



# The Connection Newsletter

## First Baptist Church

### Nickelsville, Virginia

11606 Nickelsville Highway, Nickelsville VA 24271

November & December

Volume 49 Issue 11 & 12

#### “What Child is This?”

##### Selected Passages from Isaiah & Matthew

Let me begin by wishing each of you and your families a very blessed and Merry Christmas!

Quite often when we gather in times of corporate worship we hear that beautiful song “What Child is This?” and this might I say is a very appropriate question especially during Advent. If we grew up in church we already know the answer to that age-old question. But if we are totally foreign to this Christianity thing it’s a question that’s worth both our time and attention. What’s the big deal with a child that was born in a small stable in the town of Bethlehem more than 2,000 years ago? Why all of the pageantry?

Before we move forward let me share something with you that you might find interesting. Each year there are over 4 million babies born in the United States of America. And even though that is considerably less than the 131.4 million babies that are born throughout the world annually it’s still pretty staggering, isn’t it?

When we think of all those mothers giving birth to new babies throughout the world, we must ask ourselves: What was so special about this child? Out of all the babies that are born why do we celebrate, in such high fashion, his birth? Why do we spend so much time preparing our hearts, our homes, and our lives during December? Why do we gather to sing, to shout, to praise this One child? Why make such a fuss over one baby whose mother wasn’t even officially married when she was found to be with child? Well now ... these are good questions, are they not? And they deserve an even better answer.

First, *this child that we call Jesus is God with us* - In order to correctly answer the question “What Child is This?” we must travel backward in time to a city called Jerusalem about 700 years before this child’s birth. So about 2,700 years ago the kingdom of Israel was a divided nation. Jerusalem which was in the southern kingdom of Judah was under attack by her own brothers and sisters from the north. As King Pekah of Israel joined forces with King Resin from Syria and prepared their attack the prophet Isaiah entered the story and said to King Ahaz, “Don’t worry! God has told me to tell you that he has everything under control. He is sovereign! Ask him for a sign and he will give it to you!” But Ahaz didn’t believe him and rejected God’s sign. In response God said, “That’s fine, I’ll give you a sign myself! Behold a virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel!” which means, God with us!

Please see “What Child?” on Pg. 2

## A "BIG HELLO" To

Jim & Shirley Campbell-Castlewood, VA  
Joann Sluss– Big Stone Gap, VA

## From First Baptist Church

#### ITEMS OF INTEREST AND OPPORTUNITY

- ◆ GA’S Meet the 1st and 3rd Tuesday during school.
- ◆ Deacons meet every other month. Feb. April, June, Aug. Oct. Dec.
- ◆ Business Meetings March, June, Sept. Dec.
- ◆ December 24th-Christmas Eve Service 7
- ◆ January 25th - Baptist Men’s Breakfast 8 AM.
- ◆ January 26th– Baptist Men’s Day
- ◆ January 28th– Dinner Church 4:30-6:30 PM.
- ◆ February 23rd– Baptist Women’s Day
- ◆ February 25th—Dinner Church 4:30-6:30 PM

**Pastor:** Steve Collins  
**Church Office:** 276-479-3222  
**E-mail:** fbcnickva@gmail.com  
**Home Phone:** 276-467-2389  
**Cell Phone:** 276-393-2741  
**Secretary:** Sandy Collins  
**Cell Phone:** 276-393-7388  
**E-mail:** secfbcva@gmail.com  
**Church Fax:** 276-479-4222  
**Family Life Center:** 276-479-6222  
**Web Page:** www.fbcnick.org

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**“What Child?”  
Cont. from Pg. 1**

Fascinating it is not? God with us? Which is exactly what John reiterates in his gospel account wherein he said, “And the Word was made flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.” Jn. 1:14, KJV). What child is this? This child is - God with us. But it’s more:

Second, *this child that we call Jesus is God for us* - see Isaiah 9:2-7. As I keep reading in the book of Isaiah I go through chapter 8 and see the promise of an invasion from Syria but it’s one that will consume the enemies who have opposed God’s people and sought to destroy them. And in the midst of it all is his promise of a “... child that is born, a son that is given ... who shall be called Wonderful, Counselor, the mighty God, the everlasting Father, the Prince of peace. Of the increase of his government and peace there shall be no end ...”

What child is this? That Jesus child who was born is not only Immanuel or God with us - he is also God for us. Of him Paul said in his letter to the church at Rome, “... If God be for us, who can be against us?” But the best rendering of that verse would better read, “Since God is for us ...” Oh folks, this child is God with us but he’s also God for us. But there’s one last thought that’s worth our time.



