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First Southern Baptist Church  
 215 E. Ettels Lane  
 Clarksville IN 47129

IN GOD WE TRUST

**Christian Love & Sympathy**

is expressed to the family of Ruth Leffler. Ruth was a member of the Ruth Class (Sandy Ragan's class).

**Thank you!**

I would like to thank my FSBC family for the Christmas bonus, and all those that have given me all the goodies, cards and other gifts. It is a true blessing to be surrounded by so many wonderful people.

Love, Tina Richey

**XYZ Group Update**

The XYZ group will be having everybody's birthday luncheon on Tuesday, January 16th at 12:00 PM in the FLC. There is a sign-up sheet in the lobby. More details to follow.

**Church Office Hours**

The Ministry Assistant will be on vacation from December 26, 2017-January 1, 2018. The church office will be closed on Monday, December 25, 2017 and Monday, January 1, 2018 for the Christmas & New Year's Holidays. If you need to contact the staff during the holidays, we will be checking phone messages regularly.

Sunday School		Worship Services	
Adult	97	AM	143
Youth	11	PM	80
Children	14		
Preschool	9		
<b>Total:</b>	<b>131</b>		

**Offering Information**

Budget Needed: \$ 10,742.00  
 Offering Received: \$ 11,113.00  
 Designated Other: \$ 2,290.00  
**Total: \$ 13,403.00**

**Church Staff**

**Pastor**  
 Russell Lievers 812-989-2607  
**Minister of Music & Administration**  
 John Borengasser 812-207-3215  
**Minister to Students**  
 Tyler Kirkpatrick 812-288-8217  
**Ministry Assistant**  
 Tina Richey 812-288-8217



**The Communicator**

of

**First Southern Baptist Church**

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*Worshiping, witnessing, growing,  
 serving...in the name of Jesus  
 Christ and for His glory.*

Volume 37

Issue #45

December 18, 2017

**Calendar of Events**

**Wednesday-Wednesday, December 20, 2017 - January 3, 2018**

Indiana Schools Winter Break

**Wednesday, December 20**

Meal at 5:45 PM

Church-wide Christmas Caroling - 6:30 PM

Hot Chocolate & Cookies after the caroling in the FLC

**Sunday, December 24**

Christmas Eve - Regular Morning Activities

No evening service or activities

**Monday, December 25**

Christmas Day - Office Closed

**Wednesday, December 27**

No evening service or activities

**Sunday, December 31**

New Years Eve - Regular Morning Activities

No evening service or activities

**Monday, January 1, 2018**

New Years Day - Office Closed

**Sunday, January 7**

Sunday School Worker's Meeting in FLC - 9:00 AM

Lord's Supper - AM

Church-wide fellowship reception for Bro. Russ & Karen for 20 years of ministry at First Southern Baptist Church - everyone is welcome!

## Pastor's Paragraphs

I have a lot of "Thank you's" to say. I may not be able to get all of them in this space.

The obvious! Thank you so much dear church family! We are overwhelmed with the anniversary gift of the trip to the Holy Land. (Is this for real, or am I going to wake up in a minute?) It is an opportunity of a lifetime, and I know it is a great sacrifice on your part. There are not words to express to you our appreciation and thanksgiving to you for this generous and gracious gift. We are looking forward to it with excitement. Thank you!! (Did I say, "Thank you"? You are amazing!

Speaking of anniversary gift: twenty years! I have much to say about that. It is hard to believe that twenty years have passed already. We came here simply desiring to be in the center of God's will. We had no intention of staying a short time or a long time, just until God was through with us here or gave us another assignment. We feel that we have been tremendously blessed to have been allowed to serve here with you for these years. It has been a blessing and a pleasure. We love you! We are looking forward to the next phase of the life and ministry of FSBC. God is at work. There are many other things on my heart and mind about this, but I want to talk to you in person about it.

Thanks to Gina and those who helped put together the slide show Sunday morning. It was a very touching surprise to Karen and me.

