

## **FROM THE PASTOR**

Our Advent theme this year is **"God With Us."** In a world that is beset by cultural, political, socio-economic, racial and religious conflicts, we many wonder, "where is God?" We may personally experience times of disappointment, discouragement, or despair and wonder, "Is God near?" Every generation, every century, has struggled with the pervasive perversions of evil and the destructive consequences of sin. It may, at times, seem that God is absent – that He has turned His back on His creation and left us to our own devices.

Christmas is the bold declaration and divine assurance that in all things... God is with us. The mystery and miracle of Christmas is that God is **with** us. The Creator of the universe became a man, walked our roads, ate our food, spoke our language, felt our pain....and died our death. He is with us. There is not a human experience He has not personally experienced. Dependence? He came as a baby needing the milk of His mother and the care and protection of Joseph. Abandonment? His best friends left Him. Rejection? A close associate sold Him out. Pain? He died a bloody death on a dirty cross with a broken heart for a sinful world. God promised through the prophets and fulfilled in the flesh: *"The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son and they shall call Him Immanuel – which means, "God with us."* In all the beautiful music of Christmas comes the whisper...*"God is with us."* In all of the beautiful sights and sounds of the season, comes the message....*"God is with us."* Christmas demonstrates once and forever, God is with us!

Joy and Peace,  
**Pastor Frank**

**The star...  
came to  
rest over  
the place  
where the  
child was.**

Matthew 2:9, ESV



## **The Necessity and Power of a Preaching Team**

November 20, 2018

A couple of months ago I published an article entitled “*A Word About Preaching*” in which I laid the groundwork for establishing a preaching team in the church. In this first missive I said that, “I believe in the necessity and power of a preaching team and that it can lead to a healthier and more sustainable proclamation ministry.” Let me unpack this a little further.

First, let’s begin with scripture (always a good place to begin). In the book of Acts it is clear that the church at Antioch had a preaching team, “*Now there were in the church at Antioch prophets and teachers, Barnabas, Simeon who was called Niger, Lucius of Cyrene, Manaen a member of the court of Herod the Tetrarch, and Saul*” (Acts 13:1). This verse clearly shows that there was more than one preacher/teacher, in fact there were five! The background of this verse shows a very diverse combination of individuals; Simeon was a black man, Manaen was an upper class Jew and a member of King Herod’s court. Lucius was a God-fearing Gentile, Barnabas was a Jew and a member of the Levite tribe and finally Saul was a former Pharisee. This made for a powerful coalition in the early church.

One of the reasons developing a preaching team is beneficial to the church is that it allows pastors to leverage other gifts. Often churches buy into the notion that preaching is the essence of pastoral ministry. This is borne out by the common practice of having a candidate come preach a “trial sermon” before the church votes on his/her candidacy. While preaching is a crucial skill, there is much more to being an effective pastor than just preaching. As any seasoned shepherd knows, the various tasks of ministry require significant amounts of time, energy, and attention. Preaching teams free up lead pastors to devote resources to other areas of ministry on the weeks they’re out of the pulpit.

Secondly, while a lead or senior pastor has a responsibility to “shepherd” his/her flock which undoubtedly involves competent preaching, he or she also has a responsibility to “equip the saints” (Ephesians 4:11-12). It is also incumbent upon the senior pastor to develop others in the flock in the art of preaching. These individuals must exhibit spiritual maturity, commitment to the church and possess basic communication skills. When it appears that someone has the potential to communicate effectively from the pulpit, the senior pastor and church leaders must intentionally open up more opportunities for them to preach. This is both biblical and practical. When I am gone, either as a result of a plan or unexpectedly, I would rather have a legacy that leaves other gifted communicators of the God’s truth to serve the church, than one that simply saw me preach a lot because people liked it.

In my next paper we’ll look at how to help a church transition from the traditional “one preacher” to a team of preachers.

I love you all,  
Pastor Frank



## Advent and Christmas Schedule

### December 2-December 30

#### "God With Us"

Christmas is the bold declaration and divine assurance that in all things God is with us. The mystery and miracle of Christmas is that God is with us. In all the beautiful music of Christmas comes the whisper..."God is with us." In all the beautiful sights of the season, comes the message..."God is with us." Join us on December 2<sup>nd</sup> (first Sunday in Advent), December 9<sup>th</sup> (second Sunday in Advent), December 16<sup>th</sup> (third Sunday in Advent) and December 23<sup>rd</sup> (fourth Sunday in Advent), for a sermon series that demonstrates once and forever God is with us!

#### The Lighting of the Advent Candle

The Advent Wreath is a ring of evergreens with four candles, one for each week of Advent. It also includes a center candle which is called the "Christ Candle." The light that the candles give reminds us of Jesus, the Light of the World. The light coming from the candles increases throughout Advent as each week one more candle is lit. The weeks of waiting for the candles full light help us recall the world's long years of waiting for Jesus, the Light. Each Sunday in each service, one of our church families will light the Advent candle and read scripture, share a short message and lead us in prayer.

#### Hanging of the Greens

This year we begin decorating both of our sanctuaries on December 2<sup>nd</sup> the first Sunday in Advent, from 3-6pm. It is a day that we prepare and reflect on the meaning of the many symbols of Christmas and turn our facility into a festive and sacred house of worship benefitting the season.

