



Vol. XXIX No. 51

First Baptist Church

The Focus

December 31, 2009

Special points of interest:

- **Sunday, January 10 at 10:00 AM** Alpha presentation for **Adult Sunday School** classes in the Chapel



Wednesday Night Supper and activities will return on January 13: including GriefShare and the Men's Bible Study.

IMPORTANT INFO!!

Contact the Hanover Health Services to schedule a free H1N1 vaccine.

Noteworthy News of the Week

The ALPHA Course at First Baptist Church

Have you ever wondered is there more to life than this? If so, the Alpha course is for you. The course is a practical introduction to the Christian faith and explores the meaning of life.

We invite you to attend the Alpha dinner at our church on February 11, 2010 at 6:00 PM. At the dinner you will have some fun and a great meal, find out about the course and then decide if you want to attend it. There is no cost for the meal or the course, but we do ask that you call the church at 798-9014 no later than February 8, so we know how many folks are coming.

Everyone who has come on the course was glad they did and most folks told us that it was wonderful. For some it was life changing and we urge you to give it a try.

BUT WAIT THERE'S MORE . . .

All Adult Sunday School classes are invited to come to the Chapel no later than 10:00 AM on Sunday, January 10 to see the Alpha introductory video. The Alpha committee and the many folks who have attended the course are confident you will benefit greatly from this presentation. So, give your Sunday School teachers a break and set back and enjoy. Hope to see you there!

JANUARY 03 - 09, 2010

Sunday - 03

- 8:30 a.m. Worship
- 9:30 a.m. Blood Pressure Screening
- 9:45 a.m. Sunday School
- 10:45 a.m. Deacon-Led Prayer Time
- 11:00 a.m. Worship
- 5:00 p.m. "Praise in Motion" Bell Choir (#246)
- 6:00 p.m. Youth After Christmas Party

Monday - 04

9:30 a.m. Staff Meeting

Wednesday - 05

- 10:00 a.m. "Chimes of Time" Choir
- 5:00 p.m. "Praise in Motion"
- 5:45 p.m. Youth Choir
- 6:30 p.m. "Standing in Grace" Women's Choir (#135)
- 7:40 p.m. Sanctuary Choir (#135)

Saturday - 09

All Day All-State Rehearsal in the whole church building

A Word From Our Pastor

HAPPY NEW YEAR! Can you believe it! We missed being with you last Sunday but I know it was a good day in Bible Study and worship. It is always good when God's people gather together to worship the "New Born King." Today we will meet each other at the Lord's Table. The Table is a reminder that the baby whose birthday we are celebrating was exactly who God sent Him to be, our Savior and Lord.

When I look at my calendar January is already getting filled up with a multitude of opportunities for worship and service. Our **Strategic Vision** committee will be finishing much of their work this year which will lead us into the future. These folks have worked long and hard and I believe are going to be an even better church because of their

work. Our **Committee Organization night will be January 17.** Jim Townsend will be sharing information with our committees about that opportunity. On **January 31** we will observe **Baptist Men's Day.** Coach **Pedro Arruza** will be our guest speaker. Pedro and his family are part of our church family. He is also coach of the Randolph Macon football team. I believe we are going to be blessed by his words. That Sunday evening is our **Annual Church Business Meeting.** The month is getting to be exciting and good.

Let me tell you how **proud I am of you and your service** to God's kingdom called First Baptist Church. We are a long way from being perfect, but this is a good place to worship and to serve. As long as we keep our eyes on Jesus Christ and seek to be the best we

can be for Him as a church and as people, we will continue to be a Body of Christ that offers hope, peace, joy and love to all who come our way. We won't be the church for everybody, but there are people who need what we have to offer. Take every opportunity you have to share a good word about our church and especially our Lord.

Thank you also for your financial stewardship. We exceeded our Ministry Budget for 2009 and your gifts to our Catch the Vision Building Fund has been nothing less than phenomenal. God is good and you have responded well to His goodness when you are able.

I am blessed to be your pastor.

Blessings,

Robert

youthHeadlines

CHOSEN:

Creatively Helping Others by Serving Every Neighbor. - John 15:15 - 17

TODAY: Youth after Christmas Party, 6:00 - 8:00 PM

Wednesday Night: Meets again on January 13

JANUARY:

03 After Christmas Party 6:00 - 8:00 PM in Thompson Hall

18 Lunch and a Movie; Noon - 4:00 PM

The CHOSEN Award: goes to Ian, Dustin, Kevin, Reva, Maddison, Cassady, Lucas, Cole, Abby and Bernie for bringing Christmas cheer to our adopted families on Tuesday. You guys were so much fun!



