



ROCHESTER FBC
impacting lives for Christ

6 Vernon Drive, Rochester, Illinois

Senior Pastor: Kevin Carrothers

Associate Pastor: Greg Braswell

**December
2016 /
January
2017**

BUT THE FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT IS
LOVE joy
peace PATIENCE
KINDNESS
goodness FAITH
gentleness
& self-control
GALATIANS 5:22-23

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the gospel resounds
LOTTIE MOON CHRISTMAS OFFERING®

OUR CHURCH GOAL:
**RFBC Goal:
\$3500.00**

100% of your gift helps send and sustain IMB missionaries.

Lottie Moon Christmas Offering 2016

Starting in 1888, the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering® was established to empower the international missions efforts for Southern Baptists. After more than a century, the annual offering continues its steady growth. The National Goal this year is \$155 Million. Your giving enables missionaries to be sent to make disciples and multiply churches among unreached peoples and places for the glory of God.

From Pastor Kevin . . .

Most of us look forward to Thanksgiving and Christmas. It is a time for family and friends to gather together and celebrate with gratitude the blessings of God. The greatest gift of all is Jesus Christ who came to take on our sins, bear our punishment and die for us. God raised Jesus from the dead so that we might enjoy fellowship with God and new life in Him.

Even as we celebrate these holy days and eagerly anticipate family dinners, there is often underlying tension and even trepidation approaching these times. Ultimately these gatherings bring people together who possess differing worldviews such as politics, which may be the soup de jour this year. Many times these various outlooks generate lively, even heated discussions filled with plenty of emotions. The reality is we all have expectations about how these events should go, but the question for many of us is how do we navigate these tensions for the glory of God. Let me offer some helpful thoughts for us as disciples of Christ during this time.

* We should seek peace.

Paul exhorts us to. . . pursue what promotes peace and what builds up one another (Rom. 14:9). Instead of bickering over inconsequential matters, we should make every effort to keep peace and harmony in Christian fellowship. Instead of insisting on our wants and rights, we should strive to build up others in the name of Jesus.

* We should honor everyone (1 Peter 2:17).

The conduct and words of others are not always honorable, but every life that we meet is one that has been created by God and is of more value than all the world. While the image of God may be marred by sin, we have the opportunity to be Christ's witness in our own behavior and speech.

(continued in next column)

* We should be humble.

Paul called on the Philippians to [d]o nothing out of rivalry or conceit, but in humility consider others as more important than yourselves. Everyone should look out not *only* for his own interests, but also for the interests of others (Phil. 2:3-4). Sometimes our inclination for own expectations and desire to be right or in charge trumps our love for our family members. Let us practice what the Word of God desires for us to do, valuing others over ourselves.

My prayer for you this Christmas season is enjoy your family, love one another, and most importantly worship the Lord Jesus Christ.

In Christ Alone,
Pastor Kevin

Student News & Music Notes *From the Desk of Greg Braswell*

I just turned the page on my calendar to find December 1st has arrived and with it all the Christmas activities and joy. As I think about the coming of Christ I can't help but smile and offer a word of thanks to God, knowing the purpose for Jesus' coming to earth in human form. He came to save sinners and to offer us eternal life. I hope that this Christmas season you not only take time to say a word of thanks but also the opportunity to share with others the good news of Jesus. I don't know of another time of year when people are more willing to listen the gospel message.

Throughout the month of December, we will have the opportunity to celebrate the birth of Jesus in several ways but I want to draw your attention to a few of them. On Sunday morning December 11th, our young children's choir will be singing and presenting a skit in our worship service. Then on December 25th, that's right Christmas morning, we will be worshipping together at a special time. Plan to join us at 9:00 a.m. as we celebrate the Advent of King Jesus, and invite someone to come with you.

One last thing, I hope that you have noticed over the last few weeks we have added some new instruments to our worship team. If you play an instrument, sing, or are interested in technology we have a place for you. It would thrill me to add several new people to our worship ministry in the new year. Pray about how you might serve in this ministry. If you have any question, please call me at the church office 498.9690.

Seeking to follow King Jesus,
Pastor Greg

Women's Bible Study

Women's Bible Study will begin Thursday, January 12, 2017 at 6:30 p.m. in Fellowship Hall. "What Love Is", written by Kelly Minter is a 7 week study which is designed "to challenge readers to walk in the light instead of darkness, pursue truth and recognize deception, and love God more than the world". This series is based on the writings found in 1st, 2nd, & 3rd John.

Study books are \$12 each. Signup sheet is on bulletin board in the foyer. Books will be ordered on December 22.

Women On Mission Meetings

No Meeting in December

January 16, 2017 at 1: 30 p.m.

Missions News

Rochester First Baptist Church's Lottie Moon Christmas Offering Goal is \$3500.00. Offering received (as of 12-4-2016) is \$1455.00.

In 2015 the Global average per missionary was \$141 per day; \$51,400 per year salary and housing.



RA Lottie Moon Post Office Open Until Sunday, December 18

This Christmas season the RA's are again sponsoring a Lottie Moon Post Office for International Missions.

Bring your Christmas cards for LOCAL church members and church attendees who live in this area and put them in the RA Post Office box in the foyer until Sunday, December 18. The RA's will have the cards ready for pickup in the foyer after worship that day.

Do not put any postage on these cards. Instead put the money you would have spent on postage in the collection can. The money will be given to the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for International Missions.



Baptist Foundation of Illinois Scholarship Application

<http://baptistfoundationil.org/education-scholarships/>

December 1, 2016 - January 31, 2017

It is time to start the scholarship process for the Baptist Foundation of Illinois. Scholarships are available for those who are pursuing associate, bachelor or seminary degrees.

If you have any questions, please contact Henry Hall at henryhall@msn.com



Holiday Celebrations

Christmas Day

Sunday, December 25

Worship at 9:00 a.m.

No Sunday School

There will not be a Nursery

or Children's Worship

No Evening Activities

New Year's Day

Sunday, January 1

Worship at 10:15 a.m.

No Sunday School

No Evening Activities



Rochester First Baptist Church

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Illinois Leadership Summit
January 24-25, 2017



Location: IBSA Building, 3085 Stevenson Dr. Springfield, IL.

Cost: Free, however advance registration is required. Dinner on Tuesday and lunch on Wednesday are included.

Large group collectives featuring Mac Lake, leadership expert, from NAMB, and small group intensives where leaders will be inspired to go to the next level in their development.

For more information on the Summit or to register go to IBSA.org/Summit or contact BarbTroeger@IBSA.org or (217) 391-3138.