

Ushers & Greeters

Jan. 5- Brad Simmons, ch., Brian Hampton, Randy Behrens, Casey Pulliam, Trampas Patton, Kade Betts, Michael Blevins

Jan. 12—Ron Rogers, ch. Matt Searcey, Jodee Wales, Rocky Hickam, Jimmy Mayers, Ed Berngen

Nursery Volunteers

Extended Session January 5

Babies—Syndal & Kent McClatchy
Toddlers—Shannon, Gunter& Natalie Rodriguez
3's— Meghan and Hayden Austin

Extended Session on January 12

Babies— Leigh Stephens & Tracy Wales
Toddlers— Ariel & Eric Loggins
3's—Terra, Charleigh & Shelby Krajca

Children's Church

January 5—Calli & Gabe Simmons

January 12— Lyndsey & Reid Miller

Sunday Morning Scripture

January 5 - Doug McCutcheon

January 12 - Reed Mankins

Sunday Youtube Mix

January 5—Jodee Wales

January 12 - Obelea Rue

Sunday Sound/Screen/Camera Crew

Jan. 5 - Sound - Seth & Richard

Screens - Linda McDaniel

Camera - Kevin Gray

Jan. 12- Sound - Seth Nash

Screens - Debbie Key

Camera - Richard Behrens

Food Pantry Sackers

January 4 or 5 - Barbara Calvin, Kimberly & Bobby Wolfe, Debbie Key, Todd & Randa Betts

January 11 or 12 -Gena Barrington, Todd & Randa Betts, Oscar & Sandra Garcia, Ariel Loggins

Food Pantry Distribution

Jan. 6 - Terri & Jessica Hayter, Doug McCutcheon

Jan. 13 Produce Day-Shannon Moses & kids, Keith & Natalie Hill

Non-Profit Org.
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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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Preschool Minister

Judy Mankins- jmankins@olneyisd.net
Children's Church Coordinator



THE LIGHT

First Baptist Church

201 W. Main P. O. Box 734

Olney, Texas 76374

940-564-5594

“ To Grow in our relationship with Jesus, to Serve Him together and to Share His unconditional love with others.” -Mission Statement

December 31, 2024



Youth Boys Camping Trip
January 3 - 5
Wichita Mountains
for more info call Jaden
432-770-4557.



Youth Retreat

Winter Retreat
January 31 - February 1
Camp Chaparral
Youth boys & girls

Lottie Moon Christmas Offering
Church Goal: \$10,000 **Given: \$9,625**

A MESSAGE FROM JADEN

There is not too much news to share except more details on the winter retreat. You should have already received a paper with details from your child, but here they are in case that paper did not reach you:

The winter retreat will be January 31st- February 1st at Camp Chaparral. We will only be staying one night. A more detailed schedule has not been released, but when it has I will pass it along. All 6th-12th grade students are welcome to attend, and the cost is \$40. The retreat will include gospel preaching, breakout groups, and lots of fun. If your child is going, I need to have an RSVP by January 6th, and I need the **\$40** by January 12th.

If you have any more questions, please reach out.

JB

DEACON OF THE WEEK

Feel free to call the deacon of the week if you need something.

December 29 - Jan. 4

Reed Mankins 940-235-2522

January 5 - 11

John Moses 940-282-0314

January 12-18

Dale Lovett 940-564-6315

JANUARY Birthdays

January 1	Sandra Woolley
January 2	Adelade Edgington
January 3	Hunter Simmons
January 4	Aiden Bitner
January 5	Hunter Enloe
	Syndal McClatchy
	Steve Stephens
January 6	Doug McCutcheon
January 11	Korley Turner
January 12	Billy Dixon
January 13	Cole Hearne
	Terri Wipperman
January 14	Richard Adams
	Maddy Green
January 15	Tracy Wales



Congratulations

Congratulations to Whitney & David Nantz at the birth of a son, Luke Alexander. Luke has two sisters, Blake & Everett. His grandparents are Rodney & Kristy Nantz and Sharla Butler. His great-grandparents are Mary & Gerald Butler.

Congratulations to Diayalsi & Javier Delgado at the birth of a son, Anias Javier. Anias was born on December 27 and weighed six pounds and nine ounces. He has an older brother, Raycito Acuna.

