






December 2014

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p><i>The Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for International Missions will be collected during the month of December.</i></p>	<p>1</p> 	<p>2</p>	<p>3</p> <p>5:30pm Finance Committee Meeting 7:00pm Prayer Meeting 7:00pm Youth & Children</p>	<p>4</p>	<p>5</p> 	<p>6</p> <p>9am-12pm WMU hosts cookies and Christmas traditions in the CLC</p>
Week of Prayer For International Missions — Nov. 30 thru Dec. 7th						
<p>7</p> <p>9:30 am Sunday School 10:45am Worship Service / Children's Message 4:00pm Singspiration at the Methodist Church 5:00pm Soup Dinner at the Catholic Church 7:00pm Trustee's Meeting</p> <p>WOP Nov. 30th thru Dec. 7th</p>	<p>8</p>	<p>9</p> 	<p>10</p> <p>10:30pm SNH Worship Service 7:00pm Prayer Meeting 7:00pm Youth & Children</p>	<p>11</p>	<p>12</p>	<p>13</p>
Meals On Wheels — December 8th thru 12th						
<p>14</p> <p>9:30 am Sunday School 10:45am The Heart of Christmas 12:00pm Holiday Dinner 5:00pm Men's & Women's Bible Studies, Children & Youth 6:00pm Evening Worship</p>	<p>15</p> 	<p>16</p>	<p>17</p> <p>7:00pm Prayer Meeting 7:00pm Youth & Children</p>	<p>18</p>	<p>19</p>	<p>20</p> <p>5:00pm Christmas Caroling</p> 
<p>21</p> <p>9:30 am Sunday School 10:45am Worship Service / Lord's Supper 5:00pm Men's & Women's Bible Studies, Children & Youth 6:00pm Evening Worship</p>	<p>22</p>	<p>23</p>	<p>24</p> <p>6pm Christmas Eve Candlelight Service</p> 	<p>25 Christmas Day Church Office Closed</p> 	<p>26</p> <p>Church Office Closed</p>	<p>27</p>
<p>28</p> <p>9:30 am Sunday School 10:45am Worship Service / Benevolence Offering 5:00pm Men's & Women's Bible Studies, Children & Youth 6:00pm Evening Worship 7:00pm Deacon's Meeting</p>	<p>29</p>	<p>30</p>	<p>31 New Year's Eve</p> 			


December

Birthdays of the Month

 3. Ann Kinyon
 Riley Graves
 7. Chad Burton
 Richard Sanstra
 10. Rhi Henderson
 12. Stacie Spurgeon
 13. Phil Holdeman
 14. Howard Johnson
 15. Myrna Chism
 16. Debbie Becker
 19. Ken Roller
 23. Darin Henderson
 27. Freddie Stockstill
 30. Sharon Belcher

Anniversaries of the Month

 6. Tom and Ellen Ewing
 14. Sid and Ann Kinyon
 19. Richard and Carol Sanstra
 22. Ed and Judy Ford


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ONE SACRED EFFORT

FIND YOUR PLACE IN GOD'S STORY MATTHEW 28:19-20

2014 LOTTIE MOON CHRISTMAS OFFERING®
WEEK OF PRAYER FOR INTERNATIONAL MISSIONS NOV. 30 - DEC. 7

CHURCH GOAL \$1200



Christmas is the most wonderful time of the year. No, I don't mean the Andy Williams song, but I do agree with him. I always have a hard time narrowing down what I love about Christmastime. Some of it is the gathering of family, the smell of warm spices like cinnamon, ginger and nutmeg. It's cold snowy days spent warm and inside with hot chocolate or tea. I love the twinkle of lights on houses in the darkness of night. I love the smell of a roaring fire with aged hardwood. I love setting up the tree, decorating it, and looking at each ornament and remembering from where it came. I love going to my parents home and seeing that mom still has the ornaments my sister and I made at church. You know, the kind of bell shaped ornaments made from a paper cup and pipe cleaners. My favorite ornaments are the ones I wasn't allowed to touch because they were so fragile. I enjoy much of the Christmas themed music, especially the Carpenters. I love the nostalgia of watching the cartoon Christmas specials like Rudolf, the Grinch Who Stole Christmas, and my favorite A Charlie Brown Christmas.

