



First Baptist Church of Lyman

December 3, 2017

Pastor's Corner

The greatest gift ever given did not take place in a manger, it did not take place on a cross, nor did it take place in a tomb. The greatest gift ever given took place before the world began. According to the Holy Spirit, speaking through Paul in Ephesians 1:3-6, God gave us the greatest gift before He created us: "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, even as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before Him. In love He predestined us for adoption to Himself as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of His will, to the praise of His glorious grace, with which He has blessed us in the Beloved." Before the world was ever spoken into existence, God provided the way of salvation for the mankind He created, which would reject Him. The gift was made available, even before it was needed, demonstrating God's great and eternal love for us. Not only was our salvation from eternal death made provision for, but also our adoption as sons

(privileged ones) was provided for. The awesome God of the heavens and the earth was not satisfied to simply deliver us from eternal judgment, He desired to bring us into His intimate family.

The manger, the cross, and the empty tomb are just symbols of the greatest gifts ever given, but the greatest gift has always had its substance in Jesus, our Savior and Lord. Jesus put it this way in John 3:16-18, "For God so loved the world, that He gave His only Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through Him. Whoever believes in Him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe in Him is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only Son of God." The gift is Jesus, given before His birth, given before His death, given before His resurrection. The gift is not just from the Father, but is a willing, sacrificial gift given by the Son.

The apostle John writing on this subject in 1 John 3:16 said, "By this we know love, that He (Jesus) laid down His life for us..." Jesus said in John 15:13-14, "Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends. You are my friends if you do what I command you." Paul explained the humility and love this took in Philippians 2:5-8, "Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, who, though He was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied Himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. And being found in human form, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross." However, this wasn't strictly obedience, it was of Jesus' own choosing to lay down His life, "For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life that I may take it up again. No one takes it from Me, but I lay it down of My own accord."(John 10:17-18)

The point is, don't get caught up in the symbolism of the season, but worship the reason for the season – Jesus our Savior and Lord. It's not about the manger, it's not about the cross, it's not about the empty tomb, it is about the salvation and adoption God provided for His undeserving creatures. God so loved us that He gave His only Son, even before He created us! Jesus willingly laid down His life, because He so loved us! Let us honor this love by worshipping the One who made it all possible! May you all have a very Merry Christmas.

Brother David



Loved One Gone Home



Sue Sumrall Rouse, our sister in Christ, went to be with our Lord on Thursday, November 23rd, 2017. Sue was a hair stylist and owned her own beauty shop for many years. She enjoyed painting and reading her Bible in her spare time. She loved her family and her Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ and always spoke highly of them.

Sue is survived by many family members including her sister, Alice Sumrall.

WMU

“Enter His gates with thanksgiving and into His courts with praise: be thankful unto Him and bless His name. For the Lord is good; and His mercy is everlasting; and His truth endureth to all generations.” Psalms 100:4-5.

What a wonderful way to think of November by praising God. That’s what our WMU ladies do: praise God for such a wonderful year that we had. Yes, we have had some tragedy where we lost loved ones and there has been illness but we had prayer to get us through all these things.

I personally want to thank these ladies for their faithfulness. As the Psalmist said, “The Lord is good and His mercy is everlasting.” This next year should be an exciting time in the Lord. I can hardly wait to see what He has in mind for our WMU group. God bless each of you!

Carolyn Steward, Director WMU

Backpack Ministry

The backpack ministry has 42 children. We did 20 thanksgiving boxes. Many thanks to everyone who participated, and without the help of our church members, this would not be possible. A special thank you to Lindsey Grantham, Regina's daughter, for lining up the radiology department drive again this year. It has been such a big help.

We also appreciate the donation made to the Backpack Ministry in memory of Bobby Dunwoody on his 81st birthday on November 19th by his sister Lynn.

**Bonnie Thrash,
Director, Backpack Ministry**



RA's/GA's

The RA's and GA's have been practicing for the Children's Christmas Program which will be on December 10, 2017 in the evening service. We hope everyone will attend and enjoy the hard work the children as well as the Youth have been doing. Special thanks to Karen Peterman for directing the program!!!

