

November was such an encouraging month in FBCA life! Everybody pulled together and participated in our Flannel Feast and it was so much fun! We shared in a believer's baptism and got to commission one of our own for his mission trip to Japan. Then to decorate the worship area for the Christmas season. If you were somewhere else, you missed a great month!

December holds more of the same highlights -- don't miss out! There are class parties, great Christmas music, some pieces from our choir, and then a couple of special Sundays as we celebrate Christmas and a New Year! Also sprinkled in is a graduation reception for Marissa and an opportunity to give to missions all month long!

Pay close attention to our Dec. schedule:

As normal, there are no Bible Study classes (SS) on Dec.24 or Dec.31, as we have worship time only

Also, this year there's a Christmas Eve service at 6pm. Come and bring your family with you!

There is also no Wed. evening studies or activities on Dec.27 or Jan.3.

Recently, one of our older members voiced a concern -- "We've got to have more young people!"

Remember, our church leadership & outreach team has pinpointed "young families" as the area of church life that must grow. What part can you play in making that happen? Have you asked God about your part? We all must act with <u>intention</u> for that to happen.

The Christmas message of the birth of our Savior, the Lord Jesus is not one to simply be kept within the four walls of our church facility. Gal.3:22 reminds us what is important -- But the Scripture imprisoned everything under sin, so that the promise by faith in Jesus Christ might be given to those who believe.

At every holiday gathering...every community and family event, share the Word about Jesus and let God set people free in Him!

—Wade



A CHRISTMAS FAMILY ACTIVITY:

We know the holiday season can get busy, and it is tough to find opportunities to celebrate the true meaning of Christmas with your kids. So here is an idea to do something over Christmas break that will be easy! Grab a cake mix, candles, and balloons so you can have a birthday party for Jesus. Plan a family fun night and have a party

to celebrate Jesus' birthday. However, or whenever you decide, just be sure you take time to talk to your kids about the birth of Jesus, God's Son who was sent to save us from our sins. Sing "Happy Birthday" and celebrate Jesus!



UPCOMING CHURCH EVENTS

Dec 3 Deacon's Meeting
 Dec 7 Adult 2 Women's Christmas Party
 Adult 2 Men's Christmas Party
 Dec 15 Parents Night Out
 Dec 16 Daycare Staff Christmas Party (FH)
 Youth Holiday in the Park
 Dec 17 Choir Special Music

Dec 17 Graduation Reception for Marissa Wheat
 Dec 20 Youth Christmas Party

• Dec 24 Christmas Eve · Worship 10:30

Dec 24 Christmas Eve · Worship 10:30 No Sunday Morning Bible Study Christmas Eve · Candlelight Service 6:00pm

• Dec 27 No Wednesday Activities

Dec 31 New Years Eve · Worship 10:30
 No Sunday Morning Bible Study

FINANCIAL UPDATE: (11/30/2023)

Current Checkbook Bal \$76,407.51

Designated Funds Bal. \$13,099.36

Total Available Funds \$63,308.15

2023 YTD Total Giving Received \$272,485.10 2023 YTD Total Giving Needed \$306,153.46 As we go into this Christmas season, we must remember that the greatest gift that is given is that of Salvation. Christ being born was but the first part of the road to salvation. The tradition of celebration at the end of the year is fitting because we celebrate the beginning of salvation at the end of a year. This causes us to remember what Christ did.

Christ came humbled to Earth from Heaven and became a baby, not only that but also someone of insignificant status. He was willing to give up his place so that he could live not just as fully God but as fully human. He grew up and lived a normal human life.

Though we say that the Christmas season is a time for family and spending time together. Our Heavenly father gave us the best gift that no one on Earth can provide. He gave us a way to spend eternity with him and to worship with our family in Christ's name.

The best part about Christ birth is that the first people who saw him were shepherds. In Luke 2:8-20, the shepherds were not considered important people. They were the low life's this is important because it shows that salvation is not social class determined. It also is really amazing that Jesus being the Lamb of God is being watched over literally by shepherds.

Enjoy Christmas and enjoy time with the family that shares your genetics or the family that you have built through friendship but remember your heavenly family and your spiritual family. God bless!



STRY T. J. Arango
Associate Pastor of Students

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You are invited to a reception celebrating the graduation of



Marissa Dannielle Wheat

Graduating Cum Laude with a Bachelor of Business Administration in Management



Sunday, December 17, 2023 First Baptist Church Alvarado Fellowship Hall following the morning service





