob – Gen. 28:14, (5) Through the tribe of Judah – Gen. 49:8, (6) Through the family of Jesse – Isaiah 11:1, (7) Through the house of David – Jeremiah 23:5, (8) Place of His birth – Micah 5:2, (9) Born of a virgin – Isaiah 7:14, (10) Given a divine name – Isaiah 7:14, (11) Gifts presented to Him – Psalm 72:10-11, (12) Massacre of children after His birth-Jeremiah 31:15, (13) His escape into Egypt – Hosea 11:1, (14) His childhood poverty – Isaiah 53:2, (15) His spirit filled nature from birth – Isaiah 1:1-2.

Probably one of the most famous prophecies comes from the book of Daniel 9:24-27 which is called the 70 weeks of years. This prophecy clearly states that the Messiah will appear and will be killed before the Temple is destroyed (this happened in 70 A.D.).

Why is this significant? Because when the Romans destroyed the Temple all the Jewish records of genealogy were burned up. Thus if someone claiming to be the Messiah had to be born before 70 A.D. so His genealogy could be verified. Jesus met all the prophecies plus His genealogy could be checked out.

Here are some probabilities of prophecies being fulfilled exactly as predicted. The odds of someone being born in Bethlehem in Judea at that time was 1 in 300,000. The odds of eight prophecies of the Messiah being fulfilled is 1 in 10 to the 17th power. That is like covering the state of Texas with silver dollars two feet deep and having a man blindfolded pick out a marked silver dollar on the first try.

Alfred Edersheim, a biblical scholar found 456 prophecies on Jesus birth, death, resurrection and His second coming. The odds of one person fulfilling only 48 of these is 1 to 10 to the 157 power. That is roughly 10.5%.

None of these prophecies would be possible unless God was in it.

Think about this. Abraham's wife, Sarah was well beyond her child bearing years when God told her she would have a son to Abraham who was 10 years older than she. He was 100 years old and she was 90 when she had Isaac. God had told them to give him that name. Abraham and Sarah waited 25 years for that promise to come true. By waiting this long it proved to the world that it could only be God's doing because logically neither Sarah or Abraham were of an age to have children.. Isaiah first prophesied of Jesus birth 700 years before it came to be.

The only other couples with a miraculous birth were Zacharias and Elizabeth and Joseph and Mary. They too were given the names for their children.

As we read through the Old Testament and the Christmas story in the Gospels, we see God has a plan for mankind and Jesus is the person who will redeem us and atone for our sins.

The Gospels of Matthew and Luke give the genealogy of Jesus to prove He was qualified to be the Messiah and to sit and reign on David's throne. Matthew presents Joseph's side through Solomon and Luke gives Mary's side through Nathan, another son of David.

Why is this important? A descendent of Solomon named Jeconiah was such a terrible person that God put a curse on his line and said that no other descendent could reign on his throne.

What was unique about Matthew's genealogy is that he lists four women in the Jesus line. This was unheard of in that day as only men's names were used to give the genealogy of a family.

The four women were Tamar, Rahab, Ruth and Bathsheba. Three of these women either practiced prostitution or committed adultery, while Ruth who was an upright and moral person was a Moabitess. Her people hated Israel, yet God used these women to fulfill His purposes. The listing of these women shows God's forgiveness and grace to all people.

In looking at the part of the wise men coming to Jesus, Arnold Fruchtenbaum shares some interesting points. (1) The story of the shepherds and the Wise Men was separated by about 2 years.. (2) When the Wise Men did find Jesus He was in a home, not a stable. (3) We do not know how many Wise Men came. The Christmas song "We Three Kings" assumes it was three people because Scripture says they brought gifts of Gold, Frankincense and Myrrh. But maybe 10 people brought gold, 20 frankincense and 30 myrrh. There is no way of knowing. What we do know is that Mary and Joseph used those gifts to live in Egypt for a while since King Herod was slaughtering children 2 and under. (4) Matthew in writing about these Wise Men never says they were kings, because the Greek word for Wise Men is "magi" or astrologers.

Fruchtenbaum says there are 5 reasons the star they followed was not physical. They are (1) It is the personal star of the King of the Jews. (2) It appears and disappears. (3) It moves from east to west. (4) It moves from north to south. (5) It literally hovers over one single house in Bethlehem.

