



DECEMBER 2010

First

LIFE

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

FROM THE PASTOR...



December Blessings First Baptist Friends! With Advent in the air, I hope

you'll pause with me for a few moments (perhaps right now!) to thank God for Jesus. While it may seem "old hat" to do that for many of us who have known Jesus for years, I assure you that saying thanks to God is one of our highest privileges. Just think with me for a moment. It is quite possible that we could just as easily have been born in another place and time and never have heard the good news of Jesus. But God would have none of that! He wanted you and me to know His Son, to invite Him

into our lives, and to spend all of our days honoring Him with our lives. If I have learned anything through the years, I have learned precisely this—that the Christmas season is the time to renew our love for our Lord.

And speaking of love, to borrow a line from that now older, but one time popular song, "Have I Told You Lately That I Love You?" While the secular song writer had another definition of love in his mind, my own mind and heart have been refreshingly stirred again by the true message of love which God inspired Paul to share with the Corinthians (from which we have been preaching lately). Real love, God reminds us, is no

feeling that comes and goes; real love sticks and stays and patiently waits to overcome both the small and great obstacles in our private lives, our families, and the church. This love lasts forever.

Changing the subject momentarily, do you know that today the greatest growth in Christianity is occurring in South America, Asia, and Africa? That means that God is busy adding to His Kingdom in those places all the while in other places in the world Christianity is in decline.

But even in the places where Christianity as a whole is shrinking, God is still actively renewing His church—through worship. That's right, God is honoring the churches that

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IN THE PULPIT...

December 5 - 10:30am
Hanging of the Green - Dr. Robert Canoy

December 12 - 10:30am
Is He the One? - Dr. Robert Canoy

December 19 - 10:30am
Emmanuel - Rev. Rendell Hipps

December 26 - 10:30am
Christmas Music Celebration

WEDNESDAY EVENINGS

Wednesdays 6pm

Discipleship: A Study from the Gospel of Mark - Dr. Robert Canoy

No Wednesday night events on December 22 and December 29.



Christmas Eve Service

Candlelight and Communion Worship Service
Sanctuary - 6:00pm

focus their undivided attention on Him, that place Him as their highest priority, that gather faithfully Sunday after Sunday (and many times in between) to worship. For that reason I remain highly enthusiastic about the future of Hickory First Baptist Church. You (We!) love to worship God with two distinct but genuine worship styles. In fact, if you have traveled to one of those continents mentioned above, you'd find something remarkable. You would find things about

their worship that are familiar and things about their worship that are unique. Which leads me to this: As a participant in both styles of worship at FBC, I am perhaps the most fortunate worshiper of all. I get to experience both! (Maybe it's because I need it the most!) So, during Advent we will be joining together our two worship styles at 10:30am We will be listening to what the Spirit is saying during this Christmas season! And if it is God to whom we are

listening, I guarantee you that we will hear something from Him that we have never heard before! What could be better than that? If I knew of something better, you can be sure that that is what we'd be doing.

See You Sunday,



Dr. Robert Canoy
Pastor in the Interim

GLOBAL MISSIONS

Looking for a way to impact the world for Christ? Two opportunities to support world missions in December are the Lottie Moon Offering and the CBF Global Missions Offering. Our goal for each is \$8,000. For more information on these two missions opportunities, check them out on the web. Lottie Moon - imb.org and CBF Global Missions - cbfnc.org/Missions.

CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS



Help decorate our church with lovely poinsettias this Christmas season. Poinsettias may be placed in honor or memory of someone special. Forms will be in the orders of worship each Sunday. The cost for each flower is \$10. All monies and forms are due in the office by Monday, December 13.

DEACON FAMILY MINISTRY

If you are an ordained deacon at First Baptist but will not be serving as a deacon in 2011, please consider serving as a Deacon Family Minister. You will work with a deacon or other family minister to serve the members of our church and Bible Study classes. If you would like further information, please contact Rendell Hipps by December 15.

CAMP WABAK 2011

Refuge Student Ministry is looking forward to going back to Wabak. Camp Wabak is located just south of Asheville, NC and, due to its surroundings, offers a place conducive to connecting with God. (Away from the outside world - even a cell phone signal.) Wabak is nestled "way back" in the woods with cabins for lodging and nature at its peak. Wabak is a wonderful place to reconnect with the God that created and loves us. During our weekend together, our 7th Time Band will lead us in worship each night and morning. There will be trail expeditions, marshmallows around the fire, and a little friendly team competition thrown in for good measure.



