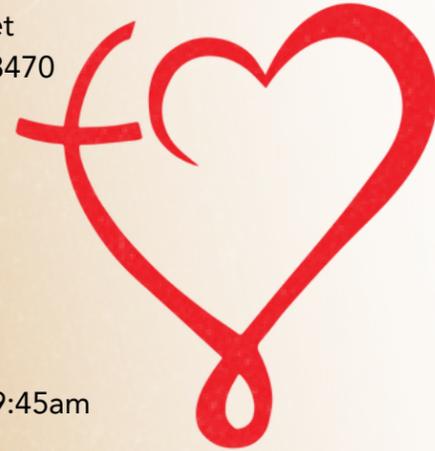


FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF SHALLOTTE

LOVE GOD. LOVE ONE ANOTHER. LOVE THE WORLD.

4486 Main Street
Shallotte, NC 28470
910.754.4048
thefbcs.com



Office Hours:
M-Th 9am-3pm
Closed Monday

Sunday School-9:45am
Worship-11am

Or Current Resident

DAILY BIBLE READING PLAN

12/1	Nehemiah 7; Acts 20	12/17	Isaiah 17-21; Revelation 8
12/2	Nehemiah 8-9; Acts 21	12/18	Isaiah 22-24; Revelation 9
12/3	Nehemiah 10; Acts 22	12/19	Isaiah 25-28; Revelation 10
12/4	Nehemiah 11; Acts 23	12/20	Isaiah 29-31; Revelation 11
12/5	Nehemiah 12-13; Acts 24	12/21	Isaiah 32-35; Revelation 12
12/6	Esther 1-2; Acts 25	12/22	Isaiah 36-38; Revelation 13
12/7	Esther 3-5; Psalms 10; Acts 26	12/23	Isaiah 39-41; Revelation 14
12/8	Esther 6-7; Psalms 9; Acts 27	12/24	Isaiah 42-44; Revelation 15
12/9	Esther 8-10; Acts 28	12/25	Isaiah 45-48; Revelation 16
12/10	Micah 1-4; Psalms 46; Revelation 1	12/26	Isaiah 49-52; Revelation 17
12/11	Micah 5-7; Psalms 130; Revelation 2	12/27	Isaiah 53-55; Psalms 65; Revelation 18
12/12	Isaiah 1-2; Psalms 146; Revelation 3	12/28	Isaiah 56-59; Revelation 19
12/13	Isaiah 3-6; Revelation 4; Psalms 93	12/29	Isaiah 60-64; Revelation 20
12/14	Isaiah 7-9; Revelation 5; Psalms 150	12/30	Isaiah 65-66; Revelation 21-22
12/15	Isaiah 10-13; Revelation 6	12/31	Zephaniah 1-3; Psalms 147
12/16	Isaiah 14-16; Revelation 7; Psalms 23		

