

# The First Baptist Informer Rockingham, North Carolina

“To know Christ and make Him known.”

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Volume XXXIV \* Number 47 \* December 4, 2011 through December 10, 2011

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The First Baptist *Hanging of the Greens* service will be held  
Sunday, December 4, 2011, at 6:30 pm.

Please join our church family as we joyfully prepare  
for the birth of our Savior.

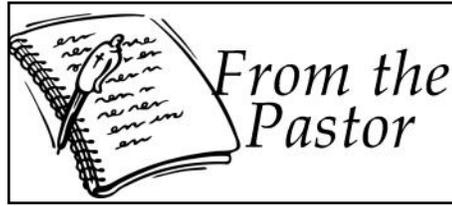
**Resource Recording Team, Monday, December 5, 2011:** Bonnie Barnes, Louise Deaton; **Attendance Report, November 27, 2011:** Sunday School—89; Worship Service—123.

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**Serving on Sunday, December 4, 2011:** **Ushers**—Charlie Auman, Gene Coen, J.C. Lamm, Chris McDuffie; **Greeters**—Irene Aiken, Barbara Coble, Graham Jenkins, Charles and Mary Joyner; **2&3s**—Hal Shuler; **Children's Church**—Angela Cockerton; **Nursery**—Dicky and Jan Smith; **Sound**—Lazelle Marks; **Security**—Steve Bullard; **Deacons of the Week**—Harry Coble and Mark Cockerton; **Wednesday Family Night 12/07/11**—Lasagna, salad, drink, and dessert: \$5.00 plate, \$12.00 for a family of three or more.



12/05 Tanya Brewer  
 12/07 Pat Buckner  
 12/08 Joshua Brewer  
 12/09 Joanne Cadieu



In Kirk Neely's book, Santa Almost Got Caught: Stories for Thanksgiving, Christmas, and the New Year, he tells about a young woman who "was startled by the news that she was pregnant. She had not had the first inkling, nor had she any reason to believe she was with child. She had saved herself for marriage. The attendant, dressed all in white, was neither a nurse nor a physician. The messenger who broke the news was an angel. The young woman was Mary of Nazareth.

Advent is Mary's time. It is a season of expectancy for the young mother who lives in anticipation. But all of us, men and women alike, share in this pregnancy. This is a time of preparation for the arrival of a child, the Nativity of Jesus."

When a young couple learns that a baby is coming, they don't just pull up a chair, sit and wait for the arrival of the child. No! They get busy. They begin to prepare for the birth. They purchase baby supplies—bottles, blankets, bibs, car seats, high chairs, and lots and lots of diapers. They prepare the baby's room. They choose a name for a boy or a girl. They may even take parenting classes or at least read all they can about caring for a new baby. In other words, before a baby comes, preparation is required.

And so—as surely as a mother or father-to-be makes ready to receive a new child, we too must be ready for the arrival of Christ at Christmas. Neely says, "In a spiritual sense, we are all pregnant with anticipation. Every year, we celebrate new the birth of a child, not just any child, but the Son of God. To hold a newborn in your arms is a reminder of just how precious and fragile a life is. To hold an infant in your arms on Christmas Day is a reminder that in the birth of Jesus, God made himself very vulnerable.

"Each Christmas, we draw close to the manger and look into the face of this child. Look closely. Did you notice the resemblance? He is the spitting image of his Father. 'O come let us adore him, Christ the Lord!'"

Join us each Sunday as we worship Christ the new born King. Jim Nelson



**Mr. Clyde Jenkins**

Anonymous  
 Mr. and Mrs. Richard Byrd  
 Mr. and Mrs. A.C. Godwin

**Mr. Harold Matthews**

Mr. and Mrs. Richard Byrd  
 Mr. and Mrs. William Davis

**Mrs. Peggy Percival**

Anonymous

**Mr. Buddy York**

Mr. and Mrs. A.C. Godwin



**Mr. A.C. Godwin**

Anonymous



**Choir Notes**

Thanks so much to all helping with the *Hanging of the Greens* service. Your support is greatly appreciated. The service will be held this Sunday, December 4, at 6:30 pm.

Terrific Tuesday children will have their last meeting for 2011 on December 6. We will have a Christmas party and sing fun carols.