OUR DECEMBER 50 + YEAR WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

Gerald and Janice Miller	53 Years	December 07
Tuck and Nelda Tompkins	64 Years	December 07
Bill and Ruth Metcalf	55 Years	December 09
Gerard and Mamie TerAvest	58 Years	December 13
Roy and Mary Hargrave	59 Years	December 17
David and Doris Coburn	51 Years	December 19
Cal and Jane McAlexander	53 Years	December 21
Curtis and Carole Necessary	50 Years	December 28

Parish Nurse

When you read this a new year will have started, and with it our usual New Years resolutions. The following is from my mother's book "The Guideposts Handbook of Prayer" by Phyllis Hobe. I thought this would be a fitting way to start each day of the New Year. Try it and see if it helps you get through each day.

"Be still right now for one minute. Let your body relax. Think of God as being right at your side; think of His power

flowing into you. Think of Him opening the way through some problem of your life. Feel deep peace possessing your mind. The Lord shall fight for you and ye shall hold your peace." Amen. - Charles L. Allen

I hope this year will bring you *Peace, Joy and Good Health*, but most of all *Peace with yourself and God*.

PLEASE HELP

The Preschool Department needs volunteers for the 11:00 hour once a quarter. You can be in the Baby and Creepers, the Toddler Two's, or the Threes and Fours classes. If you would be willing to give up 1 hour every 3 months to help with our little children, please let me know. Thanks, Tricia Dalton (798-5318).

Grace Sightings . . .

"The way we show our love for God is by loving our neighbor. No pious activity or churchly duty can substitute for that" - Malcolm Tolbert

CCDC News

Happy New Year from the CCDC. We have several new children enrolled for the new year.

We pray 2010 is a blessed year!

Linda Ficklin, Director

Senior Adult News

January 13 Senior Adult Council Meeting at 3:45 PM

January 21 Covered Dish "White Elephant Bingo"; Please bring your "white elephants" wrapped for use as prizes. Good time to clean out your clutter and share.

February 18 Dine Out

March 16 Quarterly Luncheon; Singer "Anthony Williams"



Our deepest sympathy and love to the family of Allie Halbleib in her death, AND to Elsa Gray Thompson, John Thompson, Ruth and Cole Marks, and Sarah, Anthony and Theresa Gardner in the death of husband, father, grandfather and our friend, Jay Thompson.

STATISTICS - Financial - Attendance - Budget Requirements

Budget Requirements	\$ 15,907.00	Endowment Fund (10/31)	\$66,075
Budget Receipts (12/27-31/09)	\$ 30,587.14	BUS FUND (TD)	\$5,759.50
Building Fund (12/27-31/09)	\$ 76,953.26	Memorial Garden	\$100.00
(In memory of Margaret Smith)	\$50.00)	Lottie Moon (TD)	\$5,857.00
(In memory of Jay Thompson)	\$490.00)	World Hunger (TD)	\$866.00
(In memory of Allie Halbleib)	\$500.00)		
(In memory of Mr. Luck)	\$1,000.00)		
Cost of New Sanctuary	\$4,675,000	<u>2009 Budget Requirements</u>	
Current Loan Balance	\$ 495,000	Needs to Date:	\$ 827,152
Less Building Fund Balance	<u>109,305</u>	Gifts to Date:	\$ 832,298
Additional Gifts Needed	\$ 385,695		

WEEKLY ATTENDANCE

Sunday, December 27, 2009

Worship:

8:30	110
11:00	186

Sunday School:

Members	280
Visitors	11
Total	291

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

800 Thompson Street
Ashland, VA 23005
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Email: fbcashland@verizon.net
Website: firstbaptistashland.org

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH STAFF

Robert E. Thompson, Pastor
James F. Townsend, Associate Pastor
Frederick Horn, Minister of Music
and Family Life
Barbara A. Hollowell, Minister of Youth
and College Ministry

Betty F. Stadnick, Parish Nurse
Linda Ficklin, CCDC Director

Joanie L. Tompkins, Administrative Asst.
Lisa Reckley, Administrative Asst.

