

Teaching
THE
WORD...
Touching
LIVES



FROM YOUR **PASTOR'S HEART**



Dear First Family,
Character

Steel is iron plus fire. Gold is purified by fire. Silver is purified in the crucible of fire and pressure. Christian character must come from God's refining fire. Great character is not made of luxury; it is made by suffering. Someday, God is going to reveal the fact to every Christian, that the very principles they now rebel against have been the instruments which He used in perfecting their characters and molding them into perfection, polished stones for His great building in Glory. Suffering is a wonderful fertilizer to the roots of character. The great object of this life is character. This is the only thing we can carry with us into eternity.

Church Budget

On Sunday, December 27, at the end of the morning service, we will vote on our 2010 church ministry budget. **A Church Budget** is a statement of faith. A Church Budget is a theological document which conveys the spiritual beliefs, world view, and life commitments of a growing Christian in a local church. Our Finance Committee and staff have worked and prayed together diligently on our 2010 Budget. Let us support this budget and our ministry with prayers, love, and faithfulness.

A Thank You Letter from a Missionary

One of our Southern Baptist Convention missionaries emailed me a Thank You to our congregation for our missions, personal, and

prayer support. For security purposes his name and country are not mentioned as he serves in a frontier missions country representing Christ and you in Great Commission missions and soul-winning. "Dear Pastor Freeman, Jessie and I want to thank you and your church for praying and supporting us for the past years. We look forward to hosting your mission teams in the years ahead. Please convey our love to your family as we celebrate Thanksgiving together. We have to work, and no turkey where we are, but we know our spirit is with you and your church this season of thanksgiving and celebrating HIS birth. Thanks and rejoice."

Year End Giving

Your giving to our Lord and His Church in the month of December is always a blessing. Your gifts to the Lord through our Church budget will support Cooperative Program missions around the world and local church ministry here in Clarksville and Montgomery County. Your giving supports mission work and missionaries as illustrated in the e-mail above.

Merry Christmas

'Twas the month before Christmas
When all through our land,
Not a Christian was praying
Nor taking a stand.
See the PC Police had taken away,
The reason for Christmas - no one could say.
The children were told
by their schools not to sing,
About Shepherds and Wise Men
and Angels and things.

Continued on p. 2

CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT WORSHIP

Thursday, December 24, at 5:00 pm in the Grace Worship Center, we will celebrate the birth of our Lord with a Candlelight Lord's Supper Worship. This worship is a wonderful time for families to prepare for Christmas Day. Some will participate in baptism, we will all sing familiar carols, our Pastor will share a message, we will observe the Lord's Supper. We end with the lighting of candles and singing about the Light of the World, Jesus. Don't miss this great time together with your church family.

December 24, 2009

5:00 pm

*Grace
Worship
Center*



UPCOMING BAPTISMS

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.

PERFECT ATTENDANCE

We will recognize anyone (preschool through senior adults) who has perfect attendance in Sunday School from January through July 2010. A new Sunday School year begins in August 2010. If a person attends Sunday School at another church while on vacation he can bring a bulletin from that church to receive credit for attending that Sunday.

WEATHER POLICY

With the cold of winter beginning to set in, and the chance of inclement weather upon us, we are taking this opportunity to remind everyone of our standing weather policies.

Whenever the Montgomery County School

System is closed due to weather, scheduled events, programs, and activities at First Baptist Church will be cancelled:

NO Senior Adult Friday Activities,
NO Wednesday programs,
NO Bible Studies, NO Sports,
NO Parent's Day Out, and
NO Conservatory Lessons.

Listen to WJZM, 1400 AM; WDXN, 540 AM; or WNKJ, 89.3 FM, call 645-2431 or check our church website at www.fbct.org for updated worship and activities information.

The Church Office and Hope Building will remain open if possible.

LOVE OFFERING

A LOVE OFFERING will be received for Pat Nowell and Jared Hodges, who will be leaving us at the end of this year. This is your opportunity to bless their ministry with a farewell gift. Use any church envelope and write Jared Hodges Love Offering or Pat Nowell Love Offering across the top of the envelope. These will be received through December 20.

Pray for these men and their families in the time of transition.

PASTOR'S HEART...

