

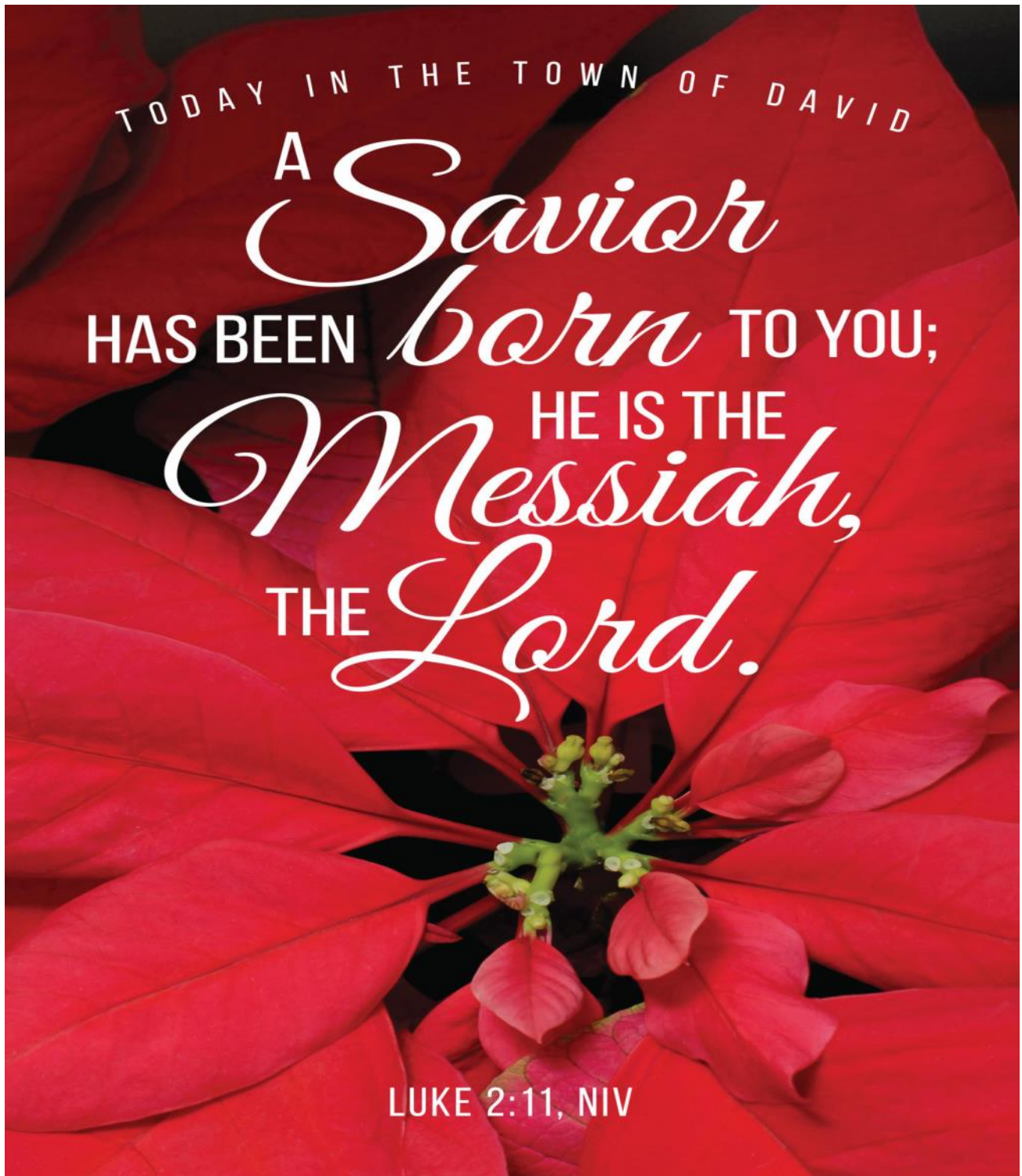
# The Lighthouse

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

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Issue 12



TODAY IN THE TOWN OF DAVID

A *Savior*  
HAS BEEN *born* TO YOU;  
HE IS THE  
*Messiah,*  
THE *Lord.*

LUKE 2:11, NIV

**From the Pastor...**

***“Martha, Martha, the Lord answered, “You are worried and upset about many things, but only one thing is needed. Mary has chosen what is better, and it will not be taken away from her” Luke 10:41-42.***

“A little boy and a little girl were singing their favorite Christmas carol in church the Sunday before Christmas. The boy concluded “Silent Night” with the words, “sleep in heavenly beans.” His sister elbowed him, and said, “No. Not beans, peas!” The song might just as well end with ‘beans’ or ‘peas’ instead of ‘peace,’ because in the frantic rush to get everything done, the peace of the season seems to evade us.

