

The Lighthouse

First Baptist Church, Giddings
Helping Others Say "Yes" To Jesus

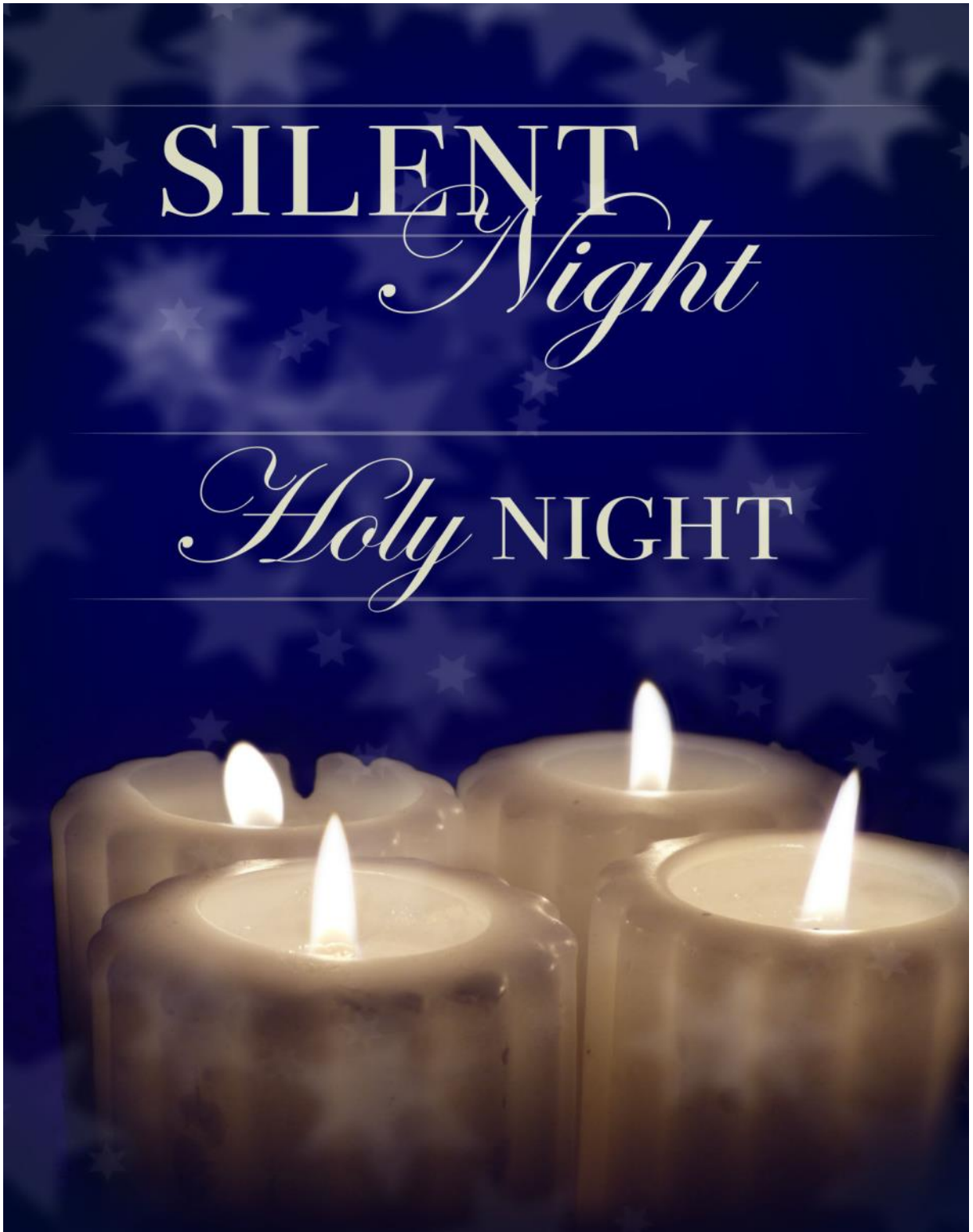
Volume 21

December 2019

Issue 12

SILENT
Night

Holy NIGHT





The True Meaning of Christmas

A few years ago, my Christmas season centered on the arrival of a baby — our second child, due December 23. Exhausted with pregnancy, I skipped out on holiday gatherings, did less decorating and baking than usual. Didn't send cards and didn't plan a holiday dinner, assuming — correctly, it turned out — I'd be in the hospital then.

