

DECEMBER 2011

First

LIFE

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

FROM THE PASTOR...



The difference in Christmas and any other holiday celebrating a famous person's birth, such as George Washington or Martin Luther King is this: they are dead and Jesus is very much alive and at work in the world. We honor the memory of former presidents and others, but when it comes to Jesus, He is no mere memory. As Christians we think of Jesus

as a very present reality in the world and in our lives. Now this is the season of Advent, and Advent means "coming." We remember that in the First Century God's people looked forward to the coming of the Messiah. They were not disappointed when Christ was born in Bethlehem. These days we anticipate another Advent as we look forward to the day when Christ will come again. We will not be disappointed for He will return as "King of kings and Lord of lords, and He shall reign forever and ever".

But there is yet another perspective on Advent, and that is that Christ is coming to us every day. I really feel this way about our lives in this congregation. Every day, week in and week out, it seems that Christ is coming to us and moving among us. We are in a state of Advent now. When I come to church here I have come to expect the unexpected, and I don't know what to expect. This coming Sunday will someone accept Christ and be given eternal life? Very likely! It has happened many times in the short time I have been here. Will



IN THE PULPIT...

December 4 - 10:55am
What is Our Cry?
Dr. Phillip Reynolds
Hanging of the Green

December 11 - 10:55am
His Mission Statement
Dr. Phillip Reynolds

December 18 - 10:55am
Two Advents
Dr. Phillip Reynolds

December 25 - 10:55am
Let's Review
Dr. Phillip Reynolds

WEDNESDAY EVENINGS

Wednesdays 6pm
December 7
Holding Fast to Our Confession:
A Study of Hebrews - Dr. Phillip Reynolds

December 14
Family Night at Christmas

December 21 - No Service

December 28 - No Service

EXPERIENCE THE BEAUTY OF GOD'S GREATEST GIFT

"The Winter Rose"

Sunday, December 18, 4:00 PM

Admission cost: a non-perishable food item

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someone join our church, will someone express a desire to enter Christian ministry, will someone have a new idea about a mission project, make a large gift, find a new and creative way to do God's work and spread the gospel? Probably so; it just keeps happening. Christ is "coming" to this congregation every day, moving among us, calling us, challenging us, changing us "from glory into glory." Every

day I feel that something is about to happen and I am rarely disappointed. So, thank you. Thank you for this rare and wonderful gift that you have given me and my family; the gift of being a part of this congregation where Christ is alive and at work. It is an ongoing joy to be here. Betsy and Mary Beth and I wish each one of you a very happy and blessed Advent season

and a wonderful Christmas with your own family and this church family.

Phillips
Phillip Reynolds
Senior Pastor

HANGING OF THE GREEN

December 4, we will celebrate the season with music and scripture as we bring in the decorations for our sanctuary and get our it ready for the Advent and Christmas season.

ADVENT WORSHIP

Beginning Sunday, November 27, all of the Sundays in Advent/Christmas will be on our combined worship schedule with Bible study at 9:45am and worship at 10:55am.

ADVENT RECITALS

First Baptist Church will host its annual Advent organ recitals on Wednesdays during Advent. The music will begin at 12:05 each Wednesday and will last approximately 30 minutes. This year's series will include organists Peter Corneliussen, Matthew Brittain, Patrick Pope, and Florence Jowers along with trumpeter Timothy Phillips.

DEACON FAMILY MINISTRY

If you are an ordained deacon at First Baptist but will not be serving as a deacon in 2012, 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 Hippy by December 15.

INCLEMENT WEATHER



In case of inclement weather, the most update information on closings or delays will be posted on the website at www.fbc.cc. The following TV and radio stations will also have information: WBTV Channel 3, WSOC Channel 9, WCNC Channel 36, and WHKY-1290am.

SENIOR ADULT CHRISTMAS PARTY

Mark your calendars now for December 2, 2011, at 6:00 PM. Plan to gather between 5:30 and 6:00 for a time of fellowship. We will sit down to our meal prepared by Chef Steve Spivey at 6:00pm. The menu will include turkey and dressing, glazed ham, sweet potato casserole, corn pudding, broccoli salad, rolls and desserts. The cost per meal will be \$5. We will end the evening with time together in fellowship. Everyone in attendance is asked to bring canned goods for CCM.

