

First Baptist Church of Dayton • 111 W. Monument Avenue • Dayton OH 45402
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A Year to Remember

By Pastor Kent Berghuis

As 2022 was wrapping up Angie and I were knee-deep in wedding preparations! What a kickoff for the new year was had as we married on January 1, 2023. So I always need to remember this year, so that I can remember our anniversary. Shouldn't be too difficult, all things considered.

Christmas Eve and Christmas Day services of 2022 were memorable, if mostly for the weather. Angie and I spent that Saturday afternoon shoveling snow and ice from the church sidewalks so that we could welcome those who had the trepidation to get out. Christmas morning was even colder, but the handful of folks who gathered here for worship still bring a smile to my face as I remember.

A lot can happen over the course of a year. Our lives can change in subtle or dramatic ways. Several members of our congregation passed away, creating a void as well as bittersweet memories of what they meant to us. 15 new members joined the church this year, and our Sunday crowd has some different clientele than it has in the past as folks inevitably rotate in and out.

What a joy it's been to work with the same pastors, musicians, secretaries and custodian as we've come to know and love each other more. Through whatever changes transpire we have also remained remarkably consistent in some ways.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Adult Sunday School Offerings	2
BYF Gatherings in January	2
Stivers School for the Arts Concert	3
February Birthdays	3
For Your Cards and Prayers	4
FBC Family Album Photos	Insert

Once again our church's staff remains completely intact as it has since I moved here in 2017. People continue to give to our church in generous ways, and several special gifts have helped us to be in our best financial condition in some time. I take that as a vote of confidence that the church is beloved and has a bright future mission here in Dayton.

As we anticipate 2024 it will be a significant year for our church. As we celebrate our 200th anniversary as a congregation we will repeatedly highlight our heritage. We will watch as our steeple continues its repair, and as our stained glass windows begin refurbishing (by the way, please contribute to our "Preservation of Light" campaign!).

My, how things have changed since 1824! That year John Quincy Adams defeated Andrew Jackson in the U. S. House of Representatives (but not the popular vote) to become the President. Who (besides God) knows what the elections of 2024 will bring. But I think we can all agree we need prayer for a peaceful, just and hopeful outcome, as challenging as that might look right now in our divided electorate.

Yes, 2024 will definitely be a year to remember. But I will always look back at 2023 as a year of joy and transition. And I hope I will be able to remember my anniversary!

~Pastor Kent

Upcoming Sunday School Offerings

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL



Sermon Talkbacks

First Sundays @ 11:30am-12:15pm

Next Session is January 7

1st Floor – Choir Room

As the New Year begins, we will continue to offer sermon talkbacks on the first Sunday of each month in the Choir Room. We hope you'll join us and share the questions, insights, challenges, etc. from your hearing of the morning's sermon.



Exploring Church History

Led by Dr. Roy Vice

Sundays @ 11:30am-12:15pm

January 7-28

1st Floor – Chapel

This series of lecture will focus on the era between 1100 and 1300. It will cover St. Bernard of Clairvaux and the Cistercians and then move on to St. Francis of Assisi and St. Antony of Padua, the patron saint of lost things. The Dominicans focused on combatting heresy and intellectual study. St. Thomas Aquinas and St. Albertus Magnus were two Dominicans who helped to create Scholasticism, which combined the thought of Aristotle with Christian Theology. This era also saw the rise of the first universities and a huge growth of cities. Finally, Europe expanded in the Reconquista in Spain and the Crusades in the Middle East. The legacy of this conflict between Christians and Muslims is still with us today.



Annual Reports Due Jan. 5

Annual reports for 2023 are due by Friday, January 5, 2024 from all Board Chairs, Committee Chairs, and pastoral staff. Please email reports to Linda Blair at fbcbccdayton.org. Thank you.

BYF Gatherings in January 2024

Starting with a Lock-In!!!

Our Baptist Youth Fellowship for youth grades 6-12 continues to gather on a regular basis, but we are going to start the year off with a special overnight/Lock-In event at the church that will start at 7pm on Saturday, January 13 and conclude after worship on Sunday, January 14. We will begin with dinner shortly after all have arrived, and then begin an evening of fun & games. We'll pause for a little evening Vespers/worship time together, and then continue with the fun, games, movie(s). Youth do not have to stay up all night, and will be able to sleep as they wish. So we ask that each youth bring a pillow and blanket/sleeping bag and a snack or drink to share. They can also bring games and/or movies to suggest (we have a DVD player, though most of our movies are streamed these days). Youth are welcome to invite friends to the event, but everyone must have a completed and signed BYF Medical-Transportation form turned in in order to participate (forms are available on the table outside the church office). If you have any questions, etc. please speak with Pastor Jason (jalspaugh@fbccdayton.org / 937-631-3579). This will be the first lock-in we've had since February 2020, so we are looking forward to it!

Our other gathering for January will be on **Sunday, January 28** from 12:15-2:30pm at the church. We may change from a regular meeting to some kind of outing (details TBD).

Mitten Tree 2023 –

Thank You!



Once again we had lots of donations to our Mitten Tree this year, and the gifts of hats, gloves, scarves, etc. have been taken to the Dayton Christian Center to be distributed to the kids/families they serve. Thank you for your generosity!

Vocal Music Collaboration
**STIVERS SCHOOL FOR
 THE ARTS**

Sunday, January 28 @ 4pm
 First Baptist Church of Dayton



Many of you may recall from last year the Stivers School for the Arts Choral Ensemble performing for us as they were preparing for their first appearance at Carnegie Hall. It was a wonderful success for these young people! Now this fantastic group, under the dynamic leadership of Paula Powell and accompanied by Jeffrey Powell, will return and present an afternoon of wonderful choral music in our sanctuary on Sunday, January 28, 2024 at 4 p.m. The program will feature vocal selections of all periods and styles. An offering will be received to support this fantastic group of local talent, and there will also be a reception in the fellowship hall following the concert. Please spread the word and bring a friend to hear this outstanding group.