the Vision

Monthly Newsletter of First Baptist Church of Shallotte | December 2025

Church Events

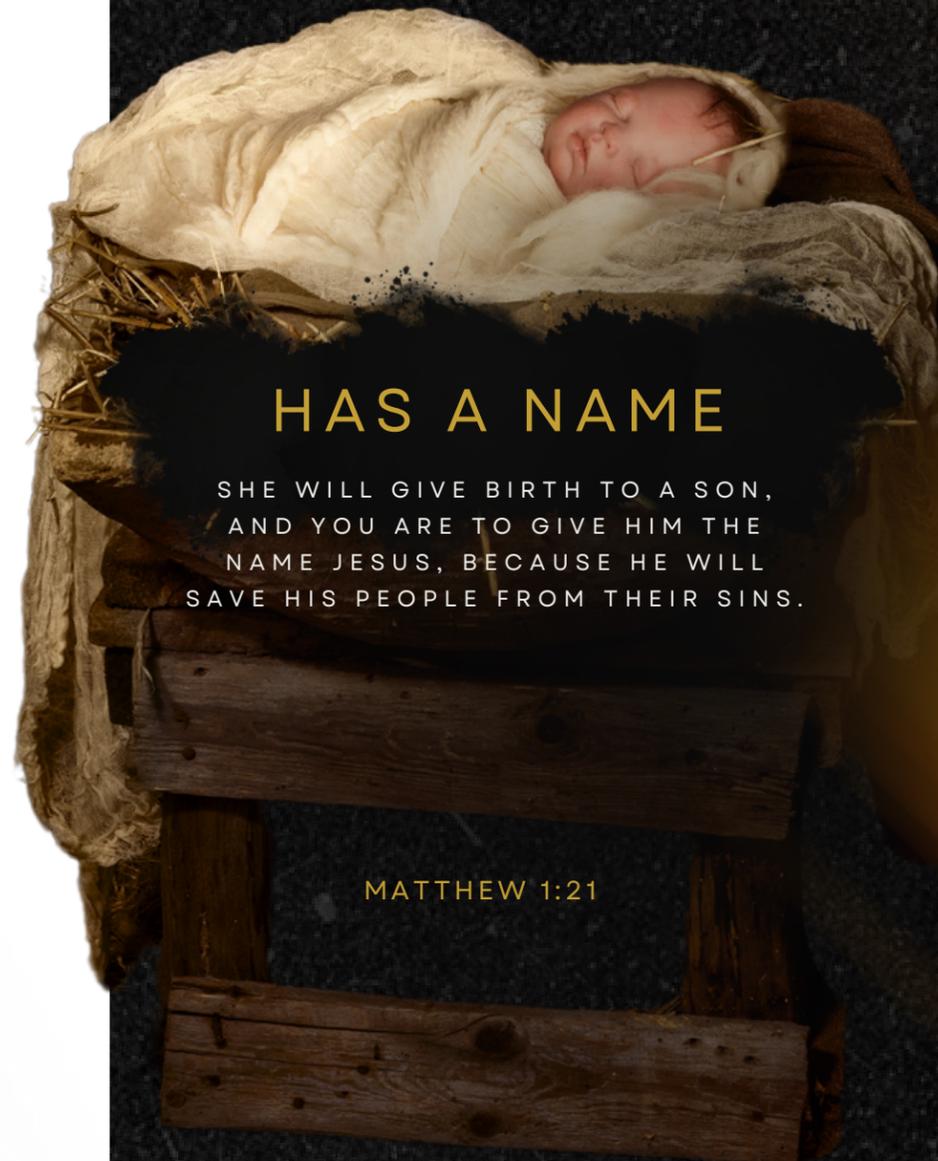
- Dec 3rd @ 6:15p (Dinner @ 5:30p) - Let's Talk About It: Answering Gender & Sexuality Issues
- Dec 7th - First Kids' Present "A Shepherd's Story"
- Dec 7th - Parent/Child Dedication
- Dec 7th - BBA Toy Store Love Offering
- Dec 8th @ 6:30-8:30p - Ladies' Ministry Meeting; Dinner Provided
- Dec 10th @ 6:15p (Dinner @ 5:30p) - Let's Talk About It: Answering Socialism & Neo-Marxism
- Dec 13th @ 8a - Cars & Coffee
- Dec 14th - "Christmas in His Presence" Presented by Celebration Choir
- Dec 14th @ 6:30p - Christmas in Song
- Dec 15th 4-8:30p - Men's Ministry Annual Oyster Roast, Hamburgers and Hotdogs Will Also Be Served
- Dec 17th @ 6:15p (Dinner @ 5:30p) - Churchwide Christmas Caroling
- Dec 17th - Angel Tree Gifts Due
- Dec 18th @ 10:30a - Bags of Hope Packing
- Dec 20th @ 10:30a - Bags of Hope Distribution
- Dec 24th @ 5p - Christmas Eve Service
- Dec 24th & 25th - Office Closed

HOPE

HAS A NAME

SHE WILL GIVE BIRTH TO A SON,
AND YOU ARE TO GIVE HIM THE
NAME JESUS, BECAUSE HE WILL
SAVE HIS PEOPLE FROM THEIR SINS.

MATTHEW 1:21



WAS JESUS A REFUGEE?

Earlier this year survival expert Bear Grylls debuted his new show, “Jesus: Refugee, Renegade, Redeemer.” The title echoes the common popular assumption that Joseph and Mary’s trip to Bethlehem or their flight to Egypt made them refugees.

Sound familiar? Each Christmas Jesus is commandeered by people who want to interpret the Christmas story in support of their political narratives. But sometimes this narrative turns from quasi-history to complete fiction.

Consider the version fabricated by the progressives behind the He Gets Us campaign. In their video, “Jesus Was a Refugee,” they depict a montage of people fleeing persecution. The video confidently informs the audience that was the same reason Mary, Joseph, and Jesus fled to Bethlehem.

So, what’s the truth? Was Jesus a refugee?

Was Jesus a Refugee?
Strictly speaking, no.

A “refugee” has certain characteristics. Refugees typically flee persecution, they flee to another country, and they rarely return to their home country.

But that is not the Bethlehem story. Joseph and Mary didn’t flee to Bethlehem to escape persecution, and they were not crossing international borders.

Quite the opposite. When Joseph and Mary traveled 80 miles from Nazareth to Bethlehem, they not only remained within the Roman Empire, but they also remained within Judea.

Furthermore, far from traveling illegally, they were complying with Roman law. They were simply citizens following the local laws (Luke 2:1-6).

Joseph followed the civil law because it didn’t conflict with the will or the law of God. For that reason, God was able to use the laws of the land to get Joseph and Mary where they needed to be—safely and legally.

So, in the trip to Bethlehem, the family were not refugees. But, what about the second trip, two years later?

