



First Baptist Church

Of Traverse City

Furthering the Good News of Jesus and Reaching New People for the Kingdom of God

DECEMBER 2016

244 WASHINGTON STREET

(231) 946-4727

Join us as we embrace
Pastor MaryBeth Robertson,
permanent pastor of
First Baptist Church,
effective January 1, 2017!



*A Word from Rev.
MaryBeth Robertson*

God's Perfect Gift of Love

For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given Isaiah 9:6

December Church Calendar

Weekly Adult Sunday School on recess

Each Sunday at 10:30 a.m. – Worship gathering with children's program downstairs during the message.

Each Sunday at 4 p.m. and Monday at 9:30 a.m. - Group Bible Study at the church. EVERYONE welcome!

Sun., Dec. 4 – Communion shared and December birthdays celebrated.

Mon., Dec. 5 – Pinterest Party. Snacks at 5:30 p.m. and crafting begins at 6 p.m. Painting on canvas is the craft.

Tues., Dec. 13 – American Baptist Women's Missions meeting at 12-noon, weather permitting.

Sun., Dec. 18 – Special Christmas music from the children's bell choir.

Sun., Dec. 18 – deadline for gifts for the Love INC Adopt-a-Family gift program

Sat., Dec. 24 – 4 p.m. Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

Sun., Dec. 25 – 10:30 a.m. Christmas worship service

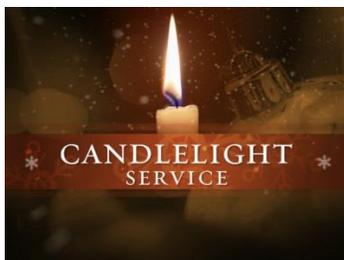
The season marked for thanks-giving is behind us. Black Friday and Cyber Monday have come and gone. Our observance of Advent has begun: Advent, a time of waiting and preparation.

Have you ever waited for something: a test result, word as to whether you got the new job, the birth of a baby? Waiting is difficult! It has been said we live in an age of instant gratification: photos available with a couple of clicks on your smart phone, for example. As the commercial says, "It's my money. And I want it now!" We don't like to wait to get what we want, to wait for what comes next.

As we noted on the first Sunday of Advent, the Israelites hoped for, waited for a deliverer. The prophets spoke of the one to come who would usher in God's kingdom of peace, justice, truth and righteousness.

We, too, long for a better world when peace and justice will prevail. We too are waiting, waiting to once again celebrate the coming of the deliverer, the Messiah, the baby Jesus. We are waiting for Christmas when we can sing joyously, "Joy to the world, the Lord has come! Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns!"

Even in waiting, however, we don't have to be idle. "Jerry" was between jobs. Each day, during his time of waiting, Jerry would devote half his day to applying for



*Please join us and bring a guest to the
Christmas Eve Candlelight Service
Saturday December 24 at 4 p.m.*

jobs. The other half-day was devoted to preparing his house for sale. Jerry's time wasn't spent waiting impatiently, waiting to "get on with life," frustrated that the job offer was delayed. Rather his time was used in preparation; Jerry wanted to be ready to act when the job offer arrived.

For the next four weeks, what will we be doing: waiting impatiently for Christmas morning so we can rip open our gifts or preparing for the coming of Emmanuel, God-With-Us?

Set aside several minutes each day to read scripture: Isaiah's prophecies and Jeremiah's prophecies of the deliverer to come, the Christmas story as recorded in Matthew and Luke, John's writings about Jesus, the Word made flesh. Let scripture passages help you envision the one who came to dwell among us and show us the nature of God.

Be ready to see God at work, even in—especially in—the little things each day. God is present with us: now, here. Be open to "God-moments" and then say a word of thanks to the Lord who loves us and cares for us, even in little things.

As you wait, keep your focus on "the reason for the season," on the baby, born in a manger, God's gift of love.

Yours in Christ -

Pastor MaryBeth



Love INC
Love In the Name of Christ

Upcoming Sunday Sermon Topics:

Join us each Sunday morning at 10:30 a.m.
Fellowship time follows the service.