He claims the Greek word for star simply means radiance or brilliance. With this star coming in the form of a light, he feels what we have is the appearance of the "Shechinah Glory", rather than an astrologer's star. The Shechinah Glory is the visible manifestation of God's presence as in the cloud by day and the fire by night when the Israelites were traveling through the desert to the promised land.

These men traveled from Babylon where hundreds of years before King Nebuchadnezzar had made Daniel head of the Babylonian school of astrology. Since Daniel had saved their lives by interpreting the king's dream, Fruchtenbaum feels that some of them turned to worshipping the true God.

He says gold is the symbol of royalty or kingship, frankincense is the symbol of deity, because it was part of the special scent burned on the Altar of Incense and myrrh was associated in the Old Testament with death and embalming.

Hope this fresh look at some Messianic prophecies is a blessing to you. Have a blessed Christmas and New Year!!!

Keep Looking Up!!!

Mark PUNCHARD



M

Motherhood
is HARD,

but it doesn't have to be lonely!



You're Invited to MOPS & MamsNext!



We're a tribe of moms of children, 0-18, sharing in this thing we call life. It's a place for friendship, support, encouragement, and community. We are calling our sisters to join us in taking a chance at a fresh start this year. Let's **Have More Fun**, **Fear Less** and **Find Our People!** Come along with us, and may this be the year you live life

to the full



Where

First Baptist Church of Gettysburg
1015 Chambersburg Road
Gettysburg, PA 17325

When

Wednesdays, 6:00-8:00 PM
September through April



What to expect?

A warm welcome and cup of coffee, practical teaching through videos and speakers, and meaningful conversations. Beyond that, we have games, crafts, and prayer requests. Childcare is provided through AWANAs. Come join us!



The way we usually remember the 12 days of Christmas in our society is by a simple nonsense song for the holidays in which someone bestows lavish gifts to a person they love. The facts are a matter of controversy, but some have suggested that this, what was once a poem and now a popular song, The Twelve Days of Christmas, was actually a teaching tool for the Catholic Church when in the 1600's the Church of England was the only recognized church. In disguise the poem was memorized and recited, but recalled to mind the basic teachings of the faith. The true love mentioned in the song is not an earthly suitor, but refers to God Himself. The "me" refers to every baptized person who is part of the Christian faith. Each of the days represents some aspect of the faith that was important for children to learn.

Christian version and teaching of The Twelve Days of Christmas

My **True Love** is **God The Father** - God is love, and the Father in the Trinity
 The **Partridge in a Pear Tree** refers to **Jesus Christ**

1st Day - Jesus the Son of God - Jesus is symbolically presented as a mother partridge, the only bird that will die to protect its young. A ground bird that covers its young with her wings...*My true love gave to me a partridge in a pear tree*

2nd Day - Two Testaments - The Old and The New Testaments or the Bible, contains God's plan for the world. The doves are the Biblical roadmap available to everyone. Used by the poor as a sacrifice....*Two turtle doves*

3rd Day - Faith, Hope and Love - French hens represents faith, hope and love referring to the love chapter in I Cor. 13 written by the apostle Paul....*Three french hens*

4th Day - The Four Gospels - The calling birds speak of the gospels Matthew, Mark, Luke and John that call out the name of Jesus and reveal who He is... *Four calling birds*

5th Day - Five Books of The Torah - Golden rings speak of value, the first five books are valuable to the foundation of the Judeo-Christian Faith. ...*Five golden rings*

6th Day - Six Days of Creation - six geese a laying refers to the first event in the Bible. Each egg is a day in creation, a time when the world was “hatched” or formed by God.... *Six geese- a- laying*

7th Day - Seven gifts of the Spirit - Seven Swans a-swimming. Hidden in this code are these 7 gifts of the Spirit. Prophecy, ministry, teaching, exhortation, giving, leading and compassion. Serving with the grace and beauty of a swan. ...*Seven swans-a-swimming*

8th Day - Eight Beatitudes - Eight maids a-milking, being a milk maid in this time period was one of the lowest jobs to be had. This code conveyed that Jesus cared as much for the servant as he did the royalty. The eight that were blessed included the poor in spirit, those who mourn, the meek, those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, the merciful, the pure in heart, the peacemakers and those who are persecuted for righteousness sake. ...*Eight maids-a-milking*

