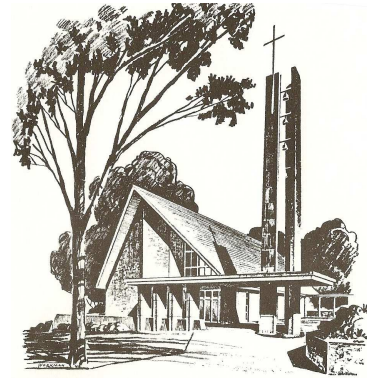


The Announcer

First Baptist Church—Mount Airy, North Carolina 27030



Volume 47

December 10, 2009

Number 47

CHRISTMAS AT FIRST BAPTIST

*Merry
Christmas*

December 13 - 3rd Sunday of Advent
Festival of Lessons and Carols with
Chancel Choir, String quartet & Handbells

December 16 - Children's music and pageant
Menu: Baked Ham
(call church office for reservations)

December 20 - 4th Sunday of Advent
Granite City Ringers play

December 24 - Christmas Eve
Candlelight service and Communion Service

OFFERING FOR INTERNATIONAL MISSIONS

GOAL: \$5,000.00

GIVEN TO DATE: \$1,915.00

In Cambodia, mobile medical clinics, food distribution, and education allow Christian workers and local believers to go into floating villages and share their faith.

Arville and Sheila Earl, missionaries with the Albanians in Macedonia share that contributions to CBF Global Missions have provided the poorest families of our kindergarten children with firewood for these winter months. Thank you for your generosity.



CBF *Offering for*
GLOBAL MISSIONS

ABBY BLEDSOE SENIOR PROJECT BLOOD DRIVE Sunday, December 20, 2009



If you signed up, you will be contacted to set your appointment time. **We will also need volunteers to bake cakes or brownies for the canteen.** If you can help, please call Amy Bledsoe at 336-902-7620 or email me at

AbbyCBledsoe@gmail.com

Thanks to my church family for your love and support!

Abby Bledsoe



“No Room at the Inn”

December 12th is the last Saturday to see the Nativity Scene display from 9:00am to 5:00pm. The Cody Kirsch Family Team for Relay for Life is sponsoring this display at FBC. It is a large display with a little over 200 nativity scenes in all. Donations will be accepted and all collected goes to the American Cancer Society.

Would you like to help fill Christmas gift bags for Feeding Friends?

Come to the small dining room on Wednesday, December 16, at 2:00 and be one of Santa's helpers. We'll be putting together food items for adults, toys for children, and sweat shirts and socks for all ages.

Thank you.



PASTOR TO PEOPLE

Heather Sawyer's Fourth Anniversary

Heather Sawyers came to work at First Baptist as Financial Secretary on December 12, 2005. Heather came to this job with natural abilities, effective training, and a rich experience of working at Lafayette Baptist Church in Fayetteville. Across these four years here she has served effectively in carefully and accurately keeping the financial records, paying bills, and doing all of the other many tasks that are a part of the responsibilities of Financial Secretary. In addition, she does an excellent job of looking after so many other details that do not fit neatly into a job description but which go along with working in a church office. She is diligent, committed, conscientious, efficientand so much more.

Heather and her family are active members at Antioch Baptist Church. Her Christian faith is a very important part of her daily life and is evident in her daily work.

As Heather begins her fifth year with us, express your appreciation for her faithful and effective service here at First Baptist.

