

# THE PINNACLE

First Baptist Church of Middlesboro, Kentucky

P.O. Box 839 606-449-5564 office@fbciddlesboro.org



The Office Foyer Tree



The Entryway Chandelier



The Rear Sanctuary Chandeliers

## O Come All Ye...

WRITTEN BY REV. ZACHARY L. BAY

"Evangelism." "Outreach."

The time is upon us, beloved! The First Sunday of Advent is in two days. I hope you are looking forward to it as much as I am.

Thank you so much for taking the Advent/Christmas postcards at the end of worship two weeks ago and again this last Sunday. I am still asking that you take those and use them to invite people you know to join us for the seasons of Advent and Christmas.

I've had 500 of those cards printed, and you've carried most of them out of the foyer with you on two different November Sundays. Thank you!

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The Office Foyer Nativity

In my imagination, it's the simplest of things. Take the card, hand it to a friend or a neighbor, and say, "I'd love for you to join me for Advent and Christmas at First Baptist Church."

It's the personal connection that matters. You know this person. You believe they would love the church you love if they gave it a chance. Perhaps you tell them a couple of the things that you love most about FBC at Christmastime, and offer to sit with them when they arrive.

Eleven years ago, your pastor search committee asked me a question that gets asked of every pastoral candidate by every search committee the



The Main Sanctuary Chandelier

world over. "What ideas do you have about church growth?" My response now is much the same as it was then: "I don't believe pastors grow church; I believe churches grow churches."

I think history generally--and your history specifically--bears witness to that. When active and involved congregants invite people they know to meet the church they enjoy, the church is given a chance to grow. Each and every time it happens, time after time, the church is given the chance to grow.

Pastors invite people to church, but many people think "it's his/her job to do that." When congregants invite people they know and love to join in with the church they know and love, no one thinks "it's his/her job to do that." More likely--especially if you aren't pushy about it--they'll think, "Wow. He/she really likes their church!"

Advent and Christmas are "most wonderful" at First Baptist Church. So warm and light and joyful. So, please...hand those cards to people you know. Tell them briefly what you love about FBC in December. No need to sell them on anything. Just tell them what you love about FBC, and tell them you'd be glad to sit with them if they want to join you this holiday season. That's "Evangelism." That's "Outreach." That's how churches really grow.





Longtime Friends at Thanksgiving



Learning about God



FBC Thanksgiving Dinner

## It's the Most Wonderful Time of the Year!

WRITTEN BY REV. DR. KRISTY L. BAY

WChances are good that merely reading the title of this article caused a merry tune to sound within you! Because music and Advent and Christmas are so intertwined— you can't have one without the other! This Advent Season, we are leaning into some of the familiar songs of the season....and the surprising stories behind them.

You will hear some favorites, and some that you may not have heard in a long time. I'd invite you to soak in the sounds of the season. Music is healing, and in the chaos and bustle of the holiday season, music can often be what makes us pause.

I know that you all love Christmas music, too, because I have received more song requests from you in the last month than ever before! :) And we will do our best to include those where they are

most fitting. Don't forget, though, that Advent is also an invitation to incarnation...the fancy word for living out the promise of Emmanuel, God with Us. That means allowing ourselves the space and time to really participate in immersing our senses in the season— sight, sound, touch, and smell.

You might just find that doing so will allow you to experience Advent in a new and deeper way... to feel the anticipation, the fear, the joy, the shadows, and the ever-growing light.

So, my friends, come on this Advent journey with us. You are invited to bring your whole self, and immerse it in the season... God is there and ready to meet us where we are. And by the grace of God, we might just find ourselves changed!

