

## Pastor's Lines

Dear Church Family,  
Recently, our deacons and wives hosted the Widows Banquet at the church. It was a cold rainy night that affected the attendance a little, but everyone who attended had a wonderful time. The food was excellent, the spirit was palpable, and the friendly banter was something to enjoy.

And then, the gift exchange began. You have probably been to a gift exchange party that turns into a game. You know, the one where you can pick a new gift, or "steal" a gift that was already opened. Each time I play the game, the rules change, (gotta watch those rule keepers!). But essentially, everyone has a good laugh, and goes home with a gift that is either; 1. Really nice, or 2. ready to be put in a bag for the next exchange party. Most of the time, the gift exchange becomes a distant memory. But the party the other night took on a different meaning entirely.

As the gifts were being opened, someone chose a particularly large gift in a bright blue bag. Inside the bag was a mantle topper that spelled the word "JOY". The art piece was beautifully painted and it became the most prized gift of the night. That "JOY" gift kept being "stolen", over and over again. And finally someone got to take it home. It was a fine time, and the night was filled with "JOY"! But, the night also became a symbol of a reality that can happen at Christmastime, and quite frankly, can happen any time of the year. You have probably guessed it...if we are not careful, we can allow "things" to steal our "JOY". "JOY" stealers can sneak up on us without warning and leave us empty handed, wondering what do to.

Be careful that busyness, financial burdens, unmet expectations, unforgiven sin, uncontrollable disappointment...or anything else, doesn't steal your "JOY".

We are in for some real "JOY" this morning. The choir is singing today. The children are chiming in. We are celebrating the Lord's birth, and the season is so special. Next weekend we are anticipating two worship services on Christmas Eve. @ 10:30am we will be experiencing worship and the Lord's Supper. At 6:00pm we will be enjoying a Christmas Eve Candlelight Service. Come to one or both, and invite friends and families. I know you will receive some "JOY"!!!

Blessings,  
Dr. j

## Church News

### FIRST PLACE 4 HEALTH

The next **First Place 4 Health** session that is being offered by First Baptist Church Jennings will begin **January 8<sup>th</sup> at 6 pm.**

If pre-registered by December 31st, cost for the 12-week session is \$65.00, which includes the Member's Book and Bible study, "Be Free". Registration after December 31<sup>st</sup> is \$70.00.

For more information, please call the church office at 337-824-3271. To register and ensure your place, please pay at the church office.



All Wednesday activities for December 27<sup>th</sup> are cancelled. Activities will resume on January 3.

**Christmas Eve...No Sunday School.** Worship Service will be at 10:30am and will include the Lord's Supper. A Benevolence offering will be taken at the close of the service.

The Christmas Eve Candlelight Service will be at 6pm. A Benevolence offering will be taken at the close of the service.

To send a prayer need to the prayer chain, e-mail Liz Bollich at [bollich@bellsouth.net](mailto:bollich@bellsouth.net) text or call @ (337) 580-2896.

## Church News



The **Lottie Moon Post Office** is open for our church family to send Christmas Cards to each other. The Lottie Moon stamps are 10 cents apiece and can be purchased in the church office or from any of the G.A.'s.

Proceeds from the stamp sale go to the **Lottie Moon Christmas Offering.** Cards with the Lottie Moon Stamp can be mailed in the Lottie Moon Mail Box.

The Post Office will close on **January 4<sup>th</sup>.**



Please check the website under Directory (Resident membership list/ birthdays) to make any new additions/ changes for the upcoming year. The password is Directory. If you see any corrections that need to be made, please contact the church office.



**Finance Committee Meeting TODAY** at 4pm in the Family Life Center.

**Business Meeting** on Wednesday, December 20<sup>th</sup> at 6pm in the Sanctuary.

## Church News

### Student Ministry [students.fbcjennings.com](http://students.fbcjennings.com)

Students from 7th - 12th grade are encouraged to join us. This Wednesday from 5-7 pm, students will be continuing our series on *Plus Nothing, Grace is Sufficient.* Students can get involved in other areas too:

**Wednesday Nights: 5-7pm**

**Sunday Mornings: 9:15-10:15**

**Sunday Nights: 5-6:30pm**

**Youth Christmas Party - December 17** - We will have our annual Youth Christmas Party today from 5-7pm in the Refuge. We will have a Christmas meal, read the Christmas Story, and of course, celebrate with lots of games.

Guys need to bring a snacks, and girls need to bring drinks.

### \*\*\* Summer Mission Camp \*\*\*

This summer students will be going to the East Texas Baptist University in Marshall, TX for Mission Camp, July 2-6th. Deadline to signup is January 24th. Deposit of \$60 due February 14th. Total Cost will be \$330.

### FOOD DISTRIBUTION MINISTRY

**On Tuesday, December 19** the Free Truck Giveaway will be at **1pm** in the parking lot of the Family Life Center.

Food Distribution will resume on January 8<sup>th</sup> from 3-5 pm.