It was a strangely quiet Christmas season, with our focus on the impending arrival. But once our baby was born, in the last hour of Christmas Day, all the missed parties, caroling, cookie-indulging and even present-opening paled in comparison. All that truly mattered was God's gift to our family of this one very special baby.

Isn't this how Christmas should *always* be? Seasonal activities are fun but hold meaning only if they deepen our focus on the coming of one very special Baby — the Christ-Child. Hold him in your heart this season, as I held my newborn that Christmas night. If the hustle and bustle distracts you from the Baby, put an end to it. If traditional activities prove more stressful than joyous, consider what you can let go of to embrace the true meaning of Christmas — the birth of Jesus, God's gift of love.

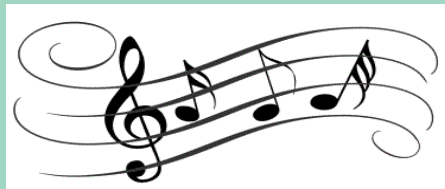
—Heidi Mann



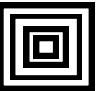
Lottie Moon Christmas Offering
Our Church Goal: \$3000.00
Please give generously.



Fellowship Meal
Sunday, December 8th
Following the Morning
Worship Service
Bring your favorite dish
and join us!



December 7th
the FBC Band is singing
at Camp Tejas.
6:30 - 8:30 p.m.



Hanging of the Green and Decorating the tree

Sunday, December 1st
6:00 p.m.

Punch and cookies will
be served following
the service.



Small Group studies will
begin the end of January.
Sign-up sheets will be in
the foyer December 8th.

January 5th the adult Sunday School classes
will meet together to study Tony Evans' **Your
Destiny**. Breakfast starts at 9:30 a.m.



Alpha

What can I do?

- Help with the meal
- Help with technology
- Be on the welcome team
- Be the MC
- Be on the prayer team
- Be a small group host or Helper

We will launch Alpha beginning
January 8th at 5:30 p.m. See Beth if you
can help or have question



Food Pantry

Next Food Pantry
Friday, December 14th
Saturday, December 15th
Volunteers needed!

Tuesday
December 10th
6:30 a.m.
At Elvira's



Men's Fellowship/
Prayer Breakfast



State School Party

December 10th
6:00 - 8:00 p.m.
See Beth or Melissa Cook
if you are interested.



Dec 2 Alene McKeown
Dec 8 Stephanie Parker
Dec 12 Billy Gillum
Diann Hilton
Tim Pitts

Dec 14 Gina Reat
Dec 17 Carolyn Jatzlau
Holden Jatzlau
Dec 20 Sue Placke
Dec 22 Austin Higgins

Dec 23 Melissa Cook
Dec 28 Larry Spitzenberger
Dec 29 Billy Higgins

First Baptist Church Deacons

John Booth Billy Gillum
Jimmy Boriack Billy Higgins
Ronnie Doggett

Retired Deacons at FBC

Vance Bradford Bob Sharp
Herbert Michalk

Missionaries We Support Monthly

Scott & Becky Placke - Go Drill
Mission: Dignity
Feed the Need

Monthly Giving Needs: \$20,800.00
Weekly Giving Needs: \$5,200.00

November

(includes Easy Tithe online giving)

Week 1 giving: \$4,499.00

Week 2 giving: \$2,437.00

Week 3 giving: \$3,901.00

Week 4 giving: \$2,899.00

Total November giving: \$13,736.00

Wednesday Night Meals

December 4
Sour Cream Enchiladas

December 11
Sloppy Joes & Tater Tots

December 18
Pizza Party

December 25
No meal

No church activities
December 24th
and
January 1

A Song With a Message?

According to folklore, the long "The 12 Days of Christmas" was written to help young believers learn about their faith. Although no evidence proves that claim, some say the popular carol contains these codes:

- The partridge in a pear tree is Jesus Christ.
- Two turtle doves are the Old and New Testament.
- Three French hens stand for faith, hope and love.
- The four calling birds are the four gospels.
- The five golden rings are the Law: the first five books of the Old Testament.
- The six geese a-laying represent the six days of creation.
- The seven swans a-swimming represent the gifts of the Holy Spirit: prophecy, serving, teaching, exhortation, contribution, leadership and mercy.
- The eight maids a-milking are Jesus' eight Beatitudes.
- Nine ladies dancing are the fruits of the Holy Spirit: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control.
- The 10 lords a-leaping are the Ten Commandments.
- The 11 pipers piping stand for the 11 faithful disciples.
- The 12 drummers drumming symbolize the 12 statements of belief in the Apostles' Creed.