

Teaching
THE
WORD...
Touching
LIVES



FROM YOUR PASTOR'S HEART

Dear First Family,
Merry Christmas! The announcement of the angels on the first Christmas still covers our world with His love today.

"And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid. And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord."
Luke 2:8-11

Our 2009 Deacon Officers are Paul Batson, Chairman; Alan Austin, Vice-Chairman, and Bart Lynn, Secretary. **Thank you** and God's blessings to our 2008 officers – Mike Carrigan, Paul Batson,

and Joseph Cherry. These men are all spiritual leaders in our Church whose sole desire is to glorify God and edify Christ's church. My love and respect for these men is personal, deep, and profound. It is a joy to serve Christ together with them.

In Beijing, China I saw the words "Merry Christmas" in a shopping Mall and was surprised and joyful. The missionary with me read the Chinese characters for Christmas. They mean, "Holy Birth of a Great One" or "Holy Birth of a King." Jesus is the Saviour of the whole world including China. Christmas is the "Holy Birth of a King." Jesus is our King. "O, come, let us adore Him!"

Merry Christmas!

Roger P. Freeman

CAROLS, CANDLELIGHT AND COMMUNION

On Wednesday, December 24, we will have a wonderful family time of celebration of the birth of Christ at 5:00 pm in the Grace Worship Center. This is a highlight of our church year. Hundreds of families come together on Christmas Eve to sing, pray, receive the Lord's Supper, hear a message by our Pastor and go out in a spirit of worship. Don't miss this annual blessing.

This will take the place of our regular Wednesday schedule. There will be no family meal that night.



CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR OFFICE SCHEDULE

Our church offices will be closed on Wednesday, December 24 through Friday, December 26 for the Christmas holidays. They will be closed on January 1 for the New Year's Day holiday. The Business Office will be open until 5:30 pm on New Year's Eve.

NEW YEAR'S EVE WORSHIP

There will be a 5:00 pm Prayer Worship on New Year's Eve in the Grace Worship Center. No evening meal will be served.



ACTIVITIES CENTER HOURS

During the months of December and early January, the hours of operation will be:
Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday: 8:00 am until 9:00 pm
Saturday: 8:00 am until 12:00 noon
Sunday: Closed

The facilities will be closed December 24th, 25th, and 26th, and on January 1st, as are all our offices. We encourage everyone to come out and use our facilities over the holidays. You can walk the track or play some basketball. We do have regularly scheduled events so please call the Activities Office at 647-8877 to reserve the facilities for special groups. So, get out and exercise!



Pat Nowell,
*Interim Minister to Senior
Adults*

LESSON PREVIEW

(Luke 1:26-38, 46-48,
54-55) The Sunday

School lesson for Sunday, December 21 is the annual Christmas lesson. The first part of the lesson is about the angel Gabriel's announcement to Mary that she had been selected by God to bring into the world the promised Messiah. She was told that He was to be named Jesus, which is a form of the Hebrew name "Joshua," which means "the Lord saves."

Gabriel gave a five-fold description of Jesus. 1) Jesus would be great in the absolute sense. 2) He would be called "the Son of the Most High." "Most High" is synonymous with God. This baby to be born would be uniquely God's son. 3) Jesus would fulfill the promises of God to King David in II Samuel 7:12-13, 16. 4) He would "reign over the house of Jacob forever." This means that Jesus would be the long-awaited Messiah and King of Israel. 5) His "kingdom would have no end." His kingdom would be the everlasting reign of God.

The second part of the lesson records Mary's questioning how could she bear a child since she had never had sexual intercourse. Gabriel explained that she would conceive by the supernatural power of God and have the baby Jesus although she was a virgin. The third part of the lesson concerns believing the message of

Christmas. Mary's response to Gabriel's announcement was "I am the Lord's slave." (v. 38) Mary's obedience and humble submission to God could perhaps be seen in that response if it were translated: "I am here to serve the Lord." The fourth part of the lesson challenges us to celebrate the message of Christmas.

Verses 46-55 comprise a passage that is frequently referred to as the "Magnificat."

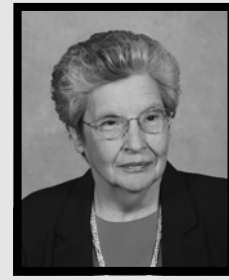
The word reflects that Mary was magnifying, or proclaiming "the greatness of the Lord." May we not be satisfied with merely celebrating the birth of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ at this time of the year, but may we also be challenged to "proclaim His greatness" so that all the world may come to know Him in forgiveness of sins!



