



FIRST VIEW

Monthly Newsletter



From the Pastor's Desk
Dr. Don McCulley
fbcdrdon@gmail.com

Sunday School 9:45 am
Sunday Worship 11:00 am & 6:00 pm
Wednesday Prayer/Bible Study 6:30 pm
Wednesday Youth Group 6:30 pm
Wednesday Adult Choir 7:20 pm

Dear Church family,

We are quickly entering into the Christmas season. In light of all we are experiencing in our midst let us be very careful not to forget why God sent His Son so long ago. I came across a story that was adopted from the article "Gifts From My Father" by Curtis Bradford in Experiencing God magazine, December 1995.

Let us thank God for His indescribable gift.

Merry Christmas,

Bro. Don

Now It Was My Turn

Curtis Bradford, a pastor in Charleston, South Carolina, said that when he was seven years old he crawled into bed on Christmas Eve so excited he couldn't sleep. Pretending to be asleep, he lay there until he was sure his parents were snoring. Then, about 2 a.m., he crept downstairs. There under the Christmas trees were his presents. A drum set beckoned him to play it then and there, but he didn't dare. But he found other gifts he could play with. A cowboy outfit, a set of six-shooters, a puppet. Filled with excitement, he emptied his stocking, began eating the candy, the apple, the orange...But suddenly, hearing a noise, he turned and saw his Dad looking sternly down at him.

For a fleeting moment, Curtis was afraid, but his dad broke into a smile, settled himself in the recliner, and listened while Curtis showed him everything, explaining how the six-shooters worked and how the puppet moved its mouth. Sleep soon came over him, and his dad picked him up, carried him upstairs, and tenderly tucked him into bed. The next morning they had a wonderful Christmas, but, Curtis said, "I will never forget that Christmas Eve."

The years flew by, and on another memorable Christmas Curtis found himself again at his father's side. This time the older man lay paralyzed from an automobile accident and weak from cancer. Treatments, therapy, and experimental drugs had left him weighing less than one hundred pounds and in great pain. But despite his pain, he asked if Curtis would dress him so he could watch the family open presents. He wanted a cleanly shaven face. So Curtis lathered the shaving mug and brush and got out the razor to shave his dad. The old man told him how his beard grew this way and that, and how he needed to turn the razor up at one point and down at another. After the shave, Curtis dressed him and carried him to the den where the family waited. He was able to sit there for almost fifteen minutes before the joy turned to almost unbearable pain. Then his eyes filled with tears, and he asked Curtis to carry him back to bed. Gently, the strong adult son gathered the frail man into his arms. Curtis later said, "As I made my way to his bedroom, I recalled the night many years before when he had carried me to my bedroom after our private Christmas showing. Now it was my turn to carry him."

Tears ran down Curtis' face as he nestled his dad into bed, and seeing the tears, the old man pointed to a tape recorder beside the bed. Curtis turned it on, and together they listened to the Bible being read. It was John 14: "In my father's house there are many mansions..." Silently Curtis thanked God for saving him, for saving his father, for giving them those moments together, and for those times when the Lord had carried them both.

Two days later, Curtis' dad passed away. But the memories are precious rather than painful, says Curtis. "Because of Jesus, whose birth we celebrate on Christmas and who died to save those who believe in Him, I know I will see my father again. And what a family reunion that will be."

Min. of Education | Bro. Wayne Perkins

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With December, the year 2020 is coming to a close with the usual flurry of activities celebrating the Christmas holiday. This is a wonderful time for most folks. But for people who have lost loved ones, been sick, or hospitalized, it tends to bring on a sense of sadness and maybe even depression. However, we serve a God of hope, grace, and encouragement. Jesus coming to this world is one of the brightest points in human history. Christmas is not just receiving gifts under a tree but receiving the One who hung on the tree at Calvary.

I have received notice that LifeWay Resources has made the decision that they will end production of *The Biblical Illustrator* with the Winter 2020-21 issue. Some of our teachers use this as a resource for preparing their Sunday School lesson. It is, and has been, a helpful source of information for our Sunday School faculty.

LifeWay tells us their reasoning was based on the decline in usage by churches and individuals.

Our Sunday School attendance remains strong considering the effects of the epidemic that is raging. However, we consistently have a few above 100 each Sunday. We appreciate our teachers and faculty for being faithful and diligent in their teaching, though they are missing several members of their class. The lesson each Sunday is still going out through Facebook, thanks to teacher Tommy Moore and audio technician, Dennis Moon both who do a fantastic job.

May your Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays be blessed as never before. Being thankful prepares our hearts for the Lord to work in our lives. Remembering the Christ Child reminds us that He came to identify with us in every way physically and has answers for all our spiritual needs. Both holidays should cause us to focus on God, our Creator.