Angel Tree



The Angel Tree Prison Fellowship program shares the love of Jesus Christ through gifts given to the children whose parents are incarcerated. In the U.S. alone this amounts to about 2.7 million children. They live in our neighborhoods and go to our local schools. These children often feel neglected, abandoned, lonely, and ashamed because of having a mom or dad in prison.

For the past several years First Baptist Church of Lyman has generously supported this wonderful ministry, and this year we will do the same. We have “adopted” 12 children who live in our local area to share the message of Jesus Christ through gifts, Bibles, and other items that represent the birth of Christ and the real meaning as to why we celebrate HIS birth.

Angels were available on Sunday, November 20th and should be returned by December 17th. We hope to provide each child with two wrapped gifts along with a message of love from their parent.

For more information please see **Doug or Libby White**.

Church Directory

We are almost there!! Hopefully by the first of the year we will have a new directory for you to use. If you haven't had your picture taken yet please get with Meredith or Bob to make arrangements to take your family picture. If you need a special time, or if you already have a family picture that you would like to use, let them know.



M.L. Tootle Ministry

It's been a very busy month at M.L. Tootle Food Pantry. We have given and given and given and were dangerously close to empty shelves...The Friday afternoon (November 17th), Mrs. Johnson, sponsor of NHS and Interact at Harrison Central, delivered the goods from their food drive to us. That Sunday (November 19th), Trinity UMC of Gulfport blessed us with the food they had collected. We were so happy to have good food to give to our customers.

We are truly grateful to you, First Baptist Church of Lyman, for your generous support year round. Without the support of the community, we could not keep our doors open. For me personally, it is ALWAYS a blessing to know that He provides and this blessing is obvious to me at the food pantry every single day. Thank you so much FBC of Lyman for allowing us to help this community. Merry Christmas!!!!

Judy Helms, M.L. Tootle Ministry

Young at Heart

The Young at Heart completed another fun trip to Branson Missouri, where the days were filled with great entertainment, extensive shopping sprees, wonderful fellowship, and good food – on a table that continued to rise without you being aware of it! The trip was made even more pleasant because of the Christian bus driver that gave great service and of course Beverly seeing that all the needs were met along the way. A few of the highlights are shown below.



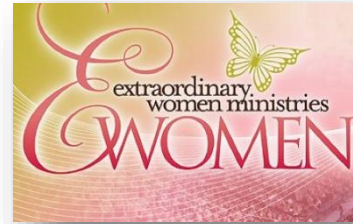
The Young at Heart are looking forward to their next adventure which will be a cruise to the Bahamas in April 2018. Make plans to attend - it's not too late to sign up! According to the Young at Heart Secretary Phyllis Newman, "We would love to have you all come along!"

Beverly Lee, Young at Heart Director



Women's Enrichment Ministry

Ladies, it's time to sign up for the Extraordinary Women conference in Pensacola. Once again, we plan to attend this awesome conference on Friday, April 20 and Saturday, April 21, 2018. We have been attending this conference for ten plus years and always enjoy it and the time we get to spend with our ladies.



We have reserved our place at the conference and have received a special price of \$59, which is a \$60 savings, \$10 less than the Early Bird Special. We will rent a vacation home for the weekend. Please contact Lori Evans, Meredith Cunningham or Michelle Herrin for more information.

We hope you will plan to go with us!



From the Newsletter Staff

We, the staff of the newsletter, would like to take this opportunity to thank all who contribute to support our newsletter. We know your articles touch so many people. We have several members that are unable to attend church, and they have told us how much it means to get the newsletter and to be able to keep up with all of us and what is happening in the church they love.

We hope that the newsletter has touched your life as well. We continue to strive to report on events and opportunities within our church. We appreciate your input. It makes it worthwhile to know that many of you do appreciate the tireless efforts of our staff and contributors.

We wish all a Merry [Christmas](#) and look forward to serving you in the New Year!

Counting Committee – December

3rd	10th	17th	24th	31st
Rachel D.	Betty H.	Eileen V.	Sally P.	Rachel D.
Vera A.	Meredith C.	Kim G.	Luanne T.	Vera A.

Deacon of the Week – December

3rd	10th	17th	24th	31st
Donald E.	Billie N.	John C.	Kenny P.	Jeff P.
861-3096	697-0005	341-0302	323-4693	518-6446

Church Contact Information

Pastor	David Horton
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