In December we will reflect on God's peace, love, and joy that is ours during the Advent season

Dec. 4 – God Gives Me Peace
Matthew 1:18-25

Dec. 12 – Love Came Down
1 John 4 and John 3:16

Dec. 18 – How Great our Joy
Luke 2:8-20

Dec. 24 – Christmas Eve

Dec. 25 – Lessons and Carols

December Birthdays

Arya Wares Dec. 7
Edith Laidlaw Dec. 8
Creta Vardi and Brian
Zuniga Dec. 16
Celeste Singleton Dec. 18
Jackson Hulett Dec. 19
Alice Underwood Dec. 20
Nicole Wares Dec 22
Darlene Yeoman Dec. 26
Ron Tuck Dec. 30
Leo Strait Dec. 31



Love INC ADOPT-a-FAMILY Christmas Gift Program

FBS has again committed to help an area family in need. More information is available in the church narthex, and the deadline for submitting gifts is Dec. 18. The family consists of parents and their three children: two girls (ages 15 and 13), and a boy (age 11)

Recap of Annual Church Meeting, held Nov. 20



The annual meeting of the FBC congregation was held Nov. 20 following a potluck dinner. Pastor MaryBeth opened the meeting with prayer. A

moment of silent remembrance was observed for Maxine Pelizzari, Wally Wares, Dave Gauthier, and Roy Solis.

Zeke and Alice provided an overview of church finances:

Total 2016 income is projected to be \$66,600.

Total 2016 expenses are projected to be \$36,705*, resulting in a variance of +\$29,895.

*not including costs of new furnace

The total 2017 income budget is set at \$57,300.

Total 2017 budgeted expenses are \$53,655, resulting in a variance of +\$3,645.

As shown above, 2017 expenses are projected to be higher because of increased compensation expenses for a permanent pastor, building maintenance, and outreach costs. Offering projections are reduced because of lower church attendance.

Tana presented a detailed missions fund report, showing a year-to-date total of \$10,790. Half of the proceeds of the October Craft Fair (\$4,215) were applied to missions, and half to contingency projects. Some memorial funds were used for renovation of the back entrance of the sanctuary, with a balance of \$1,126 remaining. A special thanks to the Pelizzari, Gauthier, and Wares families for their generous gifts.

Diane presented the American Baptist Women's annual report, and Leo shared a list of 2016 capital projects - the largest being the purchase

and installation of the new church furnace. Upcoming projects include hot water for the restrooms and renovation of the furnace room.

It was decided to forgo a December 2016 church Christmas dinner. The annual Christmas Eve Candlelight Service will begin at 4 p.m., and a church service will be held on Dec., 25 at the usual 10:30 a.m. time.

The church agreed to give the title of Pastor Emeritus to Tom Mansfield.

Appreciation was extended to Dave Wilsey and those serving on the 2016 church council. Council members for 2017 were approved, including: Zeke Fleet, moderator; Dave Wilsey, assistance moderator; Alice Underwood, Treasurer; Diane Cowley, clerk; Tana Wilsey, missions; and at-large members: Cliff Wares, Leo Strait, Toni Hulett, Joe Underwood, Sarah Walter, and Ron Tuck. The financial secretary position remains open.

Zeke provided a report from the pastoral search committee, naming Pastor Marybeth Robertson for consideration as permanent pastor. MaryBeth has served the church with distinction for the past 11 months; she is very committed to First Baptist Church and there is confidence that she would be a diligent and faithful minister going forward. MaryBeth would be hired as permanent, part-time pastor and would be committed to 30-hours per week. She would also move into the parsonage. Her compensation package is reflected in the 2017 budget and the change would be effective Jan. 1, 2017.

Paper ballots were distributed to members present, 18 and older, in good standing. The ballots were tabulated and Moderator Dave Wilsey announced her approval, followed cheers and applause.

MaryBeth rejoined the meeting and said a few words in appreciation. The meeting was ended with a hymn, which was followed by the closing prayer.

(Thanks to Diane Cowley for contributing to this summary of the Nov. 20 meeting).

Financial Update (through November)

YTD General Fund Offering: \$49,745.01

YTD Expenses: \$41,760.52

YTD Missions Offering \$10,834.76

**Consider a Year-End
Gift!**



Help support the
FURNACE FUND

Goal: \$9,300

Funds-to-Date: \$6,080

Bring a friend to
Junior Church!

Join the fun and
fellowship each Sunday
during worship service:

Bible Stories

Music and Singing

Crafts

Games

First Baptist Church
PO Box 6733
Traverse City, MI 49686-6733

**See You in Church
This Sunday!**