THANK YOU!
 BYF Donation Drive for
 House of Bread

Thank you all for your generosity in helping the Baptist Youth Fellowship gather donations for the House of Bread in the month of November.



**HAPPY
 BIRTHDAY**

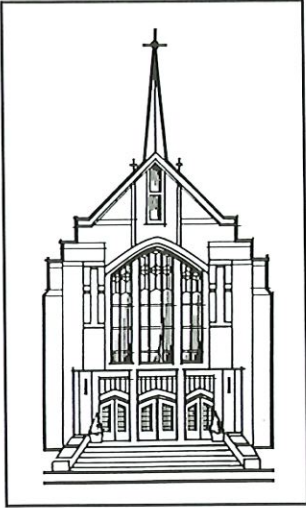
FEBRUARY CELEBRANTS

- 1 Diana Petry
- 2 Ava Powell, Joanne Stephens
- 3 Jeannette Cox
- 8 Ryan Bradley, R. Alan Kimbrough
- 9 Benjamin Compton
- 10 Daniel Burtenshaw
- 12 Diane Ashman
- 13 Kent Berghuis
- 14 Will Radachi
- 15 Mike Kalbfleisch
- 16 Dustin Tyson
- 17 Glen Babb
- 18 Joshua Charron



(Is your birthday not listed? Please contact the church office and let us update our records.)





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Our Condolences

Our sympathy and prayers are extended to Thomas Lasley and family on the recent loss of his mother, Anna Frances Lasley.

Our condolences are extended to Barbara Bogan and family on the recent passing of her brother, Don Bryant.

Our prayers are extended to the family and friends of Alice Hotopp who passed away on Dec. 16, 2023.



For Our Cards and Prayers



- | | |
|-----------------------|------------------|
| Glen Babb | Lasley Family |
| Bogan/Bryant Families | Gene Lee |
| Gerald Busch | Arthur Merkle |
| Don Brown | Nash Family |
| Jim Earnest | Mary Ann Paloncy |
| Luke Earnest | Susan Parent |
| Lavanda Ferguson | Judy Smith |
| Bill Harrell | Roger Stephens |
| Tim Holmen | Anne Veghte |
| Hotopp Family | Harold West |
| Ray Landis | Dorothy Williams |

Military Duty:

- Sebastian Ewald, Sunny Ewald, Brittany Kalbfleisch, Will Radachi, Andy Wilson

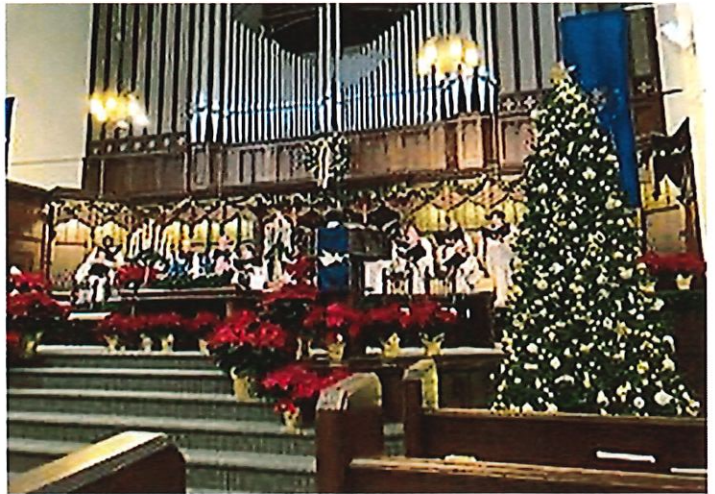
From the FBC Family Album



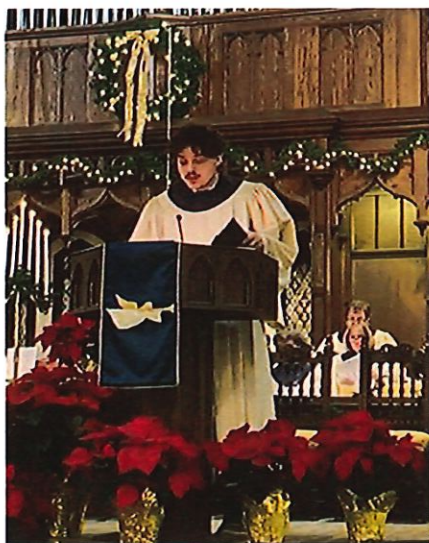
William, Kent, and Brad on a recent Friday morning walk.



Angie and Kent, tour guides for Grafton Hill Holiday Home Tour



Decorating the church for Advent/Christmas



Service of Lessons & Carols on Dec. 10, 2023

Koinonia Christmas Party at the Berghuis Home



Bob & Nancy Kerr made Christmas cookies with their five grandchildren



A mini Christmas tree forest is ready for Christmas morning at the Coggins home



Barb & Daryl Bogan and Family



Pete & Linda Thomson and Family



...We wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year...

The See Family



Violet Coggins nestled in her bed while visions of dog treats danced in her head....



From Recent Events Held at FBC



SCENES FROM PECHAKUCHA NIGHT HELD AT FBC ON NOV. 30, 2023



RICHARD ALLEN PREPARATORY 3-8 CHRISTMAS PROGRAM HELD AT FBC ON DEC. 13, 2023