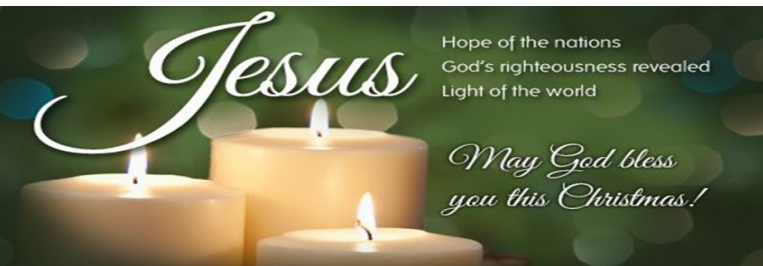
Last, *this child that we call Jesus is the One who can save us* - Save us from what? From sin and yes even from ourselves. From death and destruction. This is the God-man, he is our Creator coming to us

wrapped in human flesh, the 2nd Adam who came in order that we might become the righteousness of God. The one whose “... fullness have all we received, and grace for grace.” (Jn. 1:16, KJV). This is the God that Paul spoke of in his letter to the church at Corinth when he said, “But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.” (1 Cor. 15:57, KJV).

What child is this? Of this child the scriptures testify from Genesis to Revelation. Of this child the songwriter said, “This, this is Christ, the King, Whom shepherds guard and angels sing: Haste, Haste, to bring Him laud, the Babe, the Son of Mary!”

During the holiday season gather with your family & your church family and worship this child that we call Jesus - he is God with us, he is God for us, and he alone is the One who can save us.

Have a great Christmas!



**Our Church Van**

Truly God has blessed us with yet another tool for ministry and missions outreach in the form of comfortable and reliable transportation. And it’s getting plenty of use by our people.

In addition to running our regular bus routes on Wednesday nights and Sunday mornings here are some of the ways God has put that van to use by his people. In October and November, messengers from our church used the van to attend the Annual Meetings of the CVBA (at Free Hill Baptist Church) and also the BGAV in Roanoke. Also the youth from our church utilized the van to attend the annual “Hearts on Fire” Youth Conference in Pigeon Forge, TN. They thoroughly enjoyed their experience and wanted to express their gratitude to the church for allowing them to use the van for that event.

In December we utilized the van to transport a large group of people to the quarterly meeting of the Southwest Virginia Partnership Board of Directors that was held at the Mountain Empire Older Citizens Building in Big Stone Gap, VA. Everyone enjoyed the ride and were greatly appreciative of the church granting usage of the van for transportation. Following this a large group from our church used the van to attend the David Phelps concert at First Baptist Church in Kingsport, TN.



As most of you know the initial cost of the van was approximately \$44,000 of which we paid \$20,000 out of donations and savings. Then someone in the church stepped forward to loan us the remaining \$24,000 interest free until the debt can be repaid. With all of this said, we are asking for donations to cover the outstanding balance. To date \$3,836.00 has been given toward the retirement of our indebtedness.

May the Lord give each of us his good guidance in what our gift might be for this much-needed project that will give us many years of service. Thanks so much for your support and encouragement.

In addition, we donated our older bus to Nottingham United Methodist Church in Hiltons, VA. Their pastor, Bill Porter, expressed the thanksgiving of his people in these words, ‘... We rejoice greatly in this gift and know this a good tool to bring glory to God ... This bus will meet our needs perfectly. It is the right size and easy to drive ... We will have the bus re-lettered with Nottingham’s name as soon as possible ... we are planning to take the bus on a short outing Sunday with our senior adults ... and our youth group plans on traveling to attend Resurrection in Pigeon Forge in January ... May God bless your Church richly for your generosity.’





God is richly blessing our newly formed School of Theology. For our Fall 2019 semester we had record enrollment with 10 students and 7 facilitators representing 9 different churches.

For our last class we decided to host an evening Christmas meal for our students and their families for at North Fork Catering in Weber City and had 45 people in attendance. And might I add, the food and service were exceptional to say the least. And the fellowship was awesome. Here are a couple of pictures from our time of fellowship that was greatly enjoyed by everyone in attendance.



We will launch our 2020

Spring Semester on Monday, January 27th at Uplift Church in Weber City, VA and as usual our classes will meet each week from 6:30 to 9:00 PM.

The class we will offer is "Studies in the Prophets" which focuses primarily on the prophets of the Old Testament prophets of Israel. This will be a rich and rewarding class for all participants.

