

Auburn has not had a good football season this year. We have lost what seems like hundreds of games that we should have been able to win, but honestly we aren't good enough to win. Normally when we are having this sort of season I wouldn't be recording games or going back to watch replays, but this year is different. This year I have watched every miserable down and even driven down there to watch them play live twice.

The difference of course is Nathan.

My oldest son, Nathan, is in the band at Auburn so that means 1) he is seven hours away and I don't get to see him that much and 2) during all of those miserable losing football games I can hear him playing. Granted there are 380 or so people in the band and nearly 30 tubas, but when I hear them play I know that one of them is him, and that makes watching bad football worth it.

Now for basketball Auburn is doing better this year, so I would probably watch no matter what, but right now I am watching Auburn play because Nathan gets to sit in the student section so that means when the camera pans by I get to see him cheering for the team. It is almost like we are watching it together, even though he is hundreds of miles away.

Why do I say all of this? Because I love Nathan I am looking for him and listening for him whenever I can. I am trying to find him, and wanting just to catch a glimpse of his face. Because I love God there have been times when I have been that way, looking for him everywhere and listening for his voice, but there have also been times when I hate to admit I sort of forget to check for him. Too many times I am the person who sees the bad play on the field and doesn't even hear that the band is playing in the background.

One of the most amazing things about Christmas is that it reminds us that God dwells with us. Matthew 1:23 says "See, the virgin will become pregnant and give birth to a son, and they will name him Immanuel, which is translated 'God is with us.'" How awesome is it that God is with us. Too many times I forget that. Too many times I forget to look for Him. Too many times I get so focused on the negative stuff in front of me that I forget to listen for His voice. Too many times I get excited about the good things happening in front of me that I forget to look for His face. This Christmas season I am trying to do better. I want to let all of the decorations and the movies and the presents be a sign that reminds me that God is with us. I want to look for God's face like I look for Nathans. I want to see him in store windows and in carols. I want to hear him in the laughter and the tears around me. I want to see God, so I choosing to look for Him.

Shane



Weekly Activities

SUNDAY

Sunday School - 9:30 am
Worship - 8:15 am & 10:45 am
Evening Worship - 6:00 pm
Children's Bible Study - 6:00 pm
Youth Bible Study - 6:00 pm

WEDNESDAY

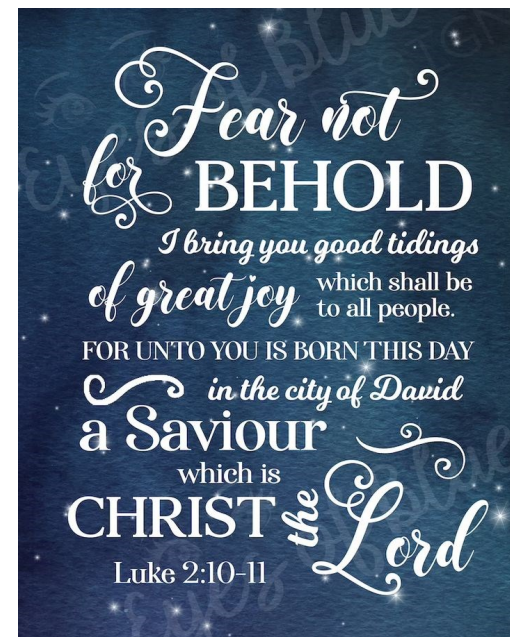
Prayer Service - 6:30 pm
Youth Bible Study - 6:30 pm
Children's Bible Study - 6:30 pm

Thank you for your participation in Operation Christmas Child year-round. Over 400 boxes were filled with your gifts so that children around the world can hear the Good News of Jesus Christ!