9th Day - Nine Fruits of the Spirit - The nine ladies dancing convey the joy of salvation when you live in the fruits of the Holy Spirit: Love, Joy, Peace, Patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self control....*Nine ladies dancing*

10th Day - The Ten Commandments - Ten lords a-leaping. The lords over the poor were the judge and jury of the day. Bringing to mind The 10 commandments were a reminder of the difference between right and wrong....*Ten lords-a-leaping*

11th Day - Eleven Faithful Apostles - Eleven Pipers Piping. Brings to mind those who follow the piper. When Judas betrayed Jesus he was not following Jesus like the other 11.....*Eleven pipers piping*

12th Day - Twelve Points of Doctrine - The drummers drumming out the 12 doctrines outlined in the Apostles Creed. ...*Twelve drummers drumming*

So is it a silly song, or a refreshing reminder of the essential elements of the Christian Faith? In these days as we go about celebrating the most loved holiday of the year, let us be reminded to reveal the true meaning of Christmas.

HOORAY



Our Capital Campaign is **DONE!!** Thank you all for giving and Thank the Lord for His provision! Take a look at our **ROOF, OUR SANCTUARY, OUR NEW HVAC SYSTEM AND OUR NEW WINDOWS!**

WHAT A BLESSING!

Bring your favorite family Christmas Dessert to fellowship on December 8th.



Yummy!!



U K U L E L E

Sunday, December 8th @ 6pm in Lewis Hall

Come out for a great **UKELELE** concert featuring our own Warren and Kim Wagner. Enjoy a variety of songs from American Music Traditions as well as Hawaiian Music. The name of their group is called **OHANA**....that's a Hawaiian word meaning family-- abounding group of people who care for each other and leave no one behind.

Healing Service - Sunday, January 5th - 6pm



20

Sweet Hour of Prayer

Sweet Hour L. M. D.

W. W. WALFORD

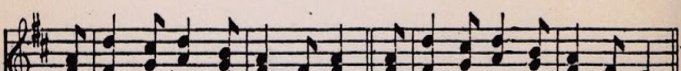
W. B. BRADBURY, 1816-1868



JOIN TOGETHER TO PRAY
FOR OUR WORLD, OUR
NATION AND OUR
COMMUNITY. THIS GROUP
MEETS IN THE LIBRARY
OFFICE ON THE FIRST
SUNDAY OF EACH MONTH
FOLLOWING THE SECOND
SERVICE. **NEXT: January 5**

care,
bear
share,

down;
less.
right;



Can You Guess The Hymn?

**Christ, by highest
heaven adored;
Christ, the everlasting Lord!
Late in time
behold him come,
Offspring of the Virgin's womb.
Veiled in flesh
the God-head see:
Hail the incarnate Deity,
Pleased as man
with men to dwell,
Jesus our Emmanuel.**



**Saturday, January
25th
@ 5pm**



Lewis Hall @ FBC

**"Be on the alert,
stand firm in the faith,
act like men, be strong.
Let all that you do be
done in love."**

1 Corinthians 16:13-14

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Submitted by Whitney V. Myers (www.ScriptureWay.com)

Our New Roof



Hymn Sing

Sunday, January 26th @ 6:30 pm



SENEGAL, AFRICA 2020

Please keep our Senegal team in prayer as they prepare to go to Senegal, Africa for the week of **January 13-20**, to visit Bill and Kathy Martin and work alongside them at Dakar Academy helping in the English Center and other ministries. Pictured to the left are Jen Harris, Bri Miley, Warren Wagner and Adrienne Fitzgerald. Bri is holding a picture of Matt O'Brien, who will also be joining them on the trip.¹⁵

STAFF CHRISTMAS GIFT



The staff relations board will give our staff a Christmas gift from the body. Please give your monetary gift to anyone on the staff relations board: Todd Hirneisen, Kim Wagner, Laura Meals, Dave Poe or Mac McBeth. If you desire to write a check to a particular staff member, that is okay, but it is not tax deductible. The board would like to give this gift at the Christmas Eve service. So please do not delay. Let's show our love and thanks and appreciation for our great staff!



A GREAT IMAGE OF OUR FBC KIDS PRAYING OVER THE O.C.C. SHOEBOXES AT OUR DEDICATION ON SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 17, 2019. FBC PROVIDED OVER 400 BOXES! PRAISE GOD!



