

The Lamplighter



First Baptist Church of North East

VOLUME 53, ISSUE 4 DECEMBER 2021/JANUARY 2022

Weekly Services & Group Meetings

Sunday

8:30a: Worship Service

9:30a: Sunday School/Bible Study (classes available for Preschool through Adult)

10:30a: Worship Service & Children's Worship

5:30p-7:30p: Youth (grades 6 to 12)

Wednesday

6:30p-7:30p: Kids' Klub (grades K to 5)

6:30p-7:30p: Youth (grades 6 to 12)

6:30p: Prayer Meeting/Bible Study (Monthly Business Meeting immediately to follow, 2nd Wed. of each month)

Thursday

10a: Ladies' Prayer Circle

Letter from the editor,

Merry Christmas and Happy 2022 to you all. Can you believe it? December is already here and the new year is fast approaching. As with every other year, December is a very busy time here at First Baptist Church of North East. There is so much going on, and I don't want you to miss out on any of it.

First, we are still working on the directory. So, if you have not taken the time to submit your info, it's not too late. I know many of you have been with us for many years, or your info hasn't changed. However, I don't know whose info has changed, and whose has not. Therefore, I am asking EVERYONE that wants their info in the new directory, to please submit the following. If you are unable to pick up a form here at church, just send an email to the church at fbcne@verizon.net. What to include?

1. Mailing/physical address
2. Home/Cell phone numbers (please indicate whether you want the number published & if you want to be added to the urgent text list)
3. Email address/es (please indicate whether you want them published & if you want to be added to the important church emails list)
4. Birthdays/Anniversary
5. Current picture

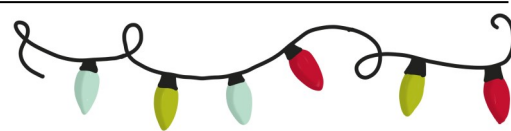
The directory will be available online via your internet browser at or via the Instant Church Directory app for your Android or Apple smart phone (you must have a registered email to access the directory, so be sure to submit one with your info). In addition to the online feature, print copies will be available here at the church, to everyone that submitted info.

We will once again be going up to Lancaster Bible College for their Christmas Concert, on Saturday December 4th. There is a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board. Tickets are limited, so sign up today. We also have a Special Business Meeting to vote on our 2022 budget, after both services on December 5th. Members may also call in your vote to the church office. State your name and "yes" or "no" to the proposed budget. *Women on Mission* are sponsoring our Angel Tree again this year. Please pick up a tag and have your gifts returned by Sunday, December 19th. And of course we will have our Christmas Eve Candlelight Service again, at 7:30pm. Fast forward to Sunday, January 30th...we will be having Baptist Men's Day again this year. Please see the attached December and January calendars for additional events and meetings. There is something for everyone to be a part of.

Jess Wagner, Editor & Ministry Assistant



December



sun	Mon	Tues	wed	Thurs	Fri	sat
28	29	30	1	2	3	4
IMB: Lottie Moon Christmas Offering, Week of Prayer: Sun. Nov 28-Sun. Dec 5						8a: Men's Breakfast & Bible Study @ NE Family Restaurant 9a: Deacon's Mtg in Education wing. 2p: LBC Christmas Concert
For the month of December, you will find Christmas gift bags located in the Education Wing, for your Christmas card giving. You will also find gift bags at the front of the sanctuary, for "FBCNE Staff Appreciation Month."						
5 Special Business Mtg. after both services. To vote on the 2022 church budget. 5:30p: Youth	6	7	8 6:30p: Prayer/Bible Study & Business Mtg. 6:30p: Kids Klub 6:30p: Youth	9 5p: Church Council Mtg. 6pm: Worship Comm Mtg.	10	11
12 5:30p: Youth	13	14	15 6:30p: Prayer/Bible Study 6:30p: Kids Klub 6:30p: Youth	16	17	18
19 Christmas Sunday Angel Tree gifts are due 5:30p: Youth	20	21	22 6:30p: Prayer/Bible Study 6:30p: Kids Klub 6:30p: Youth	23	24 7:30p: Christmas Eve Service	25 
26 Youth Sunday, James Area will be preaching. 5:30p: Youth	27	28	29 6:30p: Prayer/Bible Study 6:30p: Kids Klub 6:30p: Youth	30	31	1

