

The First Baptist Informer Rockingham, North Carolina

“To know Christ and make Him known.”

Volume XXXIV * Number 50 * December 25, 2011 through December 31, 2011

May God make your year a happy one!

Not by shielding you from all sorrows and pain,
But by strengthening you to bear it, as it comes;

Not by making your path easy,
But by making you sturdy to travel any path;

Not by taking hardships from you,
But by taking fear from your heart;

Not by granting you unbroken sunshine,
But by keeping your face bright, even in the shadows;

Not by making your life always pleasant,
But by showing you when people and their causes need
you most, and by making you anxious to be there to help.

God's love, peace, hope and joy
to you for the year ahead.

(William Arthur Ward)



HAPPY

NEW YEAR!

Resource Recording Team, Wednesday, December 28, 2011: Beverly Carnes and Sally Pierce; **Attendance Report, December 18, 2011:** Sunday School—82; Worship Service—122.

Serving on Sunday, December 25, 2011: **Ushers**—Charlie Auman, Gene Coen, J.C. Lamm, Chris McDuffie; **Greeters**—Irene Aiken, Barbara Coble, Gene and Bonnie Barnes, Terry and Susan Brown; **2&3s**—John and Beth Ray; **Children's Church**—Jennifer Byrd and Corey Davis; **Nursery**—Sallie Ormsby; **Sound**—Kenny Melvin; **Security**—Jerry Davis; **Deacons of the Week**—Dennis Holloway and Lazelle Marks; **There will be NO Wednesday Family Night activities on December 28, 2011.**



12/24 Graham Inman
 12/25 Helen Cox
 12/27 Richard Joyner
 12/30 Alex Cockerton
 12/31 Randy Warren



Mr. Bill Dabbs
 Mr. & Mrs. Charles Harrill

Mr. Clyde Jenkins
 Anonymous

Mr. Ken Melvin
 Anonymous

Mr. and Mrs. Wesley Williams
 Anonymous



Mrs. Hilda Auman
 Anonymous
 Lydia/Ruth Sunday School Class

Mrs. Virginia Auman
 Anonymous

Mrs. Kaye Beale
 Lydia/Ruth Sunday School Class

Mrs. Beverly Carnes
 Anonymous

Mrs. Virginia Cole
 Lydia/Ruth Sunday School Class

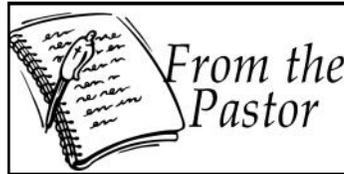
Mrs. Ina Haigler
 Lydia/Ruth Sunday School Class

Mr. Dennis Holloway
 Mr. and Mrs. Ed Ormsby

Mrs. Agnes Larsen
 Anonymous

Mrs. Leah Melvin
 Anonymous

Mrs. Hazel Todd
 Anonymous



One of the questions I have heard several times this year is, "Are you ready for Christmas?" It's a good question because to celebrate Christmas properly does require planned preparation. But there is also another important question to consider:

What are we as Christians to do when Christmas is over? Do we return to our old routine? Do we pack away the Christmas Spirit? Do we put Christmas on a shelf until next year?

A family was driving by the church a few days after Christmas when the little boy noticed that the nativity scene had been taken down. He said, innocently enough, "I see they've put Jesus away for another year." Unfortunately, all too often that is what happens. Jesus gets put away with all the wrappings, nativity scenes, lights, and ornaments.

So what are we to do when Christmas is over? Perhaps we should do what the magi did. First, like the magi, we can seek Christ throughout the year. However, if we seek Christ seriously as they did, it will require three things: effort, time, and sacrifice. For the magi, their quest to find the Christ Child was not easy. There were costs involved, but when they found Christ they were richly blessed and most surely said, "The cost was well worth it!"

But also, like the magi, we can worship Christ throughout the year. Their natural response to finding Christ and being in His presence was to bow before Him in worship and adoration. The most important function of the church is worship! The most important act of the Christian is worship!

So what are we to do when Christmas is over? We must continue to seek for Christ and worship Him regularly. If we do that, we will have a blessed New Year.

A man was sitting in his living room in the middle of January when he heard a thin, piping voice singing, "O Come, All Ye Faithful." He went to his front door and opened it, and there was a little boy singing Christmas carols.

He said to the boy, "What are you doing?"

The child replied, "I'm singing Christmas carols."

The man said, "Why, son, it's the middle of January."

The little boy said, "I know, but I had the measles during Christmas and I'm just now getting around to doing my caroling."

Let's not just do Christmas at Christmas. Let's do Christmas all year long! See you in church next year! Jim Nelson

Choir Notes



Joy to the World is Isaac Watt's interpretation of Psalm 98, which says: "Shout joyfully to the Lord, all the earth." This carol has been a timeless carol that has brightened our Christmases for nearly three hundred years.