Thank you also for the generous Christmas gift you gave to me and my family a couple of Sundays ago! (This is the first Communicator article since then.) This is so gracious and generous of you, and makes for a much merrier Christmas!

Tyler and Chelsi, thank you for devoting these two years of your lives into the life of our church and our students. I think you pressed twenty year's worth of love and ministry into two! This is a testimony of God's hand on your ministry. You have led our students to live lives of greater devotion to Jesus. You have impacted our church family in countless ways, many you don't even know. We will never be the same. You can be assured of our prayers for you as you begin your next ministry at CrossPointe Church in Columbus, GA. God bless you! We love you guys!

**Love, Bro. Russ**

## The Upcoming Week

### Sunday, December 24 - Christmas Eve

9:00 AM Men's Prayer Meeting  
9:30 AM Sunday School  
10:45 AM Worship Service  
No evening service or activities

### Monday, December 25 - Christmas Day

Office Closed

### Wednesday, December 27

No evening service or activities

### Thursday, December 28

8:30 AM Men's Prayer Breakfast at Denny's

### Sunday, December 31 - New Years Even

9:00 AM Men's Prayer Meeting  
9:30 AM Sunday School  
10:45 AM Worship Service  
No evening service or activities

### Monday, January 1, 2018 - New Years Day

Office Closed

### Wednesday, January 3

5:45 PM Meal: Chili, Hot Dogs, chips, brownies & fruit cocktail  
6:15 PM "Ignite" Bible Study (Youth) TeamKid (Grades 1-6)  
6:30 PM Adult Bible Study/Prayer Worship Choir Rehearsal

### Thursday, January 4

8:30 AM Men's Prayer Breakfast at Denny's

### Sunday, January 7

9:00 AM SS worker's mtg in FLC  
Men's Prayer Meeting  
9:30 AM Sunday School  
10:45 AM Worship Service  
6:15 PM Worship Service  
Church-wide fellowship reception for Bro. Russ & Karen in the FLC

## A Word from Tyler

Greetings!

On behalf of my family I want to thank you all from the bottom of my heart. It has been such a joy to partner in ministry with you!

Each time I sit down to think of all the things I am thankful for I find myself realizing the list is quite long. I am happy to have been apart of a loving staff and a loving church. Each of you have given us different types of encouragement over the past weeks. It is certainly making this transition much easier on us. I find myself wondering at times if I am "an approved workman," but your words have encouraged me that I am—and not only me, but that I have been given a more-than-capable helper in this task of ministry.

We love you. We have many memories with you (you the reader) and we will miss you all! With love, and signing off for the last time:

Your brother in Christ,

Tyler

Dear Church Family,

Thank you so much for the Christmas bonus. It will be put to good use on our trip to Arizona to see our new grandson as soon as he makes his arrival in the next week or so! Thank you also for the cards, gifts, and other expressions of love during this Christmas season. We love and appreciate each of you!

I also want to take this opportunity to thank the Worship Choir, Youth Choir, children's choirs, handbells, orchestra and A/V techs for a wonderful Christmas season of celebrating Jesus! You all are the best!

John, Diana, Anna, and Sarah

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### **New Sunday School Class**

There is a new Sunday school class scheduled to start January 7th to be led by Chuck Lee and Mark McCarty. It will be called the Logos Class because it will be about studying the word in a verse by verse format. It will be open to individuals of any age, couples or complete families. They will read, study and discuss portions of God's Word and see how it is relevant to other scripture and today's life. They will start off in Zechariah chapters 1-6. You will not be called on to answer questions, but discussion will be desired. You may choose to take a break from your usual class and join them for a few weeks or you might want to stay. They will meet in room #268.

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### **Week of Prayer for International Missions and Lottie Moon Christmas Offering**

This is the week of Prayer. Prayer guides are in your bulletin today and at the welcome center.

Please pray for our missionary outreach. Pray for God's leadership in your giving. Our church goal: \$23,000. National Goal: \$160 Million (100% of the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering goes to the Mission Field.)