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LEXINGTONBAPTIST.ORG

## **MINISTRY STAFF**

**Dr. Mike Turner**Senior Pastor

**Mark Hathcox** 

Associate Pastor (Missions)

**Stephen McNeill** 

Associate Pastor (Next Gen)

**Mark Owens** 

Executive Pastor (Equipping)

**Dan Williams** 

Associate Pastor (Senior Adults and Congregational Care)

**Sean Abrams** 

Finance Director

**Maegan Bolding** 

Children's Ministry Director

**Jenny Clark** 

Communications Director

Juanita Farmer

**Facilities Director** 

Sabrina Hooker

Preschool Ministry Director

**Hamilton Mathis** 

Recreation & Middle School Ministry Director

**Crystal Ray** 

Special Needs Ministry Director

**Seth Stoddard** 

Missions Associate for Church Planting

**Jacob Powers** 

Media Director

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Mike Turner
Senior Pastor

# From the Pastor

The Christmas season at LBC is filled with great moments of worship. You and your friends and family (each event is an excellent opportunity to bring someone with you!) should make time for them:

- **December 1** our Legacy Choir presents "Breath of Heaven"
- December 8 our Children's Choir presents their Christmas musical, "Creation Sings"
- **December 15** our Worship Ministry presents a special "Christmas Night of Worship"
- December 23 and 24 we'll have three Christmas Eve services
- **December 29** our last service of the year around the Lord's Supper

Our Christmas sermon series is called "God With Us" and for the four Sundays leading up to Christmas, we'll be exploring the amazing promises of the Incarnation—the coming to earth of the Son of God.

I'm excited about the first three Wednesday nights in December! I'll be leading a special teaching series on "The Right Time for Christmas"—a look at the spiritual, historical, political and cultural trends of Jesus' day that prepared the way for his coming. The amazing thing is that in our own day there are similar currents and we have a great opportunity to share the gospel of Jesus all over again. I hope you'll make time to come and be a part of "The Right Time for Christmas."

Most of you know by now that our church made several important and exciting decisions during November. We adopted our 2020 budget. We elected new deacons. And we approved our "Cooperation Agreement" with First Baptist Church West Columbia—a five-year period in which we'll work alongside of their congregation to revitalize their church. We're currently forming a "launch team"—ten families who will step out of LBC for the next year and dive into the new ministry there to help build a nucleus for their future. If the Lord is prompting you to that sort of spiritual adventure, we want to talk to you! Contact Seth Stoddard for more information (seth@lexingtonbaptist.org).

See you Sunday! Pastor Mike



# THE WONDER OF CHRISTMAS

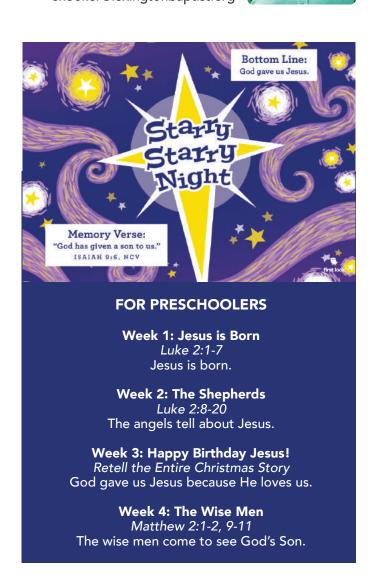
The very first Christmas looked a lot different than the one we will experience over the next few weeks. It was a string of God-planned events that would come together to create a wonder-filled story that would be told again and again and again. God sent His Son to earth in the form of a human baby who grew to be a man like no other. Ultimately, He gave His life for us.

This month, we celebrate the beautiful gift of Jesus. We want preschoolers to say again and again that, "God gave us Jesus." We want it to live deep within their hearts so they grow to trust that God loves them with a love so great that He gave them His one and only Son, Jesus, to be their friend forever. May we all pause under our own starry, starry night this year and remember the wonder of what we are celebrating. God gave us Jesus!



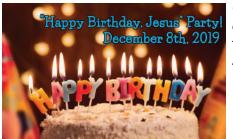


Sabrina Hooker
Preschool Ministry Director
shooker@lexingtonbaptist.org



# DECEMBER WITH LEX KIDS

We are so excited about December in Lex Kids! Christmastime is so full of delight and wonder – why wouldn't we bring that to Sunday mornings throughout December?!