Weekly Reports

Sunday, December 15, 2024

Bible Study: 175

Morning Worship: 285

Budget Weekly Needs	\$11,793.00
Budget Receipts	\$10,182.44
Designated Receipts	
Food Pantry	350.00
Shoebboxes	1,140.00
Lottie Moon	6,225.00
Love Offering Simeon Trust	2,500.00
Camp Chaparral	2,500.00
Youth	100.00
Youth Camp Fundraiser	100.00
MPCH	100.00
Gospel Meal	100.00
Onward Ever Dental	700.00
Building Campaign	<u>12,847.37</u>
Total Receipts	\$35,704.81

Budget Needs to Date: \$589,650.00

Budget Receipts to Date: \$693,752.27

Total Youth Fundraiser: \$1,470.00

Sunday, December 22, 2024

Bible Study: 157

Morning Worship: 246

Budget Receipts	\$15,437.37
Designated Receipts	
Chumbley Love Off.	1,500.00
Youth Fund	2,000.00
MCPH	500.00
Building Campaign	48,040.00
SBCT	290.00
Lottie Moon	<u>35.00</u>
Total Receipts	52,365.00

Budget Needs to Date: \$601,443.00

Budget Receipts to Date: \$709,189.64

Weekly Report

Sunday, December 29, 2024

Bible Study: 142

Morning Worship: 226

Budget Receipts	\$12,420.12
Designated Receipts	
Building Campaign	18,300.00
Benevolence	1,000.00
Music Fund	10,000.00
Lottie Moon	<u>550.00</u>
Total Receipts	\$29,850.00

Budget Needs to Date: \$613,236.00

Budget Receipts to Date: \$721,609.76

Lottie Moon Offering: \$10,175

Note: The next newsletter will be mailed out on January 14, 2025.



A Message from Chad

Dear Church Family,

As we stand together at the edge of 2024 and fix our gaze toward 2025, it is helpful to pause and look back and remember what God has done in these past twelve months. 2024 may well be remembered as one of the most important years in the history of this church. This was the year we began to plant seeds for the future. This was the year we prayed for the Lord to do great things through us. This was the year we put faith into action. This was the year we began to work on the great task before us of building the new educational space that will serve our community for generations to come.

Early in the year, the congregation voted to engage a fundraiser, an architect, and a contractor for pre-construction services of an 18,000 square foot building to be built in our current parking lot. The recommendation, presented by our Property and Stewardship Committees, was approved by a 92% margin. During the summer and fall we planned and carried out a capital giving campaign called "The Time is Now." This important campaign was intentionally focused on prayer, heart change, and listening to the Lord. The campaign was successful on several fronts. By God's grace we did raise over 2 million dollars (through one-time giving and three-year pledges) to add to the nearly 4.5 million that we currently have on hand. The campaign also set off a great time of spiritual growth as we participated in 30 days of fasting and prayer, a stewardship class, fellowship celebrations, and a 24-hour prayer vigil. I want to urge you to pray with me that by the time we conclude our fundraising, we will have funds on hand to construct a new building without incurring any debt. The Lord can do this.

Currently, we are awaiting a final set of plans to be drawn by Mark W. Todd Architects. We were informed last week that this will take up to four months. When these important plans are produced, they will allow our general contractor, Precision Construction, to present what is called a "hard bid." I anticipate this will take another one or two months. Hopefully we will be able to break ground by mid-year, but this target date depends on many factors outside of our control. Once construction begins, it will take about one year to complete.

Remember that we are still raising funds for this project. If you have not made a pledge, please prayerfully consider what you might give. We still have matching funds available. Every dollar you give or pledge will be doubled up to the remaining pledge amount of \$500,000.

After a long and intense search process, in the summer of 2024, we called Jaden Briscoe to be our Associate Pastor/Youth Minister. We are so thankful that Jaden and Mckenzy are here and it was a joy to welcome little Nellie soon after they arrived. The Briscoes have been a wonderful addition to our staff. I am so thankful for his hard work, vision, and support. They love the kids here in Olney and we are looking forward to what the Lord will do in his ministry here.

As far as the pulpit ministry is concerned, we worked through Hosea and will be finished with chapter 18 of Revelation as we move into the new year.