Continued from p. 1

It might hurt people's feelings, the teachers would say
December 25th is just a 'Holiday'.
Yet the shoppers were ready with cash, checks and credit
Pushing folks down to the floor just to get it!
CDs from Madonna, an X BOX, an iPod
Something was changing,
something quite odd!
At the top of the Senate,
there arose such a clatter
To eliminate Jesus, in all public matter.
And we spoke not a word,
as they took away our faith
Forbidden to speak of salvation and grace
The true Gift of Christmas
was exchanged and discarded
The reason for the season,
stopped before it started.
So as you celebrate 'Winter Break'
under your 'Dream Tree'
Sipping your Starbucks, listen to me.
Choose your words carefully,
choose what you say
Shout MERRY CHRISTMAS,
not Happy Holiday!
Merry Christmas! See you Sunday, Bible in hand and Risen Saviour in heart
Who came for us at Bethlehem. At the cradle of Bethlehem, the calendars of the world bow and say, "The Lord has come!"

Roger P. Freeman

AUTOMATIC GIVING

The church has the capability to accept tithes and offerings through ACH with your banking institution. Or you can use our website and make contributions on a one-time or continuing basis. The forms can be picked up in our main offices or downloaded from our website. For more information please visit www.fbct.org and click Resources then Online Giving or contact Sandie at 572-1503.

YEAR END GIVING

As we approach the end of the year, if you plan to make contributions of stocks or other non-cash items, please submit those no later than **December 21, 2009**. This allows us ample time to process the donation for tax recording purposes.

Let Us Pray for You

Prayer Line: 572-1534
Or prayer@fbct.org

FIRST REPORTS

ATTENDANCE

December 6, 2009	
Total Sunday School	1388
Midweek Bible Study	508
Total Bible Study	1896
Korean Church	18
Hispanic Church	40
Missions	1
Total Worship	1813
Exit One Church Sunday School	128
Exit One Church Worship	330

December 13, 2009	
Total Sunday School	1528
Midweek Bible Study	523
Total Bible Study	2051
Korean Church	17
Hispanic Church	47
Missions	0
Total Worship	2351
Exit One Church Sunday School	167
Exit One Church Worship	287

STEWARDSHIP RECEIPTS

December 6, 2009	
Operating Receipts	\$105,553.44
Operating Budget	\$68,922.38
World Missions Receipts	\$7,105.38
World Missions Budget	\$5,961.53
FUFS Receipts	\$9,954.90
FUFS Budget	\$9,615.38

December 13, 2009	
Operating Receipts	\$89,185.97
Operating Budget	\$68,922.38
World Missions Receipts	\$5,563.15
World Missions Budget	\$5,961.53
FUFS Receipts	\$7,324.25
FUFS Budget	\$9,615.38

Year To Date	
Budget Received YTD	\$3,763,670.12
Budget Required YTD	\$4,062,154.95
World Missions Received YTD	\$261,691.22
World Missions Required YTD	\$298,076.50
FUFS Received YTD	\$550,895.52
FUFS Required YTD	\$480,769.00

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

December 6, 2009	
Letter/Statement:	
Betty Brandon	
Baptized:	
Riley Vinson	Joshua Morton

December 13, 2009	
Profession/Baptism:	
Cathie Reed	
Letter/Statement:	
Russ Reed	Paul Miller

CHRISTIAN SYMPATHY

THE PASTOR AND CONGREGATION EXTEND CHRISTIAN SYMPATHY TO...

...**Karen Goad Duke** in the death of her husband, Mr. Mike Duke. Sympathy also to Ryan Duke and Jace (Jessica) Rogers in the death of their father. Sympathy to Sue Goad in the death of her son-in-law. Mr. Duke passed away December 4, 2009.

...**Tricia (Bill) Whitlock** in the death of her father, Mr. Louis Hardin. Sympathy also to Andy and Brad Whitlock in the death of their grandfather. Mr. Hardin passed away December 7, 2009.

...**Shane Davis** in the death of his mother, Mrs. Sharon Wilson. Sympathy also to Sam and Grace Davis in the death of their grandmother. Mrs. Wilson passed away December 9, 2009.

NEW ADDITION

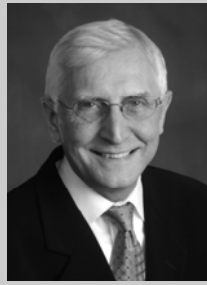
CONGRATULATIONS TO...

