

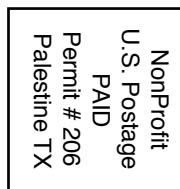
## Calendar of Events

Jan 1	CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED
Jan 4	6:00p Youth Core Adult Bible Study Coach's Wives Study Children's Activities 7:30p Worship Team Rehearsal
Jan 8	8:30a Foundation Service 9:30a Bible Study Groups 10:45a Formation Service 6:00p Women's Bible Study Bible Drill/ Bible Buddies Youth Bible Study
Jan 11	6:00p Stewardship Committee Youth Core Adult Bible Study Coach's Wives Study Children's Activities 7:30p Worship Team Rehearsal
Jan 15	8:30a Foundation Service 9:30a Bible Study Groups 10:45a Formation Service 5:00p Deacon's Meeting 6:00p Quarterly Conference Women's Bible Study Bible Drill/ Bible Buddies Youth Bible Study
Jan 18	6:00p Youth Core Adult Bible Study Coach's Wives Study Children's Activities 7:30p Worship Team Rehearsal
Jan 19	6:00p Quilt Group
Jan 22	8:30a Foundation Service 9:30a Bible Study Groups 10:45a Formation Service 6:00p Women's Bible Study Bible Drill/ Bible Buddies Youth Bible Study
Jan 25	6:00p Youth Core Adult Bible Study Coach's Wives Study Children's Activities 7:30p Worship Team Rehearsal
Jan 29	8:30a Foundation Service 9:30a Bible Study Groups 10:45a Formation Service 6:00p Women's Bible Study Bible Drill/ Bible Buddies Youth Bible Study



First Baptist Church of Palestine  
5700 North Loop 256  
Palestine, TX 75801

Return Service Requested



FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF PALESTINE

JANUARY, 2017

# CHURCH NEWSLETTER

*Following Jesus, Making Disciples, Serving Others, Changing Lives*



**Jack Chelf, Interim Pastor**

[jack@firstpalestine.org](mailto:jack@firstpalestine.org)

936-687-9065 home or 512-760-6949 cell

### ***Nativity and Nails***

We have just come through our annual celebration of the birth of Jesus. We call it Christmas. We love (as we should) the timeless story of Mary the Virgin conceiving and giving birth to Jesus, God's only Son, the Word become flesh, the Savior of the world. Let's not forget why Jesus came. The incarnation was temporary and also very real. It began with a birth. It ended with a death.

The worship of shepherds became the taunting of soldiers.  
The homage of the magi became the ridicule of the mob.  
The bowing before Him became the beating of Him.  
The praise of angels became profanity of men.  
The swaddling of the baby became the stripping of the man.  
The softly speaking became spitting.  
The care for a newborn became cruelty beyond imagination.  
The tender caress became the thrusting of thorns.  
The softness of hay became the harshness of a whip.  
The life-nurturing milk to life's blood dripping away.  
The beauty of the nativity to the horror of nails.  
From the manger to a mount called Calvary.  
From a cradle to a cross.

What changed during these 30 or so years? Essentially, nothing. This is still Jesus, the Christ, God's one and only Son. He is still greatly loved by the Father. He is obediently and willingly finishing the work he was sent to accomplish. Jesus' sacrifice did not begin at the cross. It began at the manger and continued minute to minute, day to day, year to year until in those hours one Friday, it was finished. Redemption was made possible as Jesus gave, to the last breath, His life.

Jesus is: The light of the world allowing darkness a temporary victory. The break of life giving death a momentary dominion. The good shepherd laying down his life for the sheep.

We are those sheep for whom He came, lived, and died. Do not despair. Easter is coming. Jesus arose, lives forevermore, and has promised to return for us.

