



Volume 6, Issue 11

December Newsletter of Petal First Baptist

December 1, 2017

Greetings!

Christmas is here and everyone says I can't believe it's already here but it is. A time when we pause and stop to celebrate and remember the greatest miracle of God sending His only Son to be a helpless baby to come and live among us - to be Emmanuel - God with us! A miracle that should cause us to step back in awe and wonder at a God who would love us in such a personal way and a way that He could relate to every one of us! How great the Father's love for us! So in the midst of lots of fun times, parties, time with family, eating, and more may we stop often and remember the wonder of Christmas and what that means for you and me.

May we also stop and remember too that for many, Christmas, the most wonderful time of the year, is also a time that can be very difficult for them due to an illness, first Christmas without a loved one, financial struggle, or even facing someone who is struggling to live. May we be sensitive and find ways to minister to others during this Christmas season.

Let me encourage you to begin to pray now about three important things.

(1) Pray about your gift to the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for International Missions. We do this every year, but I'm praying that all of us will indeed give a sacrificial gift this year to help us reach and go well over our goal of \$25,000 + to help reach the nations. I encourage you to give more than just \$20, but to really stop and consider what that gift should be, one that is sacrificial. Get your family involved in the giving too!

(2) Pray about your end of the year giving for 2017 and even looking into 2018 as we present our 2018 Church Ministry Plan. There are so many things we feel called to do and just don't have the resources to do them. Many of you give faithfully and sacrificially and I thank you, but many still do not. Please consider giving an end of the year gift to help us catch up to our budget so we can move into 2018 with a strong foundation. Also, be praying about taking that next step up the generosity ladder in 2018 so you can become a regular giver and tither and beyond!

(3) Invite a family member, friend, neighbor, co-worker, or classmate who does not go to church to our Annual Candlelight Christmas Family Worship Service which this year is on Christmas Eve. Be sure to invite them to join you at 10:30 a.m. as we come together to celebrate the birth of Christ.

We have some incredibly exciting things planned and in store for 2018. Just want to briefly mention 2 of them. First we are going to challenge our entire church to read through the Bible in 2018 together with a brand new message series that will take us through every book of the Bible plus LifeGroups that will do the same. It's going to be incredible. Second, in the late spring we are planning on launching *Outlive Your Life: The next Chapter* which is a 1 year campaign designed to help us finish and complete all of the 1st floor of our building plus additional paved parking lot and a few other things to help us continue to fulfill our mission of engaging people with the hope of the gospel to see lives transformed.

I pray that you and your family have a wonderful Christmas season and I look forward to seeing each of you this Sunday!

In Christ Alone,

Brad



Well over 100 years ago, a single missionary named Lottie Moon, while serving in China, began writing letters challenging the American church to send and support more workers to go there. After her death on the field, her challenge was heeded in the formalization of an offering in her name. Even if you're not a Southern Baptist who has given to the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering, her life is a reminder of why we must give to send and support missionaries serving among unreached peoples in unreached places. Starting in 1888, the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering® was established to empower the international missions efforts for Southern Baptists. After more than a century, the annual offering continues its steady growth. The National Goal this year is \$160 Million. **Our church goal is \$25,000!** Your giving enables missionaries to be sent to make disciples and multiply churches among unreached peoples and places for the glory of God. We will have an in-gathering Sunday, December 17th.



Join us **December 24th at 10:30 am** for our annual Candlelight Family Worship Service which is on Christmas Eve this year. Plan to be here as we celebrate the miracle of God sending His only Son to be Emmanuel - God With Us!

2 New Deacons to Be Ordained December 10th

Ordination Council is December 3rd at 4 pm.

All ordained men are encouraged to attend.



Dr. Matt Dillon & Mary Ann
Peyton, Nate, and Anna Kate



Jeremey & Jennifer Freeman
Josh, Jenna, and Jordan



The Senior Adults will have their Christmas Party and Brunch **Saturday, December 9th, at 11 am**. The party will be at the home of Marty Bernhardt. Wendell Frazier will be entertaining followed by brunch. Bring a wrapped gift for a party game. Call 601-270-5954 for more information.