What about the flight to Egypt?

Later, after Jesus was born, Joseph was warned in a dream that Herod was seeking the child to kill him (Matt. 2:13). The angel told Joseph to go to Egypt and stay there until he also told him to return. Were they refugees in Egypt?

The trip to Egypt is closer to what we would consider the flight of refugees. Mainly, they were fleeing potential persecution, and they fled to another country. They did so to seek “refuge” from the danger in Judea.

Even so, the trip to Egypt lacks distinctive characteristics that define refugees or immigration as we know it. At the time Egypt was part of the Roman Empire, so the family never left the legal borders of Rome. The image was not so much fleeing to another country but more like traveling to South Carolina to get out of North Carolina but staying with the United States.

In addition, historians tell us that a significant Jewish community thrived in Egypt at the time, making it easier for Joseph and Mary to raise a family and to earn a living. They may have even had extended family there, which would explain why the angel directed Joseph to Egypt.

And last, unlike refugees and immigrants who intend to remain in the country of their destination, Joseph, Mary, and Jesus eventually returned home to Nazareth. Herod died, and the threat lifted.

Remember the big picture

All that said, however, remember that Jesus’ earthly existence often illustrated truths about His eternal existence as God’s Son (compare John 13:1-11 with Phil. 2:4-11).

Reducing the incarnation of Christ and the Christmas story to a narrative about immigration and the plight of refugees diminishes the glory of the coming of the Son of God. But ignoring the biblical teaching of Jesus as a Person who doesn’t belong in this world misses one of the Bible’s great teachings. Jesus’ early life, with His parents fleeing to protect Him, is God’s way of giving us clues to what the life of the Son of God would be like on earth.

As the Son of God, Jesus was not at home in this world (Matt. 8:20), and therefore His kingdom did not belong to this world (John 18:36). So, His arrival at Bethlehem resembles immigration, not from Nazareth with His earthly parents, but from the throne of the heavenly Father to the sin-ridden world He would save.

By extension, or home is not here, either. Once we are born again in Christ, we align ourselves with Jesus, and we become sojourners, wanderers in this world, knowing we are not yet home, but always heading there.

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE....



DEACON OF THE WEEK

11/30-12-6
ROB MICHEL
910-233-6498
ROBMICHEL0514@GMAIL.COM



12/21-12/27
JACE MYERS
910-603-3501
JACE_MYERS@HOTMAIL.COM



12/7-12-13
DOUG WARD
910-512-1739
DGWARD@ATMC.NET



12/28-1/3
FORREST TAYLOR
910-443-1054
FISHINBUILDER@YAHOO.COM



12/14-12/20
BOBBY DAVIS
910-540-2686
GRITSTER2016@OUTLOOK.COM



LMCO WEEK OF PRAYER 11/30 - 12/6

THIS YEAR’S GOAL: \$9,500

LOTTIE MOON CHRISTMAS OFFERING®

When you give towards Lottie Moon, you’re joining millions of other Christians who have committed to advancing God’s Kingdom. The Lottie Moon Christmas Offering is an annual offering collected by Southern Baptists to support international missions. The offering was officially named in 1918 by Woman’s Missionary Union in honor of the missionary to China who urged churches to start it and give sacrificially.

Every year, FBCS collects an offering to send and support missionaries to be steadfastly present among those who have never heard the gospel.

God’s Work in 2024: 3,577 Missionaries on the Field, 68,628 Baptisms, 84,430 New Leaders, 2,409 Churches Planted, 144,969 Professed Faith in Jesus, 1.6 Million Heard the Gospel Presentation

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ENSEMBLE JUNTO 함께 JUNTO 함께 JUNTO
ZUSAMMEN BMECTE معا

TOGETHER



Micah 5:5

HE WILL BE OUR

PEACE



...CONTINUED WAS JESUS A REFUGEE?

Yearning for a home here and now, and for citizenship in a country on earth, reminds us that we are not home yet. And Christians are citizens of a heavenly home (Phil. 3:20, Heb. 11:13).

He left home to come here. We will leave here to go home.

One More Thing

Some people misuse the Christmas story for their own gain, sure. But that doesn’t change the fact that He called on Christians to be compassionate toward “sojourners” in our land (Ex. 23:9). Every time we treat a stranger with compassion and kindness, we are acknowledging that the incarnate Son of God sojourned among us (Matt. 25:35).

It’s the government’s job to provide safe, legal processes for citizenship and immigration. Christians can affirm the government’s role and still be compassionate toward all who come into the country. Compassion and strong borders are not mutually exclusive.

But as everyone else argues about immigration or border protection, don’t forget. Christians have one King and one Lord and one calling. We are citizens of heaven, and while we are here, we serve Christ and the gospel.

Merry Christmas!
With love in Christ,
Pastor Bob