

The Messenger



November - December 2017

First Baptist Church
157 W. Jackson St.
Virden, IL 62690
www.virdenfirstbaptist.org

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ABWM Thanksgiving meal planned



Make plans now to join the ladies of the American Baptist Women's Mission for the annual Thanksgiving Supper on Sunday, November 12.

It will begin at 5:30 with a potluck, turkey, mashed potatoes, dressing, green beans, and corn, and drinks will be provided by the ladies of the ABWM. Bring a dessert, salad or another dish to share.

After the meal, join us in the sanctuary for a musical program featuring our friends from Greenfield, "4 His Glory." The annual Thank Offering will be collected. This Offering is your way to offer back to God a portion of his blessings that are over and above your regular church tithe. This special offering is used to help the ABWM with their busy mission goals throughout the year, and a good portion of those funds are in turn given back to the church by the ABWM for any number of special projects.

Mark your calendar now for this special event. If you can't make the meal, then plan to join us for the program which will begin at 6:45. You can also mail your offering to the church address above marked "Attention: Wanda Hein".



Come help decorate the church for the Christmas season on Saturday, November 25 at 1:00 PM. All ages are welcome!

NMMA helps with Thanksgiving meals

It's that time of year again and the North Mac Ministerial Association will be providing food baskets at the Thanksgiving holiday. This year our church has been asked to provide 60 cans of cake icing. Please bring your donations to the church and place in the front pew. They need to be turned in by November 15. Thank you for helping provide for those in need in our community.

The shoe boxes are ready to fly!



Many thanks to each and everyone who filled a shoe box for Operation Christmas child. The ABWM will be shipping 52 Christmas boxes off very soon.

Think about and pray for the child in another country who will open up the box that YOU filled! What an exciting opportunity to minister to children all over the world! Thank you ABWM ladies for taking on this project.

Pecans for sale

Be sure to purchase some pecans for your holiday baking from the North Mac Mom's group. The cost is \$10 per 1 pound bag for the medium pieces and \$12 per 1 pound bag for the pecan halves.

NMMA Christmas Hymn Sing planned



Plan to attend the annual Christmas Hymn Sing on Sunday, December 3 at 7:00 PM at the First Christian Church.

This year, Sacred Heart Church is in charge of the service. This is always a great way to kick off the holiday season and focus on Advent and the celebration ahead.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	OFFICE HOURS: 9 am - 3 pm Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday Fridays by appointment only		1 Meal 6:00 PM Joint open 6:30 SWAT, JAM, OASIS - 7 PM Myken Buzick	2 Danny Daniels, Jr.	3 ABY Gathering Tyler Burch	4 ABY Gathering
5 ABY Gathering	6	7	8 Meal 6:00 Joint open 6:30 Business Mtg 7:00 PM Choir to follow	9 Carol Paisley	10 Jill & Mark Wright	11 Veterans Day
12 ABWM Thanksgiving Supper 5:30 PM	13	14 Roger Smith	15 Meal 6:00 PM Joint open 6:30 SWAT, JAM, OASIS - 7 PM Choir - 8 PM	16	17	18
19 	20	21	22 No Wednesday Activities	23 Gloria Smith	24	25 Decorate church 1 PM
26  Alicia Hawkins	27	28	29 Meal 6:00 PM Joint open 6:30 SWAT, JAM, OASIS - 7 PM Choir 8 PM	30		

Companies offer charitable rebates

As you are Christmas shopping this year, on line or in the store, here are a couple of ways to give back a portion of your purchase to the church. If you shop on Amazon, you can click the "Amazon Smile" link and choose First Baptist Church of Virden as your charity of choice. Lake Springfield Baptist Camp is also a charity you can pick. Amazon will credit the North Mac Moms account with .05% of your purchase price. It's not much, kind of like throwing your pocket change in a jar—but it all adds up when everyone takes part. There is no additional charge to your order. Amazon makes the donation.



Additionally, some of you may remember the rebate program offered by Family Christian Bookstore in Springfield. When you made a purchase, you could choose to credit the church with points that later could be used for cash off purchases or for free merchandise. Family Christian Bookstore is now closed. However, Barnes and Noble offers a similar program. If you make a purchase, enter in Pastor John's cell phone number (217-358-9577) and he will get pastor points toward free merchandise as well.