I’ve compiled a list of potential things that often occur during this time of year which may contribute to increased busyness in our lives during the holiday season...See if any of these ring a bell: \*Shopping for gifts \*Attending holiday parties \*Putting up the decorations \*Wrapping gifts \*Baking Christmas cookies and breads \*Holiday traffic \*(If married) finding the time to celebrate the holidays with all family members without offending anyone \*Gaining weight \*Christmas programs to attend at school and church \*Untangling strands of lights \*Sending out Christmas cards \*Hearing “Grandma Got Run Over By a Reindeer” for the 150th time \*Facing relatives you don’t get along with \*Maybe spending Christmas alone \*(3) often overlooked words —“batteries not included” or “some assembly required” \*Arranging travel schedules \*Missing loved ones who have passed away \*Paying off credit cards \*Crowded shopping malls. When you compile a list like this, it’s easy to see why the holidays are a major period of increased “busyness” in most people’s lives, not to mention, everyday life issues. We’re too busy with distractions, too busy with complaints, and too busy with worry to LISTEN to the Lord. Does Jesus have anything to say to us in the midst of this season of ‘hurry,’ ‘rush’ and ‘busyness’? I believe He does.

Luke 10:41-42 shows how busyness and stress gets in the way of what matters most. We will enjoy the holiday season and life much more when we simply focus on and listen to what is

needed. Our Lord didn’t intend us to have the activities of life clutter our relationship with Him. From the words of Jesus, we can see that we are to occupy our lives with things that have eternal value and not what we have convinced ourselves to be necessary for a quality life. Martha is distracted by the group in her home, the loud conversations, the feeding of the guests, preparation of the meal, and yes, distracted by Mary. One thing leads to another thing, and Martha gets worked up to the point of frustration and anger. Jesus is not belittling her ministry, He’s not questioning her love for Him; Jesus is saying, “It’s okay, you’ve done good things, and I appreciate it, but Martha, you have forgotten something—you forgot to put ME (Jesus) FIRST. IT IS ABOUT JESUS!

Busyness...One of the chief reasons we don’t hear God; we’re simply too busy to hear Him. The reason that Mary was able to hear Jesus is that she was in His presence. Doesn’t it make sense that if you want to hear a particular speaker you arrange to go to hear that person speak? That’s how it is with God; you go where He is speaking! Ask yourself, “Where does God speak?” ... Bible—Prayer—Bible Studies—Church worship

How committed are you to listen and hear God speak?” Choose what’s better; choose to listen to the LORD.”

Pastor Steve

**What’s On Your List?**

**A little smile, a word of cheer  
A bit of love from someone near,  
A little gift from one held dear,  
Best wishes for the coming year ...  
These make a Merry Christmas!**

**—John Greenleaf Whittier**





FBC will be hosting a pulled pork sandwich fundraiser to benefit the Lee County Cancer Resource Center. We need desserts (cookies, brownies), bag packers, deliverers. You can also take a sign up sheet to your work place. Bags will be available for lunch on **December 4th**. See Mary Ross, Kelli Higgins, or Beth Blair for more information.

Are you able to help with the  
Pulled Pork Fundraiser?

Monday, December 3rd, at 4:30 p.m. we are going to put together the bags. Tuesday, December 4th, at 10:00 a.m. - get meat bagged and deliver to businesses.

Thanks for your help!



Thanks to everyone who helped with Operation Christmas Child. We were able to send about 150 shoeboxes with the story of Jesus to children all over the world.



Candlelight  
Service

**CANDLELIGHT  
SERVICE  
MONDAY  
DECEMBER 24TH  
6:00 P.M.**



**Ladies,**

**We invite you to slow down and remember the real meaning of Christmas. Join us on December 1st at 11:00 a.m. as we celebrate a Vintage Christmas. We encourage you to bring a family favorite dish for us to share a meal together. If you have any questions see Sharon Rinn, Sharon Buck, or Beth Blair.**

**Childcare will be provided.**

## Born In A Barn

While growing up, if my sisters and I behaved rudely at the table, my mom would ask, "Were you born in a barn?"

Too often, rude behavior isn't restricted to meals. Even adults behave badly toward others, intentionally or unintentionally. Our lack of consideration, good manners and kindness might be likened to the behavior of animals, not guided by concepts of right and wrong.

Jesus was *literally* born in a barn because we sometimes act like we were born in a barn, failing to put others ahead of ourselves. Through Jesus, God willingly entered the mess and stink of human existence. We know that Jesus can relate to the lowest of human experience because he was laid into a feed trough for animals, surrounded by their sounds and smells. Born alongside us in the "barn" of earthly life, Jesus taught us not only politeness but love.

One day, when I dine with Jesus at the heavenly banquet, I trust Mom will be pleased with my table manners.



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 28 Larry Spitzenberger  
Dec 29 Luke Hard  
Billy Higgins  
Dec 30 Amanda Parks



## First Baptist Church Deacons

Jimmy Boriack - Chairman  
Kelly Reat - Vice Chairman

John Booth  
Vance Bradford  
Ronnie Doggett

Billy Gillum  
Billy Higgins  
Jared Parks

### Retired Deacons at FBC

Herbert Michalk

Bob Sharp

## Wednesday Night Meals

December 5th

Shepherd's pie, salad, bread, dessert

December 12

Chicken & dumplings,  
cornbread, butter bread

December 19

No Meal

December 26

No Meal

## Food Pantry

Next Food Pantry  
Friday, December 14th &  
Saturday, December 15th

[Volunteers needed!](#)



## Missionaries We Support Monthly

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

Monthly Giving Needs: \$20,800.00

November Plate Offering: \$13,934

November Easy Tithe Offering: \$3,422

Total October Offering: \$17,356

The Church Office will be closed  
December 24th, 25th & 26th  
There will be no Evening Services  
Sunday, December 23rd and 30th  
There will be no Wednesday Night Activities  
December 26th