See you in church!

Bro. Wayne, M.o.E.



JOY News: In spite of 2020 struggles we have so much to be thankful for each day; things like the cozy in our homes, the happy in our hearts and the wonderful people in our lives! I'm SO thankful for SO much and SO many. Even though we have agreed to not gather together as a group until next year let's determine to trust God one more time!! Happy Thanksgiving to our JOY committee members and our JOY attendees. We love and appreciate you all so very much.

Dir. of Student Ministries | Christian Carr

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As we enter the month of December, I guess I will take the jump and say Merry Christmas! May you have a wonderful holiday season with great joy and cheer. Though this holiday season may be a little different than years past, I hope you can spend time with your family in some form or fashion. I can not imagine a Christmas dinner over Zoom, but that may be a reality for some. No matter how you spend this holiday season, I pray that you praise our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ and have a blessed time together with your family. With that being said, the youth will take some

time off from meeting for our MidWeek Gatherings during December. We will not meet on Wednesday night December 9th or 23rd. I hope you take that month to be with your family.

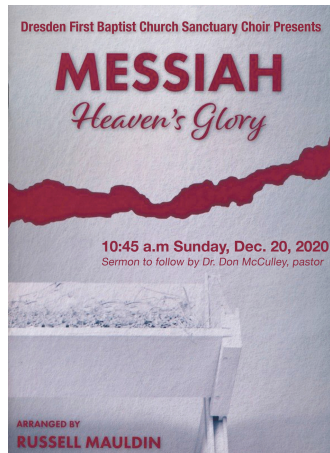
On Wednesday, December 16th, we will have our **Youth Christmas Party**. On the 16th, we will not have our typical Youth MidWeek Gathering, but will have the Christmas Party during that hour. It will be a time of fellowship together as we all look forward to Christmas Day! I will send out more information concerning the Youth Christmas Party soon. For now, I hope you mark it on your calendar and our youth to plan to be there.

Grace and Peace,
Christian Carr

Min. of Music | Dr. Robert Nanney

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As we enter December, there could be no more exciting, festive and busy time of the year, but for the music ministry it provides so many opportunities to celebrate Christ's birth in song. And that's the wonderful reality, regardless of the challenges posed by the pandemic. We are in the final stages of preparing for two major musical events.



Our adult choir will present the cantata "Messiah" at 10:45 a.m. Sunday, Dec. 20. This is a bit shorter than the usual cantatas so that our pastor will still have plenty of time to bring the message. The Gospel-focused message will still be clear in this beautiful musical, complemented with images and videos on the screen. I'm so proud of our

cantata choir, which has rehearsed faithfully to prepare. At the same time, children and those young at heart have been working diligently each week to prepare for our "Christmas Spectacular," set for 6 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 13. Created and directed by Jeanie Nanney, this event will take on more of a "variety show" format to maximize social distancing.

Jeanie Nanney, Christmas Spectacular Director

What an absolute joy it has been to put together the multi-generational talent of our church into this year's Christmas program. While it is very different from our past musicals, I am convinced it will be equally entertaining and will focus our attention on the real meaning of Christmas and the birth of our Savior.

The practice schedule has been a challenge on many levels as we have strived to keep the number of people practicing at the same time to a minimum.

Dresden First Baptist Church



A multi-generational program of music and entertainment for ages 3 to 103!

Each singer, actor, reader and musician (some in small groups) will be seated in the audience and come up on stage separately to avoid the large groups of 40-50 on stage at one time as is usually the case with a traditional yuletide musical. (See Jeanie's column for more details.) I can't thank her enough for her hard work in creating this safer alternative and practicing with different groups each week AND for those who have stepped up to participate, ranging in age from 3 to 80. It truly will be a multi-generational celebration of Christ's birth. In addition, all the other aspects of the music ministry, from the weekly "Once Upon A Song" and TeamKid music to soloists and other groups presenting special music, will take on a Christmas theme this month.



We also plan to go Christmas caroling for those who cannot attend church, much as we did the covid caroling last month.

Jeanie and I wish you all a VERY Merry Christmas!

Robert Nanney
Minister of Music

All the "pieces" of the program will not fully come together until the night of December 9th, when we have our dress rehearsal, but even then, safety will be our top priority. We are encouraging our participants to socially distance and wear masks when they are not on stage.

We will also be striving for the safety of our audience and are strongly encouraging everyone who attends to wear masks at least as they enter and exit the sanctuary. The audience will be spectators only and will not be singing or talking, and this too will enhance everyone's safety.

Please save the date of Sunday night, December 13th, at 6:00 p.m., because you do not want to miss what promises to be a "spectacular" night of entertainment!