Please remember that we are able to offer these classes for the low cost of \$200.00 per semester. And as always the main textbook for our classes in the bible but we will also utilize the textbook: *The Prophets of Israel*, Leon J. Wood, Baker Book House, copyright 1979, Eight Printing 1989, ISBN: 0-8010-9607-3. If you would like to go ahead and order a copy used copies are available on Amazon from as little as \$6.00 and up.



If you're undecided about such a commitment we would encourage you to stop in and attend one or more of our classes before you commit. I think you will greatly enjoy the experience.

Other good news concerning our newly formed school of theology is that we recently received a \$1,000 dollar donation from a family in the Richmond area that was given through the Baptist General Association of Virginia. Thanks so much for your partnership!

We are also happy to announce that initial talks have begun with the John Leland Center for Theological Studies and Bluefield College concerning possible partnerships that would impact the lives of many seeking to enhance their educational experience in the southwest region of Virginia.

God is doing great things in Southwest Virginia and we're excited to be a small part of his ever advancing Kingdom. May he continue to bless our collaborative efforts with our partners in ministry and missions outreach in our region, across the state, and around the world! To him be honor and glory!

### Electronic Giving Portal

Supporting your church as we engage in mission endeavors is fast and easy through our electronic giving portal which can be accessed through e-mail. Or if you're viewing this newsletter electronically all you have to do is click on the link below and follow the instructions.

And please know this: Regardless of the way you choose to support the ministry and mission of your church it is greatly appreciated by everyone. Thank you for your generosity in advancing the Kingdom! And please, feel good about your generosity - God is very much at work through you as he touches the lives of many and changes their circumstances. Rich blessings to you and yours!



Online Giving Portal.htm

### The Lord's Store 2019



Throughout the year individuals from our church, Sunday School classes, and other partners in ministry from various places gave generously to support our 2019 Lord's Store.

If you're unfamiliar with this ministry it's actually pretty simple: Each year we gather and purchase new toys to share with others who are in need. Then on the first Saturday in December parents who participate are asked to come by themselves. Normally they gather early that morning to sign-up for assistance on a first-come, first served basis. When the doors open at 9:00 AM our people assist two families at a time and each child in those families receives at least 3 toys each.

This year your generosity enabled us to help 115 (one hundred and fifteen) children. Listen to the words of one greatly appreciative mother who said, "Just wanted to say, Thank You So Much!!! You don't know how much I appreciate everything I received yesterday for my three girls. We are beyond blessed because of Nickelsville First Baptist and everyone that was involved in making this happen for the children of the community. Again Thank You So Much & God Bless You All!!! You are all Angels!!!"



**Worship Opportunities**  
**SUNDAY MORNING**  
 8:45 AM - Early Worship  
 10:00 AM - Life Groups (all ages)  
 11:00 AM Morning Worship  
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**WEDNESDAY EVENING**  
 Choir Practice 6:00 PM  
 Adult and Children Bible Studies 7:00 PM  
 Youth 7:00 PM  
**Worldwide Missions Unlimited**



**Our GA's Annual Christmas Party**

**Church-wide Ministries**  
**that Everyone can be involved in:**

- We do the hospital snack ministry and take Debbie cakes and peanut butter crackers (all sorts of NABS) to the hospital at the first of every month. This is a great project that touches many people with the love of Christ.
- Operation Christmas child. This is where we fill shoe boxes with toys and many other items. These go to children in underdeveloped countries. We collect these items throughout the year. The turn in date for this project is November 10th
- Food Back Pack Ministry. We do 15 bags a week and the cost of each bag is around \$10.00. We take these to Nickelsville Elementary.
- We collect School Supplies for Nickelsville Elementary.
- We have the clothes closet the first Wednesday of each month.
- We make cakes for meals of Love.
- We have a Sunday School Class that does a meal, fellowship and games for recycled teens (senior adults) 4 times a year.

**“Holy Humor”**



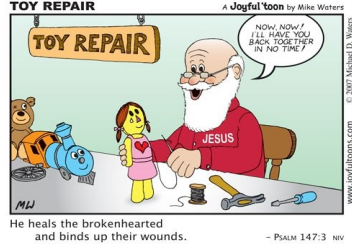
Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you. -1 PETER 5:7 NKJ



Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they? Who of you by worrying can add a single hour to his life? - MATTHEW 6:26-27 NKJ



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He heals the brokenhearted and binds up their wounds. - PSALM 147:3 NKJ



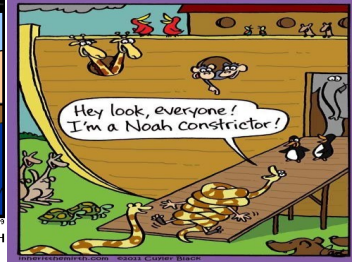
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**A Woman's Prayer**



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