Join us each Sunday as we continue our Series in the book of ACTS: Turbulence. We'll look into chapters 14-17 and see how the Church dealt with turbulent times in their culture and how we can do the same! If you miss a message, check it out online at petalfbc.com/messages.

JOIN US ON THE JOURNEY

LIFEGROUPS
SUNDAYS @ 9AM



Continue to join us on The Journey as we complete Volume 4 in LifeGroups each Sunday morning at 9 am These 12 sessions will complete our study in The Journey. Click the link for a list of LifeGroups. <http://petalfbc.com/grow/lifegroups/>



If you are interested in going to Southeast Asia in **February, May, or November of 2018**, please contact Melanie Blanton at 601-545-3198 or 601-270-2897. Be a part of helping us reach our unreached, unengaged people group! Don't let cost be a hindrance!



The students and college will be going on a mission trip to Haiti during Spring Break in March. The dates are **March 10th-17th**. If you were not able to attend the informational meeting in November and would still like to go, contact Chris Robbins at 601-545-3198.



Plan to be with us **Saturdays December 9th and 16th** as we continue our partnership with Mt. Vernon and Petal UMC to rebuild this house on Hwy 42. Contact Brad for more information.

Church Ministry Plan Meeting

Presentation & Discussion December 13



Voting on December 17th

The Finance Team will present the 2018 Proposed Church Ministry Plan on **Wednesday, December 13th, at 6:15 pm** in the Fellowship Hall. There will also be a time for discussion. Voting will be held on Sunday, December 17th, with no discussion.



Catch up, make a year end contribution or give a year-end gift above your regular offering to help us finish out the 2017 on a strong note. We count on December being our largest month and this year is no exception. **Our Goal is \$80,000+ which will set the tone for 2018 and help us in planning for the first part of the year.** To be counted and posted in 2016, all gifts must be in the church office OR POSTMARKED no later than Sunday, December 31. This includes online giving as well. Contact the church office for more information. www.petalcbc.com/online-giving

Merry Christmas & Happy New Year!!

Holiday Schedule

Worship Only

Sunday, December 24

Sunday, December 31

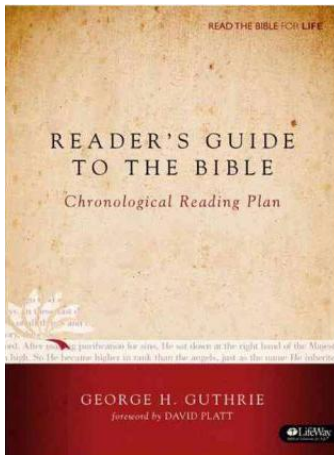
No Wednesday Activities

December 21 & 28

January 3

Prayer Walk @ PPS

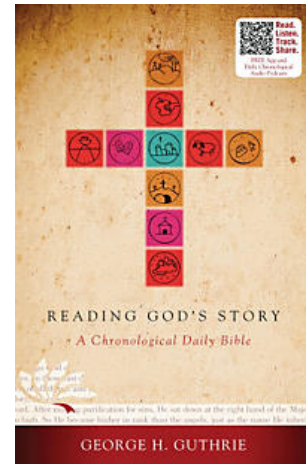
Sunday, January 7 @ 5pm



A companion devotional with the reading plan along with extra resources to help you get the most out of reading through the Bible in 2018.
Cost: \$10



The title of our Message Series and LifeGroup series as we embark on a journey in 2018 through the entire Word of God. Each Sunday Pastor Brad will preach the a book of the Bible and the next Sunday LifeGroups will also work their way through that book too. It's going to be an exciting journey you don't want to miss!



The Chronological Bible we are encouraging everyone to read through in 2018. It is also on the Bible App. Hard copies will be \$15.

Dec
OnCall
Deacons

Chris Rhodes - 601.270.6166
Jake Pierce - 601.530.9746



Click the link to access the Monthly Church calendar!





Connect with us