Christmas Eve Service

Candlelight and Communion
Worship Service
Sanctuary - 6:00pm

CHRISTMAS TREE LOT

Open thru
December 10

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

Welcome New to our church family: As you see our NEW MEMBERS around FBC, be sure to welcome them to our family.



Billie Getsinger
Joined 10-30-11



Carah Watson
Awaiting Baptism

REFUGE SKI RETREAT

January 27-28
WINTER PLACE
SKI RESORT, WV
Cost: \$120 - \$50 deposit due
(Includes all meals,
transportation, hotel,
lift tickets and ski rental)



Sew Special was an outstanding success. Thirty-four women and girls gathered in the Fellowship Hall on November 12th to sew Samantha Dolls and Pocketed Pillowcases. It was a wonderful time of intergenerational fun, friendship, and fellowship. Sew Special 2 will be hosted in January. Stay tuned for details!

If you are not plugged into a women's Bible study or mission group....make it a New Year's resolution to do that in 2012. For more information you can contact Dacia Jones at (828) 244-7586 or call the church office. Our Women's Ministry is growing by leaps and bounds and we would love for you to be involved! 2012 will bring many new opportunities for service. Check out First Life, your Bible study Class Notes, or make sure that we have your email for weekly updates.

CITYKIDS

CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION

December 21, 2:00 - 4:30 pm - We will pick up our CityKids children and bring them to FBC for a great afternoon together as we celebrate the true meaning of Christmas with them. Lots of volunteers needed! See Christy Greene to volunteer.

WMU GIRLS NIGHT OUT Salmon, Salsa, & Secrets \$10.00

December 9 - 6:30pm
FBC Fellowship Hall

RSVP by December 4
See Dacia Jones for more info

GIRLS WITH A MISSION

The First Baptist GA's learn weekly about God's love and how to share that love with others through mission work "at home" and far away. For this year's WMU Conference the GA's made 200 magnet hibiscus flowers for those in attendance. Recently they completed a big project of 620 gospel bracelets that were made for Mrs. Robin Parish to take on her trip to Honduras to share God's love with children there. In November, the girls completed and prayed over for boxes for "Operation Christmas Child" and help to collect others as workers at the drop off location.

During the first couple weeks of December, on Sundays and Wednesdays, the GA's will be setting up a table with an array of items made by our GA's. For every donation big or small made to Lottie Moon Mission Offering, you will receive an item of choice. Please support our missions. "Walk in love, just as Christ loved us." Ephesians 5:2



Kids' Corner

CHRISTMAS CAMP

Saturday, December 4, 9:30am - noon
Celebrate Christmas with your family as you build a gingerbread house, eat breakfast, make Christmas cards and share the Christmas story.

CHILDREN'S CAROLING

On December 4, the children's choirs, along with parents and friends, will go caroling to the Lutheran Home on Springs Road. The group will meet at 4:00pm and return to the church afterwards for a time of fellowship and food.

RA ANGEL TREE GIFT DELIVERY

On Saturday, December 10, we will deliver our Angel Tree gifts to the children at Baptist Children's Home in Thomasville, NC. All are encouraged to go with us to watch as the children unwrap their gifts! Meet at FBC at 9:00 am to ride with us. You will be blessed! See Terry Johnson or Rendell Hipps for more details. (Even if you are planning to go with us, all gifts are due to the church office by Sunday, December 4th!)

DECEMBER

- 3 Children's Christmas Camp
- 4 Christmas caroling at Lutheran Home and pizza supper
- 10 BCH Angel tree delivery
- 14 Children's Musical "Family Night At Christmas"

YEAR END GIVING

This is a good time to begin to review your financial support of First Baptist Church.

By law, contributions must be received in the church office by the close of business on Saturday, December 31, or be postmarked by December 31, to be counted as a 2011 contribution. All contributions delivered to the church office must be received by 5:00 pm on Friday, December 30.

For those who typically transfer stock that you wish to be counted toward your 2011 giving, the transfer must be completed by December 31st. It is the policy of First Baptist Church to sell all contributions of stock immediately, and not hold them for speculation. Please notify Jerry Rodgers or Kim Hutchison of all stock transactions so that we will know it is coming, know who gave it, and give the broker instructions to sell it immediately.