Jeanie Nanney
Christmas Spectacular Director



The Christmas Season is Here

DFBC Women on Mission

For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, which is Christ the Lord. Luke 2:11. We are thankful for the joys of the season; most importantly for the Christ Child. Blessings to you this Christmas.

Martha Hopper, WOM Director

As we think of Christmas, we reminisce about all the good thoughts and times this season has brought. Listed are some of these shared by ladies in our church.

Thanks to the contributors of this article: Linda Pollard, Carol Moore, Shirley Halliburton, Martha Hopper, Brenda Davis, and Judy Cleek.

Celebrating our precious Lord and Savior.

Family gathered to share tasty meals.

Watching eager children open their gifts.

Being amazed at the huge snowflakes falling on Christmas Eve.

Displaying the manger scene on the dining room table.

Donating to the Lottie Moon Offering for foreign missions.

Singing Christmas carols in the neighborhood.

Sending colorful Christmas cards with meaningful Scriptures.

Reading Christian Christmas novels.

Extended family gathering at our beloved homeplace.

Family discussions of recent events and days gone by.

Waiting for a fiancé to return from Vietnam for a year (1969-1970). For Christmas, she sent him a scrapbook of their lives from birth to the present and a small ornament of the Madonna and Child for his tree. Now fifty years later, these priceless Christmas treasures are sweet reminders of God's faithfulness during a very difficult year.

FIRST VIEW

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Dr. Don McCulley, Pastor

Bro. Wayne Perkins, Min. of Ed.

Dr. Robert Nanney, Min. of Music

Christian Carr, Student Minister

Becky Anderson, Nursery Director

Janet Robinson, Ministry Assistant

Lisa Harris, Custodian

December Events

- Nov. 29th - Dec. 6th.....Week of Prayer for LMCO
- Dec. 5th.....8:00 am Men's Breakfast
- Dec. 6th.....4:50 pm Women on Mission
- Dec. 6th.....5:00 pm Deacons Meeting
- Dec. 9th.....5:00 pm Christmas Spectacular Dress Rehearsal
- Dec. 9th.....No MidWeek Services/Youth Group
- Dec. 13th.....6:00 pm Christmas Spectacular Program
- Dec. 16th.....6:30 pm Youth Christmas Party
- Dec. 20th.....10:45 am Christmas Cantata/Preaching
- Dec. 23rd.....No MidWeek Services/Youth Group
- Dec. 25th.....MERRY CHRISTMAS
- Dec. 27th.....No Evening Services

Happy Birthday

- 2nd Kim Carroll
Kimberly Hutcherson
- 3rd Adam Harrison
- 4th Mark Gallimore
- 7th Tamara Bowlin
Fallon Davis
- 8th Pam Turner
Kayla White
- 10th Tucker Evans
Lucas Parker
- 11th Diann Williams
Jennifer Doran
- 12th Sandra Taylor
- 13th Angie Plunk
Penny Gallimore
- 14th Paul Cobb
- 15th Blake Carlton
- 16th Jennifer Moore
Pam Bennett
- 17th Kaitlin Hatchett
- 18th Jesse Jackson
Charlie Pete McDaniel
Charlene Ramsey
Madge Winstead
Edward Hicks
- 22nd Joshua Parham
Merrie Jo Leach
Landon Cantrell
- 25th Millie Williams
- 27th Wanda Arant
- 30th Brian Morris
Joseph Bequette
- 31st Craig Woodward
Kayla Harris

A Great *Multifude* + You
Rev. 7:9

Connect with DFBC on www.dresdenfbc.org
 Live Stream available on [facebook.com/dresdenfbc-live](https://www.facebook.com/dresdenfbc-live)
 and YouTube through our church website
 on Sundays at 11 am & 6 pm and Wednesdays at 6:30
 Sunday 11 am Radio Broadcast on 95.1fm
 Sunday School lesson 10 am on live stream options

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LOTTIE MOON
 CHRISTMAS
 OFFERING®



Thank you for
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 & ministry of DFBC

THREE WAYS TO GIVE



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 in church foyer



www.dresdenfbc.org
 under Give tab



PO Box 176
 Dresden TN 38225

Financial Gifts to the Church

- In Memory of Mr. & Mrs. Jimmy Barber by: Richard & Barbara Ferrell
- In Memory of Alvin Powers, Frances Powers, Margie Powers by: LouAnn Powers
- In Memory of Evelyn King and Harold Williams by: Kenneth & Janice Gatewood
- In Memory of Wilk Esch by: Carrie, David & Kenseth Esch

A Thank You card to the church family was reviewed from Rhonda Morgan; Chris, Nancy & Ellie Poole.