• Happy Birthday, Jesus! We introduce our month by remembering the real reason for the celerbation! We'll have a birthday party for Jesus complete with party hats, streamers, and cupcakes!

• Back to Bethlehem! On December 15th, we'll have a nativity with lots of live animals as we head "back to Bethlehem" and lead our kids to imagine what it may have been like on the night when Jesus was born.





• PJ's & Pancakes! Then on December 22nd, we're having a Pajama Party! We are encouraging our kids to wear their PJs to church, and we'll supply the pancakes in our small groups!

December isn't just about us, though...

God's compassion for the people He created led to the greatest act of love the world has ever seen. God sent His only Son to make us right with Him. We reflect that compassion when we care about others and show them how much God loves them. This Christmas, we are asking families to show God's love through Happy Birthday Jesus Kits.

We know that this holiday season can get really busy, and it can be tough to find opportunities to celebrate with your kids the true meaning of Christmas. So we wanted to make it easy for you! We are providing each family with one box of cake mix, icing, and a candle (available in the children's lobby on December 15th). Every

kid loves to bake! They love helping you in the kitchen so plan a family fun night. Gather everyone in the kitchen, and let them help you bake a birthday cake and decorate it. Then, decide together if you want to host a party for a few friends or neighbors or share the whole cake with another family. The most important thing, though, is to share the love of God this Christmas and to focus on what is most important. Maybe, you can invite them to join you at church this Christmas too.

From the words they say to the life they live, our kids can point people to Jesus and show God's love to others.







# "IT'S NOT ABOUT YOU"

"It's not about you." I can remember this phrase being a constant in our house growing up. When I felt that I had a great need or felt that I had been slighted because I didn't get my way, my mother would always give me the very brutal reminder that the world did not revolve around me. However, her words could not ring truer! I was reminded of this recently as my L-Group studied through the book of Hebrews. Hebrews 3:3-4 says "Jesus deserves far more glory...just as a person who builds a house deserves more praise than the house itself. For every house has a builder, but the one who built everything is God." These verses came as a huge reminder that the things of this world are not about me, because I am simply the creation who is purposed to serve the creator.

This is a reminder that I needed as we begin the Christmas season. Christmas is not about the presents I receive or winning the yearly debate of when to put up decorations. Christmas is about celebrating the Creator God coming to save His creation. The true perspective we must carry about Christmas is it is fully about Jesus. We must focus on, and point others toward, Jesus because our lives are not about us. Our lives are about pushing others toward our creator, Jesus!

Hamilton Mathis
Middle School & Recreation
Ministries Director
hmathis@lexingtonbaptist.org

# Christmas at LEXINGTON BAPTIST



MONDAY, DECEMBER 23
CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE AT 7PM

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 24
CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES AT 3PM & 5PM

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 25
ALL WEDNESDAY NIGHT ACTIVITES
CANCELLED FOR CHRISTMAS DAY

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 29
ONE SERVICE WITH LORD'S SUPPER
AT 10:30AM | NO SUNDAY SCHOOL

\*WEE CARE AVAILABLE FOR CHILDREN
2 AND UNDER FOR ALL SERVICES LISTED\*



# FOR BETTER, FOR WORSE!

I remember Morgan and I standing before each other and repeating those words to each other on our wedding day. As we stared into each other's eyes, we had no idea how true those words would be. Marriage is hard, and you will have to work at it every day, but it is so rewarding! Even as we were dating, we had nothing but visions of good things, all the happy times we'd share, all the love that we would give each other, never ending, never running out. We thought that no matter what happened in life, we would be together, able to withstand all that life might bring.

It's easy to love, have fun, and be there during the good and easy times, but it can be a real big challenge when it requires one or both to make sacrifices for the other.

The fact is, that no matter what your story is today, no matter if you've had the best day, or you've wondered will I survive today, you've always had something going for you. Today, we have a three-strand cord of God's amazing love for you and your love for your spouse. Whether it's been great or not-so great, you've been in it together....for better, for worse. With God as the centerpiece, you can get through it all. Be compassionate when times are tough and be grateful when they are not.

Never stop fighting for each other!