Making gifts of stocks, bonds, and/or mutual funds in the right way can bring extra tax savings. When making such gifts, always consider what the securities originally cost in relation to what they are worth today. When securities have increased in value, you should normally transfer them to First Baptist Church rather than sell them. When owned for more than a year, securities used to fund a gift can be deductible for income tax purposes at fair market value, not just the original cost. Giving in this way enables you to bypass capital gains tax that would otherwise be due if the donated securities were sold. If you own securities that have decreased in value since you acquired them, consider selling those securities and making a charitable gift of all or a portion of the cash proceeds. In addition to the income tax deduction for the cash contribution, this creates a loss you may be able to deduct from other taxable income.

Please feel free to contact Jerry Rodgers or Kim Hutchison regarding your year-to-date giving to First Baptist Church. May God continue to bless us as we are generous and faithful stewards.

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

339 Second Avenue, Northwest
Hickory, North Carolina 28601

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Return Service Requested

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Phillip Reynolds, Senior Pastor
Chris Gillespie, Minister to Students
Rendell Hipps, Minister of Education and Discipleship
Jerry Rodgers, Church Administrator
Jim Davidson, Interim Minister of Worship
Alan Herrick, Interim Contemporary Worship Leader
Florence Jowers, Organist
Staff email: (last name)@fbc.cc

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Opportunities to Give & Serve This Christmas Season

Operation Christmas Child Shoe Boxes

A ministry of Samaritan's Purse sending Christmas boxes to children around the world.

RA Blanket and Coat Drive

Please bring your gently used and freshly laundered coats and blankets to warm others. Collection bins will be located around the church.

Catawba County Christmas Bureau

Providing assistance to children and teens in need. Contact Ernie Warren for more information.

Salvation Army Bell Ringing at JC Penny's

Your family or Bible study class can sign up to ring the bell. Contact Chris Gillespie to help.

White Christmas Boxes

Our annual collection of food to support local families in need. Collection requests will be put in Bible study boxes. CityKids families will also have the opportunity to sign up this year.

Webb A. Murray Elementary School Christmas

Helping children in poverty with warm clothes, food, and Christmas gifts. Contact Ruth Ann Carreira for additional information.

Lottie Moon Christmas Offering (SBC)

Southern Baptist churches collect the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for the sole purpose of supporting international missions. Our goal is \$6,000.

Global Missions Offering (CBF)

The Cooperative Baptist Fellowship collect the GMO annually to support mission field personnel both national and international. Our goal is \$6,000.

First Life Pull Out & Post

Numbers to Know

MINISTER ON CALL

December 3

Rendell Hipps on call (228-8639)

December 10

Chris Gillespie on call (320-2741)

December 17

Phillip Reynolds on call (455-8678)

December 24

Rendell Hipps on call (228-8639)

December 31

Jerry Rodgers on call (217-2597)

