



Elm Grove Baptist Church  
 8180 Barksdale Boulevard  
 Bossier City, LA 71112

Address Service Requested

# White Steeple Banner

## Elm Grove Baptist Church

December 2016, Volume 17, #12

8180 Barksdale Boulevard  
 Bossier City, LA 71112  
 (318) 747-0089  
[www.elmgrovebaptist.com](http://www.elmgrovebaptist.com)  
[facebook.com/elmgrovebaptistchurch](https://facebook.com/elmgrovebaptistchurch)

Dr. Brian D. Prucey, Pastor  
 Charles Anderson, Music/Ed Minister  
 James Snyder, Youth Pastor



Michael Lipkal in his Pew Research study titled, "5 facts about Christmas in America," noted the following findings:

1. Over nine-in-ten Americans (92%) and nearly all Christians (96%) say they celebrate Christmas.
2. Surprisingly, a big majority (81%) of non-Christians in the U.S. also celebrate Christmas. This includes 87% of people with no religion and even about three-quarters of Asian-American Buddhists (76%) and Hindus (73%).
3. Among Americans overall, about half (51%) say they celebrate Christmas as more of a religious holiday, while roughly a third (32%) say it is more of a cultural holiday to them personally.
4. Americans largely believe that elements of the traditional Christmas story reflect actual historical events. More than seven-in-ten (73%) say that Jesus was born to a virgin and

81% believe he was laid in a manger. And similar percentages say that wise men, guided by a star, brought Jesus gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh (75%) and that an angel of the Lord appeared to shepherds to announce the birth of Jesus (74%). Nearly two-thirds of U.S. adults (65%) believe that all four of these things actually happened, while 14% say none of them happened.

5. Research found that 86% of Americans buy gifts for family and friends as a part of celebrating Christmas. However, nearly half of those surveyed (46%) said buying gifts stressed them out financially and made it more difficult to find joy in the gift-giving.

I think the above findings can guide us in several ways as we move toward Christmas as a church and as fully devoted followers of Jesus:

1. With 81% of non-Christians celebrating Christmas, the holiday can be a wonderful time to help introduce non-Christians to the Gospel story. A missionary friend told me about

people he met while serving in Canada who understood Christmas was an important holiday, but did not know why. We have an awesome story to tell!

2. Christ followers should significantly reflect on whether Christmas is a cultural event for them or a religious one. We must never allow the over-hyped commercialism of our culture to replace the spiritual element of Christmas. Jesus is still the reason for the season.

3. Parents have a wonderful opportunity to teach their children about the dangers of materialism. Jesus came into this world with nothing, lived his life in relative poverty and died while soldiers gambled for his clothes. Yet all the while He was in the center of the will of God.

Our stuff must never be the measure of our lives.

Carole and I want to wish our EGBC family a merry Christmas and a joyous New Year.

Blessings,  
 Pastor Brian

**DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS**

Kirk Hidalgo	2nd
Wanda Kent	2nd
Natalea Rice	5th
Kay Sutton	6th
Glen Barnes, Jr.	11th
Betty McKinney	11th
Katie Wren	14th
Nancy Dorbandt	15th
Ricky Bumgardner	18th

**ANNIVERSARIES**

Dennis & Tina Spearman	1st
Kevin & Diana Lott	15th
Steve & Kay Sutton	22nd



**Children's  
Christmas Party**  
Saturday, December 3rd  
from 12 to 2 p.m.  
In the Youth Building  
for K - 5th Grade



**Senior Adult  
Christmas Party**  
Saturday,  
December 10<sup>th</sup>  
From 12 to 2 p.m.  
In the Fellowship Hall

**Young Adult  
Christmas Party**  
Saturday, December 17  
at 6 p.m.  
David Womack's Home  
Elm Grove, LA  
Bring \$10 gift

**Youth Christmas Party**  
Saturday, December 17th  
6 p.m. to 9 p.m.  
in the Youth Building  
Bring a gift for  
White Elephant Exchange



**Charlie's Chats**

Thanks to all of you who have been so deligent in working on the Christmas program. We only have 1 more rehearsal until we present *Season Of Hope* so please make every effort to attend choir rehearsal on Wednesday night!

I'm looking forward to our annual Candlelight, Carols & Communion on Christmas Eve. It is always such a special, worshipful service for the entire family.

*Season Of Hope*



Presented by  
**The Praise Choir**  
Sunday, December 11th  
At 10:45 a.m.



*Candlelight, Carols  
& Communion*  
at 5 p.m.  
A time of reverence and  
celebration with your  
family

**LMCO**

—  
LOTTIE  
MOON  
CHRISTMAS  
OFFERING®  
2016

**Our Goal  
\$1,500**



9:30 a.m.



**FOR  
Nursery & Toddler Area  
during worship  
Food Bank Helpers**

**WEEKLY EVENTS**

<b>Sunday</b>	
Sunday School	9:30 a.m.
Morning Worship	10:45 a.m.
<b>Wednesday</b>	
Prayer Meeting	6:30 p.m.
Children's Worship	6:30 p.m.
Youth Worship	6:30 p.m.
Praise Choir	6:30 p.m.