DECEMBER

1 Wendy Clough
 Ellen VanSice
 3 Ronald Johnson
 7 Olivia Blades
 9 Darrell Hamilton
 Ken Hodanics, Jr.
 Grace Shores
 14 Peggy Clough
 15 Rebecca Bibey
 Violet Osborne
 18 Samantha Johnston
 18 Lucias Sanders

Happy Birthday to you...

19 Laura Bayer
 21 Sylvia Hobson
 27 Sharon Hodanics
 28 Craig Hudler
 Eric Jackson
 Kayla Lewis

JANUARY

1 Dorcas Deaver
 4 Ed Evans
 Ben Hokuf

5 Amanda Hobson
 10 Lucille Goins
 11 Sandy Jackson
 12 Brad Holland
 14 Wanda Hollerman
 Folashade Johnson-Aremu
 Jess Wagner
 Tanya Area
 15 Abigail Hilaman
 18 Ali Cullum
 19 Abby Veasey
 20 Sophie Hodanics
 28 Linda Gocolinski
 31 Judy Veasey



January



sun	Mon	Tues	wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
						1 
2 Communion Sunday!	3	4	5 6:30p: Prayer/Bible Study 6:30p: Kids Klub 6:30p: Youth	6	7	8 8a: Men's Breakfast & Bible Study @ NE Family Restaurant 9a: Deacon's Mtg in Education wing.
9 5:30p: Youth	10	11	12 6:30p: Prayer/Bible Study & Business Mtg. 6:30p: Kids Klub 6:30p: Youth	13	14	15
16 5:30p: Youth	17	18	19 6:30p: Prayer/Bible Study 6:30p: Kids Klub 6:30p: Youth	20	21	22
23 February 2022 <i>Lamplighter</i> articles due! James Area will be preaching. 5:30p: Youth	24	25	26 6:30p: Prayer/Bible Study 6:30p: Kids Klub 6:30p: Youth	27	28	29
30 Baptist Men's Day 5:30p: Youth	31	1	2	3	4	5 8a: Men's Breakfast & Bible Study @ NE Family Restaurant 9a: Deacon's Mtg in Education wing.

DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

5 Gregory & Danita Walker
6 Everett & Lucille Goins
8 Henry & Doris Morris
9 Brad & Jessica Holland
21 Mike & Cheryl Marvel
22 James & Tanya Area
29 Andy & Jess Wagner



JANUARY ANNIVERSARIES

10 Darrell & Connie Hamilton
13 Andre & Judy Wahlgren
15 Carl & Deb Davis
16 Duke & Joy Grant



**Our Church Goal
for Lottie Moon
Offering:
\$2,700**

imb | LOTTIE MOON
CHRISTMAS
OFFERING

**Together, we can bring
help and hope to a
hurting world.**

Lancaster Bible College Christmas Concert

Saturday, December 4th, 2pm

Good Shepherd Chapel

901 Eden Road, Lancaster, PA 17601



Tickets are limited to the first 20 people that sign up. We will be taking the church van, for those that wish to ride along because they can not or do not wish drive. Van seats are limited, so first to sign up, gets priority. The van will leave the church at 12:30pm.



First Baptist Church of North East
206 Mechanics Valley Road
North East, MD 21901



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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

RELIEVE EDITORIAL STRESS:

**TURN IN
YOUR ARTICLES
EARLY!**

R E M I N D E R :

**DEADLINE FOR
NEWSLETTER
ARTICLES IS**

Sunday, January 23rd

February 2022 Lamplighter
Please email articles to
Jess @ fbcne@verizon.net.

