

The First Baptist Informer Rockingham, North Carolina

“To know Christ and make Him known.”

Volume XXXIV * Number 49 * December 18, 2011 through December 24, 2011



MERRY CHRISTMAS

FROM THE STAFF
OF
FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH...
and many blessings in the
New Year!

Debbie, Anne, Jim, Marjorie,
Chris, Daniel, Lynda



Christmas
at First Baptist

December 18, 2011

6:00 pm



Christmas
Eve Service
5:00 pm

Resource Recording Team, Monday, December 19, 2011: Bill Featherston, J.C. Lamm, Charles Harrill; **Attendance Report, December 11, 2011:** Sunday School—83; Worship Service—112.

Serving on Sunday, December 18, 2011: **Ushers**—Charlie Auman, Gene Coen, J.C. Lamm, Chris McDuffie; **Greeters**—Irene Aiken, Helen Cox, Barbara Coble, Steve and Cynthia Morris; **2&3s**—Nan Bates; **Children's Church**—Michelle Ard; **Nursery**—Hilda Auman; **Sound**—Kevin Aiken; **Security**—Hal Shuler; **Deacons of the Week**—Kevin Aiken and Gene Coen; **Wednesday Family Night 12/21/11**— Fried Chicken, two vegetables, drink, and dessert: \$5.00 plate, \$12.00 for a family of three or more.



12/22 Scott Emerson
 12/23 Phil Knight
 12/23 Dennis Teal
 12/24 Deborah Knight
 12/24 Holli Hayes

MEMORIAL

December 19, 2011:

Finance Committee

6:30 pm

Deacons

7:30 pm



Mr. Jake Killian
 Charles & Myra Deane

Mr. Harold Matthews
 Baraca II Sunday School Class
 Charles & Myra Deane
 Bill & Sarah Featherston
 Hilda White & Ann White

Dr. Ken Melvin
 Baraca II Sunday School Class
 Bill & Sarah Featherston

Mrs. Peggy Percival
 Charles & Myra Deane

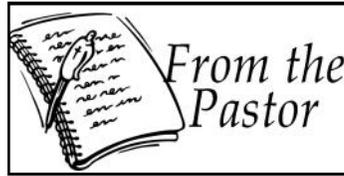
Mr. Bobby Rainey
 Baraca II Sunday School Class
 Bill & Sarah Featherston

Mr. Buddy York
 Charles & Myra Deane



Mrs. Jennifer Byrd
 Essie Byrd

Mr. Ed Ormsby
 Charles & Myra Deane



What a wonderful gift our “community choir” gave us this past Sunday evening! The music of Handel’s Messiah was not only beautiful, it was also inspiring. Thank you Marjorie Hinson, Dr. Paul Chandley, and all our community friends for leading us in a very meaningful worship experience. Thank you God for the gift of music!

Speaking of gifts, Christmas is the season for giving. As the story goes, when Jeff received a long, flat box decorated with a styrofoam snowman on Christmas morning, he thought he knew what Aunt Ethel had given him. In early December, Aunt Ethel had phoned to ask Jeff what he preferred, but when he opened the box, his expression revealed his disappointment. He was looking at the ugliest necktie he had ever seen. It looked like a Purina Dog Chow bag with large red and white checks. Noticing his disappointment, Aunt Ethel said, “Don’t tell me you don’t like it. It’s exactly what you said you wanted.” Jeff replied, “But Aunt Ethel, when you asked me if I preferred a large check or a small check, I didn’t know you were talking about a necktie!”

Sometimes our gift-giving can backfire. So, the question is - what kind of gifts will we be giving this Christmas? Perhaps we can learn a lesson in giving from the wise men who brought some unusual but very appropriate gifts to the Christ Child. The gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh were quite meaningful in describing who Jesus was - a King, a Priest, and our Savior. In gift-giving, it’s not only the thought that counts; it’s also the meaning behind the gift.

I read about one man (also a wise man) who got it right in his giving. He gave the gift of his presence. To his son, he gave a three-day backpacking trip on the Appalachian Trail, just for the two of them. To his daughter he gave a three-day skiing trip, just for the two of them. To his wife, he gave a Caribbean cruise, just for the two of them. What great gifts!