# THE PERFECT GIFT!

It's hard to believe that the Christmas decorations are going up, the malls are busy with people shopping for just the right gift, and soon we will all be looking forward to time with family and friends as well as opening the presents underneath the tree. I don't care how young you are, or how old you are, we all look forward to unwrapping the gifts for us underneath the tree.

I know in my own life, I could not wait to unwrap the presents. Some of the presents were ok (clothes, socks, jacket) and then some were amazing presents (the go-kart for sure). Opening presents brought such a rush and joy all at once.



When I think about all those gifts, the one I'm most thankful for is the last one with my dad. We never thought that the Christmas of 2017 would be that last one we would all be together, but somehow that Christmas turned out to be perfect. We laughed, we ate, we told stories, we played games, and we all opened gifts from under the tree. The greatest part of the whole night was talking about Jesus and all He had done for us. We all had the perfect gift, and we knew no matter what, His love would be all we would need to fight this thing called cancer.

So, this Christmas, don't stress about finding the perfect gift, share the perfect gift with the ones you know. Tell the people you love, that you love them, and forgive those who need to be forgiven. Take time to slow down and enjoy all you have and remember the perfect gift has already come in the form of a small baby.

Stephen McNeill

Merry Christmas from the McNeill's!

Stephen McNeill Associate Pastor, Next Gen smcneill@lexingtonbaptist.org







# FILLED WITH PEACE AND JOY

Here we are, December already and full swing into the holiday season. There is so much joy and anticipation celebrating the birth of our Savior and for many families this season is full of happiness. However, I can't let this time go by without acknowledging those who may be hurting during this season. The pain may be the result of different circumstances, but pain can cripple and spread darkness over joyous times. For our family, every holiday season we go through now is another one without my daughter Lina. It has forever changed the way we celebrate. We still celebrate our Savior and love being able to spend that time together, but there is always a void without Lina. One thing that I have learned is that it's okay that things look a little different. Traditions that we had when Lina was here with us just didn't seem the same after she went home to be with Jesus. There was additional pain experiencing those same traditions that we loved so much when she was alive. That's when I knew that for us, we needed to add some new traditions. We began to dream together as a family of the things that would add more joy back into the season. Some traditions we didn't eliminate, we just changed some to create something new. Don't be afraid to do things differently. Don't be afraid to talk about the hard, painful times, because it's in those moments that God will bring healing and breathe new life into your soul. Friends, if this is a season that is hard and brings sadness, please know that you are not alone. I would love to pray with you and for you during this season.

May our Lord fill your home and soul with peace and joy throughout this holiday season.

Crystal Ray Special Needs Ministry Director crystal@lexingtonbaptist.org



# DECEMBER FOR SENIOR ADULTS









Sr. Adults going to the **Operation Christmas Child Processing center** in Charlotte, NC

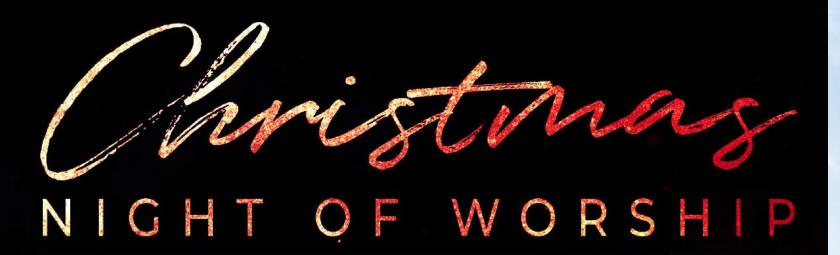
Monday, December 16

Leaving LBC at 9:00am, stop for lunch, work 1pm-5:00pm, return by 7:30pm

\*Limited to 20 workers\*



Sr. Adults & Congregational Care



SUNDAY, DECEMBER 15

6:00PM

IN THE WORSHIP CENTER

lexingtonbaptist.org

# TIS THE SEASON FOR COLLABORATION

On October 27th, LBC voted and approved the Cooperative Agreement between LBC and FBC West Columbia. On November 3rd, FBC voted to approve the Cooperative Agreement. Now the fun begins! It's time to reach West Columbia! You may be wondering, "Why?"

The simple answer is because 'Everyone has the right to hear.' Everyone needs the gospel. Jesus has called us to make disciples of all nations, and the Church is in a difficult place in North America.

It is estimated that between 8,000 to 10,000 churches close their doors every year in North America.