Mark PUNCHARD - 1

Bill McCloskey - 3

Daniel Filler - 3

Ethan Holsopple - 6

Maribeth Double - 8

William McGlaughlin - 9

Brian Happel - 12

Addison Gipe - 14

Stephanie PUNCHARD - 14

Lori Miley - 19

Adrienne Fitzgerald - 21

Ann Caulum - 23

Stacey Cooper - 28



Phil and Stephanie Gigous- 21

Luther and Sally Guise - 21

Josh and Jess Blair - 22

Scott and Roxie Breighner - 27



As you read this, our part in **Operation Christmas Child** is almost complete. The shoebox collection for this year is finished. We will let you know the results as soon as we know them. All that is left is for volunteers from our congregation to help prepare the shoeboxes for overseas shipping at the Processing Center near Baltimore in Dec. A big "THANK YOU" to each and every person who has helped by praying and/or sacrificially giving of their time or goods to help share God's love with these wonderful children around the world.

Have a Blessed Christmas Season!

The Shoebox Team



**Make a difference in a child's life! Volunteer at
AWANA.**

Children look forward to AWANA all week. It's where they hear the gospel and learn the bible in a fun setting. Complete with games, theme nights and special events. But AWANA can't happen without dedicated volunteers who serve each week. Volunteers make all the difference in these children's lives.

Whether you like to teach, be a listener, work with kids, play with puppets or keep records, we have a place for you. One thing is for sure, you'll have fun!

Will you help us reach more kids with the gospel?

At FBC, AWANA is

EVERY Wednesday @ 6-8pm Sept-April.

Contact Neil (717-226-7378) or
Melanie Tate(717-515-0591)
or mntate90@gmail.com



M I S S I O N S

**Join us on December 8th when
Lanty and Tammie Moss share with
us at both services about their
work with AWANA. Also, Lexie Tate
will be home from December 5th,
through the end of the year so this
would be a great time to connect
with her and hear about what God
is doing in her life.**

Our Ministry Team

Senior Pastor
Rev. Carl G. Harris
pastorcarl@fbcgettsburg.net 717-253-3968

Associate Pastor Intern
Sean Fitzgerald
fitzgerald08@fbcgettsburg.net

Youth Pastor
Pastor Matt Rice
pastormatt@fbcgettsburg.net

Director of Music Intern
Lilly Poe
lilly_poe@fbcgettsburg.net

Secretary
Kathy Negro
kathy_negro@fbcgettsburg.net

Administrative Assistant
Kim Gipe
kim_gipe@fbcgettsburg.net

SonShine Christian Preschool
sonshine@fbcgettsburg.net

Office Hours:
Monday-Thursday 8:30 am - 4:30 pm
Fridays 8:30 -12:30

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Telephone:
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717-334-7721

Fax:
717-334-6711

CHECK OUR WEB SITE & FACEBOOK PAGE
www.fbcgettsburg.net

BREAD PICK -UP
Holtzople -7
Hess/VanArsdale -14
Merson - 21
Gipe - 28

December EVENTS

Sunday, December 1
Sweet Hour of Prayer - following the second service

Monday, December 2
Lifeline Screening @ FBC
8:30 am -5:30 pm

Wednesday, December 4
AWANA 6:00-8:00 pm

Thursday, December 5
Men's Bible study 5:30 am - Book of Romans
9:30 am Bible study - Book of 1 & 2 Timothy

Saturday, December 7
1st Membership Class @ FBC 9 am -10:30 am
Rebecca Negro's Voice Recital - 7pm @ FBC

Sunday, December 8
Warren and Kim Wagner's Ukulele Concert
Lewis Hall 6pm

Wednesday, December 11
AWANA 6:00-8:00 pm

Saturday, November 14
2nd Membership Class @ FBC 9 am -10:30 am

Wednesday, November 18
AWANA 6:00-8:00 pm

Sunday, December 22
Combined Service! 10:00 am
No Sunday Classes

Tuesday, December 24
Candlelight Service 7pm **Bring your Bells!**

Wednesday, December 25
Office Closed

Thursday, December 26
Office Closed

Tuesday, December 31
Office Closed

ANSWER TO HYMN: Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

All articles for the newsletter must be
submitted by the 20th
of the previous month.