As we give and receive gifts this Christmas, let’s not forget to thank God for His GIFT to us - His son Jesus! See you on Sunday as we again anticipate the coming of Christ. Jim Nelson

Choir Notes



A big THANK YOU goes to our choir members for the long hours of rehearsal this month, especially for the Messiah. You deserve appreciation for sharing God’s gift of music and inspiring our congregation with dedication and beautiful music. Thank you for your time and talent. Marjorie Hinson

Children and Youth



From the bottom of my heart, I believe we are truly blessed at First Baptist. We have so many gifted people who are using those gifts to enhance our worship, fellowship, prayer, Sunday School, and other activities. I wish to thank Marjorie Hinson and all of our choir members for providing us with such a worshipful music experience Sunday night. The many hours they sacrificed to practice were so very evident and were so greatly appreciated by all who were blessed to be present. If you have a gift or calling and are not currently using it, but would like to, please do not hesitate to contact Dr. Nelson or me. We would be glad to help you explore where you might put your gifts, talents, and abilities to use, and steer you to the church leaders who can also help you find your place of service.

MILITARY PRAYER NEEDS FOR THE FAMILIES OF OUR YOUTH: Olivia Anzaldua -Melvin - Navy - mother of Raquel Anzaldua, Taron and Caymon Melvin; D.J. Waite (former youth) - Army - deploying overseas at the end of December - pray for his new wife. D.J. will be married at First Baptist next week by Dr. Nelson.

A SPECIAL THANK YOU: The youth and I would like to thank Richard and Lynn Martin for the beautiful new Christmas Tree in the Butler Youth House.

NEW Youth Bible Study: Begins January 8, 2012 - “Shocking and Scandalous” stories from the Bible. This is a thirteen week study to challenge students to see life from God’s point of view. Debbie Holloway

FOREIGN MISSIONS GIVING



**Needed:
\$700**



*Youth
Christmas Party*

**December 16, 2011
6:00 - 11:00 pm**



Tithes & Gifts

	Week of	Dec
Giving Summary	<u>Dec 11</u>	<u>MTD</u>
Gen. Oper. Fund	15,878	25,027
Chall. to Maint.	—	—
Memorials & Hon.	195	290
Radio Ministry	800	800
Christmas Missions	695	1800
Mission Trip	—	—
Fellowship Fund	—	—
Poinsettias	—	—
Total Gifts	17,568	27,917

General Fund Yr-to-Date Summary:		
Budget req. to date 2011	431,882	
Actual gifts to date	363,734	
YTD req. under actual gifts	(68,147)	
% giving to req.	84%	

The Tradition

By: Nancy W. Gavin

It's just a small, white envelope stuck among the branches of our Christmas tree. No name, no identification, no inscription. It has peeked through the branches of our tree for the past 10 years or so.

It all began because my husband Mike hated Christmas. Oh, not the true meaning of Christmas, but the commercial aspects of it—overspending, the frantic running around at the last minute to get a tie for Uncle Harry, and the dusting powder for Grandma, and the gifts given in desperation because you couldn't think of anything else. Knowing he felt this way, I decided one year to bypass the usual shirts, sweaters, ties and so forth. I reached for something special just for Mike. The inspiration came in an unusual way.

Our son Kevin, who was twelve that year, was wrestling at the junior level at the school he attended; and shortly before Christmas, there was a non-league match against a team sponsored by an inner-city church, mostly black. These youngsters, dressed in sneakers so ragged that shoestrings seemed to be the only thing holding them together, presented a sharp contrast to our boys in their spiffy blue and gold uniforms and sparkling new wrestling shoes. As the match began, I was alarmed to see that the other team was wrestling without headgear, a kind of light helmet designed to protect a wrestler's ears. It was a luxury the ragtag team obviously could not afford.

Well, we ended up walloping them. We took every weight class. And as each of their boys got up from the mat, they swaggered around in their tatters with false bravado, a kind of street pride that couldn't acknowledge defeat. Mike, seated beside me, shook his head sadly, "I wish just one of them could have won," he said. "They have a lot of potential, but losing like this could take the heart right out of them." Mike loved kids—all kids—and he knew them, having coached little league football, baseball, and lacrosse.