DEACONS FOR THE WEEK OF NOVEMBER 26-DECEMBER 2

Mark Knuckles, Coordinator 328-2476

Bernie Whitmer 328-9191

Allen Tallent 256-7226

Bob McCormack 294-9628

DEACONS FOR THE WEEK OF DECEMBER 3-9

Austin Moody, Coordinator 256-6821

David Moore 327-4349

Van Pernell 322-5908

Lisa Kakassy 324-5929

DEACONS FOR THE WEEK OF DECEMBER 10-16

Gary Bowne, Coordinator 327-6282

Ed Auten 324-5057

Dwight Hastings 322-5633

Ginger Smith 322-6618

DEACONS FOR THE WEEK OF DECEMBER 17-23

Chris Tanner, Coordinator 324-4373

Eddie Icard 495-2763

Tom Foster 322-3318

Gary Harding 256-6848

DEACONS FOR THE WEEK OF DECEMBER 24-30

Sheree Watson, Coordinator 495-8768

Doug Allen 322-8015

Cliff Moore 322-4552

Jack Pressly 324-9681

Children's Workers

Extended Session and Children's Church

December 4

10:40: Babies & Ones— Fran Ballengee & Steve Jones

Toddlers thru Twos— Dacia Jones & Kara Wittenberg

Three's and Fours— Evelyn Terry & Johnnie Melton

Coordinator: Ruth Ann Carreira

Children's Worship: Children In Service for Hanging of the Green

December 11

10:40: Babies & Ones— Wachter Class

Toddlers thru Twos— Wachter Class

Three's and Fours— Wachter Class

Coordinator: Sandra Moody

Children's Worship: David & Susan Haire

December 18

10:40: Babies & Ones— Kim Buchanan & Judi Tucker

Toddlers thru Twos— Lee Bogle & Woody Tucker

Three's and Fours— Brian Bogle

Coordinator: Carol Ann Keller

Children's Worship: Phillip & Shellie Bumgarner

December 25

10:40: Babies & Ones— Dee Warren & Elizabeth Sledge

Toddlers thru Twos— Sam Mabery & Angela Lawrence

Three's and Fours— Tome Warren & Jewell Mabery

Coordinator: Mechele McCormack

Children's Worship: Emilee & Hannah Cox

C A R E

December 4 - Hinson, Epperson & Melton/Bost Classes

December 11 - Allen & Foster Classes

December 18 - Wachter Class

December 25 - Blackwell/Woolf & Powers Classes

Wednesday Night Meals

December 7

Blue Cheese Meat Loaf
Mashed Potatoes and Gravy
Green Beans
Tropical Fruit and Yogurt Salad
Salad Bar
Rolls and Dessert

December 14

Roman Style Chicken
Ziti
Bean and Carrot Medley
Salad Bar
Rolls and Dessert

December 21

Brown Sugar Glazed Ham
Sweet Potato Gratin
Broccoli Casserole
Salad Bar
Rolls and Dessert

Each week we will offer as an additional choice to the listed menu the following:
Cheese, Pepperoni and Chicken Alfredo Pizzas
Chicken Nuggets, French Fries or Tatar Tots

Take Note

Our Special Members This Month

Mrs. Gladys Yelton Kingston Residence #323, 902 2nd Street
NE, Hickory, NC 28601

Mr. David Barlow Lutheran Home #801-B, 1265 21st Street NE
Hickory, NC 28603

Please keep these special members in your prayers. Send a card or visit them this week.

In Memoriam:

Hilda Barger
November 1, 2011

Nan Phillips
November 6, 2011

Intercessory Prayer Ministry

Mrs. Lee Benson 322-5086

A Thank You... note has been received from Ralph Clark. The note has been placed on the bulletin board across from the Chapel.

EAT FOR LIFE

Eat for Life will meet Monday, December 12, at 6:30pm in the fellowship hall. The program, Nutrition for Optimal Eye Health, will be presented by James Harris.

Calendar for December 2011

Weekly calendar updates will be located at the Welcome Centers on Sunday Mornings.

Thursday, December 1, 2011

Christmas Tree Lot Open 9am-9pm
9:00am Christmas Tree Lot Opens
10:00am Melodears
7:00pm Coffee Chat
7:00pm Gospel Choir to Pincrest

Friday, December 2, 2011

Christmas Tree Lot Open 9am-9pm
9:00am Christmas Tree Lot Opens
6:00pm Sr Adult Christmas Party

Saturday, December 3, 2011

Rendell Hipps on call (228-8639)
Christmas Tree Lot Open 9am-9pm
9:00am Christmas Tree Lot Opens
9:30am Christmas Camp
7:00pm Coffee Chat

Sunday, December 4, 2011

Hanging of the Green
9:15am Media Center Opens
9:30am First Sunday Fellowship
9:45am Bible Study
10:55am Sanctuary Worship
3:00pm Adult Handbells (301)
4:00pm CARE
4:00pm Children Caroling & Pizza

Monday, December 5, 2011

Christmas Tree Lot Open 9am-9pm
9:00am Christmas Tree Lot Opens

Tuesday, December 6, 2011

Christmas Tree Lot Open 9am-9pm
9:00am Christmas Tree Lot Opens
9:30am Staff Mtg (CR-105)
10:30am Clergy Staff Meeting (105)
12:00pm Senior Adult Veterans Luncheon (FH)
1:00pm Ladies Knitting Group (179)
1:00pm Maintenance, Kitchen & CDC Staff (CR-105)

Wednesday, December 7, 2011

Christmas Tree Lot Open 9am-9pm
12:05pm Advent Organ Recital (Sanctuary)

