



THE LIVING BRANCH NEWSLETTER

Logan Elm Baptist Church



December, 2019

And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying:
“Glory to God in the highest, And on earth peace, goodwill toward men!”
(Luke 2:13-14)

Each Christmas season, the familiar words of Luke 2 are re-read at church services and quoted at Christmas pageants. But whenever we hear them again, we don't say “Aw, not that again! I've heard that before – *many* times” and dismiss the words as being irrelevant or even *irritable*. Rather, we expect to hear them again – and we would probably feel like the season would be incomplete if we didn't hear them. *I* wouldn't want to go through the Christmas season without hearing those familiar words again! I've often tried to imagine what it must have been like for those common, ordinary shepherds on that *extraordinary* night.

The passage says that the shepherds were “living out in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night.” They hadn't just reported to work for the night shift. They were *living* out in the fields. We don't know how long they had been living out there with their sheep, but, more than likely, they were accustomed to the nightly routine, and it was probably like any other night. The text doesn't say how many shepherds there were. There may have been enough of them to “watch over their flock” in shifts. Some of them may have been dozing while the others were on guard, alert to any danger to the sheep. But whether they were dozing or fully alert, they were all suddenly startled by the dazzling appearance of the glory of the Lord that shone all around them. And Luke makes the slight understatement about these brave men who were willing to risk their lives for the safety of their sheep: *they were greatly afraid*.

Ha! I can only imagine how frightened I would have been if I had been one of them. I imagine I probably would have had an accident – if you catch my drift. But their fear likely gave way to wonder and amazement as they heard the angel's reassurance, “*Do not be afraid, for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy*”. Their routine night suddenly became “a night to remember”, or more likely “a night they would *never* forget! Not only were they graced with the announcement of the Savior's birth, but they were serenaded by a heavenly multitude (not just a few angels or a decent sized choir). Can you imagine what an angelic choir would sound like? After their celestial visitors left them and returned to heaven, the shepherds couldn't wait to go see what they had been told about and tell others what they had heard from the angel.

May God help us be like those shepherds – excited about the good news that the Savior has come, and *eager* to tell others about Him. We have a good opportunity to tell others about Him this Christmas season by inviting others to our church services, and especially, our choir's presentation of *His Name is Jesus* on Sunday, December 15 at 6:00PM. The entire musical is about *Him*.

Joy to the World! The Lord is Come.

Pastor Dave

ImageVine



- Prayer meeting each Lord's Day at 8:00AM in Room 202 of the multipurpose building -
- Prayer meeting, youth meeting, Bible Club, & Mission Friends, 6:45PM each Wednesday -
- Children's Church, the first and third Sundays of each month -

- Dec. 1 Proposed 2020 budget discussion, 5:45PM
- Dec. 3 Elders meeting, 7:00AM & Staff meeting, 9:00AM
- Dec. 5 *Ladies' Christmas Gathering*, Denise Krouse's home, noon
- Dec. 7 Church Council meeting, 8:00AM
- Dec. 8 Vote on the 2020 proposed budget at the close of the morning service;
Children's Christmas Music presentation, 6:00PM; cookie social will follow
- Dec. 15 *His Name is Jesus* presented by the Church Choir, 6:00PM
- Dec. 17 Elders' meeting, 7:00AM; Staff meeting, 9:00AM
- Dec. 21 Men's breakfast and *Know What You Believe* study, 7:30AM
- Dec. 24 Christmas Eve service, 7:00PM
- Dec. 25 *Have a Blessed Christmas!*
- Dec. 29 Lord's Supper observance in the morning service
- Jan. 1 No midweek services

Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for International Missions Goal: \$7000

It has been suggested that LEBC plan a Homecoming for August, 2020 to celebrate 45 years of our church's existence. We would like to invite as many former members and attendees as possible to join us for this celebration of the Lord's blessings. If you have names and contact information of any former members or attendees, please send them to Kim at secretary@lebc.org Thank you!

In preparation for ordering the Spring order for the Sunday School material on January 1, 2020, I would like to get some input from teachers to see if I need to make any changes. I have noticed that some classes do not use all of their material and wanted to see if we should reduce or increase the number of student books or activity pages. We want to be good stewards with funds we have budgeted. Also, it was mentioned about ordering adult "large print" guides. I will need a count for those also. They are only \$.10 more per guide.