That's when the idea for his present came. That afternoon, I went to a local sporting goods store and bought an assortment of wrestling headgear and shoes and sent them anonymously to the inner-city church. On Christmas Eve, I placed the envelope on the tree, the note inside telling Mike what I had done and that this was his gift from me. His smile was the brightest thing about Christmas that year, and in succeeding years. For each Christmas, I followed the tradition—one year sending a group of mentally handicapped youngsters to a hockey game, another year a check to a pair of elderly brothers whose home had burned to the ground the week before Christmas, and on and on.

The envelope became the highlight of our Christmas. It was always the last thing opened on Christmas morning and our children, ignoring their new toys, would stand with wide-eyed anticipation as their dad lifted the envelope from the tree to reveal its contents. As the children grew, the toys gave way to more practical presents, but the envelope never lost its allure. The story doesn't end there.

You see, we lost Mike last year due to dreaded cancer. When Christmas rolled around, I was still so wrapped in grief that I barely got the tree up. But Christmas Eve found me placing an envelope on the tree, and in the morning, it was joined by three more. Each of our children, unbeknownst to the others, had placed an envelope on the tree for their dad. The tradition has grown and someday will expand even further with our grandchildren standing around the tree with wide-eyed anticipation, watching as their fathers take down the envelope. Mike's spirit, like the Christmas spirit, will always be with us.

(best-christmas-stories.com) This story first appeared in Woman's Day magazine in 1982 as a contest winner. Unfortunately, Nancy passed away from cancer two years after the story was published. Her family still keeps the tradition.

**Can You
Spare
A Drop?**



**FBC Blood Drive
December 19, 2011
3:30-7:30 pm**

From the Pee Dee Baptist Association

Many of you have been praying so faithfully for Jonathan Hernandez, son of Pablo and Diana Hernandez. Pablo is the pastor of the East Laurinburg Hispanic Mission. Jonathan's recovery from cancer requires a special diet. In a recent email, Diana sent a list of items needed for his care: **1)** certified organic fruits and vegetables (you may donate the items or the cost of the items) - tomatoes, carrots, green apples without wax coating, potatoes, celery, garlic, swiss chard, limes, romaine, escarole, broccoli, red cabbage, onions, watercress, red pepper, green pepper, cauliflower, parsley, pear, red apples, leeks, oatmeal, coffee, brown rice, California seedless raisins; **2)** volunteers to help with food preparation for Jonathan's treatment (his special diet requires him to eat twelve times a day).

If you have any questions, please contact the PDBA at 895-5282.



December 17, 2011
4:00-6:00 pm
E100

OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE WEEK

Sunday, December 18

Fourth 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
Morrison Worship Service	3:00 pm
Christmas at First Baptist	6:00 pm

Monday, December 19

Blood Drive	3:00-7:30 pm
Finance Committee	6:30 pm
Deacons	7:30 pm

Tuesday, December 20

Morrison Ministry (Yokefellow)	7:00 pm
--------------------------------	---------

Wednesday, December 21

Wednesday Family Night	5:45 pm
------------------------	---------

Friday, December 23

Soup Kitchen	
--------------	--

Saturday, December 24

Christmas Eve Service	5:00 pm
-----------------------	---------

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
 of Rockingham
 201 N. Randolph St.
 Rockingham, N. C. 28379
 (910) 895-4016 * Fax (910) 895-1773
www.fbcrackingham.org

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

Address Service Requested

Dr. James J. Nelson, Senior Pastor
drjimnelson@yahoo.com

Lynda Clifton, Financial Secretary
lynda@fbcrackingham.org

Marjorie Hinson, Organist/Choir Director
mheightyeight@roadrunner.com

Debbie Holloway, Associate Pastor
 for Children & Youth
dholloway4@carolina.rr.com

Chris McEntire, Director of Accounting
cmcentire@carolina.rr.com

Daniel Short, Custodian

Anne Tyson, Administrative Assistant