We had a few special events this year. In the spring we hosted Keron Jackson as a special musical guest to help him raise money for a new vehicle. In the spring, several of us were also able to see the Gaither Vocal Band and David Jeremiah in Dallas at the SBTC Equip Conference. Melissa and I travelled this fall as messengers to the BGCT Annual Meeting. I try to attend these meetings because I serve as an Executive Board member for the convention and sit on several committees. In the past Rodney Simmons has served on this board. Paul McQuerry also sits on the board. We saw a lot of old friends at the convention, and it was a treat to hear Joel Gregory preach on the final night of the convention.

This summer, we sent over 50 children to pre-teen camp and about 30 to youth camp. Thank you for all the help in raising funds to help us get our kids to camp. There were several salvations. We also had a great Breaker Rock Beach VBS. The theme was fantastic, and the kids truly enjoyed the week. Thank you for making VBS a success each year.

Amelia McCutcheon was a blessing as she served as an intern at the church this summer. Amelia helped organize my files and helped with the planning of several fellowships and children's ministry activities over the summer. We wanted to focus on spending time together as a church body. Fellowship was enjoyed at the all-church skate party at Sand Beach, a Splash Night at the new pool, and fun trips for the children to Wichita Falls. Amelia is still helping us out in our radio ministry and website ministry.

Thanks to Jan Simmons and Becky Brewer, we completed a self-published photo directory for the church. I want to encourage you to use this resource as a prayer guide in 2025. Let's pray for each other!

In June we had an Edgington family milestone as Ivy's adoption was made official. She's adjusting well to being a PK! Thank you for all the support as we have walked this journey of foster parenting and adoption. Your love has made all the difference.

The FBCO ladies met for the Light and Lovely luncheons on select Tuesdays during the spring and fall. We had great attendance at Secret Church and the Good Friday Service. 414 attended Easter Worship. Our Mother's Day service was also well attended. The Annual Fall Festival was blessed with great weather this year. We always appreciate everyone's help with this important event. TeamKid is still a huge ministry that reaches well over 100 kids each Wednesday night. This year we held a special TeamKid Family Tailgate during homecoming week that was a huge hit. Thank you to all of our volunteers that made it happen!

Our Christmas season was one of the best we have had in years. We started the season with a special GriefShare seminar that was well attended and so meaningful. All of our December services enjoyed great attendance. Rivaling Easter numbers, 351 shared in our Christmas Eve Service. It was neat to see so many extended families and out-of-town visitors who make this service part of their Christmas tradition. What a great way to keep Christ as the focus! What a beautiful night. Also, this year Jaden led our handbell choir in two special Christmas songs during a service. Our bell ringers did a great job and everyone was thrilled to hear them play. We will look forward to more ~~even~~ handbell playing in 2025.

Giving has been strong this year. We will finish the year with over \$700,000 in general budget giving, in addition all the other special mission and fundraising giving. Thank you for your faithfulness year after year. In regard to giving, we know many in our congregation are not giving sacrificially. As we prepared for the giving campaign, we learned that 70% of our budget giving is done by 30% of the membership. That means that 70% of our membership is giving 30% of the budget. This is good news because we have the potential as a church to have a much greater kingdom impact through obedient stewardship. It is bad news because it means that so many in our church are missing out on the blessings that come through committed biblical stewardship. We define New Testament sacrificial giving as something significant, like a tithe of your income. If you are not giving sacrificially, why not start in 2025?

In addition to all these things we continue to meet together, preach, teach, share Christ, baptize, make disciples, agree, disagree, grow, learn, make mistakes, create problems, find solutions, grieve together, celebrate together, sin, offend one another, repent, forgive, love, laugh, cry, say goodbye to friends who move, bid farewell to those who pass away, rejoice with new parents, and live for Jesus and his Kingdom. This is what life as part of a congregation is like.

2024 has come and gone, and now we move into 2025. I move into my 50s. I was 38 when we came to Olney, and I had no gray hair! But I'm still excited about what God is doing in my life and in your life. Let's ask God to use us to change the world. This will be a year of great sacrifice and change, but it will be exciting and fulfilling. We will be stretched for certain. Will we get bent out of shape, or will we grow? The key is to keep looking toward Christ, not at the circumstance, and not at the difficulties. I wonder what we will be able to write about 2025 after we live through these next twelve months? I pray that no matter what happens, our aim will be to pursue Christ and to allow Him to get glory out of our lives.

Brother Chad