Please make plans to attend our special performance of Handel's Messiah at 6:30 pm on Sunday, December 11. Marjorie Hinson



**Children and Youth**

I entered last week with a sense of excitement! The previous Sunday's message was just the beginning of a mission-and-worship experience-filled holiday season. Our children had filled my heart with joy at the way they participated in worship with the ringing of the choir chimes. Thank you, Marjorie Hinson and Janice Coen, for helping our children accomplish the development of their musical gifts and talents. We look forward to seeing our children, youth, and adults parti-



**Union, Anson, Richmond  
Shoebbox Total = 11,503!**

**A HUGE THANK YOU  
to all who volunteered  
their time to make this  
ministry a success!**

participate in the *Hanging of the Greens*, the Wednesday Night Fellowship Christmas gathering, and the many other church-wide events offered during the coming weeks.

Last week was filled with many prayers of Thanksgiving and people taking time to really think of all the blessings bestowed upon us by God. The Terrific Tuesday Thanksgiving meal and program was enjoyed by all. The trip to the Operation Christmas Child Processing Center was very thought provoking (we were the first volunteers of the season and we were processing boxes that would go to countries never allowing boxes before). The Thanksgiving meal provided by our church to some of the less fortunate in our community was done in such a loving spirit.

Keep watching your Informer and listening to announcements from the pulpit for opportunities galore to participate in mission activities and worship experiences! Parents, please help your child(ren) be present at the practices for the events in which they will participate.

**Terrific Tuesday Christmas Party, Tuesday, December 6, 3:30-5:30 pm:** All Terrific Tuesday children are encouraged to attend the Christmas party next Tuesday. Marjorie will lead us in some merry carols. Dr. Nelson will share a Christmas story. Volunteers will help us with a Christmas craft and other fun activities. This will be the last Terrific Tuesday until January 2012.

**FBC Children's Christmas Party, Saturday, December 17, 4:00-7:00 pm:** All FBC family children, through grade six, are invited to join us for an afternoon of fun, games, food, and fellowship.

**Youth Christmas Party, Friday, December 16, 6:00-11:00 pm:** All FBC family youth, 7-12 grade, are invited to a fun evening of food and fellowship. The youth will cook a progressive mystery meal. You might be asking how they can do that here at the church. Well, they will be divided into three groups and will have an adult chaperone in each group. Each group will prepare a separate section of the meal in the three kitchens of the church and Butler Youth house. The groups will travel from one eating area to the next enjoying great food and fun activities.

**Wednesday Night Fellowship Meal and Christmas Program, Wednesday, December 14, 5:45 pm:** Come join us for the regular Wednesday Night Fellowship Meal and stay for the Christmas program (beginning at 6:30 pm) offered by the Children and Youth groups. Everyone is invited!

**Gospel Journey Maui:** The youth Sunday night Bible study, Gospel Journey Maui, is nearing its end with only two sessions remaining. This has been an interesting journey. Of the twelve students beginning the study, eight students remain. The video study shares the views of several major religions from the viewpoint of seven college age students. Our students have been very interested in learning the differences in their faith and the other religions. A couple of our students want us to offer the study again so that they can bring friends "who need to hear this." Last week's lesson, "What Happens When You Die," brought out some soul searching questions from our youth regarding their faith and what they believe will occur when they die. We will begin a new study in January 2012. Parents, I encourage you to encourage your student to attend these Sunday night studies and make it a priority to get them here. Debbie Holloway

## Tithes & Gifts

	Week of	Nov
Giving Summary	Nov 27	MTD
Gen. Oper. Fund	5,497	25,955
Chall. to Maint.	450	1,200
Memorials & Hon.	330	1,465
Radio Ministry	—	800
Mission Trip	—	450
Fellowship Fund	—	346
Poinsettias	—	50
<b>Total Gifts</b>	<b>6,277</b>	<b>30,266</b>

General Fund Yr-to-Date Summary:	
Budget req. to date 2011	414,606
Actual gifts to date	338,747
YTD req. under actual gifts	(75,859)
% giving to req.	82%

**Have You  
Turned In Your  
Estimate of Giving Card?**

## Handel's MESSIAH



The combined choirs of First Baptist Church, First United Methodist Church, and First Presbyterian Church will perform "Messiah" on December 11, 2011, 6:30 pm. Plan now to attend, and to be blessed by the beautiful voices filling our sanctuary!

## OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE WEEK

### Sunday, December 4

Second Sunday in Advent	
Prayer Time	9:00 am
Praise Singing in E-100	9:30 am
Sunday School	9:45 am
Radio Broadcast on G-104 FM	10:45 am
Morning Worship	11:00 am
"Messiah" rehearsal	3:00 pm
Morrison Worship Service	3:00 pm
Signing Team	5:00 pm
Hanging of the Greens Service	6:30 pm

### Monday, December 5

Missions Committee	7:00 pm
Building Maintenance Committee	7:00 pm

### Tuesday, December 6

WOM Group #1	10:00 am
Terrific Tuesday Christmas Party	3:15-5:30 pm
Morrison Ministry (Yokefellow)	7:00 pm
WOM Group #3/ <i>Women of the Bible</i>	7:30 pm

### Wednesday, December 7

Staff/Church Council Meeting	3:30 pm
Wednesday Family Night Activities	5:45 pm
Cub Scouts	6:30 pm

### Thursday, December 8

WMU Luncheon	11:00 am
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**Week of Prayer for Global Missions  
December 4-11, 2011**

**RADIO SPONSORS:** If you can't be present in the sanctuary for the worship service, listen to the broadcast on WJSG, G-104 on your FM dial. The following area businesses sponsor the broadcast: Crump Realty, Jenkins Automotive and Industrial Supply, Medical Center Pharmacy, Moss Brothers Tire and Service, Carter Funeral Home, and Dr. Kevin Aiken.



### **The First Baptist Informer**

Published Weekly by:  
The First Baptist Church  
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201 N. Randolph St.  
Rockingham, N. C. 28379  
(910) 895-4016 \* Fax (910) 895-1773  
[www.fbcrockingham.org](http://www.fbcrockingham.org)

**NONPROFIT  
ORGANIZATION  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
ROCKINGHAM, NC  
PERMIT NO. 35**

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Anne Tyson, Administrative Assistant



You are invited to hear the Christmas Story rung by the Sandhills Ringers at their Christmas concert on Saturday, December 10, at 4:00 pm. The handbell choir, composed of ringers from Rockingham and Hamlet, is directed by Judy Harris. The L.J. Bell Elementary School chorus will join the Sandhills Ringers for two selections. The concert will be held in the sanctuary of First Presbyterian Church, 904 Fayetteville Road, Rockingham.

## From the Missions Committee

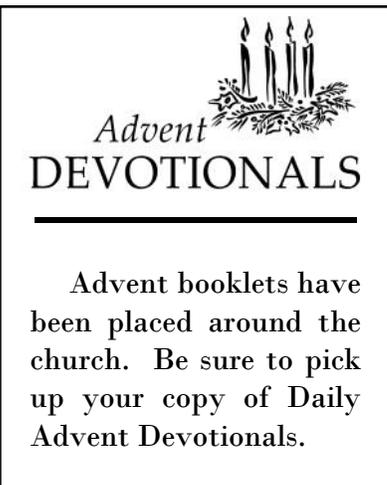
There have been a lot of mission activities taking place over the last couple of weeks. Shoeboxes for Operation Christmas Child have been packed and our church served as the local collection point to collect the shoeboxes. They were then loaded into a donated U-Haul, given a blessing, and delivered to another collection point. I would like to thank John and Beth Ray for all their hard work with this ministry.

The church served a Thanksgiving meal to needy families on Thanksgiving Day. The Angel Tree has been decorated and we encourage individuals and/or classes to sponsor a child in need. The cost to sponsor an Angel is \$35.00. This will purchase a uniform and a toy. You may make checks payable First Baptist Church with "Angel" and their number written on the memo line.

The White Christmas bags are now available and located outside the church office. If you would like to participate in this ministry but are unable to shop, you may make out a check for \$25.00 or more to First Baptist and we'll do the shopping for you. Please write "White Christmas" on the memo line.

Please don't forget about your foreign mission offering. The Week of Prayer for Foreign Missions is December 4-11.

To continue our many ministries and missions, we need your help! If you have not turned in your "Estimate of Giving" card, we encourage you to please pray about what God would have you do, fill it out, and turn it in. Thank you very much. Harry Coble, Chair



Advent booklets have been placed around the church. Be sure to pick up your copy of Daily Advent Devotionals.