

## FIRST CHRONICLES

DECEMBER 2018

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH  
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### December 2018 Pastor Mike Hagan

“Who would have sheep out overnight in the fields in December? Jesus must have been born in another month,” the well-meaning man asked and answered in the same question.

I smiled. Shepherds in Israel take their sheep out, even overnight, every month of the year. Israel is quite a bit warmer in winter months than Iowa.

The year of Jesus’ birth is easier to determine than the day. Jesus’ birth came before Herod the Great’s death (Matt 2:1; Luke 1:5). Roman sources indicate Herod came to power in 37 BCE and reigned thirty-four years. Josephus says an eclipse of the moon occurred shortly before Herod’s demise; it is the only eclipse he mentions in his history. He also says the Passover came after his death. A lunar eclipse took place on March 12/13, 4 BCE; the first day of Passover came on April 11. We believe Herod died somewhere in between those dates.

Jesus was born before 4 BCE and probably no earlier than 6 BCE since Herod thought the death of babies two and younger would eliminate this new king (Matt 2:16). Determinations about a census of Quirinius (Luke 2:1-5) prove impossible to confirm. He did not rule over the Roman Syrian territory until 7 CE, long after Herod’s death. Some recent texts may show he reigned two times, the first time in 8/7 BCE. No real help there. We can still say we’ve narrowed down Jesus’ birth to 6-4 BCE.

In John 8:57 the Jews said to Jesus, “You are not yet fifty years old.” Luke 3:23 notes he started ministry around the age of 30, give or take two to three years. The John reference doesn’t help since they were arguing Jesus was not old enough to be around when Abraham lived. Luke is more specific; 30 was a normal age for a mature rabbi to speak on his own. Since Luke 3:1 provides more chronological cross-references, scholars offer a start for Jesus’ ministry somewhere between 27 and 29 CE, which would place his birth in late 5 or early 4 BCE.

The actual date of his birth is more difficult. Since Hippolytus (ca. 165-235 CE) December 25<sup>th</sup> has been one traditional date. Chrysostom declared December 25 the official date in 386 BCE. In the Eastern church January 6<sup>th</sup> is the traditional date.

The only difficulty for either date is the time of year and the temperatures in the fields for the shepherds. Of course, it could have been a mild winter. Luke tells us they were around Bethlehem, which isn’t the same as being in the wilderness without nearby protection. Around Bethlehem lots of wide caves exist that would have provided night time protection for sheep and shepherds, especially with a warm fire.

A mid-winter birth is acceptable. I personally think we should have Christmas on both dates. More fun for all. (And to all a good night.)

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY



December 1 Delores Jurrens  
Dawn McVey  
Jacob Stratman  
4 Herman Stubbe  
6 Sweer Arends  
Ross Kooiker  
11 Jesse DeGroot  
Gwen Winter  
14 Jozephine Kaufman  
15 Bridget Gravenhof  
Trista Hackett  
18 Dax DeGroot  
22 Katie DeBoer  
28 Jesse Schrick  
30 Dustin DeBoer  
Glenda DeBoer  
31 Barry Arends  
Bob Johnson

## HAPPY ANNIVERSARY



December 1 Kenny & Mavis Kanengieter  
16 Harold & Helen Eben  
22 David & Rita Busse  
26 Kelly & Stacie DeBoer



## PARSONAGE OPEN HOUSE



Sunday, December 9  
5:00-7:00 P.M.

# SCHEDULES

## GREETERS



**Sunday, December 2**  
Roger and Charlotte Jurrens  
**Sunday, December 9**  
Roger and Janelle Kooiker  
**Sunday, December 16**  
Bradley and Abby Kramer  
**Sunday, December 23**  
Bryan and Rachel Kramer  
**Sunday, December 30**  
Darren and Julie Kramer

## NURSERY WORKERS



**Sunday, December 2**  
Donna  
**Sunday, December 9**  
Terresa  
**Sunday, December 16**  
Lynette  
**Sunday, December 23**  
Jolene  
**Sunday, December 30**  
Amber

## AWANA (6:30-8:00 P.M.)

*Awana shirts need to be worn every club night!*



Wednesday, December 5

**Silent Night**

*Bring your QUIET self*

Wednesday, December 12

**Pajama Jam**

*Come in pajamas, but you must wear your Awana shirt*

Wednesday, December 19

**No Awana (Christmas break)**

Wednesday, December 26

**No Awana (Christmas break)**

# Thank You

Thank you for thinking of me when I broke my leg and had to have surgery. I really appreciate it. Also, thanks for the candy bouquet.

~Kasey deBoer

I want to thank the CHC for the beautiful flowers Janice & Audrey brought. We had a great visit. Thanks.

~Florence Eben

I want to thank you for all your prayers and cards while I was in the hospital. We are thankful for the Church family that always stands with us in prayer.

~Dean & Donna Shelly

We want to thank the Church and Pastor Mike for the prayers, flowers and food that you gave us during our recovery from our surgeries. The knee and the back are better.

~Edward & Gloria Kruse

Thank you, First Baptist Church, for the encouragement note and the gift card. I appreciate you thinking of and praying for me as I take online courses through Northwest Iowa Community College in Sheldon and work as a paraprofessional at the Sioux Center Elementary school.

~Aaron Hayenga

## ALL CHURCH CHRISTMAS CAROLING



Sunday, December 2 @ 2:00 PM

## PROJECT WARM-UP

Sunday, December 2 ~ 11:15 a.m.

**CHC AND THE YOUTH** invites **EVERYONE** for soup and pie lunch.

Free will donation will be taken for the youth. Following lunch we will make tie blankets that will be distributed at the Bread of Life food distribution in George on December 19<sup>th</sup>. Sign-up sheets will be in the foyer for soup and desserts. Monetary donations can be given to Barbie for purchasing fleece for the blankets. If you're purchasing fleece, you will need 1.25 yards for the front and 1.25 yards for the back. Please contact Donna DeBoer or Barbie Hagan if you have questions.

**GROUP 4** is asked to work in the kitchen and serve soup, pie and dessert that people bring.

## CHRISTMAS EVE PROGRAM INFORMATION



Children in Sunday School will have practice for the Christmas program every Sunday until Christmas Eve. Please be in church during this time to practice. The Christmas program and candlelight service will be on Christmas Eve at 7 PM. Students who are in the program need to be at church by 6:30 PM so we can do a quick dress rehearsal.

## NEW YEAR'S EVE SERVICE



Monday, December 31  
7:00 P.M.



Since our last write up, Bud and Lois Fuchs have continued working with the ICF (International Christian Fellowship) in Utah as Cross-Cultural Equipper. He holds bible studies each month with international students and professionals who are hungry for the word and knowing Jesus. He is also working with the ESL Conversation Corner on campus at UVU (Utah Valley University). This fall they are working on starting up Conversation Café with ICF.

In July, Bud and Lois were able to attend the Triennial where Bud lead workshops on "Reaching Internationals". They are happy to inform us that NAB team was in Utah to pray and discern the possibility of a church plant in Utah. Prayers would be greatly appreciated that this possibility will become real.

Bud's training videos for "Without a Passport" are now online and are free, but continue praying that the book will have a great impact for reaching internationals. Prayers are needed for their son Jon, who has left the Church to attend a Coding School and Lois is asking prayers for her niece who is battling cancer.

~Mission Board