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service



7:30pm

The Lamplighter

Published 10 times a year.

An electronic version of our newsletter is available on our website as a pdf file and may be emailed to you upon request. It will be emailed to you instead of a mailed, printed copy.

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Follow us on Facebook @
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Dr. Stephen D. Hokuf, Pastor
Dan Mohler, Associate Pastor
James Area, Youth Pastor

Jess Wagner,
Editor/Ministry Assistant

Budget Analysis

Budget/General Fund Weekly

Average as of 11/14/2021

(46 weeks): **\$3,870**

New Needed Weekly: **\$4,065**

Budget Status: **-\$4,597**

Maintenance/Building Repairs
Fund: **\$4,110**

Building Fund for New Garage:
Received to date: **\$6,122**
Church goal: **TBD**

BCM/D State Missions
Goal reached & closed: **\$1,115**
Church Goal: **\$1,100**

Lottie Moon Christmas Offering
Received to date: **\$60**
Church Goal: **\$2,700**

Dear church family,

Greetings in the precious name of our Lord Jesus Christ. I have been opening my LL articles like that now into my 42nd year as your pastor. I was a much younger man then, but not that much different (at least in my thinking, that is how I feel anyway!) Our church is celebrating her 65th Anniversary this month and I have been asked to reflect on the last 5 years, so here goes.

My responsibilities changed about 7 years ago. We had just decided after nearly 60 years of Sunday evening services, to discontinue them. However, our youth pastor, Joe Cain had just resigned, and I agreed to take over that Sunday evening ministry/job. Little did I know that it would be 2 and a half years before we found a replacement.



We wanted to have activities as well as Bible study, so... We had a night lock-in with the Perryville Baptist Church and 50 youth made first-time decisions to trust Christ as their Savior! We had a Super Bowl Party, went to a 76ers basketball game, and snow camp at Skycroft, etc. I had so much fun. We had a good team of youth workers. Chrissy Jackson (now Norton), Craig Hudler, Peggy and Wendy Clough, and Sharon Hodanics all took on various responsibilities. Summer came and we took 15 to a week of summer camp at Skycroft. Thank you to Peggy and Wendy who came as chaperones for several years (see picture to the left, of Peggy and some of the youth at

Skycroft in 2017.) We did camp right up until Covid-19 shut it down in 2020. Even after Tim Bayer came as our youth associate in the fall of 2016, I kept doing that part at Skycroft. They even let me play paint ball with them, and sure enjoyed shooting me! (See photo to the right, of Pastor Steve and those that played paintball, June 2017.) During that time, we built the 9 Square in-the-air that is on our basketball court. It was an Eagle Scout project of Joshua Dietrick. We drove the van about 150 miles a week to get the kids back and forth on Sundays! I have a renewed respect for what it takes to run the youth department.



It was also in 2016 that Kathy Gray stepped down as ministry assistant. We had worked together for 36 years. She stayed on as our treasurer (a job she did for 11 years) until October of this year. That means she served the Lord and our church as a paid staff member for 41 years! Thank you, Kathy. I don't know if I could have done it without you.

In October 2016, Jess Wagner came on board as our church ministry assistant. She has continued to serve and just completed her fifth year. She also has directed our VBS during these last few years along with homeschooling her kids, and all the other things few people see. I couldn't do it without you Jess, keep up the good work.

In 2017 we raised \$47,745 to repave and expand our church parking lots. Over half of the money was given in memory of Josephine Brasefield. It was a huge undertaking but has been such a blessing to all of the ministries that go on in our buildings.

It was also in that year that we retooled our church mission statement. Our church leadership, about 25 of us, spent one weekend trying to reword that document to reflect the true mission of our church. It now reads:

“The purpose of this church is to cultivate a visible, unified, community of committed believers in the Lord Jesus Christ through the proclamation of the Word of God in the power of the Holy Spirit so that:

Souls may be saved;

Saints be edified in the Christian faith and prepared for the service of our Lord;

and people everywhere may receive the tidings of God’s grace, as seen in the shed blood of Calvary—to the ultimate end that God will be glorified (Matt. 28:19-20; Acts 1:8; Eph. 4:12-13).”