I just did some calculations and found that the "ladies" class had the largest average attendance this past quarter. We have had quite a few visitors coming to the classes lately. Please make them feel welcome by sharing some time with them.

Karen Clark, Sunday school director

Remember to put your past Sunday school study guides in the tub at the top of the stairs so we can give them to Love Packages.

The Children's Christmas program will be December 8th and they will be looking forward to the cookies everyone will be providing. Please bring your cookies in the morning and leave them in the kitchen, or on your way in for the program.

The Thanksgiving fellowship meal was a success and enjoyed by all. And, as usual, there was plenty of good food shared. A special thank you to Rod Schultz who grilled one of the turkeys, baked bread and Carley prepared the mashed potatoes, even though she wasn't feeling well. Carley, we are praying God's healing over you!!

Pray for our Kitchen Angels as several are having some serious issues. Along that line, we do need some younger help, that would be able to be trained on what all needs to be done prior to and after each meal. Men, women and young adults – let me know if you would be willing to "learn" what all is involved. There are always several that help with cleanup. It won't take much of your "time", other than the day of the meal. If interested stop me any Sunday and let me know.

Karen Clark, Kitchen coordinator



Ladies' Christmas Gathering

The Ladies are having a Christmas Gathering at the home of Denise Krouse on Thursday, December 5 at noon. You are asked to bring a finger food to share. We will also be making a craft for Christmas. If you would like to make one for yourself, or as a gift for someone else, bring a glass jar, whatever size you prefer, and any items you would like to place inside it. You might also want to buy some battery-operated lights to place inside the jar. We always have an enjoyable time visiting, eating, and making our craft. All ladies are invited and you may bring a friend, if you like.

Hope to see you there!



OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD UPDATE

Thanks to everyone for their hard work. We packed 175 boxes.

Praise the Lord! Thanks to all who helped and stepped in during my accident. You all bless my heart. ~Pam Atkinson



CCW applications are available in the wall pocket outside the secretary's office.
When filled out, please return to Bill Gibson.



All men are welcome to attend the Men's Breakfast and *Know What You Believe* study on Saturday, December 21 at 7:30AM. Invite a friend!



Birthdays

Hannah DeLong-Dec. 1
Grant Kuhlwein-Dec. 2
Carley Schultz-Dec. 9
Dan Campbell-Dec. 13
Ethan VanDette-Dec. 13
Andrew Love-Dec. 19
Andrew Karst-Dec. 21
Bob Edmonds-Dec. 24
Mark Wiley-Dec. 30
Tyler Cavanaugh-Dec. 31

Anniversaries

John & Linda Clifton-Dec. 1
Doug & Cheryl Burns-Dec. 4
Steven & Lisa Herron-Dec. 6
Eric & Kim Anders-Dec. 7
Mark & Denise Krouse-Dec. 9
Dallas & Cynthia Love- Dec. 20
Eric & Shawna Wilson-Dec. 21
Matthew & Mikayla Julien-Dec. 30

Christmas Word Find

G C P M E H E F F N Y Y A S E
V F I O G K N O C Y R R I L B
Z H S J Z X U H E G A B Z N B
H A T I D U R X S Z M E I P E
R P L R S I L E N T N I G H T
R K O Q S N E M E S I W A J H
Y L X T Y Z S W C Z S P E P L
M I M F H F N P N S J V E K E
J A B T T B A R I O R S X Z H
S A I Y L Y T E K V O F L W E
H A Y E Y T I G N J I O E E M
F A M K R H V N A E V U G P E
M A A N W A I A R S A S N O E
C I H O T C T M F U S O A H F
D J E D K Q Y S V S W T E K Q

JESUS

MARY

JOSEPH

WISEMEN

MANGER

NATIVITY

BETHLEHEM

CAMEL

DONKEY

STAR

HAY

ANGEL

FAITH

HOPE

FRANKINCENSE

MYRRH

SILENTNIGHT

LORD

SAVIOR

CHRISTMAS