### January Birthdays

1 - Larry Grandey - PO Box 1375 Middlesboro, KY 40965

2 - Madison Shoffner - 2906 Cumberland Ave

6 - Bette Emmett - 815 Winchester Ave

7 - Beverly Smith - 825 Cherokee Dr

7 - Lucy Wilson - 40 Trent Circle, London, KY 40744

8 - Jeanette Minor - 805 Dorchester Ave

9 - Chandler Johnson

10 - Rebecca Hoe - 1501 Rustads Cir Williamsburg, VA 23188

17 - Lisa Epperson - 333 Blakemore Mill Rd Ewing, VA 24248

17 - Zach Bay - 400 Gloucester Ave

27 - Anna Myers - 501 Wildwood Rd

28 - Anna Brumbach - 710 Dorchester Ave

28- Robyn Kaw - 115 Stephen Dr., Georgetown, KY 40324

28 - Tyler West - 141 Eagle Lane Tazewell, TN 37869

29 - Marie Partin - 1108 W Chester Ave

30 - Joyce Anderson - 235 New Wilson Ln.

# Congregational Calendar

## Saturday, December 2

7:00 PM Middlesboro Christmas  
Parade (Children's Ministry)

## Sunday, December 3

11:00 AM First Sunday of Advent

## Tuesday, December 5

9:30 AM Yoga with Becky Bowling  
6:00 PM Venture Circle Group Home  
Christmas Party

## Wednesday, December 6

6:30 PM An Invitation to Anticipation:  
A Service Welcoming Advent  
(Bring ornament/toys for CCM)

## Thursday, December 7

9:30 AM Yoga with Becky Bowling

## Friday, December 8

4:30- 6:30 PM Pastors' Christmas Open  
House

## Sunday, December 10

11:00 AM Second Sunday of Advent  
5:00 PM Deacons Meeting

## Tuesday, December 12/Thurs. Dec. 14

9:30 AM Yoga with Becky Bowling

## Wednesday, December 13

6:00 PM Business Mtg/Christmas Baskets  
Cantata Dress Rehearsal to follow

## Friday, December 15

6:00PM- Choir & Bells Christmas Party  
at the Lee's Homes

## Sunday, December 17

11:00 AM Third Sunday of Advent  
5:45 PM Cantata & Candles  
Live Nativity to follow

## Monday & Tuesday, December 18-19

6:00 PM- 7:00 PM Live Nativity

## Tuesday, December 19

5:00 PM FBC Children's Ministry Christmas  
Party & Polar Express- TEL Chapel

## Wednesday, December 20

6:00 PM Pastor's Bible Study - Mary  
& Elizabeth

## Thursday, December 21

11:00 AM - 1:00 PM Church Office  
Christmas Open House

## Sunday, December 24

11:00 AM- Fourth Sunday of Advent  
Worship  
4:00 PM - 7:00 PM Christmas Eve Come &  
Go Communion

## Monday-Friday, December 25-29

Church Office Closed for Holiday

## December Birthdays

3 - Leigh Anne Shumate - PO Box 42

8 - Alex Cook - 3225 Cumberland Ave

9 - Missy Bakies- 256 Volunteer Ln Harrogate, TN 37752

10 - Gingie Martin - 430 Shields Crossing Dr,  
Bean Station, TN 37708

10 - Betty Nagle - 2522 Cumberland Ave

11 - Jay Shoffner - 2906 Cumberland Ave

11 - Carson Shumate - PO Box 42

13 - Katie Cox - PO Box 1381

13 - Mildred Norton -PO Box E

13 - Janis Walters - 812 Cherokee Dr.

14 - Trish Edinger - 314 North 25th St.

14 - Andrea Lee - 700 Twin Fawn Trail

16 - Grace Rose - 206 Cedar Valley Ewing, VA 24248

17 - Edith Asher - PO Box 584, Pineville, KY

18 - Jessica Eldridge - 923 Doncaster Ave

19 - Tammy Grimm - PO Box 1131

19 - Courtney Myers - 501 Wildwood Rd

20 - Claudia Jarvis - 195 Blue Ridge Rd. Speedwell, TN 37870

21 - Ed Myers - 501 Wildwood Rd

22 - Tommy Joe Mike - 500 S 35th ST.

22 - Geneva Sneed - PO Box 1354

24 - Carol Uhl - 503 Ilchester Ave

27 - Haley Tigie - 568 Pine Branch Rd.

30 - Thornley Alexander - 189 Ramsey St. Harrogate, TN 37752

30 - Suzanne Lee - 700 Twin Fawn Trail