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		 DECEMBER 2017			1 <div style="border: 1px dashed black; padding: 2px; display: inline-block;">VACC Country Christmas</div> Justin Moughan	2 Trivia Night @ LSBC 6:30 PM
3 NMMA Christmas Hymn Sing 7 PM @ First Christian Danielle Burch	4	5	6 Meal 6:00 PM Joint open 6:30 Business Mtg 7:00 PM Kyle & Pam Hawkins	7 Mike Liles	8	9
10 Steve & Vicki Perkins	11 Breanna Davis Danny Daniels, Sr.	12 Justin Dixon	13 Meal 6:00 PM Joint open 6:30 SWAT, JAM, OASIS - 7 PM Choir - 8 PM Piper Parrish	14	15	16
17 Children's Christmas Program 6 PM Maggie Hawkins	18 FOOD PANTRY	19	20 PSBT Angel tree No Wednesday Activities Mike & Janis Hawkins	21	22 Edgar Lewis Joey Langley	23 Jesse Dixon Pat Smith
24 CHRISTMAS EVE 7:00 PM	25 	26	27 No Wednesday Activities Don Burris	28	29 Ruby Lewis	30
31 New Year's Eve						

VACC Country Christmas event - Food, Fun, and shopping for all!



The Virден Area Chamber of Commerce Country Christmas weekend will kick off on Friday, December 1, and continue on Saturday, December 2. A lighted Christmas parade will travel the usual route from the High School to the square. The community center and Pitman Hall will host 20 craft vendors, and the community center is open during the parade as a warming center and viewing area for seniors or parents with infants. There will be sleigh rides, a Polar Express train ride—free to kids, (encouraging a canned food donation), the Hall of Trees located at Sacred Heart Catholic Church, sidewalk vendors, and lots more! And of course, Santa will be in his house for visits with the kids! Join him on Saturday morning for breakfast at the American Legion building east of the square.

The SWAT kids will be selling potato soup and sandwiches at the vendor show in Pitman Hall on both Friday and Saturday during the event, to help raise money for SKWIM 2017. The North Mac Mom's will be in charge of the craft vendor sales. Be sure to come out and support them in their efforts! And while you are at it—shop local!

Friends,

This weekend while eating lunch with Peyton, enjoying “the square beyond compare,” Imo’s Pizza, we encountered something that was amazing to see. After we ordered our food, we watched as a State Trooper came into have lunch. He ordered his food, received a discount for being an officer, and graciously sat down to enjoy his meal. About 10 minutes later, a trio of Madison County Sheriffs came in and the same process with the state trooper ensued.



So while Peyton and I were eating we noticed that the State Trooper came over to the table with the 3 sheriffs and before he left the restaurant he wished the sheriffs well, and he then prayed over them. As he walked away he said, “Stay strong out there brothers.” Then the 3 troopers shook his hand, and they were called away to respond to a call.

Peyton saw this happen and was so excited to see the trooper pray over the other officers. She said, “Daddy, do you pray over other pastors when you see them out and about, or is that just a police officer thing?” I ashamedly tucked my head and admitted that no I didn’t. She replied, “Well, why not?” That created a pit in my stomach and it brought me to a place where I felt like the biggest failure when expressing kindness, gratitude, and love to others.

Why don’t I share a voice of concern and love over my brothers and sisters publicly? And while I don’t have an answer for this, I want too. I want to greet people and let them know they are loved. I want to leave them with a good word, and a positive message. I want them to know they are loved, just as I am loved by Jesus! And what would that cost? A few seconds of my time?

As Thanksgiving approaches and we reflect on being thankful please take a moment to be thankful for not only those we are gathered with around the table or at Christmas around the tree. However be thankful for others that Christ has put on this earth to run the race and share the gospel just as He has called us. Fallen St. Louis County officer, and former classmate Blake Snyder was known to say, “Love Breeds Love.”

So this holiday season does your life show the love of Christ to others? Does that love breed love into their lives? If not, what are you going to do about it?

Have A Wonderful Thanksgiving and a Merry Christmas,

Pastor John

Thank you all for the kind words, gestures, and gifts for Pastor Appreciation month.

We are so blessed to be a part of such an awesome church family! And a special thank you also to Brendan for leading the night of worship in song—it was fun to see multiple generations participating and to experience God’s word through music.