2017 was also the year that Chris and Laura Moyer stepped out in faith to become missionaries to France with World Team. Our church became one of the very first to take them on as one of our missionaries. It took them over a year to raise their support and to complete all of the details they needed to go. In June of 2018 we had a special sending/dedication service for them. It was an emotional time for Janet and me, as well as for them.

In November of 2018 the Jesus Loves Me Childcare Center celebrated their 20th Anniversary. Can you believe it has been that long? We had many of the original directors and staff in attendance. Sandy Jackson continues to serve as the director, now for over 20 years and counting. Keep up the good work Sandy, we couldn’t do it without you.

In February of 2019 Janet and I traveled to France to visit Laura and family. I was able to preach in their church, with Chris as the interpreter! He grew up in France as a missionary kid and is proficient in the language already. Laura and the 3 children are learning. It was and still is a struggle. Please continue to pray often for them.

In May of 2019 I took a team from our church on our 20th annual mission trip to Ottawa, Canada to work with the Arabic Evangelical Baptist Church of Ottawa. What a blessing that has been to both our church and theirs over the decades. Dozens of boys and girls have trusted the Lord during those many years.

That summer Janet and I were able to return to France for a few weeks. I was able to continue on to India to visit the orphanages and Grace Bible College that our church also supports. I was able to preach in all 3 places with Philip Dongre as the interpreter. Over 150 boys and girls responded to the invitation!

That fall we had another Eagle Scout, Nick Guiberson, do a project for our church. This time they worked downstairs in the fellowship hall. We replaced over 4,000 sq. ft. of the tile floor with commercial grade tile that should last into the foreseeable future. We supplied about \$5,000.00 for materials and they provided the labor. We had received a \$22,000.00 bid to do that work! The troop worked long and hard for over 2 weeks. What a wonderful blessing it is. Every time I go downstairs, I say “Praise the Lord.”

We also replaced our aging underground propane tank with 2 new above ground 1000-gallon tanks. (See picture at right, of the delivery of the tanks.) We prepaid for 11,800 gallons of propane (@89.9cents/gal.) and the tanks were free & delivered to us at no cost! We had gotten an estimate for replacing 1 tank for \$6,000.00. God had once again blessed us. That same fall we received over \$13,000.00 in a grant to upgrade and replace nearly all of the LED lights in our church! Praise the Lord once again.



This fall (2021) we replaced the roofs on all of our buildings, porches, and steeple. At a cost of \$41,825, it was a big project, but what a wonderful new look it brings to God's house, not to mention, no leaks! None of these things could have happened without your faithful giving, service, and support. Keep up the good work. We couldn't do it without you.

I continue to preach through the Bible week by week. I am closing in on preaching through every book in the Bible for the third time. It takes me about 15 years to complete that task, but it has been one of the joys of my life. People continue to get saved, baptized, and grow in their faith. Like John the apostle said in 2 John 4; "I have no greater joy than to hear that my children are walking in the truth."



In February of 2020, Janet and I were able once again, to go to France and spend some time with Laura and her family. It was a most welcome visit. But you may remember something happened about that same time...Covid -19. Soon after we returned (PTL we were able to return) the whole world started to shut down travel. The USA, and more specifically Maryland, asked us all to start new protocols that seemed to change every week. Our church leadership decided to abide by the recommended protocols. For a month just about a dozen of us came to church and recorded the service for broadcast over Facebook. Thanks to Andrew and Chrissy Norton for all they do each week to make this ongoing ministry happen. Keep up the good work. We couldn't do it without you. (Andrew and Chrissy Norton

pictured at left.) All of the sermons (in audio form), continue to be archived on our website, from 2015 to the present, but now you can watch the whole service as well. People from all over the country and world now worship with us. Isn't it amazing how God makes all things work together for good?!