Christ and Christians in the World Today

On Wednesday nights we have been studying the Book of James. We recently took another look at James 2:14-26 that insists that genuine faith produces "works." We discussed that Paul and James are not in conflict when Paul writes about being saved by faith not works, and James writes that "faith apart from works is dead." For Paul, "works" usually refers to keeping the legal codes and ceremonies. For James, "works" refers to obedience to God, particularly in loving our neighbor (James 2:8). Paul's emphasis on faith has to do with trusting God for our salvation instead of trusting our works. James' emphasis is on works has to do with how Christians are to demonstrate their faith by loving others. One of the most often quoted passages in James is 2:15-16 which reads, ***If a brother or sister is ill clad and in lack of daily food, and one of you says to them, "Go in peace, be warmed and filled" without giving them the things needed for the body, what does it profit?***

In last Sunday's sermon we grappled with John the Baptist as recorded in Luke 3. John's message called for bearing fruit. When asked what that meant his answer sounds a lot like James. ***Let him who has two coats share with him who has none; and he who has food, let him do likewise*** (Luke 3:11).

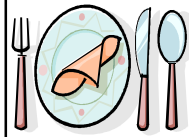
Christmas is a wonderful season of Good News, hope and joy. The biblical faith calls us to worship and celebrate. Biblical faith also demands that we wrestle with how to live out our faith in practical ways. In the midst of a world with so many suffering people, I find myself overwhelmed with how to apply the teachings of James and John the Baptist (as well as Amos, Hosea, Isaiah, Jeremiah and Jesus himself) to the needs around us. As much as we would like to hide behind the outward festivities, authentic faith demands that we seek to do what we can to personally meet needs and to also work toward changing the structures of greed and injustice.

Gratefully your pastor,
Roger

LOST AND FOUND: A set of tools were found in the church parking lot. Please call the church office 336-786-5185 if you think they are yours.



◆ BULLETIN BOARD ◆




**Please Come to Dinner
December 16
Menu: Baked Ham**

CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PAGEANT


The pageant will be held Wednesday, Dec. 16 after dinner in the fellowship hall. Rehearsal will be during the Sunday School hour on Sunday, December 13.

ALL I WANT FOR CHRISTMAS IS...

...a cow to provide milk for my family.

 For a second year FBC Youth and the BIG Kids (this year for the first time) are encouraging you to make a donation to Heifer International this holiday season. Last year, over \$1000 was donated and we were able to provide a Milk Menagerie for a village. (A Milk Menagerie is a Heifer, Water Buffalo and two goats) We will be collecting through Christmas and would love your support of this fantastic project.

...an Angel Tree Gift

 If you are sponsoring an angel from the Angel Tree, **gifts need to be turned in no later than Wednesday, December 16.**

OPEN DATES IN FLOWER CALENDAR FOR 2010

March 21 and June 13

If you would like to place flowers in the sanctuary for one of these dates please call Inglis Rowe @ 789-4854.



Many thanks to our church family for your prayers, visits, cards, food and other expressions of love during "Willies" surgery and recovery. Your love and kindness is received with deep appreciation.

Willodene and David Hatcher

Dear Christian Friends,

Thank you so much for the Thanksgiving Dinner! And the Bible.

May God Bless You.

Sincerely, Phyllis Joyce

Thank you all so much for the food. It was very much appreciated. Hope you all have a Happy & Blessed Holiday.

The Byrd Family

To my Brothers & Sisters in Christ,

Thank you all so very much for the meal. My family enjoyed it greatly. God sent you to us for a reason. I was diagnosed with bone cancer in March 2009. I since have had a bone marrow transplant & God performed a miracle in me. Things have been very tough on us with only one income. My husband in in the Navy so he is not here on a regular basis. So we know God is Good & He is the one that sent you to us. Again thank you so very much & you are in our thoughts & prayers.

Stephanie Shumate & Family

Chris Column

Advent - Highlights

"It's a highlight world" the sports radio host exclaimed. If it cannot be fit in to a highlight reel, then it will probably not make the sports segment. But, that is not just for sports, it's everything. Politics is played in sound bytes, people don't buy albums but download single songs or ringtones (the highlight, or best part of the song).

Though the way life swirls around us has changed, our need to sense progression, feel an entire season has not. We need, and love, our annual rites of passage: going to get our tree, Christmas parades, tree lighting, work gatherings, etc... There are many things that emerge during this time of the year to mark the season we are in, and we need them, which is why I am thankful that our church continues to further embrace the season of Advent.

