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COMMUNICATOR

December 12, 2018

Our Mission: To Live, Teach, and Tell the Gospel, so that all may encounter the Living God.

BORN in me

A Christmas Worship Experience

December 16, 2018

10:45AM and 6:00PM

Social Media, Gratitude and a Heart at Peace

I closed my Facebook account almost two months ago. I don't miss it. Facebook sometimes caused me anxiety, anger, even jealousy. Seldom did it cultivate gratitude, or encourage peace.

The Apostle Paul encourages us to rejoice in the Lord, be gentle, and to give thanks while presenting our requests to God... so that the peace of God will guard our hearts and minds in Christ (Philippians 4:4-7). To the church at Colossae, Paul writes, "See to it that no one takes you captive through hollow and deceptive philosophy, which depends on human tradition and the elemental spiritual forces of this world rather than on Christ" (Colossians 2:8). Jesus gives HIS peace, not the "hollow and deceptive philosophy" of peace the world offers.

Does social media cultivate love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control? Do you need to set limits? Are you more thankful after scrolling through friends' updated statuses, comparing your children's successes to others, spending hours video gaming, or shopping? Or are you at greater unrest?

For me, closing the Facebook account has been helpful. What action might be helpful for you? Ask yourself what creates strife in your life? What stimulates gratitude? Gratitude pushes out anxiety and leads to peace; a peace from God in Christ that is wonderfully beyond our understanding and sets up a guard for our hearts and minds.

So, how do you let the peace of Christ rule in your heart? Is the Word of God central in the formation of your ongoing peace? This Advent season, make a decision to focus on that which cultivates the fruit of the Spirit, namely, peace, and free yourself of that which robs you of this gift of God!

SYMPATHY TO

Melissa Kemp in the loss of her mother.

DECEMBER 9, 2018

Bible Study Attendance
505

2018 Budget Giving

YTD Budget
\$1,783,375.58

YTD Giving
\$1,612,420.69

*Rejoice always,
pray continually,
give thanks in all
circumstances; for this
is God's will for you in
Christ Jesus.*

I Thessalonians 5:16-18

Church Office Hours
8:00 am-5:00 pm
Monday - Thursday
closed on Fridays

Pike Wisner
Senior Pastor

Church Office
903.595.1021
Fax: 903.597.1855

Bible Study 9:30 am
Worship 10:45 am

LOTTIE MOON

CHRISTMAS OFFERING

At First Baptist Church we believe every church
and every church member has a critical role to
play in bringing the gospel to the world.

December 23, 2018

CHRISTMAS EVE

Candlelight Service

DECEMBER 24, 2018 | 5:00 PM

HOLIDAY HOURS

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 23: MORNING WORSHIP 10:45

NO SUNDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY

MONDAY, DECEMBER 24: CANDLELIGHT SERVICE 5:00 PM

MONDAY, DECEMBER 24: CHURCH & REC CENTER CLOSED

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 25: CHURCH & REC CENTER CLOSED

MONDAY, DECEMBER 31: CLOSING AT 12 NOON

TUESDAY, JANUARY 1ST: CHURCH & REC CENTER CLOSED

Finance Office Holiday Hours

The Finance Office will close at noon on Dec 31, 2018. Tithes and offerings for 2018 need to be in by that time or postmarked by that date.