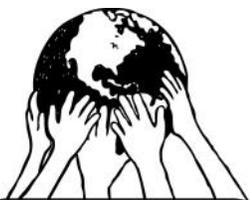
I hope your Christmas is bright with family and friends. Merry Christmas to all! Marjorie Hinson

Children and Youth



Where would Jesus go? Who would Jesus minister to? In April, 1997, Bill Howse and his family moved to San Antonio, Texas, to start a church in an inner-city apartment community. Because of the high rate of people moving in and out of the complex, every six months they had a lot of new people to meet.

**FOREIGN MISSIONS
GIVING**



Hooray!

Church Goal:

\$2500

Total Given to Date:

\$3165

They found one of the best ways to get to know people was to do a First Touch Event. This was an opportunity to meet new people, share with them what was going on in the community, explain who they were, and find out about their faith walk. They met some very interesting people along the way: drug dealers, gang bangers, and prostitutes. Occasionally, they would encounter fellow Christians.

Howse challenges us to ask ourselves: Where was Jesus and what was He doing in most of the stories throughout the New Testament? Jesus was hanging out with people in social settings - getting to know them and ministering to their needs (see John 2:1-11).

Social events involving the community are a great way for us, and our church, to put our hands, feet, and faith together and connect with un-churched neighbors.

We also have the unique opportunity on Wednesday night to minister to some children and teens, and their parents, from our community. In an effort to help you come to know some of these community youth better, we will begin to introduce a couple to you each week at the Fellowship meal. Diane Lucas and I are also beginning a Youth Directory to help you get to know them better.

Recycle those Christmas items: As you take down your Christmas decorations next week, you may decide you have decorations you will not use next year. If so, please consider bagging or boxing them up and donating them to the church to be used in our yard sale and/or auction next year. Monies from the yard sale/auction will be used for children and youth mission trips in 2013. **Other ways to recycle:** 1) Aluminum cans for Habitat for Humanity - you may drop your cans off any time, day or night, in the can depository on Hwy 74; 2) Ink Cartridges - there is a drop-off container in the preschool area of FBC. Debbie Holloway

A Special Thank You

Dear First Baptist Youth Group: On behalf of Backpack Pals for RC, I would like to extend a special thank you for helping pack our Backpacks. You were certainly one of our more lively groups and I understand that you are now packing in 30 minutes or less! You did an outstanding job. Roman said that he would not mind having you in to pack every week. You just get right in there and get the job done.

As you know, we are now feeding more than 500 hungry students each weekend. Our volunteers make the program what it is. We are blessed to receive support from the First Baptist Youth.

We cannot begin to express our appreciation for the support provided by the entire First Baptist Church family. Thank you for your service to our community and for giving your time. Sincerely, Kim Lindsey Backpack Pals for RC/Public Relations



	Week of	Dec
Giving Summary	Dec 18	MTD
Gen. Oper. Fund	10,505	35,532
Chall. to Maint.	400	400
Memorials & Hon.	25	315
Radio Ministry	—	800
Christmas Missions	1365	3165
Baptist Men	100	100
Fellowship Fund	—	—
Poinsettias	—	—
Total Gifts	12,395	40,312
General Fund Yr-to-Date Summary:		
Budget req. to date 2011	440,519	
Actual gifts to date	374,264	
YTD req. under actual gifts	(66,255)	
% giving to req.	85%	



We're Searching for Volunteers

We need two volunteers for one of our Soup Kitchen groups. You would serve lunch on the fourth Friday of the month, twice a year. If you would like to be a part of this ministry, please call Beth Ray, 417-5109, to learn more/sign up. Thanks!

STEWARDSHIP NEWS

While our tithes and offerings during the month of December have been above average, our available budget fund balance still remains dangerously low. Your deacons and finance committee are concerned, especially given the fact that the last Sunday in December happens to fall on Christmas day, when the



attendance may be lower. For these reasons, we are encouraging all of our members to be faithful in their giving—even if absent on Christmas day. Even as the magi presented Jesus with gifts, may we rise up and do the same on Christmas day, or at least before December 31.

May God bless you and First Baptist Church.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE WEEK

Sunday, December 25

Merry Christmas

Sunday School Classes Will Not Meet Christmas Day

Morning Worship

11:00 am

Morrison Worship Service

3:00 pm

Monday, December 26

Office Closed

Tuesday, December 27

Office Closed

Morrison Ministry (Yokefellow)

7:00 pm

Wednesday, December 28

No Wednesday Family Night Activities

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NOEL HALLELUJAH MERRY CHRISTMAS HAPPY NEW YEAR

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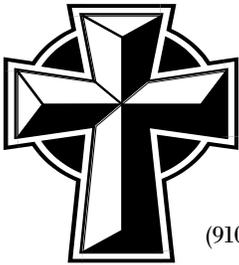
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RADIO SPONSORS: If you can't be present in the sanctuary for the worship service, listen to the broadcast on WJSG, G-104 on your FM dial. The following area businesses sponsor the broadcast: Crump Realty, Jenkins Automotive and Industrial Supply, Medical 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.fbcrockingham.org

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