PRAISE AND MINISTRY REPORT

We praise the Lord for the numerous volunteers who faithfully visit the homebound as well as those in the various nursing homes and retirement centers in Clarksville. This ministry, coordinated through the Senior Adult Ministry, is referred to as the "Loving Touch" ministry. We recently met with our volunteers to share praise reports and prayer concerns.

SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHER HIGHLIGHT



Jean Hoffman teaches a co-ed class at the 10:55 am hour. The ages covers those in their 20s up to those 70+. She has been teaching this class for more than eight years. Jean has been

a member of FBC for fifteen years and is very much involved in other ministries of the church. She regularly visits those at Walking Horse Meadows as a part of the "Loving Touch Ministry" of the Senior Adult Ministry. Jean also regularly attends the Legacy Connection (55+) Bible Study group that meets at 10:30 am each Friday. Her mission-mindedness has been manifested in her participating in mission trips to Brazil on six occasions.

Jean's deceased husband, David was retired from the army. He also served as pastor at Gum Springs Baptist Church and at Woodlawn Baptist Church, both churches being in our Cumberland Baptist Association. Jean has three children: David, who is a Sewer Department Engineer here in Clarksville; Jacquie, who works at Premier Medical Clinic; and Dawn, who works as a guard at a prison in Colorado. Jean says that her passion is reading and studying the Bible as she tries to determine what the Bible really says.

CHURCH NEWS

HOST AN AUSTIN PEAY INTERNATIONAL STUDENT

There are 36 international students at Austin Peay and many of them will not be able to spend Christmas with their families. Invite an international college student into your home for Christmas Eve or Christmas dinner. You can invite one or more students to spend time with your family while they are away from their family. Contact Greg Moore at 572-1521 or greg.moore@fbct.org for more information.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

December 14, 2008

Profession/Baptism:

John Luke McKenzie
Marcus Franzen

Letter/Statement:

Michelle Franzen

BAPTISM ANNOUNCEMENT

On Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve we will observe Christian believer's baptism. If you want more information, call the Church at 645-2431 or email roger@fbct.org or irby@fbct.org. Baptism is a New Testament command and privilege for the saved. Baptism is by immersion and is an outward sign of an inward change through salvation in our Lord Jesus Christ.

VOICE MAILINGS

We have had some problems with our address system at church and this affects the mailing of the Voice. If yours came to an incorrect address or if you know of someone who did not receive their Voice, it is probably because of this computer error. Please report this to 503-3280 or adam@fbct.org. We will get it corrected. We apologize for this problem. NO VOICE will be produced for December 28 due to the Christmas holiday.

CHRISTIAN SYMPATHY

THE PASTOR AND CONGREGATION EXTEND CHRISTIAN SYMPATHY TO...

...Dwight and Jonell Nicholson in the death of Jonell's mother, Betty Camp, also to Cole and Emily in the death of their grandmother.

...O.C. Terrell in the death of his wife, Vivian Terrell and to George Terrell in the death of his mother. Mrs. Terrell passed away October 21, 2008.

LAST WEEK'S ATTENDANCE

Sunday 8:15 Worship	160
Sunday 9:30 Worship	1,422
DOXA	731
Preschool	71
Korean Church	22
Hispanic Church	40
Total Worship	2,446
Exit One Church Sunday School	113
Exit One Church Worship	242

Sunday School Attendance Totals are not available for reporting this week.

DISCIPLESHIP TRAINING INSTITUTE

NEW DTI CLASSES BEGIN JANUARY 7! Wednesdays – 6:00-7:15 pm

Military Ministry ~ Led by Brad Pressley in Room 2321 (January 7 – February 28). This eight-week class will study “The Combat Trauma Healing Manual” which offers solutions for struggles with Combat Trauma by helping construct an environment that will give God optimal access to the wounded soul. For anyone suffering from or interested in helping those who suffer from the unseen spiritual and emotional wounds of combat. To sign up, contact Brad Pressley at brad.pressley@soar.army.mil.

What in the World is Going On? ~ Led by Betty Bernard in Room 2317-19 (January 7 – February 4). This class is a continuation of the current video-driven study of end times taught Dr. David Jeremiah.

Anointed, Transformed, Redeemed (A study of David) ~ Led by Tara Vinson in Room 2324 (January 7 thru February 11). This study contains portions of the Deeper Still conference taught by Beth Moore, Priscilla Shirer, and Kay Arthur and focuses on the different stages of David’s life.