Kenneth LeFevre, Focus Editor

Happy New Year from the

The Sunday afternoon and Tuesday night Women's groups will begin the Beth Moore study of Revelation, "Here and Now, There and Then" on Sunday, January 17 at 4:00 PM in Room #208, and on Tuesday, January 12 at 7:00 PM at the Mitchell's home. This study includes 11 DVD messages, a listening guide and light homework (weekly reading assignments). The listening guide costs about \$5.00. NOTE: For the Tuesday night group, please call the church office on the 11th or 12th to confirm that the study was received, otherwise the start date will be delayed a week.

The Wednesday night Women's group will start the Beth Moore study, "Living Beyond Yourself: Exploring the Fruit of the Spirit" on Wednesday, January 13 at 6:00 PM. If you are interested in joining us, please contact Tammy Van Gils at 798-7802.

Prayer Concerns

OUR MEMBERS: Caroline Jablonski, Donna Flournoy, Brenda Stone, Don Morgan, James Ellis, Nancy Nordin, Donna Alessi, Barbara Cochran, Jim McLean, Margaret J. Caudle, Charles Baltz, Nancy Melton, Doris Yowell.

FOR OUR RELATIVES AND FRIENDS: Harvie Early (Jennie Pegram); Steven Walsh (Elaine Mallory); Christy Detwiler (LeFevre Family); George Glenn (Peggie & Greg Haley); Joe Loehr (Greg Haley); Trudy Hutcheson (Kim Hutcheson); Ellis Powell (Chuck Powell); Ann Kirby (Dorsey Ficklin); Norman Gotthardt (Nancy Barnett); Kirk Williams (Betty & John Irby & Matt Shelton); Pauline Sweet (Janice Miller); Leroy Waggett (Betsy Marks); Tommy Smith (George Smith); Frank Harris (Walter Harris); Larry Horner (Mark Horner); Melissa Goode Cattarius & Charles Skinner (Marjorie Goode); Lavelle Sheffield (Roy & Peggie Haley); Xander Waller (Dale & Morgan Waller); Charles Rush (Dot Lee); Miles Coleman (Kit Taylor); Wilma Horn (Fred Horn); Cathy Waldrop (Gay Blankenship); Ben Hutcheson (Phillip Hutcheson); Kenny Allanson (Roy Saettel); Walter Gibson (Harold Brooks); Linda Platt (Jackie Dougherty); Dick McGrew, Charlene Dillard (Peggy & Bob Dillard); Jerry McGraw, Evelyn Smith and Lee Grant (Pat Ross); Sherri Pollick (Geri Gleeson); Carolyn Powell (Luke Powell); Francis Hurdle (Dot Lee); Deb Williams (Lydia Collins); Victor and Elizabeth Sarna, Cindy Richmond (Kay Rooke); Gail Glave (Brandon & Hunter Glave); Jim Hilton (Sara Hilton); Norma Hopper (Crystal Hopper); Polly Raines (Venetia Redd); Joan Nevel (Delores Tignor & Linwood Garris); Sharon, Delvin & Lily Roberts (Nancy Melton); Jori Heckman (Tom Ficklin); Wanda Anderson (Bernie Marsh); Adriel Edwards (Bill Chisholm); Charlotte Reynolds (Horn's & Wendy Farmer); Julie Chapman & family (Travis Edwards); Don Lahy (Steve Owens); Sandra Anderson (Jane McAlexander); Scott Towne (Randy Howard); Chanel Hobbs (Tricia Dalton); Al Willett (Gilmans); Richard Bagby (Jim & Betty Ellis); Ruth Hall (Watson Hall); Shyanne Shane; William Sumner (Freida Bryant); Vera Lee Leigers (Caroline Jablonski); Scotty and Dottie Scott (Ginger Collison); Angela DeVoe (Kim Hutcheson); Denver Bridwell (Buddy & Myra Weston); Tammy Trapani (Susan Glisson); Rose Parsley (Joyce Parsley); Karen Snyder (Beth Mallory); Zach Fields (Don Fields); Diane Ballard (Kathy Powell); Margaret Oberholtzer (Gail Dail); Ed Walinsky (Mick & Carol Outten); Tommy Clemons (Alison Clemons); Robert Blanchard (Terri Cook); Ryan Southworth (Elsa Gray Thompson). Our military personnel and country.