Most importantly I love the message of hope we find in Scripture that first Christmas morning. The Son of God promised to come for generations; the hope of Israel and the Gentiles. He emptied himself of glory, putting on flesh, and was born in Bethlehem. They called him Jesus, because "he will save his people from their sins (Matthew 1:21)." Nothing would ever be the same again! Now I know, and you know that this is the true meaning of Christmas. However the world wants to push a commercialized Christmas in our faces. I know many parents wrestle with what they should do

in response to that jolly chubby guy with a penchant for red velvet and reindeer.

We don't have to choose to only talk about Jesus, we can also enjoy the tradition of you know who. How can this be? Because Santa Claus is as real as I am sitting here and writing this article. His name was Nikolas and he was the Bishop (Elder) of Myra. Myra was a city in the region of Lycia which is on the southern coast of modern day Turkey. Nikolas was born on March 15, 270 A.D. in Patara to very wealthy parents. His parents were of Greek heritage and were Christians. Nikolas was born at the end of the 3rd century church, meaning it had only been about 160 years since the death of John the Apostle. The leadership of the Church when Nikolas was born was two generations from the apostles. When he was still very young, his parents died during an epidemic plague. Nikolas was raised by his uncle who was the Bishop of Patara, and it was during this time that he took interest in a life as a pastor.

Because of his inherited wealth, Nikolas became known for his extravagant gift giving. He would leave coins in the shoes of children who left them out for him. The love he had for people was driven by his great love for Christ. One case of extravagant giving happened when Nikolas was still a teenager. He knew of a father who had become destitute with three young daughters. In those days a father was required to pay a dowry to a man for taking his daughter in marriage. Knowing the man could never pay the dowry for his three daughters, and fearing that the daughters would end up in prostitution, Nikolas decided to help them. He placed enough gold coins to pay the dowry of each girl into three leather pouches. Seeking

not to humiliate the man with charity, Nikolas threw the pouches through a window of the home.

Around 303 A.D. Emperor Diocletian ordered Christians persecuted all over the empire and Nikolas along with many in his congregation were imprisoned and tortured. He was released under the Edict of Milan by Emperor Constantine.

Nikolas of Myra also helped to fight against a very notorious heretic of the early church, Arius the Bishop of Alexandria. Arius believed that Jesus, as the Son of God, was lesser than God the Father. We believe that Jesus did not exist until he was born in Bethlehem, but the Son of God has always existed along with the Holy Spirit, and God the Father. Arius taught that there was a time that the Son did not exist, and that he was the first created of all creation. Emperor Constantine called a council of the Bishops at Nicaea. Nikolas of Myra was one of those Bishops who supported orthodox doctrine.

St. Nikolas was a godly believer who passionately studied the Word of God, taught it powerfully and lived it even more powerfully. Nikolas gave gifts to people because he wanted to love people like Jesus had loved him and given him the gift of salvation. This is the reason that we give gifts at Christmas. The gifts symbolize the greatest gift the world was ever given by God, Jesus. With the gift of that little baby boy, the power of sin and death was destroyed for those who will believe in him. Because of Him, we can join along with Nikolas of Myra, and millions and millions of others who have gone before singing praises to Jesus forever. Merry Christmas,

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Tues.-Fri.—8:30am-2:30pm

Pastor's Open Door Hours:

Tues. 9:00am-2:00pm

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FSBC NEWSLETTER



2014

Jason Mabry	Pastor
Steve Ewing	Youth/Children's Pastor
Stephanie Wheeler	Music
Chrissy Mabry	Acting Secretary
Sandy Camp	Treasurer
Ken Spurgeon	Deacon Chairman