The Case for Christ ~ Led by Bob Murphy in Room 2323 (January 7 – February 11). Is there credible evidence that Jesus of Nazareth really is the Son of God? Retracing his own spiritual journey from atheism to faith, Lee Strobel, former legal editor of the Chicago Tribune, cross-examines several experts who are recognized authorities in their own fields. Strobel’s tough, point-blank questions make this six-session video study a captivating, fast-paced experience.

Home School Support Group ~ Led by Becky Bittner in Room 2327 (on-going). This group meets weekly to encourage one another and discuss a variety of topics facing home schooling families. Anyone who is currently home schooling, or who is thinking about it, is welcome to attend.

Sign Language Class ~ Led by Benjie

Johnson in Room 2305-07 (on-going). This class is a continuation of the current study of the most basic form of communication used by the deaf and hard of hearing. The usage and techniques of sign language will be explained and demonstrated.

Living in Awe of God (A Study of Exodus) ~ Led by Ron Moore in Room 2322. In an ever-changing and chaotic world, believers need the consistency they find in God’s awesome nature and character. This five-week study will help you have a better understanding of God’s love and how to better fulfill His expectations.

Understanding Spanish ~ Led by Pastor Freddy Valcarcel in Room 2208 (January 7 – February 4). This class is a continuation of the current class learning basic Spanish.

COMING SOON!

Heart to Heart ~ Led by Jill Stanley in Room 2320 (Begins January 21). This study helps bring older and younger women together simply to nurture the younger in God’s Word and to make application of His principles in their lives. This ministry is based on Titus 2:3-5, and given today’s mobility and fast-paced living, its words are extremely true! Left to ourselves, discouragement comes easily, but when someone stands beside us, showing us how, and seasoning the teaching with encouragement, it is a life-line, especially for women who have no family near.

Note: On Sunday, January 18 at 5:00 pm there will be an informational meeting with refreshments in Room 3109. Young, old, and in between are encouraged to attend and find out more!!! Childcare will be available.

Dave Ramsey’s Financial Peace University ~ Led by Ron Samuels in Room 2311-13 (January 21 – May 6). This 13 session video-driven study by Dave Ramsey will help you stop living with guilt, frustrations and headaches that come with trying to manage your personal finances. You owe it to yourself and those you love to find what thousands already have: Financial Peace!

Esther – It’s Tough Being a Woman! ~ Led by Betty Barnard in Room 2317-19 (February 18 – May 13). This is Beth Moore’s newest Bible study. This Old Testament story of Esther is a profile in courage and contains many parallels for today’s woman. Esther’s destiny can be yours as you know more deeply the God who is in your corner.

Carpe Diem (Seize the Day) ~ Led by Ron Moore in Room 2324 (February 18 – March 11) This four-session study taught by Tony Campolo is a stirring call to make the most of life. He shows you how to live with real verve and style – laughing, playing, loving, and really being aware of the wonder of every day.



CHURCH NEWS

END OF YEAR CONTRIBUTIONS

As we approach the end of the year here are some reminders...

Pray – Continue to seek God and what He would have you give as a testimony to His faithfulness and blessings to you and your family.

Cash Contributions – Must be received by the church office by December 31st at 5:00 pm or be postmarked by 12:00 midnight December 31st.

Stock Donations – Please submit these transactions to your financial advisor no later than December 19th. This will allow the church office time to prepare the necessary paperwork to complete the transfer and sale of the stock. Please specify the purpose of the funds when you donate stock. The church office will be glad to assist you with such donations. God is using your tithes and offerings to reach our city, county, state, and world with the Gospel of Jesus Christ!

STEWARDSHIP RECEIPTS

December 14, 2008

Budget Required	\$166,817.96
Budget Gifts	90,374.17
Budget Receipts for the Year	4,082,399.19

Find Us Faithful Still Budget	12,500.00
Find Us Faithful Still Gifts	49,873.67
Find Us Faithful Received Year	788,363.00

World Missions

World Missions Required	\$12,495.18
World Missions Received	10,845.00
Received for the Year	283,422.00

DEACONS OF THE WEEK

Active: Kenny Jones, Kyle Jones, Kevin Kennedy, Reber Kennedy, Gene King, Bart Lynn, Rick Martin, Scott McCullough, Rick Murphy
Emeriti: Bob Shoulta

PRAYER LINE—572-1534

CHURCH NEWS

BAG OF CANS

FBC collected about 300 bags of cans. Each bag might contain as many as ten cans or non-perishables. These food donations will go to help needy families in the community. Some of the canned food will remain here as a part of our Benevolence program, some will go to Loaves and Fishes and the rest will be distributed in the city with other benevolence agencies.