9:00am Christmas Tree Lot Opens
4:45pm Family Dinner (FH)
4:45pm Children's Handbells (301)
5:00pm Media Center Open
5:15pm Youth Drama Team (258)
5:20pm Youth Handbells (302)
6:00pm Young Musicians (229)
6:00pm Music Friends I (137)
6:00pm Music Friends II
6:00pm Prayer & Bible Study (FH)
6:16pm Refuge small groups
6:30pm Mission Friends I & II (140)
6:50pm RA's (158)
6:50pm GA's (233)
7:00pm Sanctuary Choir (Music)

Thursday, December 8, 2011

Christmas Tree Lot Open 9am-9pm
9:00am Christmas Tree Lot Opens
10:00am Melodears
6:00pm Friendship Class Party (FH)

Friday, December 9, 2011

Christmas Tree Lot Open 9am-9pm
9:00am Christmas Tree Lot Opens
6:30pm Girls Night Out (FH)

Saturday, December 10, 2011

Chris Gillespie on call (320-2741)
Christmas Tree Lot Open 9am-9pm
8:30am GA/WMU Sewing Day (FH)

Sunday, December 11, 2011

9:15am Media Center Opens
9:45am Bible Study
10:55am Sanctuary Worship
11:30pm Children's Church (189)
4:00pm CARE
4:00pm Growing Together
Christmas Party (Gray Building)
5:00pm Youth Choir
6:00pm Deacon Christmas Dinner (FH)

Monday, December 12, 2011

10:30am Williams Group (CR179)
6:30pm Eat for Life (FH)

Tuesday, December 13, 2011

8:00am Men's Prayer Group (179)
9:30am Staff Mtg (CR-105)
10:30am Clergy Staff Mtg (CR-105)
1:00pm Ladies Knitting Group (179)
1:00pm Maintenance, Kitchen & CDC Staff (CR-105)
3:30pm CityKids Registration
5:30pm Missions Council (179)

Wednesday, December 14, 2011

12:05pm Advent Organ Recital (Sanctuary)
4:45pm Family Dinner (FH)
4:45pm Children's Handbells (301)
5:00pm Media Center Open
5:15pm Youth Drama Team (258)
5:20pm Youth Handbells (302)
6:00pm RA Angel Tree Begins
6:00pm Young Musicians (229)
6:00pm Music Friends I (137)
6:00pm Music Friends II
6:00pm Prayer & Bible Study (FH)
6:16pm Refuge small groups
6:30pm Mission Friends I & II (140)
6:50pm RA's (158)
6:50pm GA's (233)
7:00pm Sanctuary Choir (Music)

Thursday, December 15, 2011

10:00am Melodears
7:00pm Coffee Chat Women's Group (Grey Bldg)

Friday, December 16, 2011


College Mission Trip

Saturday, December 17, 2011

Phillip Reynolds on call (455-8678)
College Mission Trip
9:30am Sanctuary Choir & Orchestra Rehearsal (FH)

Sunday, December 18, 2011

College Mission Trip
9:15am Media Center Opens
9:45am Bible Study
10:55am Sanctuary Worship



11:30pm Children's Church (189)
4:00pm CARE
4:00pm Winter Rose Sanctuary
Choir Christmas Program
Sanctuary

6:30pm Gospel Choir

Saturday, December 31, 2011
Jerry Rodgers on call (217-2597)

Monday, December 19, 2011

College Mission Trip
3:30pm CityKids Registration

Tuesday, December 20, 2011

9:30am Staff Mtg (CR-105)
9:30am Samantha Dolls (158)
10:30am Clergy Staff Mtg (CR-105)
1:00pm Ladies Knitting Group
(179)
1:00pm Maintenance, Kitchen &
CDC Staff (CR-105)

Wednesday, December 21, 2011

12:05am Advent Organ Recital
(Sanctuary)
6:00am 8:30 Worship Team
Rehearsal (Sanctuary)

Thursday, December 22, 2011

10:00am Melodears

Friday, December 23, 2011

Christmas Holiday Office Closed

Saturday, December 24, 2011

Rendell Hipps on call (228-8639)
Christmas Tree Lot Open 9am-9pm

Sunday, December 25, 2011

10:55am Sanctuary Worship

Monday, December 26, 2011

Christmas Holiday Office Closed

Tuesday, December 27, 2011

1:00pm Ladies Knitting Group
(179)

Wednesday, December 28, 2011

6:00am 8:30 Worship Team
Rehearsal (Sanctuary))

Thursday, December 29, 2011

Friday, December 30, 2011

10:00am Mellodears