



# FIRST EDITION

First Baptist Church

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## Holcombe Family Reflections...

By JoCheryl Holcombe

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Members of three generations of the Holcombe family died and two more were injured Nov. 5, when a gunman opened fire on the First Baptist Church of Sutherland Springs. JoCheryl Holcombe shares what her family has experienced in the wake of this horrific event.



In the wake of this event that has catapulted some of our family to heaven and left the rest of us to carry on here as a part of this beautiful creation, there has been an outpouring of God's love through friendship, gifts, prayers, and kind acts of a magnitude that is beyond comprehension. How does one even begin to say thank you to each and every precious person in the proper way?

There have been literally thousands of gifts, prayers, and acts of love that have been showered upon us. They continue to pour from those most close to us, from anonymous people we have never met, and even from the other side of the planet! Through the miracle of grace, they have come from people who don't even realize they have done a kindness.

My parents, Joe and Claryce Holcombe — aka Papa and Grandmama — asked me to write this message of gratitude as a way to make you aware of how much we appreciate all you have done for us. Gifts which will help rebuild and maintain lives in the wake of this sorrow, flowers along the roadside, many acts of kindness, waiting in long lines at the funeral, silent prayers, the beautiful gestures that are more grand than words can express are too numerous to list.

If you will, simply imagine all types of kindness and know that has been extended in the most creative loving ways. Some gifts are huge, yet all are a catalyst that will become huge in the magnification that happens when we all continue to pass every kind act on to another.

Beyond the rebuilding, there is a new creation taking place through these gifts. It is one of service unfolding and continuing. It is our call to do what God does best — redeem, to turn this into something good, which will keep God's love shining and healing lives.

Something really beautiful has occurred through the tears! A beam of God's love has shined, just like the sunshine through the rain. And as the light bounces around inside a raindrop or a teardrop, it is separated into bands of color and is made visible to human eyes. It is the Light of God's Love and God has shined through each of you and made a beautiful spectral display. It is the promise of the rainbow after the rain. It is the promise that we are never forsaken and that new life awaits us all.

I choose not to define this as a tragedy, because it is now an opportunity to make that spectrum ever visible in every act we do. Going forward, let us allow every day of our lives to be one of refracting God's love into a spectrum of beauty and kindness that the world can see.

This is a call to action. It is the Victory that everyone who Jesus loves can experience and is invited to live.

Keep praying and love wins!

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My comfort  
SUFFERING  
is this,  
Your promise  
PRESERVES  
my Life.  
*Psalm 117:50*

Donations to help the families affected by the FBC Sutherland Springs tragedy may be made through FBC Floresville. Make your check payable to FBC, and use the memo line or giving envelope to designate where you'd like your contribution to go. For example: Sutherland Springs families, Holcombe family, rebuilding the church, etc. We will forward the gift to the appropriate people.



## Women's Ministry News

Hello everyone! I hope everyone had a wonderful Thanksgiving holiday! Some of you may already be in the Christmas rush! We need to remember the reason for the season was our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ!

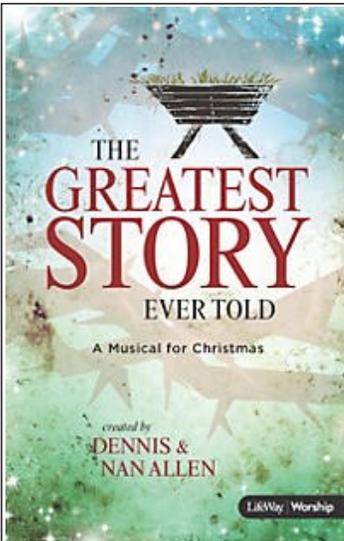
December is a quiet month when it comes to women's activities, but in January, you will see a sign-up sheet for a sign language class that Ashley Flores has graciously offered to teach. The day of the week and time have not been determined as of yet, but keep a watch out for this exciting and practical class.

We will have a meeting to begin planning next spring's Tapestry of Tables event. Join us on January 21, 2018, after the 10:30 am worship service. If you would like to participate in this event, please join us for this planning meeting.

Wishing each and every one of you a blessed Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!