***God Bless and Happy New Year... Bro. Jack***



Pricilia Villalobos (3)  
Phyllis Clark (5)  
Jaime Clark (7)  
Bob Bailey (9)  
Scott Gotcher (9)  
Leanne Petty (9)  
Ron Sullivan (10)  
Addison Bowman (11)  
Rodney Ross (11)  
Norma Sturkie (11)  
Elijah Willis (11)

Hayden Goolsby (12)  
Marilyn Tippen (12)  
Harold Pettit (14)  
Wayland Kelley (16)  
Jenny Carter (17)  
Clint Naismith (22)  
Loretta Harris (81)  
Mary Jane Gibson (24)  
Carla Henigan (25)  
Randy Danchak (26)  
Cooper Harris (26)  
Vickie Jackson (26)  
Penny-Marie Lively (26)  
Charlie Myers (26)  
Amy Birtman (29)  
Evelyn Bryant (29)  
Joey Mason (29)  
Lauren Ross (29)  
Harold Holloway (30)  
Keith Lively (31)  
Bob Metteauer (31)

### Giving Report for December as of 12/27

Ministry Budget Offering:  
\$29,399.80

Designated Funds Offering:  
\$4,970.69

Ministry Budget Offering YTD:  
\$469,351.01

Ministry Budget Exp. YTD:  
\$416,894.38

Received over expenses YTD:  
+\$52,694.08

You can give online at:  
[www.firstpalestine.org/donate](http://www.firstpalestine.org/donate)



**Skip Birtman, Youth & Worship Pastor**  
[skip@firstpalestine.org](mailto:skip@firstpalestine.org)

Happy New Year!!! This past year has been a busy one at First Baptist Church of Palestine. We've seen a lot of change, and through it all we've seen God's hand all along the way. Sometimes as a minister, I get the big head and act like God needs me to do His work. God doesn't need us. He chooses to use us. What a blessing that is! Church, the Lord has used so many of you this year to make an impact for the Kingdom. Be encouraged. Your effort is making a difference in people's lives. Thank you for all you do.

I wanted to say a word of thanks to our adult choir for their hard work in the performance of O Night Divine. A lot of practice went in to that one night. Thank you for the time and effort you put in to make it a special night. Thanks to Edith Mitchell for setting up some of the really great touches that you saw during the performance. Looking forward to our next musical together. Speaking of musicals, our children's choir did an amazing job on the Operation Christmas Child musical. You guys did a tremendous thing by telling the story of Christmas through OCC. Thank you Amy Trigg for all of your hard work. Music is really important. Church, thank you for your support of our music program.

What's gonna happen in the new year? Who knows! I can assure that whatever it is, God won't be caught off guard by it. Jack and I have talked several times recently that we are really excited about where we are headed as a church. I believe 2017 is going to be great. Continue to pray for our church as a whole. We want to reach this community and our world for Christ. Pray for our pastor search committee. Pray for our staff. We want to serve you as we serve the Lord. I'm looking forward to seeing the hand of God this year. May God bless your family in 2017.

Skip

### Deacons on call/watch

	Jan 1	Jan 8	Jan 15	Jan 22	Jan 29
<b>On Call</b>	David Richie	John Goodman	Harold Holloway	Pat Jackson	David James
<b>On Watch</b>	David Richie	Lee Bishop	Tom Witte	Zac Trigg	John Goodman
<b>On watch</b>	David Richie	Harold Holloway	Pat Jackson	Joey Mason	Breck Quarles

### Preschool Volunteers

	Jan 1	Jan 8
<b>SS Infants</b>	Valerie Brumley	Linda Williams
<b>SS 1's</b>	Jennifer Stricklin	Linda James
<b>SS 2's</b>	Lauren Gregory	Jennifer Stricklin
<b>Worship Infants</b>	Angela Witte	Taylor Harris
<b>Worship 1's</b>	Tami Macharoni	Vickie Jackson
<b>Worship 2's</b>	Tom Witte	Pat Jackson
<b>Worship 3's</b>	Mandy Gillis	Lori Richie

**QUARTERLY CONFERENCE  
JANUARY 15TH 6:00PM**



**This month please bring:**

**Hats  
Gloves  
Scarves**

Please drop your items in the collection box located in the Narthex

**\*Our goal for 2017: pack 200 boxes**