Fort Lauderdale
CHRISTMAS PAGEANT
30th Anniversary Holiday Celebration
From the street corner to the city square, Christmas is all around us. From holiday decorations on downtown streets to neighborhood parties and family events, this is a season for rejoicing.

As we present this 30th Anniversary edition of the Fort Lauderdale Christmas Pageant, we celebrate that Christmas is all around us. In this 30th year of the Pageant, you’ll find a flashback to a festive opening act with familiar carols and holiday songs, a concert of inspirational contemporary selections, an original “Lauderdilly” Christmas produced by our own team at Disney studios and a musical drama of the nativity and life of Christ.

We believe this celebration of Christmas in the city is especially appropriate for our wonderful South Florida community. First Baptist Church is thankful to be part of Fort Lauderdale’s emerging downtown, at the center of South Florida’s business, entertainment and residential district. Nearly seventy nations are represented in our church. Some of the members of our church family live just across the street, and others travel great distances. No matter where you’re from, or what your life experience might be, we have a place for you! All year long, every Sunday and throughout the week, you’ll find spiritually uplifting opportunities to enrich your own relationship with God and your friendships with others. We invite you to be part of these, beginning with our Sunday Morning Worship Celebrations at 9:30 a.m. and 11 a.m. (11 a.m. only during the Christmas season through January 5).

One of the most celebrated aspects of the Pageant is the role played by young people, featuring hundreds of children and students from weeks-old babies (in the starring role!) to high school seniors who’ve been part of the Pageant all their lives. The reason we’re able to show off our young people at Christmas is because of our commitment to their spiritual development every single day. Whether through our Orange approach to children’s and student ministries or our Next Generation Learning Center weekday preschool programs, we’re intentional about providing the spiritual resources most needed by families.

We are truly honored and humbled that we have the privilege of portraying the timeless truths illustrated in the life of Jesus. The promise of two thousand years ago is realized again each time we tell the Christmas story. As morning rises over Bethlehem, a new hope arises in our hearts. Today, we celebrate that Hope with you.

Larry Thompson, Senior Pastor
Act I
The Thriller Before Christmas
Little Drummer Boy
Carol of the Bells Waltz
Just Put a Ribbon in Your Hair
White Christmas
We Wish You a Merry Christmas

A LAUDERDILLY CHRISTMAS
Gift Card
Heart-Made Christmas
Grinch
Forever Christmas Morning
Christmas Star

A CONCERT OF CHRISTMAS JOY
Christmas is Coming
The First Noel
Rhythm of Rejoicing
Happy Birthday, Jesus
God Rest Ye, Merry Gentlemen

Act II
Roman Fanfare
Here With Us
Many Moods of Christmas, Suite III
In the Name of the Lord
Sacred Ground
Lord, Have Mercy
Arise. My Love
I Have Seen the Light

Words and music used by permission

John Jones, Musical Director, and Jeff Crevier, Creative Director

“Pageant kids” have been featured on Broadway and in Hollywood. Catch up with all of our “Happy Birthday, Jesus” children on our Facebook page.
Three Decades of Christmas Wonder

One of South Florida’s favorite holiday events, the Fort Lauderdale Christmas Pageant has been a part of season’s greetings all over the world. With its beginning at War Memorial Auditorium just north of the church’s downtown location, the Pageant has become an internationally acclaimed celebration of the greatest Story ever told.

The original casts and crews tell of making their way through the rain from dressing trailers to the stage in those early auditorium days, or of camels walking down Federal Highway on their way to their Bethlehem debut. When the Pageant moved into a state-of-the-art Worship Center in 1990, its new home featured built-for-camel-traffic doorways and secret passageways for everything from fireworks to surprise entrances.

Many of the theatrical innovations you see on stages in other productions were developed specifically by quick-thinking Christmas Pageant volunteers. From the real lighted torch props to truly celestial angel flights, some of the most popular Christmas show effects begin in the unlikely sunshine of South Florida and extend to church and professional productions all around the world. The stage and sets were designed by our own teams and the designers who created the Winter Olympics Opening Ceremonies, The Millennium Village at Disney’s EPCOT, Cirque du Soleil and Broadway productions of Peter Pan, Cinderella and Wicked.

Throughout these three decades of change, one feature has remained constant: the thousands of hours devoted by our volunteer cast and crew to provide a wonderfully joyous commemoration of our Savior’s birth and life. It’s for that reason that we sing, we dance and we celebrate year after year.