~ Donna Arispe



### CHRISTMAS MUSICAL

The FBC Praise Choir, in conjunction with the musicians from FBC in Pleasanton and Charlotte, will present "THE GREATEST STORY EVER TOLD," a Christmas musical that celebrates the story of the birth of Jesus Christ from the viewpoints of many who witnessed it firsthand. Enjoy one of the following performances:

**Sunday, December 10th, 6pm  
@ FBC Pleasanton**

**Wednesday, December 13th, 7pm  
@ River Oaks Church in  
Sutherland Springs**

**Sunday, December 17th, 6pm  
@ FBC Floresville**



### Men's Ministry @ First Baptist Church Floresville



**Mission Statement**  
The Men's Ministry of FBCF strives to dwell in fellowship through Christ our Lord Jesus. We are coming together to help others by lifting them up in prayer, having a meal together and providing services which are in our power to do, for the elderly, or a brother or sister in Christ that may need our help.



# FBC Around the World

## A note from Ariel Howard...

Dear FBC Floresville Church Family,

Greetings from San Marcos, Texas! I hope you are well and seeing God's blessings in your life. Over this year, I have had the privilege of serving with the Baptist Student Ministry of Texas State University. This coming spring break, I have the opportunity to go on a mission trip to Belize! I know our church has experience sending missionaries to Belize and that is why I am so excited to tell you about this awesome opportunity! I genuinely feel that I have grown over this semester in my walk with Christ, and feel called to serve Him in this way.

What will we be doing? We have partnered with local missionaries in Belize, like Bob Farley, to assist in a few of the local projects. We will work to make sure the families have clean water by building and repairing water wells. We will also be doing outreach in local villages and might even host a VBS for the local village children! I know that we as a group will be doing our best to help the local missionaries in any way that we can help.

How can you help? First, I am asking for prayer. We cannot do this on our own, but only with the help of our Holy God! If you feel led to help financially, I would like to invite you to partner with me in this kingdom project through prayer and financial support. In order to participate in this trip, I must raise \$1,200 to cover all transportation, meals, and other expenses. I thank you ahead of time for considering this! I have also created a Customink t-shirt campaign to help spread awareness and funding. Will you join me in prayer and with a gift of \$50, \$100, or any other amount?



- ◆ Purchase a t-shirt by visiting: <https://inktothepeople.com/you-better-belize-it>
- ◆ Check out Ariel's Go Fund Me page: <https://www.gofundme.com/f5gvc-belize-mission-trip-2018>
- ◆ Give through the church by making your check payable to FBC with "Ariel Howard" written on the memo line or on your giving envelope.

My goal is to raise the entire amount by January 31, 2018. Checks can be made payable to Texas State Baptist Student Ministry. Again, I would appreciate your prayerful consideration in joining me in this opportunity to serve the Lord. Thank you for allowing me to share this with you. I am excited and trust the Lord to provide and bless His work.

Love, Ariel Howard

## The Coffey Corner



Missionaries Aaron Coffey and Bob Farley visit with residents of Punta Gorda, Belize, during a publicity event for the Belize Bible College.

Merry Christmas from the Coffey family! We hope you and yours have a wonderful holiday season celebrating the birth of our Lord! Thank you for supporting us over this past year. We covet your continued prayers and financial support as we serve the people of Belize. We are coming to the final stages of the completion of the missionary residence, and we still need funding to see the project through to the end. Your gifts, over and above our monthly support, are greatly appreciated.

Thank you, Tiffany Gonzalez, for organizing the Thanksgiving baked goods event. Thank you to everyone who purchased items! Every dollar spent will go toward the construction of the residence.

Merry Christmas!

~ Aaron & Ashley Coffey and Caleb



Caleb Coffey celebrated his 5th birthday a few weeks ago. Happy Birthday, Caleb!!



## Angel Tree for South Texas Children's Home

Angel Tree gifts ideas for the boys and girls at the South Texas Children's Home may be picked up from the Christmas tree in the foyer. What a wonderful way to let these children know that God cares for them! Please wrap the gift, and attach the angel ornament as the gift tag. Gifts are due at the church by Sunday, December 10, 2017. Thank you for purchasing a gift as it will bless a child this Christmas!



## Baked Goods Fundraiser for Youth Camp

Tiffany Gonzalez is organizing a baking fundraiser to help support the youth fund that helps kids attend summer camp. She will be taking orders for holiday baked goods with suggested donation amounts for each. You will find a menu and sign-up sheet in the worship center's foyer, or you may call Tiffany directly at 630-605-0854.



### CHURCH BUSINESS MEETING

Wednesday, December 20, 2017, 6:30 pm  
in the Worship Center

### THE FUN BUNCH SHOPPING TRIP



Join the Fun Bunch on Friday, December 8, 2017, for a shopping trip to San Antonio. We will also eat lunch at a favorite restaurant. We will leave the church at 9:00 am. Please find a sign-up sheet in the foyer, and contact Pastor Terry Smith for more information.

## CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY SCHEDULE

Sunday, December 17, 2017

NO Early Worship Service  
9:15 am Bible Study  
10:30 am Combined Worship Service  
featuring TeamKidz Praise  
6:00 pm Praise Choir Presentation

Sunday, December 24, 2017

NO Early Worship Service  
9:15 am Bible Study for all ages  
10:30 am Combined Worship Service  
5:30 pm Christmas Eve Worship

Immediately following the Christmas Eve service, everyone is invited to an open house at the home of Pastor Mike and Allison Clements, 1704 Chestnut.

The church office will be closed on Monday and Tuesday, December 25-26, in celebration of the Christmas holiday.



2017 LOTTIE MOON CHRISTMAS OFFERING®



Pray for your IMB missionaries:

- The Bagby family in Nepal
- Muslims of Russia
- The Jones family in Japan
- The Mexico City team
- The forgotten refugee
- The Mikeska family in London

Pray that God equips International Mission Board missionaries with boldness, clarity, joy, and effectiveness.

Please give to the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering. Your giving enables missionaries to be sent throughout the globe to make disciples and multiply churches among unreached peoples and places for the glory of God.

National Goal: \$160 million  
Our Goal: \$4,000.00



## Schedule of Events

# December 2017

### Sunday

- 8:00—Worship Service (except Lord's Supper and 5th Sundays)
- 9:15—Bible Study
- 10:30—Worship Service
- 3:00—VA Home except 2nd Sunday
- 4:00—Youth Choir
- 5:00—Experiencing God—Youth
- 6:00—Monthly Movie (1st Sunday only) or Sunday Life Group

### Monday

- 6:30—IBLP Class

### Wednesday

- 3:30—TeamKidz
- 4:45—TeamKidz Praise
- 5:30—Wednesday Night Supper
- 5:45—Kids Movie Night LAST Wed
- 6:30—LIFE GROUPS/Praise Band/RAs/GAs/Mission Friends/Youth IMPACT
- 7:30—Praise Choir Rehearsal

### Weekly Activities

Creative Hands—Quilting

Mondays at 10:00 am

Ladies Bible Study

Tuesdays at 9am (Jesus, Joy & Java)

Thursdays at 10:30 am

Sr. Adult Game Day

Thursdays from 1-4 pm

Line Exercise Classes

Mon, Tue, Thu from 9:30-10:30 am

\* Deacon of the Week

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2 SAMS Class
3 Youth Ctee NOON  Movie Night *Darrel Dundas	4	5 TEL/Helping Hands	6 WNS BBQ sandwiches	7 Choir practice Pleasanton 7p	8 Fun Bunch Shopping Trip 9am Deacon & Staff	9 Titus II & Hope
10 Choir @ FBC P'ton 6pm  *Danny Fenner	11	12 FBC Vols @ Food Pantry 10am	13 WNS chalupas Choir @ River Oaks 7pm  Children & Youth Depts	14 FBC Vols @ Food Pantry 10am FV Nursing Home 3:30	15	16
17 Combined Worship 10:30 Choir @ FBC FV 6pm  *Amos Garcia	18	19	20 WNS pork country ribs Business Meeting 6:30 pm	21	22	23
24 Combined Worship 10:30 *Bob Herndon	25  —Office Closed—	26	27 NO Evening Activities	28	29	30 8am 
31 Combined Worship 10:30  *Mike Hopper						

## December Birthdays

1 Cassandra Rogers	7 Drew Clements	12 Susan Eubanks	18 Patsy Curnow	22 Shine Trabucco	28 Ron Tipton
2 Earl Seesengood	7 Kayla Grier	12 Billie Riddle	18 Melba Dunn	23 Sheila Brieden	28 Daryl Wheeler
3 Aaron Garcia	8 Bob Andrews	13 Cameron Choate	18 William Eckel	23 Evie Carter	30 Wayne Deason
3 Monty Montgomery	8 Ross Koenig	13 Dahlia Sellers	18 Asa Ralph Fuller	23 Sandy Lawtum	30 Judy Whitley
4 Rob Coleman	8 Teri Villarreal	14 Norma Idrach	18 Jonathon Jansky	23 Michael Villarreal	30 Cody Bland
4 Claryce Holcombe	9 Braelyn Burns	14 Ryan Parker	18 Tim Rogers	24 Carlos Garza	
4 Stacey O'Leary	9 Eddie Coston	15 Marty Choate	19 Gearis Herndon	24 Judy Murray	
4 Preston Taggs	9 Sara Beth Ham	15 Cole Harris	19 Deana Smith	24 Ricky Wesley	
5 Randy Richards	9 Rose Hopper	15 Chad Rex Reed	19 Peggy Tipton	25 Buddy Smith	
5 Doug Watson	9 Ashley Kidd	17 Jean Evelyn Hughes	21 Timothy Davis	26 Tawny Parra	
6 Daniel Bourland	10 Megan Curnow	17 Ian McGee	21 Chuck Garza	26 Holli Schroller	
6 Jeanine Livingston	10 Norma Meis	17 Sarah Brieden	22 Peggy Tope	28 Ron Fischer	





