December		1	2	3	4	5
6 Children's Christmas Program Holiday Dinner	7	8	9	10	11	12
13 Cantata Christmas Caroling 6:00pm	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24 Christmas Eve Service	25	26
27	28	29	30 New Year's Eve Eve Youth Party	31		

Weekly Opportunities of Service

8:30am - Time of Prayer

0.45 mm Carla Calcal Car

9:45am - Sunday School for all ages 10:45am - Main Morning Worship

6:30pm - Evening Bible Study

<u>portunities of Service</u> Wednesday

5:30pm - Time of Prayer

6:30pm - Evening Services

7:30pm - Choir Practice



Monday

Sunday

7:00pm - Bible Study

Tuesday

7:30am – Men's Bible Study

		Janua			1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10 Ministry Council Finance meeting		12	13	14	15	16
17 Business Meeting 6:30pm	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

December 2015 Coram Dec

First Baptist Church Towanda

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www.facebook.com/towandabaptist

Flesh and blood Christianity – Pastor David Gibbs

Witnessing a live birth, especially one's own child, stimulates a mixture of emotion. Pain, fear, and wonder are but a few of the emotions that burst through the body while one watches the miraculous event unfold. To witness the birth of a child brings a strong reminder that human life is inescapably connected to flesh and blood. Yes, of course there is a significant spiritual component to life, but far to often the spiritual aspect of life is emphasized to the neglect of the physical. Four different times I have held my wife's hand and watched the miracle of birth. Each time she overcame the threat from fear and pain and with the joy of hope to compel her, with great courage to move her and endurance to sustain her she prevailed in giving birth to our four children. It would be absurd to compare my experience of witnessing the birth to that of my wife who was having the baby. However, my perspective, as well as that of anyone who has ever witnessed a live birth, does allow me a unique perspective that informs how I imagine the birth of Christ.

The Christmas story has its origin in flesh and blood. Unlike the sanitized depictions of Mary and Jesus we see today, the actual event took place in the raw material of God's creation. As we celebrate the birth of Jesus it is essential to, not only recognize the authenticity of his birth, but also to understand the impact that that authenticity has for all of his disciples. Too often his birth is imagined as though His entrance into the world were of some mystical nature, or that His birth was clean and painless without the slightest hint of human drama. But that view is to undermine the very essence of Creation and especially the very essence of the incarnation, specifically that God the Father sent His Son from heavenly perfection to come into this cursed world, take on human flesh and immerse His life in our pain, our suffering and even our death.

Unlike the heresy of Gnosticism (a view that the world is divided into two realms, spiritual and physical) that has plagued the church since its inception, the biblical account of redemption is played out, as witnessed in every story of scripture, in the one realm of God's creation that is a unity of spirit and flesh. Jesus came in the flesh, He died in the flesh, was raised in the flesh and now reigns in the flesh. Yet, all of which is not separate from the spiritual. It is essential that our Christian faith is practiced within the framework of the nativity. God came down in the person of His Son to our filthy broken world and lived among us to save us from our sin. His life began in blood and ended in blood. His followers must never succumb to the evil idea that God's creation, so burdened by sin, is in and of itself evil and will therefore be destroyed and done away with. It must remain in our hearts that Christ came into the world not to destroy the world, but that the world would be SAVED through Him.

Now we are in Him and He is in us. So our calling is to serve Him in the filth and grime of this broken world, not with the mindset of mere endurance, but instead with the mindset that the purpose of our endurance is to be agents of God's redemption. His followers must carry within their hearts that the world and everything and everyone it has intrinsic value because of the Creator. So our journey, like that of our Savior, is to be played out, from birth to death, in the drama of real life with the hope in our hearts that God is with us redeeming the world through us who have given our allegiance to the Son.

Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord.

Luke 2:11 NIV

Question's From Past Sermons

In our effort to make Christ known what are we willing to sacrifice?

To what extent are we willing to serve others?

Do you value your rights more than you value making Christ known?

Does your practice reveal your love for others?

Is your body used for God's glory?

From Christmas to The Cross

Every aspect of Jesus' life on earth from the time He was sleeping in a wooden manger to the agonizing hours hanging on a wooden cross was devoted to following the will of His heavenly Father. He knew His calling and kept the entirety of His life dedicated to fulfilling it. We too know our mission. To make disciples of all nations (Matt. 28:19) and to be ministers of reconciliation - helping others know they can be forgiven by God (2 Cor. 5:18). Are we imitating Christ's life by giving our all to the mission our heavenly Father has called us to? Christ gave His life to fulfill the work the Father had be working through Him; are we willing to use the life God has blessed us with for Him? From Christmas to the Cross, Jesus followed the will of His Father; let His life be the example for your life with the Father.

Phileo - Pastor Mac Martin

Butler County Christian Broadcasting

We are so excited to announce some fantastic news! We have received our official call letters! We are now known as KZTF-LP Transform FM. You will be able to find us at 95.7 FM once we get up and running. We are thrilled that this step has taken place and are looking forward to what God has in store for us next! We appreciate every prayer for us through this initial set up period!

Lottie Moon Christmas Offering

"Why should we not ... do something that will prove that we are really in earnest in claiming to be followers of him who, though he was rich, for our sake became poor?" Lottie Moon, Sept. 15, 1887

The Lottie Moon Christmas Offering is our way to support all our Southern Baptist missionaries around the world. Even if you can only give a little, every cent goes to spreading the Good News of Jesus Christ to areas all around the world! The week of prayer is November 29 thru December 6. We'll start collecting the offerings on the 6th so be looking for more Lottie Moon Christmas Offering resources all around the church.

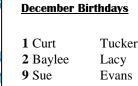






December 6th

After Morning Worship



9 Sandy Jenkins
10 Rex Corbin
11 Jacob Wagner
13 Tracey Tucker

18 Alyssa Carroll20 Melinda Wagner22 Linda Patty

22 Linda Patty27 Marcia Brown27 Steven R Evans

27 Jack

28 Tara Rae 28 Lane

28 Mike Tucker

Christmas
Caroling
December
13th 6pm



December Anniversaries

5 Von & Vanessa Hummel22 Richard & Shelly Nibarger27 Steven & Cindy Evans29 Bill & Sue Evans



Jenkins

Evans

Jenkins