BAG OF CANS STORY 2008

Collecting the canned goods left by our First Baptist Church Family is always heartening. This year we collected around 300 bags! While collecting the donations, one of our volunteers got to see how Bag Of Cans Sunday meets needs in a real way. Luke Baggett and Carter Salyers were two young volunteers helping collect cans. Luke and Jared Hodges noticed a poor, elderly couple, who were about to take a couple of the bags. Jared told them that the bags belonged to First Baptist to give to the community. Then he remembered that if this couple was “undeserving” so was he—an undeserving sinner who has received mercy from God. They decided to load the couple down with as many cans as they could carry. The astonished couple could not believe that they would give them something that they were about to take and then go an extra mile by giving even more. They wished the couple a Merry Christmas and asked God to bless them as they continued on their way home.

LEGACY: LIFE AFTER 55

Due to the holidays, Legacy Connection (55+) Bible Study will NOT meet on Friday, December 26 and Friday, January 2.

CONGRATULATIONS TO...

...Grandparents Dick and Barb Spangler on the birth of their granddaughter, **Carlene Faith Gilliam**.

...Grandmother Davie Crockett on the birth of her granddaughter, **Denise Jewell Foster**.

FOOD SERVICES

SUNDAY MORNING BREAKFAST

Breakfast is served from 7:30-9:45 am.

NO FAMILY MEAL WILL BE SERVED ON CHRISTMAS EVE OR NEW YEAR'S EVE MERRY CHRISTMAS!

CHURCH NEWS

BABY DEDICATIONS

These babies were dedicated to the Lord on December 7, 2008 by their parents and Preschool Director, Cheryl McCrary.

Nikayla Brooklyn Gerasimas

Parents, Michael and Jennifer Gerasimas

James Kenneth Miller

Parents, Jason and Amy Miller, Siblings, Amber and Sarah

Noah David Connor

Parents, Josh and Rebecca Connor

Abigail Grace Lower

Parents, Scott and Melanie Lower

Rex Tarpon Wiseman

Parents, Tarpon and Charlsie Wiseman
Grandparents, Dwight and Nancy McWhorter
Great-Grandparents, Norman and Lometa McWhorter

Callie Marissa Kay Wright

Parents, Marcus and Regina Wright
Grandparents, Mark and Bridget Wright

Glory Danielle Malone

Parents, Richard and Allison Malone
Grandparents, Joseph Malone and Barbara Malone

Grace Mary-Lynn Malone

Parents, Richard and Allison Malone
Grandparents, Joseph Malone and Barbara Malone

James Levi Patton

Parents, Nathan and Erin Patton
Sibling, William



REGULAR WEEKLY CHURCH SCHEDULE

Sunday

7:30 am Deacon Prayer Time
Laida Fellowship Hall (2230)

Worship

8:15 am & 9:30 am Grace Worship Center
10:55 am DOXA Worship
(Grace Worship Center)

Bible Study/Sunday School

8:15 am & 9:30 am Bible Study Classes for all ages
10:55 am Adult Bible Study Classes

Sunday Evening

5:00 pm Youth Choir (2402)
6:00 pm Impact and Delight
(Middle School)
6:00 pm The Family Room
(High School)
6:00 pm Worship (Grace Building)

Wednesday

4:30 – 7:30 Wednesday 2/Wednesday
Outreach
4:30 – 6:00 Fellowship Meal
5:15 – 6:00 Preschool and Children's
Choirs
6:00 – 7:15 Prayer Meeting/Bible
Study in Grace Worship Center
6:00 – 7:15 Discipleship Training
Institute Classes
6:00 – 7:15 Adult Choir and Orchestra
6:00 – 7:15 Children's Backyard
6:00 – 7:15 Preschool TeamKid
6:00 – 7:15 Middle School and High
School Worship
7:45 – 9:00 College and Singles
Worship (Overflow 235)

Friday

10:30 am Senior Adult Bible Study
Laida Fellowship Hall

Media Library Center Hours

Sundays 9:00 am - 12 pm & 5:00-6:00 pm
Wednesdays 4:00 - 6:00 pm
The Media Library Center is located in Room 2326 on the third floor of the Hope Building.

T.V. Ministry

You may view a 30-minute worship from our church three times during the week on Charter Communications cable channel 9 or over the air on channel 49.

Sundays at 9:00 am
Mondays at 8:00 pm
Wednesdays at 8:30 am

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