**First Baptist Church**

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Floresville, TX 78114

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Fax: 830-393-3613  
E-mail: office@fbcf.org

**Because He First Loved Us.**

- Mike Clements**, Pastor  
830-391-2016
- Terry Smith**, Worship Pastor  
830-391-3362
- Scott Davis**, Interim Youth Pastor  
210-861-3885
- Joyce Hurt**, Children's Director  
830-391-0262
- Penny Smith, Office Manager
- Christie Davis, Office Assistant
- Marti Kelly, Church Custodian

[www.fbcf.org](http://www.fbcf.org)  
[www.facebook.com/firstbaptistfloresville](https://www.facebook.com/firstbaptistfloresville)

*Our deepest sympathy is extended to Joe & Claryce Holcombe and the entire Holcombe family after the November 5, 2017, tragedy at First Baptist Church in Sutherland Springs. Joe & Claryce lost family members Bryan & Karla Holcombe, Danny Holcombe and daughter Noah Grace, Crystal Holcombe and children Emily Rose, Gregory Lynn, Megan Gail, and Carlin Brite. Additionally, FBC Sutherland Springs lost 17 other members of their church family;*

*Christian sympathy is offered to the family of Shirley L. Donaho, mother of Pam Talley, who passed away on November 15, 2017;*

*Deepest condolences are extended to the family of Tammy Risley Pyle, daughter of Rose Lee Risley, who passed away on November 17, 2017.*

Dear Church Family,

Words seem inadequate to express my thanks and gratitude to each of you, my brothers and sisters in Christ, for your love and prayers and cards and visits and continuing love and caring exhibited in my behalf these past few months!

I have a whole new perspective and appreciation for Psalm 46:10 and Philippians 1:3; and I agree with Bro. Joe Holcombe, who says that he has "read the Book!"

God Bless... LaJuana

Dear FBCF Family, Deacons, Staff:

Thank you so very much for the Thanksgiving basket, turkey, and all the "fixins." Your thoughtfulness, generosity, and kindness are so appreciated, and my family and I enjoyed the meal (that was a tremendous help with our holiday budget!)

Sincerely, Marti Kelly

My **comfort** is **SUFFERING**  
is this,  
Your **promise**  
**PRESERVES**  
my **Life.**  
*Psalm 119:50*

congratulations  
on your  
new  
**grand-daughter**

Congratulations to

Bonna Reed

on the arrival of a new  
granddaughter,

**Annabelle Marie Elchols**

born November 11, 2017.  
8 lbs 4 oz. ~ 21 inches

**New Members**  
L.W.E.L.C.O.M.B.E

By Statement

Leif Joosephson  
1209 C Street  
Floresville, TX 78114  
719-232-7532

Kenny & Melinda  
Joines  
P.O. Box 718  
Floresville, TX 78114  
210-906-4180 (Kenny)  
210-906-4174 (Melinda)

By Baptism

Terri Johnson  
1423 Longbranch Dr.  
Floresville, TX 78114  
210-912-6639  
batjohnson@msn.com

Layla Brown  
922 6th Street  
Floresville, TX 78114  
830-391-5288  
laylabrn@yahoo.com

Evie Carter  
93558 FM 536  
Floresville, TX 78114

**BUILDING HISToRY**

Original Loan Amount:  
\$ 525,000.00

October Payment Amount:  
\$ 5,000.00

Current Loan Balance:  
\$ 274,924.62

*Take from among you an offering to the Lord.  
Whoever is of a willing heart, let him bring it as an  
offering to the Lord."*  
~Exodus 35:5a (NKJV)

**online GIVING**  
easy. fast. effective.

Online giving is an easy, convenient, and secure alternative to writing a check. Go to the church's web page, [www.fbcf.org](http://www.fbcf.org), or scan the QR code with your smart phone.

BUDGET-AT-A-GLANCE	Actual Giving Receipts	Required to Meet Budget
October 2017	\$ 58,994.61	\$ 55,724.83
YTD thru October	\$ 520,278.81	\$ 557,248.30