



# BEACON

NEWS AND INFORMATION | FBC ALVARADO, TX

DECEMBER 2020



Christmas...wow, it's almost here! One of the elements of Christmas that we enjoy are Christmas candles. Most homes have a candle or two burning, either with a real flame or a pseudo one.

Many trace the Christmas Candle tradition to Martin Luther (16th century) who added lit candles to his tree, explaining, "The candles remind us of the star that led wise men to the Christ child."

In the Middle Ages, a large candle was used to represent the star of Bethlehem.

We use advent candles at our churches, pointing to the coming of the Messiah, Jesus.

Jesus said, *"I am the light of the world. Whoever follows Me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."* (Jn.8:12)

He also told us, His disciples, *"You are the light of the world. ...let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven."* (Mt.5:14,16)

So quickly this crazy year has passed -- 2020, which began so full of hope, and quickly took a sharp curve into fear. One writer reminded me recently that the church has historically been a place of refuge and moral authority -- a shining candle of hope in a dark world.

Today, our world, country, state, county, and community needs the church to once again be the shining candle of hope -- hope in Jesus. Hey believer, let's not live in fear -- nothing, not even a virus, should imprison our mind and heart and keep us from following God and His will for our life. Instead of living in fear, let's walk in faith and cling to the hope that we have -- *...Christ in you, the hope of glory.* (Col.1:27)

Paul mentioned this hope that is ours several times to the Romans.

My prayer for you and your family this season is an echo of his prayer for them: *May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope.* (Rom.15:13)

Join us on Sunday, Dec. 13 for a great Missions Sunday with a delicious fellowship meal to follow.

Also, don't miss the Christmas music as we celebrate on Sunday, Dec.20!

We'll finish the year, looking back and looking ahead as we share the Lord's Supper together on Sunday, Dec. 27. If you are physically able to do so, join us in person for these gatherings -- no fear, only hope from our God of hope.

*Pastor Wade*

**December 6 at 9:15 & 10:30**

Special Guest Preacher

*Dr. Scott Whitson*

Director of Missions for S.W.M.B.A.

**December 13 at 10:30 am**

*Mission Sunday*

Are you joining God "ON MISSION"?

Special Guest - Brindley Taylor

*Fajita lunch to follow.*



**December 20 at 10:30 am**

*Christmas Music Celebration*

*Special Music, Lighting of Candles & Passage Readings*



All end of year giving must be received by December 31 before 3:00 pm to be counted in 2020 receipts. Giving statements will be available in January of 2021. Thank you for your continued support and faithful giving.

**FINANCIAL UPDATE:** (as of 12/2/2020)

Current Checkbook Bal	\$73,545.37
Designated Funds Bal.	\$13,296.04
Total Available Funds	\$60,249.33
Current YTD Giving	\$316,185.97
YTD Giving Needed	\$368,035.51
Building Loan Balance	\$85,619.77

**Bible Study and Service Schedule's for the month of December!**

**Sunday December 6**

Bible Study 9:15 (Fellowship Hall)  
Worship 9:15

Bible Study 10:30 (FH or 310)  
Worship 10:30

**Sunday December 13**

Bible Study 9:15 (FH or Sanctuary)  
Worship (Mission's Service) 10:30  
Meal Following Service

**Sunday December 20**

Bible Study 9:15 (FH or Sanctuary)  
Worship (Christmas Music Celebration) 10:30

**Sunday December 27**

Bible Study 9:15 (FH or Sanctuary)  
Worship (Communion will be observed) 10:30

**Sunday Morning Bible Studies**

- 12/6 Transformed by the Holy Spirit (Youth/Adults)**  
U28 S1 The Holy Spirit Came (Children)
- 12/13 Empowered by the Holy Spirit (Youth/Adults)**  
U28 S2 Peter Healed a Man (Children)
- 12/20 Christmas: The Word Became Flesh (Youth/Adults)**  
Jesus Was Born - The Word Became Flesh (Children)
- 12/27 Showing Christ During Trials (Youth/Adults)**  
U28 S3 Faithful in Hard Times (Children)

**ASSOCIATE PASTOR OF STUDENTS SEARCH COMMITTEE**

Please continue to PRAY for the search committee: *Lacy Barnett, Tommy Dennis, Jeff Dixon, Oliver Monrose and Kelly Richardson.*

**4 WAYS TO GIVE**



**GIVING ENVELOPE**

Drop in plate during service, by church office or in the mail.



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