

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH  
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# CLARION



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DECEMBER, 2009

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## Christmas 2009

The title is really just a date.  
The ideas here are timeless, certainly not limited to one year.

*The stunning point of Christmas is that  
God considered my needs  
and the worth of my relationship to him  
to be sufficient cause  
to go through the trauma of changing places.*

Joseph Stowell

Stowell wrote this in 1992 in Moody Monthly. I love every line the way it is lined out above. How about you?

Christmas is stunning. He could have said shocking. Who was not shocked with the news that a new king was coming? Everyone in the story is taken back by angels, stars and the news of a baby king. Are you stunned?

Stowell could probably quote Psalm 8. "What are we that you are mindful of us, that you care for us?" David prayed. If all that David knew was his own family or his own heart, he could say this. Why would anyone, much less God, really love us this much? Why it is stunning!

"...the worth of my relationship..." Does Stowell mean we have worth to God? Would God dare be thinking, "I would sure like to love that one"? Well, yes, God in fact does feel that way. You know one of my favorite images of Christ comes when he yearns to give us protective intimacy, but the conclusion was, "but you would not let me." We break God's heart when we do not relate to him. Only you can relate to God as only you can. So, God misses you when you don't relate. This is stunning!

It is reported to God, "There is someone down there who needs you!" "Well, (being rather colloquial) that's enough of a reason for me to go there." God is moved by our needs. You probably have caught on by now – this is stunning!

And trauma! This visit was not a vacation. Trauma is the correct word. God, for you, would face humiliation and trauma. It is because you are worth it to him.

Christmas is stunning. He comes here, offering us the gift that we can go there with him.



# December 2009

December 2009

January 2010

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		December 1	2	3	4	5
		9:00am MDO 1:00pm Staff Meeting	Mary K. White 9:00am MDO 5:00pm Supper 6:00pm Children's Choirs 6:00pm Parenting Roundtable 6:00pm Prayer Meeting* 6:00pm Youth - Supernova 7:00pm Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal	**Week of Prayer for Lottie Moon Offering** Charles McConaughy Kenny Taylor 9:00am MDO 10:15am Music Ministry at Greatwood Retirement Center	Helen Dane Lauren Jeffrey 7:00pm Children's K-5 Sleepover (Fellowship Hall/Gym)	8:30am Children's Christmas Breakfast for Parents (Fellowship Hall) 6:00pm Deacons Christmas Party (Howards' Home)
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
**Week of Prayer for Lottie Moon	Kin Hitt *Advent II* 4:30pm Missions Committee Mtg. 5:00pm Handbells Rehearsal 6:00pm Community Wide Carol Sing (Sanctuary)	Rebekah Russell 5:30pm Personnel Committee Meeting	Era Mae Harper 9:00am MDO 10:00am Staff Meeting	9:00am MDO 10:15am Music Ministry at Richmond Healthcare Center 5:00pm Supper 6:00pm Children's Choirs 6:00pm Parenting Roundtable 6:00pm Prayer Meeting* 6:00pm Youth - Supernova 7:00pm Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal	9:00am MDO 10:30am Music Ministry at Cambridge Health & Rehab	Lee Keiffer Eli Edmondson 10:00am Angel Tree Delivery 6:00pm Life Applications Christmas Party (Pates' Home) 6:00pm Emmaus/ Upper Room Christmas Party (Wards' Home)
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
*Advent III*	Sharla Crawford	9:00am MDO (Christmas Parties) 10:00am Staff Meeting 6:30pm Mens Bible Study Christmas Party (Orient Cafe, Pecan Grove)	LCISD Early Release (6-12) Dan Bishop Vicki McCall 9:00am NO MDO 5:00pm Supper 5:00pm Youth Christmas Party 6:00pm Business Meeting* 6:00pm Children's Choirs & Parents to Richmond Healthcare Center 7:00pm Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal	Mary Anderson 9:00am NO MDO 5:30pm Ladies Bible Study Christmas Party (Suzann Hugo's Home)	Charles Huselton 6:30pm First Fruits Christmas Party (Old South Plantation)	Mary Lou Walker 6:00pm Choir Christmas Party
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
*Advent IV*			FBISD/LCISD Christmas Break			
Catherine Rocha 8:30am Student Worship Team (Youth Room) 6:00pm Christmas Caroling	Kristen Pate Fraley 12:00pm Staff/Mary Martha Christmas Party (Fellowship Hall)	Linda Winchester Wayne Nivens 10:00am Staff Meeting	NO EVENING ACTIVITIES	4:30pm Christmas Eve Come and Go Lord's Supper	*Christmas* Christina Allison	
27	28	29	30	31		
9:00am No Bible Study Classes 10:00am Worship Only	Irene Locke	Hal Knight J.R. Hardin Lynnette Clark 10:00am Staff Meeting	Bob Burns Carol Forbes NO EVENING ACTIVITIES	*OFFICE CLOSED* Judy Germany Leigh Montgomery Polly Trigger Ruby Mikeska Shannon Henderson		

Sunday mornings:  
9:00 am Bible Study  
10:30 am Worship\*  
\*Childcare Provided