



*“In the heart of the community;
with a heart for your family”*

A Pastor’s Ponderings

December 11, 2016

Charlie Brown is best known for his uniquely striped shirt, and Linus is most associated with his ever-present security blanket. Throughout the story of Peanuts, Lucy, Snoopy, Sally and others all work to no avail to separate Linus from his blanket. And even though his security blanket remains a major source of ridicule for the otherwise mature and thoughtful Linus, he simply refuses to give it up. Until that moment when he simply drops it.

It’s in the climactic scene of “A Charlie Brown Christmas” as Linus shares “what Christmas is all about”. Most telling is the specific moment he drops it: it’s just when he utters the words, “*fear not*” from Luke 2:10. Looking at it now, it is pretty clear it was intentional and what Charles Schulz was saying through this simple act is both profound and brilliant.

If nothing else, the birth of Jesus offers peace that can separate us from our fears. The birth of Jesus frees us from habits we are unable (or unwilling) to break ourselves. The birth of Jesus allows us to drop the false security we have been grasping so tightly, and learn to trust and cling to Him instead. Our world can be a scary place in which it is very difficult for us to “*fear not*”. And most of us find ourselves grasping to temporal things for security, whatever that thing may be. But in the midst of your fear and insecurity, a simple cartoon image from 1965 continues to live on as an inspiration for us to find true peace and true security in the one place it has always been and can always still be found. In Christ alone.

(Adapted from www.jasonsoroski.net)

Weekly Schedule for December 11 to December 18

Today Sunday School10:00 am
Morning Worship11:00 am
Children’s Christmas Musical6:00 pm
“**David’s Dynasty**”

Following the K.I.A. program:
Church-wide Fellowship with Snack Foods & Gift Exchange
Bring your favorite Christmas snack and come be part of the fun!

Tuesday Men’s Breakfast9:00 am
Journey Through Bethlehem5:00 pm

Wednesday Fellowship Supper5:30 pm

<p><i>Group activities begin at 7:00 pm</i></p>	<p>K.I.A. in Fellowship Hall The Experience* Junior High Small Group* (* meets at <u>The Spot</u>) Choir Rehearsal in Sanctuary Adult Prayer & Bible Study in Downstairs Overflow</p>
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Thursday “**THE BATTLE PLAN FOR PRAYER**” BIBLE STUDY
(Call Gary King @ 948-0398 for more information.)

Saturday Choir dinner @ 5:00 pm...
followed by cantata rehearsal

Next Sunday Sunday School10:00 am
Morning Worship11:00 am
Choir’s Christmas Cantata6:00 pm
“*Come Let Us Adore*”

HAPPY BIRTHDAY	HAPPY ANNIVERSARY
<p>Tim JaynesTuesday Adrian WaltersTuesday Breanna Brown.....Thursday Carlton “Bud” Wood..... Friday Kellie JaynesSaturday</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Wednesday Art & Marlene Simpson</p>

NURSERY VOLUNTEERS	
TODAY	NEXT SUNDAY
AM - Bo, Noel, & Lilly Shell	AM - Michael & Kathy Ferguson and Hunter Barker

ANNOUNCEMENTS

WEDNESDAY FELLOWSHIP SUPPER

This week’s menu:
Baked spaghetti, tossed salad, bread, dessert & drink.
(A sign up sheet is in the foyer.)

Meals are **\$4.00** each or **\$12.00** for families.
Supper will be served from **5:30 - 6:30 p.m.**

URGENT MESSAGE: Cooks need to know how many meals to prepare. ***Please sign up no later than Monday @ noon!***
Need more information? Call Lavon Jones @ 426-8105.

CHRISTMAS PARTIES & FELLOWSHIPS

Friday, **Dec. 16:** Home Builders Sunday School Class @ **6:30 pm.**
Saturday, **Dec. 17:** Choir Dinner @ **5:00 pm** (& rehearsal).

Need to reserve the church fellowship hall for your group, classes or family activities? First come. First served. Sign up on the kitchen wall calendar in the fellowship hall.

JOURNEY THROUGH BETHLEHEM

Meet at the church on **Tuesday, Dec. 13th**, at **5:00 p.m.** for this outdoor, interactive experience at First Baptist Church in Fall Branch. Travel back to Bethlehem and walk through the streets & marketplace. Experience the time & events when Christ was born. (The church van will stop at McDonald’s on the way back.)

CHILDREN’S CHRISTMAS PARTY: SUNDAY, DEC. 18

Kids will be released at very beginning of church service to allow them time to enjoy their annual Christmas Party. We will be providing food, fun time, and a ‘special’ Christmas gift. We love you kids and wish you a Merry Christmas!

2016 CHRISTMAS CARD MINISTRY

The New Salem “post office” is open! To send Christmas cards to church families, we encourage you to consider donating the money you would normally spend on postage toward our **Lottie Moon Christmas Offering** and send your cards through the church “post office”. Simply put the family’s corresponding number in the upper right corner of the envelope *where a stamp would normally go* and drop them off before **Wednesday, Dec. 21st**. (If you know of any additions or corrections for the list, please contact **Tonya** (423-737-5343), and we will add them to the bulletin.)