COOKIE BRIGADE

December 8
Sherry Queen
December 22
Pat Klempe



Phone: 270.534.1900
www.friendshiponthenet.org
www.facebook.com/friendshiponthenet
Dr. Jason Browning, Pastor
Rev. Shane Yancey,
Minister to Students & Children
Rev. Chad Davidson,
Minister of Music & Worship

Budget Receipts

Required to Date: \$ 510,968
Received to Date: \$ 497,147

Nursery Volunteers

December 1

8:15 am - Laura Hughes
10:45 am - Spencer & Melissa Hawkins (BB)
Miranda Scott (T)

December 8

8:15 am - Tori Ramsdell
10:45 am - Vicky Fox & Rachel Martin (BB)
Carol Fields & Lakyn Noland (T)

December 15

8:15 am - Amanda Triplett
10:45 am - Gene & Deborah Reaney (BB)
Kathy Goodman & Kathy Baucum (T)

December 22

8:15 am - Masami Smith
10:45 am - Pam Samuels & Vickie Turley (BB)
Meredith Yancey (T)

December 29

8:15 am - Andrea Brewer
10:45 am - Cheryl Tyler/ Nathan & Kathryn Thomas (BB)

BB - Bed Babies C201
T - Toddlers C202



FRIENDSHIP NEWSLETTER

Friendship Baptist Church
146 S. Friendship Rd.
Paducah KY 42003

Volume 24

DECEMBER 2024

Number 12

FOR UNTO US A
CHILD IS BORN,
UNTO US A SON IS GIVEN...

PEACE

AND HIS NAME SHALL BE
CALLED WONDERFUL,
COUNSELLOR,
THE MIGHTY GOD,
THE EVERLASTING FATHER,
THE PRINCE OF PEACE.

ISAIAH 9:6





**“Joseph went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem... He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to Him and was expecting a child.”
(Luke 2:4-5)**

As the crow flies, it was a journey of approximately 65 miles but traveling over hills, through villages, and around rivers made the trip even longer. Whether on foot or on the back of a donkey, it wasn't an easy journey, especially for a women nearing the end of her pregnancy.

Why did Mary go to Bethlehem? It's true that government officials had issued a census which required each one to go to their "own city." Each individual was required to travel to the place their family called home for this official registration and counting. But perhaps Mary welcomed the idea to leave the small village of Nazareth where tongues were wagging about her pregnancy and unmarried status. I trust Mary and Joseph knew they were going far from family and into a city whose streets would be packed with traveling strangers. They were assured of no warm welcome and no cozy place to birth the expected child. In almost every way, Jospheh and Mary were traveling into the unknown. Their journey was long and hard and uncertain.

Nearly nine months before Joseph and Mary's arrival in Bethlehem, Mary spoke life-changing words to God. When the angel presented Mary with the assignment of giving birth to God's son, she testified: **"I am the Lord's servant. May it be to me as You have said."** With those simple words of faith, Mary could endure the long journey, the cold streets of Bethlehem, the staring glances of strangers, and even the unkept stable with its manger.

When we submit ourselves as servants to a loving God, we can say to God what Mary said: **"May it be to me as You have said."** When we surrender ourselves to a good God, we can be confident that He will lead and guide us. Our God is faithful and He will equip us to complete the assignment He has prepared for us.

As we celebrate the birth of our Lord and Savior, I pray our faith will be renewed as we focus on the Christ of Christmas!

God is good! All the time!

Jason



Lottie Moon Dinner & Auction — Join us for this church wide fellowship on December 8, following the Adult Choir Musical. Chili & Hot Dogs will be served on a donation basis with all proceeds going to the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for International Missions.

There will also be an auction. Lottie Moon was sent as a Southern Baptist missionary to China from 1873 to 1912. She saw firsthand the world's greatest problem — LOSTNESS. She pleaded for increased prayer and financial support to send and sustain more missionaries. One hundred percent of your gifts support International Missions.



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| 1 | 7:00 p.m. — Deacons |
| 1-8 | Week of Prayer for International Missions |
| 3-6 | OCC Processing Center, Boone, NC |
| 3 | 11:30 a.m. — JOY Club |
| | 6:00 p.m. — Operation Andrew, Team 4 |
| 8 | 6:00 p.m. — Celebration Choir Musical |
| | 7:00 p.m. — Church Fellowship |
| 9 | 6:00 p.m. — Women's Ministry Christmas Fellowship |
| 10 | 6:00 p.m. — Operation Andrew, Team 5 |
| 15 | 6:00 p.m. — Sunday School Fellowships |
| 16 | 5:00 p.m. — Single Mom's Night Out |
| 17 | 10:30 a.m. — Women on Mission |
| | 6:00 p.m. — Operation Andrew, Team 1 |
| 18 | 5:30 p.m. — Finance Team |
| | 6:30 p.m. — Business Mtg. |
| 22 | 9:00 a.m. — Coffee & Donuts in KidZone |
| 24 | 4:00 p.m. — Christmas Eve Worship |
| 25 | Christmas Day |
| | No Evening Activities |
| 29 | Youth Winter Refresh |