The North American Mission Board has determined that the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) loses around 900 churches every year.

10-15% of SBC churches are healthy and multiplying

70-75% of SBC churches are plateaued or declining

10-15% of SBC churches are at or near risk of closing

These are sobering statistics. But it is not hopeless. "With God all things are possible" (Matthew 19:26). This is one reason that God has been moving to replant FBC West Columbia and His chosen vessel for doing it is Lexington Baptist Church. Now we are asking you to pray about how God wants you to be involved in this new local mission.

#### **LAUNCH TEAM**

What is your role? We are asking you to seek God on how He wants you to be involved. We need a Launch Team of people to commit to replant FBC West Columbia. We want people with a heart for the lost. We want people with a heart for missions, for church planting, for kids and students and families.

You have the opportunity to be a part of what God is doing in the city right next door. You get a church planting-type experience without having to leave the comforts of your own home. You get to stay connected with your Sunday School class through socials, etc. And you have the opportunity to see God set a church on fire again with the passion for making disciples. There are two ways for you to hear more about this exciting new move of God.

- 1. Please fill out an interest card in the church's foyer and drop it in the box if you are interested.
- 2. Attend one of our Launch Team Interest Meetings. We will talk about the vision and details for our ministry in West Columbia.

## LAUNCH TEAM INTEREST MEETING

December 11 at 6:00pm in the Conference Room

Blessings, Seth Stoddard Seth Stoddard
Missions Associate for Church Planting
seth@lexingtonbaptist.org



# THE STORY OF JESUS

Christmas! What an exciting time. I can hardly believe it will be here soon. What a great time to celebrate the news we heard about Jesus. For some of you, it may have been as a child and you honestly don't remember not knowing about Jesus. For some of you, someone at work or a friend or a neighbor shared with you the story of Jesus. For some, it was at the lowest time of their life when they heard about Jesus. We have all heard! Especially at this time of year, we need to remember there are still those who have yet to hear. You hear it often, that everyone has a right to hear. I really believe that. The news about Jesus as God's son being born in Bethlehem, living a sinless life, giving his life on the cross for our sins to be forgiven and on the third day in the tomb God brought Him back to life and He lives today. To believe that truth, our lives are never the same again. I know mine has never been the same. But you first must hear. This past year many have heard. There have been so many who have taken to heart that everyone has a right to hear. Some of them have known that for years and have shared the good news for years. For others this has been

the first year they realized everyone has a right to hear and they have begun to share. All we do in the Missions office is based on that belief that everyone has a right to hear. To share just a bit how that message has been shared this past year I wanted to give you some stats on where your money to Global Missions has gone and how people have heard.

By the end of this month we will have given over \$104,000 to Lottie Moon, Annie Armstrong, Janie Chapman and Connie Maxwell. To point out – 100% of all dollars given to Lottie Moon goes directly overseas to Mission work. I have seen that in action when Lelanette and I lived and worked in South Asia. Raj, Vijay, Sangeeta and Prem are a few who heard because of Lottie Moon dollars. Over \$20,000 went to directly invest in church plants around the world in Portland, New York, Peru, Canada and Central Asia. People heard the message because you gave. We sent a little over \$100,000 directly to missionaries all over the world to allow them to remain on the field and tell those who need to hear about Jesus. All

because you gave. We spent just a little under \$49,000 locally in Missions ministries so people could hear. All because you gave. We sent 106 people around the world on Mission trips, spending a bit over \$132,000. 561 of you participated in some way in a mission outreach this past year. The Holy Spirit has grabbed ahold of so many of your hearts about Missions and believing everyone has a right to hear. This season as we celebrate the wonderful story of Jesus, be thankful to God. He has used all those resources so people can hear and know about Him. Be thankful to Him because he has touched your heart about this wonderful news. Celebrate the fact someone told you and you heard the story of Jesus.

Thanks for letting me lead you in Missions here at LBC because,

"Everyone Has A Right To Hear."