All around us we experience life that changes quickly and feels like it is out of control. I hope that during this Advent season, the rhythm of our church will be one of patient reliability, slowly and carefully marking the season as the days pass, and finally celebrating joyfully, when the time is right, and that white candle is again lit on Christmas Eve. It will come. It is THE highlight. But, it is only so because we have journeyed through the entire season. Unfortunately, I doubt the single white candle will not be a big enough deal to make SportsCenter.

Book Club

Book Club is taking a Christmas Break. We will resume with a *Hot, Flat, and Crowded* by Thomas Friedman in late January. Until then, read something else.

Youth News

Christmas Party Day

Plans are in the works for an afternoon/evening Christmas party gathering on December 23. The day will involve a fun dinner. Some people watching. Then, the Carolina Hurricanes Game in Raleigh that night. This year's party is for all youth and even alumni of the youth ministry. Please RSVP to chris if you are interested.

y.

y. Will meet on the 16th @ 7:45.

Big Kids News

M-n-M

Thanks for a great Fall. On the 16th, we will participate in the Nativity pageant. Happy Holidays!

GUEST SPEAKER



"Rev. Johan Pansegrouw, a pastor of Boland Baptist Church in Paarl, South Africa will be speaking to the King David Class on Sunday during the Sunday School hour. He will have a power point presentation of his work in the squatter camps and among the poorest of

the poor. Due to the display in the Fireside Room, he will be in the King David Classroom, which has limited space. All are welcome to hear about his powerful ministry.

Gilbert Huffman has worked with him on some of his missions to South Africa."

Grace Notes

Sunday morning many from our congregation will participate in a service of lessons and carols, as set by Hal Hopson. The service will begin by tracing God's relationship with Adam, and the rupture in that relationship caused by sin. God's yearning to repair the relationship with his children is seen in his call to Abraham. Old Testament prophets promise restoration and redemption and finally, in the fullness of time, God appears in the flesh in an unexpected way to redeem his people. This is our history as the people of God, and we need to hear it again and again. We need to teach it to our children and the coming generations. Sunday we will hear our story, sing our story, and hopefully, leave ready to live our story.

The choir will be accompanied by string quartet, organ and handbells. Several of you will read the scriptures described above. Come Sunday not as listeners ready to hear a performance, but rather as God's people ready to hear the story of his great love for us.

Sing to the Lord!

Linda

Coming in January,
watch for news of:

CELEBRATING
Grace

A New Hymnal for Baptists

Staff Anniversary

Heather Sawyers, Financial Secretary

4 years of service

December 12, 2009

Thank you Heather!

Caring and Sharing in Our Church Family

1 Corinthians 12:14 and 26

Write a note, make a telephone call, or pay a visit to the following:

HOSPITAL

Iva Marshall—Forsyth

Jack Loftis—Baptist

HOMEBOUND

Howard & Maude Morris

307 Robin Road, Mt. Airy

COLLEGE

Kyle Wilson

Western Carolina University

245 Memorial Dr., Ste 6350

Cullowee, NC 28723-8911

Lauren Akers

7395 UNCG Station

Greensboro, NC 27413-1069

Statistics**Date: 12-6-09**

Sunday School Enrollment	369	
Sunday School Attendance	177	
Worship Attendance	238	
<u>Tithes and Offerings</u>	<u>This Week</u>	<u>To Date</u>
Weekly Needs	\$9,558.00	\$468,342.00
Budget Offering	\$19,065.19	\$459,875.27
Amount Needed/Budget	.00	\$8,466.73
Designations	\$9,101.98	\$166,433.68
Total Offering	\$28,167.17	\$626,308.95
<u>Designations</u>		
Building Fund	\$1,134.00	
Wednesday Night Meals	\$167.00	
Miscellaneous	\$1,996.25	
Designated Missions	\$3,481.50	
Thanksgiving Meal	\$1,618.23	
Ben Brannock Bus Fund	\$705.00	
<u>Loan</u>		
Building Fund Bal to Date	\$4,134.00	
Loan Bal as of 12-4-09		
Building	250,200.53	
Bus	28,345.90	