The Pageant’s national PBS production has received two Emmy awards from the National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences. (See local listings for this year’s times.)
Christmas Eve by Candlelight

December 24
5 p.m. and 11 p.m.

Our regular Sunday morning schedule includes worship at 9:30 a.m. and 11 a.m. (with the 11 a.m. service only in July and during the Pageant season).
Next Step? Your Starting Point is January 12
Discover more about being part of our family at First Fort Lauderdale. Join us for our free Starting Point information experience Sunday, January 12. For details, call 954-831-1151.

Next Generation Learning Center
Many of the children from our program are also students in our Next Generation Learning Center, now open for infants through VPK. For information on how to enroll your child in this weekday childcare program, go to www.NextGenCenter.com, or call 954-713-7001.

Global Grille Open Daily
The Global Grille is our casual dining restaurant open Sunday through Friday, with free wi-fi and comfortable meeting spaces. In addition, our Global Event Center is downtown’s largest conference space, seating nearly a thousand people. For more details, call 954-712-1573.

Refreshments and Intermission
Refreshments are available on the First Street Plaza near the first level. Restrooms are accessible from the First Street entrance, as well as the Sanctuary second level. Global Event Center restrooms are especially convenient for those in the loges and balconies.

Want to contact us? Call 954-527-6800 or see our Internet site at www.FirstFortLauderdale.com

Christmas Gifts Available in the Lobby
DVDs of the Fort Lauderdale Christmas Pageant are available in the main lobby, or you can pre-order the 2013 30th Anniversary edition by completing the tear-off card.

Travel to Israel with Pastor Larry Thompson
To experience the events of Christmas in the land where they happened, consider joining Pastor Larry Thompson for our 2014 pilgrimage to Israel. You’ll visit Bethlehem, Jerusalem and other sites portrayed in the Fort Lauderdale Christmas Pageant. First Fort Lauderdale is pleased to partner with the Watchman Prayer Ministry and the Jerusalem Prayer Center, a place of peace in the Holy Land. To find out more about this once-in-a-lifetime journey or other global options, please email Mike.Jeffries@FBCFL.com.

Thank You to Our Sponsors
This year, we’re pleased to welcome AmTrust Bank and Chick-Fil-A of Broward and Miami as the official sponsors of the Fort Lauderdale Christmas Pageant. To sponsor the Pageant, contact Jeff Crevier at 954-831-1142.

Be a Pageant Insider!
Keep up with all our behind-the-scenes action on our Facebook page: www.Facebook.com/ChristmasPageant

With members from nearly seventy nations and a myriad of denominational backgrounds, First Fort Lauderdale has a place for everyone -- including you!
Experience the joy of generosity this holiday season and help someone in need. Select an ornament from one of our Giving Trees in the main lobby. Purchase or provide funding for the item listed on the ornament tag and return your gift or funding to the Tree. Meet a need right here in South Florida, or give to our global needs in East Africa, Russia, Nicaragua or the Middle East. To give online, go to FBCGivingTree.com. Or, text FBCTREE and your dollar amount to 28950.

Sunday mornings starting January 12
9:30 a.m. and 11 a.m.

Four Habits of a Happy Marriage:
Have Serious Fun
Respect and Love
Love God First
Practice Your Promise

With Special Kids FX Preview

Join us Sundays through Christmas for our Advent Celebration
You’ll receive a free book of daily readings based on THE STORY. Sunday mornings at 11 a.m.
The Celebration Continues...

New to the First Fort Lauderdale experience? Join us on Sunday mornings to start your year off right and receive a FREE edition of The One-Year Bible. Worship times are 11 a.m. only until Jan. 5, then 9:30 a.m. and 11 a.m. starting Jan. 12.

This printed program was provided by Mort Weisberg and Jackie Osborne Fisher in honor of their friendship with First Fort Lauderdale and Pastor Larry Thompson. Mr. Weisberg has been involved in producing several successful Broadway shows and celebrates the Fort Lauderdale Christmas Pageant as one of South Florida’s shining theatrical lights. Mort and Jackie wish to congratulate the Christmas Pageant on its 30th Anniversary and extend that congratulation to Dr. Thompson as he begins his 20th year as pastor of the church.
First Fort Lauderdale
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