#### Christmas Choir Musical Service

Christmas music lies at the heart of the holiday season. You hear it all around you... grocery stores, shopping malls, and on the radio. Our favorite holiday carols accomplish something miraculous in this day and age – they send a blatantly sacred message to an increasingly distant and disillusioned world. On Sunday, December 16<sup>th</sup> at 11am in the Sanctuary, the Bowling Green Baptist Church sanctuary choir will present "**Joy Has Dawned**," with beautiful songs and familiar carols that tell the story of Christ's birth from the announcement of Christ's birth to the stable and beyond.

#### Children's Christmas Pageant

There is nothing like a children's Christmas special to put you into the holiday spirit. So, on Wednesday, December 19<sup>th</sup> at 7pm Paige Carter along with our precious children will present a montage Christmas program that will be a must see for our Church family. And that's not all.

Following this delightful program all are invited to a dessert reception in the FMC.

### *Christmas Eve Service*

Our Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship Service is a gathering that captures the quiet joy and anticipation of Christmas Eve. Carols are sung, the Christ story is told, candles are lit, and sweet fellowship is shared. Join us at 6pm for this special service for all ages. Child care will be available for children up to 5 years old.

### *New Year's Sunday*

This year on Sunday, December 30<sup>th</sup> our regular Sunday morning schedule will change slightly. We will begin our morning with Sunday School at 10am and follow that with a combined worship service in the sanctuary at 11am. There will be no Café, no early service and no Children's Church. Child care will be available for children up to 5 years old during the Sanctuary Service



# *Musical Connections*

## *Christmas Music*



The Adult Choir is pleased to present our Christmas cantata at the 11AM service on Sunday, December 16 in the Sanctuary.

We are excited to have our Children's Choirs and our Youth participants join in for this event! The blending of voices, young and young-at-heart, will surely honor our Savior's birth and be pleasing to His people.

The First Sunday of Advent is Sunday, December 2.



The Children's Christmas Pageant will be held December 19 at 7pm and will be followed by a dessert reception.

Children with speaking or sound effect parts will practice Sunday December 9 during Children's Church and Sunday, December 16 from 11 am until 1:30 pm.

All children, those with speaking parts and younger children participating in the nativity, will come to practice on December 16 at 12 noon until 1:30pm.



Our church completed more than 100 shoeboxes for Samaritan's Purse this year. These shoeboxes will be shipped by plane, boat, oxen or other means to hard-to-reach areas around the world. Should we all think about how we can double our shopping this year so we can fill 200 boxes next year? This is a challenge for everyone as they shop. I think we can do it!!!!

Our church supplied food for Thanksgiving meals to 10 families. Thanks especially to Jean Satterwhite and Charlene Gray who assisted with delivering some of these baskets of food to families. Thanks also, church, for your generous donations of food and monies to make this such a success.

The week of Prayer for International Missions this year is Dec 2-9. By giving to the Lottie Moon Christmas offering we, as a church, can play a vital role in taking the gospel to every nation. Our goal this year is \$1500.00. Please read the prayer guide inserted in the bulletin.

We look forward to hearing from Cathy Gray about her recent trip to Haiti. We can only imagine the many challenges her team faced while there.

Look for our "Angel Tree" in the family ministry center soon. Thanks to the hard work of Susie Hicks and Jean Satterwhite you will be able to choose a name with age and gift suggestion. Please return the gift by Wed. Dec. 19, so delivery can be made before Christmas. Please purchase only (1) gift per child as each name may be placed on the tree more than once. Place the name and gift suggestion on the wrapped present when you return it.

As this 2018 year ends my prayer for this mission-minded church is that we all will be able to know GOD more, show his love unconditionally and make disciples who make disciples. **Always keep busy working for The LORD.**

Christmas blessings to all.

Paulette Britt





Wesley Carter	1
Samuel Gromovsky	3
Hardy Dunnington	6
Cassandra Broaddus	7
Karen Covington	7
Jennifer Michael	7
Joel Tidman	7
Jeff Fulmer	8
Mrs. Forrest	
McGhee	11
Abbie Crawford	12
Dani Divelbliss	13
Christianna Gray	13
Carrie Moser	13
Nathan Carter	19
Colton Bissoon	21
Chayce Gustard	21
Sue Hollandsworth	22
Ted Reynolds	23
Gef Fisher	28
Anne Brooks	31



#### Deacon of the Week:

Dec 2	John Markham
Dec 9	Brad Thomas
Dec 16	Sherry Brillhart
Dec 23	Charles Stevens
Dec 30	Charlene Gray

Deacons' Meeting Devotions- Sherry Brillhart

Building Security: – Deacon of the week

Counters— Hardy Dunnington & Mary Flora

#### Flowers:

Dec 2	Linda Fisher
Dec 9	Bettie French
Dec 16	Christmas Poinsettias
Dec 23	Church Greenery
Dec 30	Church Greenery

#### Coffee & Snack Schedule:

Dec. 2	Daniele Cushing
Dec. 9	Debbie Thomas and Haley Kennedy
Dec 16	Jeff and Heather Diritto
Dec 23	Richard and Naeda Gustard
Dec 30	Combined Service – No Café

#### Nursery Workers: \*

Dec 2	<u>Karen Covington</u> , Amy Phelix, Emily Brillhart
Dec 9	<u>April Colgan</u> , Nicole Merkel, Kyle Farris
Dec 16	<u>Ruth Judd</u> , Sharon Swanton, Jessalynn Swanton
Dec 23	<u>Pam Iddins</u> , Heather Diritto, Hannah Kennedy
Dec 30	<u>Jenn Thomas</u> , Rachel Call, Laney Thomas

\* Both individuals are responsible for the 8:45 service; the underlined individual is also responsible for the 11:00 service.