Blessings,



Mark Hathcox Associate Pastor, Missions mhathcox@lexingtonbaptist.org



# 2020 Mission Trips

#### **CENTRAL ASIA**

Noruz Distribution March 24 - April 1

## **CENTRAL ASIA**

\*Different Location\* Noruz Distribution March 24 - April 1

#### CHEPEN, PERU

Medical May 16-23

#### CHEPEN, PERU

June 13-20 | Family Trip (Completed 5th graders w/ parent)

#### **NEW YORK CITY**

June 11-14

#### **NICARAGUA**

July 18-25 | Next Gen (Completed 9th grade through college)

## JACKSONVILLE, FLORIDA

July 18-August 2 | Family Trip (Completed 3rd graders w/ parent)

#### **PORTLAND, OREGON**

August 1-8
"Sundae in the Park"

## TORONTO, CANADA

TBD

For more information, please contact the Missions Office.



WEDNESDAYS NIGHTS IN DECEMBER | 6:30PM IN THE FELLOWSHIP HALL

# EQUIPPING MINISTRY

Helping you to become fully-devoted disciples of Jesus

# PURE JOY

Rayna's grandfather, Papa Bruce, was a simple man. He worked at Steele Heddle in Greenville where they made shuttles for textile machines. He was the proud father of six children, grandad to nine grandchildren, and numerous great-grandchildren. He was the patriarch of the family. You always knew when Papa Bruce was around because you could hear him blowing through his lips and playing with the change in his pockets. I think both were nervous twitches that helped him remain calm. Before his passing, I loved sitting in the family room and watching him as he watched his grandkids and great-grandkids. This was especially true at Christmas time. After the turkey, ham, sweet potatoes and pecan pie were devoured, Rayna's large family would gather around the tree to open presents. Papa Bruce would always sit on the couch near the far corner of the room with the perfect view of his family, especially the younger children who would be sitting on the floor eagerly awaiting the passing out of gifts. I would usually position myself near him because what he was experiencing would bring him great joy, which in turn impacted my life.

As the presents were passed around, all the grandkids and great-grandkids, who were still in school, would receive gifts from all their aunts and uncles. Of course, Papa Bruce would have a large stack of gifts as well, but he never opened them while the kids were tearing into their presents. He would lean forward to the edge of the couch and watch as each child opened their presents anxiously waiting to see the look on their faces when they finally got the wrapping paper off and the box opened. You could see the excitement in his eyes and the huge smile on his face as each child opened the numerous gifts they had received. Sometimes you would see him pointing or clapping as a box was opened. It was as if he was celebrating with every child, every time they tore open another gift. It was special, it was truly remarkable, because he didn't worry about his own gifts, what he had received, he simply wanted to celebrate with each of his grandchildren.

I am reminded of his joy each Christmas season. It wasn't about him; it was about his family. This Christmas season make it about your family, your kids, your grandkids and your friends. Have the joy Papa Bruce had! Nothing made him more excited than to see his family. Every time they came through the door it was a celebration. When he passed away, I had the privilege of preaching his funeral. It was an honor because he loved Jesus, he loved his family, and you could see it by the pure joy he had on his face. So church, celebrate with your family this Christmas and do it with Joy!



Mark Owens
Executive Pastor
mowens@lexingtonbaptist.org

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# UPCOMING PRECEPT CLASSES AT LBC

REVELATION: PART I January 7 - March 24 | Tues. 8:30-11am

2 PETER: HOW TO BE KEPT FROM FALLING January 9 - March 5 | Thurs. 9:30-11:30am

ADULT & KID CLASSES Start January 19 | Sunday 5-7pm

Get more information at LEXINGTONBAPTIST.ORG/ADULTS

# For more Wednesday Night Classes, Bible Studies and Precept Classes, visit our website!

BIBLE STUDY

PRISCILLA SHIRER





# "The Armor of God" Women's Study

Join women of all ages in January for Priscilla Shirer's in-depth Bible study "The Armor of God." All day, every day, an invisible war rages around you - unseen, unheard, yet felt throughout every aspect of your life. A devoted, devilish enemy seeks to wreak havoc on everything that matters to you: your heart, your mind, your marriage, your children, your relationships, your resilience, your dreams, your destiny. But his battle plan depends on catching you unaware and unarmed. If you're tired of being pushed around and caught with your guard down, this study is for you. The Enemy always fails miserably when he meets a woman dressed for the occasion. The Armor of God, more than merely a biblical description of the believer's inventory, is an action plan for putting it on and developing a personalized strategy to secure victory.

This seven-session study will meet on Tuesday mornings beginning January 14 in room 201 at 10:00am. Workbooks will be available for purchase in class for \$15. Wee Care is available. For more information or to register, please contact Heidi Hoffman at heidih@sc.rr.com.