...**Ernest and Jenny Lewis** on the birth of their daughter, Eva Elizabeth, born November 28, 2009.

FIRST IMPRESSIONS

Greeter Ministry Needs Volunteers

Are you a "people person"? Do you enjoy talking with people? We need your help in our First Impressions Greeter Ministry. We would like to have people at every door to greet people as they come into our buildings. We need people to get important information from guests so we can follow-up with additional information about our church and we need to help those guests find a Sunday School class and a worship time. First impressions are extremely important. A person will usually make a decision about a church within the first five minutes they enter. If you feel you are a good fit for this ministry, we would love to have you. We need people at every hour. There will be a training session for new First Impression Greeters on Sunday, January 10. We will provide a wonderful meal at noon and then have a one-hour training session. Call Ron Moore, Minister of Education, at 572-1505 or Mark Zirkle, First Impression Director, at 358-3391 to reserve your spot for lunch and the training session or just stop by the Welcome Center desk in the steeple entrance on Sunday morning and put your name on the list.



SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

Ron Moore
Minister of
Education

Lesson Preview

During January we will continue our study in the book of Mark. The unit title is "Find What You Need" and will focus on how Christians can express their faith in courageous ways by taking actions on the basis of Jesus' power and presence.

Praise Report

There were approximately 240 ladies at the Candlelight Christmas Dinner. Everyone enjoyed a wonderful meal and heard a superb program that presented the gospel message. Three people indicated that they received Jesus as their personal Savior and eight said they had rededicated their lives to live for Jesus. We praise God for the Women's Ministry and this wonderful ministry to the ladies in our church and community.

Prayer and Outreach

December is a great time to invite prospects to Christmas parties and musicals. Take advantage of this time to reach out to others with the love of Jesus Christ. Be sure and greet others with a hardy "Merry Christmas". Don't be ashamed to tell others about the reason for the season – Jesus.

Sunday School Teacher Highlight

Chaplain Charles Currie has been teaching and preaching God's Word for most of his life. He was a military chaplain for 25 years and currently teaches one of our adult Sunday School classes at 9:30 am. He has led this class to be involved in missions. The first Tuesday of each month people from his Sunday School class travel to the Nashville Rescue Mission. They lead the music, preach God's Word, get prayer requests, and share the Good News of Jesus Christ with men who are searching for purpose and meaning in life. Just recently they received a special award from the Nashville Rescue Mission for 25 years of service. We congratulate Chaplain Currie and his Sunday School class for their many years of faithful service and ministry to people here in Clarksville and in Nashville.

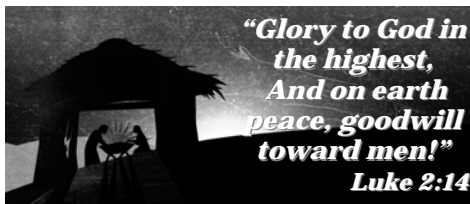
SENIOR ADULT MINISTRY

The new Legacy monthly fellowship begins on Friday, January 8 at 11:30 am in the Laida Fellowship Hall. Join us for Bible study, lunch, entertainment and more. For more information contact the Legacy: Senior Adult Ministry office at 572-1527.

COMING SPRING 2010

Pastor Freeman will begin a new Sermon Series on Biblical Revival from I and II Chronicles on Sunday, January 10, 2010. This series will run until Easter and is titled, "Do It Again, Lord". Be sure to join us, and if you miss a week, listen online at www.fbct.org or find us on iTunes.

Also in the spring, the Men's Ministry will begin meeting again for their weekly Bible Study and breakfast. Please note that the meetings will move from Thursday to Tuesdays in the spring and will begin on February 2, 2010. The study will cover "Ten Great Men in the Bible Who Can Help You be Great."



COMBAT TRAUMA

On Saturday, January 9, 2010, we are sponsoring a free seminar to provide our troops and their families hope, spiritual care, and victory over combat trauma through Christ-centered solutions. The Bridges to Healing Seminar and Workshops are meant to educate, equip, and encourage military personnel, civic organizations, churches, and individuals to build "Bridges to Healing" to hundreds of Fort Campbell area combat trauma sufferers. For more information visit www.fbct.org/missions.