Memorials And Honorariums**Building Fund**

In memory of Leota Poore, Donald Poore, Russell Poore & Glenda Poore by:

Allen Poore

In memory of Ann Honeycutt by:

Harris & Tonita Greene

In memory of Granny & Pa (Mary Etta & Dick Young) by:

Hailey Martin

In memory of Jane Edwards by:

Jim & Gayle Reeves

In honor of June & Jessie Loftis by:

Elsie Simpson

In memory of Norfleet Umstead by:

Bonnie & Revel Young

Ben Brannock Bus Fund

In memory of Norfleet Umstead by:

J.T. & Gladys Henson

Hugh & Becky Hennis

Evelyn Johnson

Angelena Bowman

The Cook Cousins

David Royal

Robert Reed

Clarence and Nelda Goings

Don and Nancy Twitty

In memory of Ben Brannock & James Tillotson by:

Allen Poore

The Week Ahead

SUNDAY, December 13, 2009 3rd Sunday of Advent

9:15am Prayer Time—Kudzu Room

9:45am Sunday School—**Rehearsal for Children's Play**

11:00am **The Church at Worship & Praise

Christmas Service of Music, No Kids Korner

5:30pm Granite City Ringers

TUESDAY, December 15, 2009

9:45am Gentry Middle School

10:00am Hensley WMU group @ Nancy Pyles' home,
3016 Mission Friends Rd, Ararat, VA

11:00am Staff Meeting

WEDNESDAY, December 16, 2009

5:00pm Children's Choir/Preschool Missions

5:45pm Family Night Meal—Reservations by 4pm Tues

6:30pm Preschool/Children's Pageant/Music

7:30pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal

7:45pm y. - Youth Bible study

THURSDAY, December 17, 2009

5:30pm *Feeding Friends Meal—Fellowship Hall

7:00pm *Boy Scouts—Scout Hut

SUNDAY, December 20, 2009 4th Sunday of Advent

9:15am Prayer Time—Kudzu Room

9:45am Sunday School

11:00am **The Church at Worship & Praise

Blood Drive in Fellowship Hall

*Community Ministry **Hearing Assists / Valet Parking Available upon request - Wheelchair spaces available in the sanctuary for the convenience of those who need to stay in their chair.

Ben Brannock Bus Fund continued...

In honor of Bill Anderson by:

Susan Anderson

Friends Feeding Friends

In honor of Ann Anderson by:

Susan Anderson

In honor of Heather Sawyers & Marie Conzone by:

Claude & Shirley Brinkley

In honor of Martha Morgan by:

Clarence & Nelda Goings

Children's Ministry

In honor of Hanne, Peter & Martin Cooke by:

Byron Cooke

DEACONS OF THE WEEK

David & Chris O'Neal

Ministry for Sunday, December 13: Christmas Music; **Sunday School Greeters:** Ryan & Cathy Parker; **After Worship Greeters:** David & Chris O'Neal; **No Kid's Korner Today;** **Nursery Workers:** Janice Demcio, Laney Johnson, Eddie & Penny Slate; **Sound:** James Hayes, Ryan Parker

The Announcer" (USPS 597 840) is published weekly, except Christmas, and July 4 weeks, By First Baptist Church, 714 N. Main St., Mount Airy, NC 27030-3797. Periodical postage is paid at Mount Airy, NC 27030-9998. **POSTMASTER:** Send address changes to First Baptist Church, 714 N. Main St., Mount Airy NC 27030-3797. PH: 336-786-5185; Fax 336-789-3982.

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