Tuesdays @ 6:30 a.m. — Men's Prayer Group

Saturdays @ 8:00 a.m. — Mighty Men



We will be distributing Christmas Food Baskets to families in need in our area again this year. If you know of someone who could use a basket, please contact the church office with their name, address, phone number, and number in family. The deadline is Sunday, December 8. Baskets will be delivered by deacons on December 21-22.



Single Mom's Night Out — The Women's Ministry has volunteered to watch the children of single moms (or dads) of Friendship families on December 16, 5:00 - 8:00 p.m. at the church. We plan to provide dinner, crafts, games, and a movie for children 12 and under. Reserve a spot by signing up in the worship center. If a dad works nights and mom needs the time, that would be okay too.



The lyrics to "O Little Town of Bethlehem" were written by Phillips Brooks in 1868 after visiting the town of Bethlehem on his trip to the Holy Land two years earlier. Since that time, this song has become a favorite for many people as they celebrate the Christmas season.

When Phillips Brooks was rector of Holy Trinity, Philadelphia, his parishioners in August 1865, sent him abroad for a year. His travels took him through Europe, and in December to the Holy Land. Here with reverent feet, he traced the footsteps of his Lord and Master from Nazareth southward and visited the scenes of the Bible narrative.

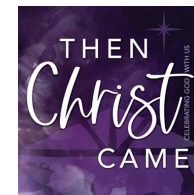
After two weeks spent in Jerusalem, Christmas Eve found him in "the little town of Bethlehem" at the birthplace of Jesus. Of his stirring emotions on that "Holy Night" he later wrote to his Sunday school back in Philadelphia:

"I remember especially on Christmas Eve, when I was standing in the old church at Bethlehem, close to the spot where Jesus was born, when the whole church was ringing hour after hour with the splendid hymns of praise to God, how again and again it seemed as if I could hear voices that I knew well, telling each other of the 'Wonderful Night' of the Savior's birth, as I had heard the year before; and I assure you I was glad to shut my ears for a while and listen to the more familiar strains that came wandering to me halfway round the world."

Two years after his return to America, still full of the thrilling memories of Bethlehem, Phillips Brooks wrote for his Sunday school of children, the Christmas hymn, "O Little Town of Bethlehem," which for a long time had been singing in his soul. In this he has embodied, as in the prose descriptions of places visited in the Holy Land, the spiritual meaning of what he there saw.

Taken from: <https://reasonabletheology.org/hymn-story-o-little-town-bethlehem/>

Under the Master's Baton, Chad



The Friendship Celebration Choir is proud to present a new Christmas musical on Sunday, December 8 at 6:00 p.m. bursting with the joy of the coming of Christ. From arranger and orchestrator Cliff Duren, *Then Christ Came*, takes us along the celebratory journey of the Gospel. Containing 16 songs and 11 arrangements, each song encompasses the wonder and jubilation of a Savior come to Earth. With worshipful songs such as "Then Christ Came," "We've Come to Worship Him," and "Worthy Worship Medley" paired with traditional Christmas hymns such as "Hark! the Herald Angels Sing," *Then Christ Came* beautifully weaves together various styles and generational songs to capture the elation of the true meaning of Christmas.



JOY Club — Will go to Poppi's in Benton on Tuesday, December 3. Meet at the restaurant at 11:30 a.m. Meet at the church at 10:45 a.m. if you need a ride.

End of Year Contributions — in order for contributions to be credited to 2024 contribution statements, funds must be received by Sunday, December 29. Online gifts must be received by noon on Thursday, December 27.