The Childcare Center stayed open during this whole time. We had reduced staff and for a while we could only care for children of essential workers, but gradually we have almost gotten back to normal. It is what I call the "new normal." It is quite a challenge, but we were determined to serve the Lord in this ministry as well. Thank you, to Sandy and her staff. Keep up the good work. We couldn't do it without you.

In the fall of 2020, Tim Bayer stepped down from being our youth associate and stepped up to The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, in Louisville, KY. He is working on his Masters of Divinity degree and hopes to serve the Lord in fulltime service! We miss you Tim and Laura. Thank you for all you both did to minister here with us for over 4 years. Keep up the good work.

Later in the fall of 2020, God brought James and Tanya Area to us. He is now our Youth Pastor. He is working on his Masters of Divinity from Southern Baptist Theological Seminary as well, but he is doing it online. He has a fulltime job at APG and 6 children but finds time to work with our church in so many different capacities. Thank you so much. Keep up the good work. We couldn't do it without you.

Pastor Dan and Mary Mohler continue to serve the Lord with us, as well. Dan is in his 19th year with us. He has been my right-hand man through thick and thin. Dan, I don't know if I could do it without you. Keep up the good work.

During these last 5 years we have increased our giving to missions several times. Most recently in July 2021, we doubled our missions committee budget from 4% to 8%! We have also increased our Cooperative Program giving a few times, to get us to our current 11%! We doubled our giving to our Susquehanna Baptist Association as well,

from 1% to 2%! Altogether we now give 21% of our church budget to missions. Praise the Lord!!!! In addition to that are our special missions' offerings and Operation Christmas Child, too. All together it is well over 25% of our annual giving to the Lord! To God be the glory, great things He has done.

Operation Christmas Child has become a regular fixture around FBCNE. We are now in our 25th year. We started in 1997, and it has blossomed and grown every year. Over 186 million boxes have been given to children in 160 countries over those years. They estimate nearly 2 million persons trust Christ as their Savior each year through this outreach! We have a little part in God's big plan. Thank you, Bobby and Nancy Hudler, and all who help out with this dynamic mission endeavor. Keep up the good work. We couldn't do it without you. (2016 OCC pictures below).



One of the biggest blessings we have been a part of through the years is ordaining men to the gospel ministry. We recently ordained Rev. James Area in July of 2021. Chris Moyer was able to take part and preach his ordination sermon. They have been friends for nearly a decade and worked together at Perryville Baptist Church. In addition to that, we are in the process of ordaining Ed Hobson and Andrew Norton to become deacons in our church. God is truly at work in our midst. Is He alive and well in your heart and life? "I have no greater joy than to hear that my children are walking in the truth."

Well, I know I have left so much out, but God knows. And He promised to reward even a cup of water given in His name. I think of how short our life can be and I want to serve Him every day of it. Please don't waste your life; invest it in the Lord's work, and you will reap eternal fruit. These last few years many of our members have gone on to glory. My heart is sad for each one of you who have lost a loved one. I love you all like my own flesh and blood. We hurt together, but our faith is strong, and we know God's promises are true. One of the men we ordained over 10 years ago, went to be with the Lord recently, because of Covid. Our brother Rev. Phil Meekins was a true friend and servant of God. His wife, Karen and his family will surely miss him. The New Beginnings Church will miss him and his ministry there, and also in our community. He touched so many hurting people in the years he ministered, and we will miss you brother. He is a good example of what God can do with a life totally given over to Him.

Let me end with a word from John who said, "To the chosen lady and her children, whom I love in the truth—and not I only, but also all who know the truth—because of the truth, which lives in us and will be with us forever: Grace, mercy and peace from God the Father and from Jesus Christ, the Father's Son, will be with us in truth and love." 2 John 1-3. Amen.

Your brother and fellow servant,

Pastor Steve
Pastor Steve Hokuf

