

IMAGINE
joining the Author of all history
in

ONE SACRED EFFORT

FIND YOUR PLACE IN GOD'S STORY

MATTHEW 28:19-20

**The Lottie Moon Christmas Offering
for International Missions
2014 CHURCH GOAL: \$8,000**

Christmas Together! 

Remember, we are joining our two worship services together for Advent, as we celebrate the birth of our Savior! **Today and next Sunday** our Sunday morning schedule will be...

9:15 AM: Sunday School Small Groups
10:30 AM: Joint Worship at the WRC

The services will center on the themes of Advent and will be led by the combined worship teams from our Classic and Contemporary services with preaching all 4 weeks by Bro. Bill Zodrow.

Christmas Outside the Walls

NEXT SUNDAY @ 6:00 PM




THE "LEGALESE" OF YEAR-END GIVING

For many the transition from Dec. 31 to Jan. 1 is like any other day. For others, however, it is the beginning of a new fiscal year and an important deadline for taking care of financial matters. That often includes making sure that all potential tax deductions for the current year are properly accounted and accredited. Contributions to charitable and religious causes fall into this category, so it may help to avoid misunderstandings in your annual contribution records to remind you of the legal guidelines established for year end contributions.

As stated in the Baptist Regional Tax Seminar notebook (based on tax law as interpreted by legal / tax experts of the BGCO):

Many church members make larger contributions at the end of the year. Some mail their checks to the church, while others deposit their "year-end check" in either the last service in December or the first Sunday in January. Here are the rules that apply. Charitable contributions must be claimed in the year in which they are delivered. One exception is a check that is mailed to a charity—it is deductible in the year the check is postmarked, even if it is delivered early in the next year. If you receive a check in the mail in the first week of 2015 that is enclosed in an envelope that is postmarked in December 2014, you should include the contribution on the donor's 2014 contribution statement. However, a member who contributes a personal check to your church in an offering on January 1, 2015 cannot claim a 2014 deduction, even if the check is backdated to read "December 31, 2014." You must report such a check on the member's 2014 contribution statement. The same would hold true for checks written in 2014 but not delivered to the church until 2015. As noted above, the critical factor is the date of delivery except in the case of checks postmarked but not delivered in 2014.

The bottom line is, if you want giving to be included on your 2014 contribution record, we need to have the donations given (or postmarked) before December 31, 2014. Also, as you plan your year end giving, remember there are many other creative ways to give which would not only help the church, but could help the giver if he/she is looking for charitable deductions. Appreciated stocks, bonds and mutual funds which you have owned for 12 months or longer often can be donated in such a way as to get a deduction on the full market value of the securities while avoiding a capital gains tax. Real estate / personal property may also carry the same advantages when appreciation has occurred. Donors would need to obtain an appraisal before making the gift as the church cannot serve as an official appraiser. If you would like information on the best methods to contribute "non-cash" gifts, or to get help on establishing living trusts, wills, etc., your Baptist Foundation of Oklahoma is a great place to start. You can call them at 1-800-949-9988 or check them out on the web at www.bfok.org.

Spring Break 2015

How about Colorado in the spring? Spend four days working with Clay Ross and GrassRoots Church in Colorado Springs followed by three days of recreation with options including shopping, sightseeing & skiing! *All ages welcome.*

Contact Jordan for more details



 **Youth Workers' Meeting**
Today @ 4:00 pm
Jordan's office



We would like to express our gratitude to our church family for all the prayers, thoughts, kind words, and support provided to us with the passing of my father. They are appreciated and very much needed during this time. It is humbling for us to be a part of a wonderful church family.

The Maddoux Family

We would like to say THANK YOU to our church family for the visits, cards, texts & food during the loss of my dad. A special THANK YOU to our Sunday school class for the dinner & misc. items they provided. Also to the church for the food they provided after the funeral services. We so appreciate the generosity & kindness, it was a wonderful witness to many family members. Words cannot express how touched we were. Thank you all for your faithfulness!

Love,
Bill & Dana Tindell & family

First Kids - First Church

If you have questions on this, need to make changes, or would like to volunteer to help, please contact Sheree Jordan @ 396-7859.

DECEMBER 14:

CHRISTMAS TOGETHER: 10:30 AM (WRC)

BABIES (Room 306): Gary & Noonie Yarbrough
 ONES (Room 408): Laura Worthington
 TWOS (Room 304): Karna Phillips & Cassidy Reed
 THREES/FOURS (Room 305): Gena James & Kim Maddoux
 KIND-3RD GRADE (Room 101): Sheree & Judd Jordan

DECEMBER 21:

CHRISTMAS TOGETHER: 10:30 AM (WRC)

BABIES (Room 306): Mike & Cheryl Earp
 ONES (Room 408): James & Kendl Breeding
 TWOS (Room 304): Andrea Hudson & Kelsey Hudson
 THREES/FOURS (Room 305): Audean Landis & Bailei Losey
 KIND-3RD GRADE (Room 101): Sheree & Judd Jordan



Wednesdays @ 6:25 pm
AWANA STORE!
West Rogers Campus

RECONNECT SUNDAY SCHOOL

Don't miss out on the fellowship and growth that comes from being part of a Sunday morning small group Bible study. It's the perfect place to connect with God's Word, His family, and His mission.

For more details on what's available for you, see Bro. Scott or ask one of your friends who is currently attending Sunday School!

We've got a place for you!

THIS WEEK AT FBC SKIATOOK

SC=South Campus WRC=West Rogers Campus

SUNDAY, December 14

8:30 am—Prayer Time (WRC)
 9:15 am—Sunday School (SC & WRC)
 10:30 am—Worship Together (WRC)
 6:00 pm—JOY Christmas Program (WRC)
 7:00 pm—Quarterly Church Conference (WRC)

TUESDAY, December 16

6:30 pm—First Moms: MNO (WRC)
 6:30 pm—Angel Tree Dinner / Wrapping Party (SC)

WEDNESDAY, December 17

6:00 pm—Youth Café Open (SC)
 6:30 pm—Youth Worship
 6:30 pm—Adult Bible Study (WRC)
 6:30 pm—AWANA CLUBS (WRC) AWANA STORE!
 6:30 pm—Praise Ensemble Rehearsal



December 24 / 5:00 pm / WRC
CHRISTMAS EVE
 CANDLELIGHT SERVICE

A GLANCE AT LAST WEEK

Our financial secretary was out for medical leave this week, so we will have financial figures for Dec. 7 & 14 next week.



Current JOF expansion loan balance
 \$ 1,289,164.76

CONTACT US

First Baptist Church
 940 W. Oak Skiatook, OK 74070 (918) 396-1565
 For e-mail addresses for staff members see our web site at:
www.fbcskiatook.com



Sunday, December 14, 2014



J.O.Y. Preschool
Christmas Program
TONIGHT @ 6:00 PM (WRC)

Quarterly Church Conference

Tonight following the JOY Christmas program.
 We plan to start as soon after 7:00 pm as possible. We will present and discuss the 2015 Ministry Action Budget.

Scott Neighbors
 Pastor of
 Worship & Discipleship

Jordan Lauffer
 Pastor of
 Youth Ministries

Sheree Jordan
 Director of
 Childhood Ministries