# Wednesday Nights at 6:30pm

# New Classes Beginning Jan. 8

#### **REFRESH BIBLE STUDY**

Refresh Bible Study | Fellowship Hall | All Ages

#### **UNDERSTANDING SPIRITUAL GIFTS**

Led by Dan Williams | All Ages

Understanding Spiritual Gifts takes you straight to God's Word to discover answers from the Gift-Giver Himself. As you dig into Bible passages about God's design for each of us, you'll find out that spiritual gifts aren't complicated--but they are life-changing.

#### **MANHOOD RESTORED**

Men

This study combines theological depth with practical insights, putting men in step with a gospel-centered manhood that directs them back to God's original intent for their lives.

#### **IRRESISTIBLE**

All Ages

In this video study, Andy Stanley will invite you to embrace the version of faith that, against all odds, initiated a chain of events resulting in the most significant and extensive cultural transformation the world has ever seen.

#### **MOM TALK**

Led by Crystal Ray | Next Gen House | Girl-Moms of All Ages Calling all girl moms! Join us for an 8-week series as we dive into some important topics that will help strengthen mother/daughter relationships through all stages of life.



# OverFlow Weekend February 7th-9th 2020

MIDDLE & HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS | COST \$65
REGISTER AT LEXINGTONBAPTIST.ORG



# December 4

Country Style Steak Stuffed Chicken Breast Rice Pilaf Field Peas

# December 11

Chicken Pot Pie Roast Pork Tenderloin Wild Rice Green Beans

# December 18

Chopped Barbeque Fried Shrimp Corn on the Cob Potato Salad Baked Beans

# December 25

No Wednesday Night Activites in Observance of Christmas

All meals include rolls & butter, assorted desserts, salad bar, tea or lemonade and coffee.

SUPPER IS SERVED FROM 5:00 TO 6:15PM IN THE FELLOWSHIP HALL

Adults: \$6 | Children (5 - 12): \$4 Children 4 & Under Eat Free! (Family Maximum: \$15)

Payable at the door. Reservations Required. Deadline for Reservations and Cancellations: Sunday at 5pm. Make Weekly/Permanent Reservations at lexingtonbaptist.org/wednesday-supper or by calling 803.359.4146.

# **DECEMBER 2019**

# **WEEKLY SCHEDULE**

## SUNDAY

8am Adult Sunday School

9am Worship

Adult, Student & Children's

Sunday School (All Ages)

10:30am Worship

Adult Sunday School

3pm Men's Prayer Group (AEB 404)

4:30pm Legacy Choir

5pm Praying for Prodigals

(Prayer Room)

#### **TUESDAY**

8:30am Women's Bible Study (RH) 10am Women's Bible Study (CHB 201) 6:30pm Men's Bible Study (CHB 201)

#### **WEDNESDAY**

6:30pm

7:30pm

5pm Supper (until 6:15pm)(FH) 6pm WIRED for Children (CMB)

Breakout for Students (FLC) Refresh Bible Study (FH)

LifeDesign for Adults (CHB)

Adult Choir Rehearsal Orchestra Rehearsal

AEB: Adult Education Building

CHB: Chapel Building

CMB: Children's Ministry Building

FH: Fellowship Hall FLC: Family Life Center RH: Reception Hall

DECEIVIDER 2019						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
"Breath of Heaven" Senior Adult Program 6pm in the Fellowship Hall	2	3	4	5	Senior Adult Banquet 6pm in the Fellowship Hall	Lex Unlimited Respite Care 10am-1pm Upward Games Start
"Creation Sings" Children's Program 6pm in the Worship Center						
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
Christmas Night of Worship 6pm in the Worship Center			Fifty6 Preteen Christmas Party 6pm	"Breath of Heaven" Senior Adult Program 3pm in the Worship Center	Student Christmas Movie Night 6pm-8pm in the City	
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	Christmas Eve Service 7pm	Church Office and FLC Closed Christmas Eve Services 3pm & 5pm	Christmas Day! Church Office and FLC Closed No Evening Activities	Church Office and FLC Closed	27	28
One Morning Worship Service 10:30am No Sunday School Wee Care 2 and under	30	Pancakes and Prayer 7-9pm in the Fellowship Hall				



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CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