February
18-21

Cost: \$50
(Due by Jan 2)

CHRISTMAS TREE LOT

Gray Activities Building Lot

Opening on Thanksgiving Day
thru December 11, 2010

Open daily 9:00am-9:00pm
Closed on Sundays

All proceeds benefit the needy in our community



December 19
Refuge Christmas Party
5:00 - 9:00pm

Scavenger Hunt, Food & Fun! Bring a \$5 wrapped gag gift. We will depart from the portico lobby at 5:00pm. Pick up in the same at 9:00pm

CHRISTMAS AT JOHN'S ISLAND

On Saturday, December 18, we will turn our church bus into Santa's sleigh and our Refuge teens into elves as we take Christmas to our friends at John's Island. We will be visiting many of the same children and families that we ministered to during our 2010 mission trip in July. Make plans now to be part of this amazing opportunity to share the love of Christ.

DECEMBER 26 SCHEDULE

Breakfast ~ 8:45am ~ Fellowship Hall
Combined Bible Study ~ 9:15am ~ Sanctuary
Combined Worship ~ 10:30am ~ Sanctuary

ADVENT ORGAN RECITALS

Each Wednesday during Advent, in honor of the season, we will host a concert in our sanctuary featuring beautiful organ and vocal performances. Each performance will begin at 12:05pm and last approximately 30 minutes. Please invite your friends and neighbors in come. Lunch will be served in the Garden of Eaten Café in the Fellowship Hall immediately following each recital for a fee of \$6. You may choose from our hot bar or café menu.

December 1

Organ featuring Cory Westby

December 8

Organ featuring Kenneth Miller

December 15

Organ & Voice featuring Florence Jowers and Andrew Lewis

December 22

Hymn Festival featuring Florence Jowers and Andrew Lewis

FACE OF A CHILD PROJECT

The Little Samaritan Mission Face of a Child Project is a unique customized project that meets the specific needs of children in government orphanages in Moldova. Our affiliation with this organization whose US headquarters are in Granite Falls, began after our mission trip to Moldova in the summer of 2004. This year's large item is winter coats. We will sponsor the same orphanage and packages will be due by April 1, 2011. If interested in sponsoring a child call Beth Ballhausen, 326-9233. Thanks for your faithful support in sharing God's love with these precious children!



Combined Worship Services

Celebrating with all our musical ensembles

10:30 am - Sundays

November 28 - December 26

Celebrating the Season Together

Bible Study will precede worship at 9:15am

CHRISTMAS MUSICAL OFFERINGS

Sunday, December 5

Hanging of the Green featuring vocal choirs with string quartet and flute

Sunday, December 12

Youth and children handbells

Wednesday, December 15

Church-wide Family Christmas Celebration featuring youth and children's choirs and handbells

Sunday, December 19

Adult handbells and the Michael Watson Family

Sunday, December 26

Hymns, Scripture and songs to celebrate Christmas

CHILDREN'S CAROLING



Each year the children's choirs along with parents and friends go caroling to one or more of the nursing homes in the Hickory Area. This year they will be traveling to Lutheran Home East on Springs Road December 5, to sing for their residents. Plan to meet at the church at 5:00pm to gather and travel to sing at the healthcare center. The group will return to the church for a time together including pizza, drinks, cookies, cider and hot chocolate.

Christmas SALT Sing

On December 16, a group of our Senior Adults will gather with about 200 others for a time to celebrate the birth of our Savior with singing and devotions at The Cove in Asheville, NC. We will leave at 8:30am. This event will be a special morning of worship and inspiration.

CHRISTMAS CAMP

Saturday, December 4, 9:30am in the Fellowship Hall. Celebrate Christmas with your family as you: build a ginger bread house, eat breakfast, make Christmas Cards and share the Christmas story.

SENIOR ADULT CHRISTMAS PARTY

Mark your calendars now for December 3, 2010 at 6:00pm. Plan to gather between 5:30pm and 6:00pm for a time of fellowship. We will plan to sit down to our meal prepared by our food services manager, Steve Spivey at 6:00pm. The menu will include baked chicken, fig glazed ham, sweet potato soufflé, pea salad, rolls and dessert. The cost per meal will be \$8. We will end the evening with time together in fellowship. Everyone in attendance is asked to bring a wrapped Christmas ornament.