BIBLE READING PLAN

Bible Reading Plan Available

Have you always wanted to read through the Bible in a year? The Bible Reading Plan will aid your journey through the Bible. By reading from four separate places in the Scriptures every day, you should be able to better grasp the unity of the Scriptures. Pick up one of the Bible Reading Plans at one of the entrances to the Grace Worship Center and ask God each day to speak directly to you from the Scripture portions you read.

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60TH ANNIVERSARY

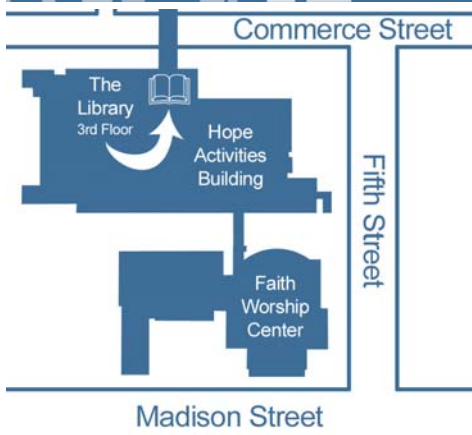
In 1949 the First Baptist Church library began. On Sunday, December 20, 2009, we will celebrate this milestone in the life of our church. During the evening worship a brief history of the library will be shared. After the worship there will be an open house in the library with refreshments served on the bridge. Please join us for this special celebration on Sunday, December 20.

First Baptist Church Library

DATE	ISSUED TO
03/06/49	Grand Opening
12/20/09	60th Anniversary Celebration

The mission of the Library is to advance Christian education and growth and promote beneficial media resources and services important to the ministry of First Baptist Church, its staff, members, visitors, and prospects.

First Baptist CLARKSVILLE



DECEMBER SCHEDULE

DECEMBER 2009 SCHEDULE

Sunday, December 20—Regular schedule

Wednesday, December 23—Worship moved to Thursday. No other activities

Thursday, December 24—Christmas Eve Worship 5 pm/Grace Worship Center

Sunday, December 27—Regular morning schedule. No evening activities

Wednesday, December 30—Worship moved to Thursday. No other activities

Thursday, December 31—New Year's Eve Worship 5 pm/Faith Worship Center

FIRST CONSERVATORY

The First Clarksville Conservatory is a Christian Private Lesson Program providing students and adults the opportunity to study music in a church environment. All lessons will be taught in the church building, 435 Madison Street. The Conservatory was established in May of 1995 and continues now in its fourteenth year.

The faculty consists of qualified, competent, Christian teachers. Many of the instructors have degrees in music and all have vast experience in their field.

The First Clarksville Conservatory offers a wide variety of instrumental and vocal instruction in a private setting. Whether you are a beginning, intermediate, or advanced musician, we provide instruction for students of all ages who seek to develop their gifts.

Private Instruction is Available for:

Piano / Voice / Guitar

Clarinet / Flute

Percussion / Violin

(other instruments available by request)

Questions or information concerning the Conservatory should be addressed to:

Conservatory Office at 572-1515 or

E-mail: linda.ponder@fbct.org

Visit <http://www.fbct.org/conservatory> for more information or to register online.

Registration for the spring semester is now underway and will end on December 30, 2009. Lessons will begin on January 11, 2010 and continue until April 30, 2010. The spring recital is schedule for May 1, 2010.

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

6:00 pm Disciplined and Delight
(Youth Area)
6:00 pm Worship (Grace Building)
6:00 pm Preschool Mission Friends
(Grace Preschool Area)

Wednesday

4:30 – 7:30 Wednesday 2/Wednesday Outreach
4:30 – 6:00 Fellowship Meal
6:00 – 7:15 Prayer Meeting/Bible Study in Grace Worship Center
6:00 – 7:15 Discipleship Training Institute Classes
6:00 – 7:15 Children's Backyard
6:00 – 7:15 Preschool TeamKid
6:00 – 7:15 Middle School and High School Worship
6:00 – 7:15 Adult Choir and Orchestra

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

Charter channel 9 or Broadcast channel 49.
Sundays at 9:00 am
Mondays at 8:00 pm
Wednesdays at 8:30 am
Hispanic Service—Thursdays at 7:00 pm

LIVE WEBCAST

On those Sundays when you are not able to be at church, you can still view our worship live on your computer at www.fbct.org/live. We broadcast our 9:30, 10:55 am and 6:00 pm worships. You can share this with friends and relatives who might want to watch our worship.