



# Charleston First Baptist Church Newsletter

December 2019



## December Verse of the Month:

**The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth. John 1:14**

## New Pastor Announcement

Rev. Steve Hayes from Mattoon was presented to the congregation as a pastoral candidate on Sunday, November 24th. After preaching his trial sermon and following a unanimous positive vote, the congregation called him to become our new pastor. Pastor Steve and his wife Marianna have six grown children and 31 grandchildren. His objective is to serve the Lord Jesus Christ by using his spiritual gifts and professional abilities within the church family to reach the lost and to disciple and help equip the saints for ministry and mission. Pastor Steve's first Sunday with us will be January 5, 2020.

We are grateful to the Pastoral Search Committee who have diligently prayed and searched for God's guidance in locating whom to present to the church family to fill this important position.

## Thoughts From Pastor Adrian

This December is filled with expectation. There is the anticipation of decorated houses and trees, carol singing, family celebrations, amazing gifts, excited children, and, of course, great Christmas meals. There may also be anticipation of snow (not too much), Christmas Eve services at church, and cozy nights around a fire.

But for our congregation, this is a very special time of expectation. Expectation that a challenging year is about to come to a close with promise of a renewal in a new year. Expectation that no matter the past circumstances, there is hope for the future in the life of the Christ child who is our Savior. Expectation that God has moved to bring new and vibrant leadership to our church. Expectation that we will hold to Christ-centered beliefs in our church that will draw others to seek the opportunity to serve Christ in this place.

As we draw near to the manger scene on Christmas Eve, I hope each of us will let the magnificence of that moment and the realization of exactly what was done allow us to wait on God's leadership, and then renew the solid base of our faith. For isn't that what we should do in expectation...live each day firmly by faith in a God who has been, and remains, faithful?



The December missions is for the retired ministers and missionaries. These people have given their lives to serving Christ. Let's try to assist them in having sufficient money to retire on. If you are retired, think about how helpful your pension is.

Also remember that our last birthday offering of the year will be taken December 29.

## Christmas Family

FBC has adopted a family for Christmas. This is a family of seven and the mother has had to quit her job so she can take their 15 year old daughter to cancer treatments. The Deacons have agreed to use some of the Deacons Funds to help the family with their monthly expenses for December. The children are a girl 15 years old, three boys ages 7, 5 ½, and 3 and another girl who is 2 ½ years old.

There are a few more cards on the tree in the Narthex. If you wish to help this family, please take one of these cards, purchase the items you wish to (according to what is listed on the card you choose) and return these items wrapped back to the church by Dec. 15. Please attach the card to the outside of the gift. Household items are welcome but do not need to be wrapped. Gift cards are welcome also. Let's make this Christmas a special one for this family. Also, please put this family on your prayer list. Thank you for your generosity.

## Notice:

Doneda will be away the first week of December. Pastor Adrian will be in town on his regular schedule of Sunday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday. Please call ahead to make sure he is "in office". Doneda will resume her regular office hours on Tuesday, Dec. 10.

## Thank you!

A huge thank you goes out to all who helped to make our Thanksgiving Meal such a wonderful event this year! All the food was quite delicious, the decorations were beautiful and the fellowship was wonderful!

## With Sympathy

Our sympathies are expressed to Scott and Jeanie Weber and their family at the passing of Scott's sister, Robin Horn.

Sympathy is also expressed to the family and friends of Del and Doris Crabill who both passed away during the month of November.



## AFT Invitation to All

The whole church is invited to attend the AFT Christmas Gathering on Sunday, Dec. 8 at the Brickhouse immediately following our morning worship service. All are welcome but we do need to make a reservation so the restaurant knows how many to plan for. Please let Dolores or Lillian know that you will attend.