Pastor John and Parrish Family

I’m looking to catch up with each of you. We can do coffee, lunch or just a standard house visit. My current office hours are listed in the bulletin and on page 5 of this newsletter. Please contact me soon so that we can set something up. Let’s talk—soon! —*Pastor John*



Wanda's mission story

At age 91, Wanda Hein has been sewing for all of her adult life. In May of 2015 Wanda attended an American Baptist Women's Missions (ABWM) spring rally in Winchester. The guest speaker that year was Dixie Koch, President of Children Are People, Inc. and a missionary to Africa. That year, Dixie was taking clothing to Africa and mentioned how some of the dresses she was taking back with her had been made out of pillow cases. That got Wanda thinking that she could use her gift of sewing to make some simple dresses too. As word spread of what she was doing, various people gave her material, zippers, buttons, lace and trimmings.

In 2016, Wanda made 100 dresses. Some went to Friendship House, in Peoria, an ecumenical ministry in the heart of the poorest neighborhood in Peoria. The rest went to Africa. One of Wanda's greatest thrills has been receiving pictures of little girls all dressed up in the dresses she's made. So far this year, Wanda has made 50 dresses. On her last visit to Africa, Ms. Koch took 700 pounds of clothing with her. When she returns to Africa in 2018, forty of Wanda's little girls' dresses will be a part of her load.

Jill Wright recently gave Wanda some material that is a colorful, wild, African print and Wanda is anxious to use it for her current project of making little boys' shirts, and some more dresses for the girls. Wanda says, "I'm not the best seamstress, but my service to God and the church is sewing." Those who know Wanda best also know that her service to God extends far beyond her sewing.



New section of webpage needs your story too!

If you go to the internet and pull up www.virdenfirstbaptist.org you will find a new section under the "About Us" tab called MEMBER HIGHLIGHT. The above article about Wanda is now posted there. Each of us has a talent, a spiritual gift, a story to share. Will you share yours with others? Those searching for a new church home would love to find out more about its members. And that's why this section has been started.

Our new photo directory will be published soon and together with our web page, we can learn and grow in Christ together as we know more about one another.



Church Office: (217) 965-4028

Church Email:

fbcvirden@virdenfirstbaptist.org

OFFICE HOURS:

9 am - 3 pm Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday, Fridays by appointment only

Pastor's Cell Phone: (217) 358-9577

Pastor's Email: parrish31@gmail.com

SKWIM deadline draws near

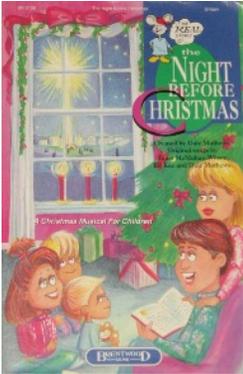
Any youth planning to attend SKWIM this January need to have their deposit turned into Pastor John by November 20, to be eligible to attend.

SKWIM is the annual Ski Trip that the youth take where they stay at Greenlake-the American Baptist Assembly. Youth from all over Area II gather together each year on Martin Luther King weekend. Besides one day on the slopes, and another at a local water park, youth experience hours of worship and fellowship together. See Mike or Pastor John for your "earned" dollars that can be applied to your weekend cost.





Children's Christmas play to be held December 17



This year's children's Christmas program is the story of 3 children who learn that *The Real Story of "The Night Before Christmas"* is even better than the Clement Moore poem, because it was written by God! As dad and mom retell the story, you'll be transported back in time to the little town of Bethlehem and the very first night before Christmas.

Join us in the church sanctuary on Sunday evening, December 17 at 6 PM for this fun program followed by a time of fellowship. Rehearsals for the children's program have begun each Wednesday evening, so parents, please see that your children attend if they plan to be a part of the program.

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service



Before your family begins their traditional Christmas celebration, start a new one with your *church* family. The Christmas Eve Candlelight Service is a special way to focus on the true meaning of the Christmas holiday.

It begins at 6:00 PM in the church sanctuary, on Sunday, December 24. This intimate time of worship is always one of the most special of the entire year. Make it part of your family's Christmas tradition.

Church email - FBCVirden@virdenfirstbaptist.org

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

FOR TO US
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