

First Chronicles

Chronicling the life of the First Baptist Family

FBC exceeds Operation Christmas Child goal

The spirit of giving was evident through Operation Christmas Child this year. First Baptist Church members brought in 552 boxes filled with goodies for children around the world. The Upper Cumberland Region produced a total of 10,177 boxes.

"Thank you all for helping First Baptist exceed our goal by 52 boxes," Brenda Spain said. "This would have never happened without all the volunteers that helped for eight solid days! What an awesome opportunity to work with so many people who have a heart for helping even at the drop of a hat. All it took was a phone call and in just a few minutes people were here to help."

Many people showed up to help in various ways from assisting in collecting boxes to loading the truck to go to the distribution center. Overall the numbers were up considerably from last year as the number of boxes from the Upper Cumberland increased by 1,391. First Baptist more than doubled its efforts from last year. But one particular church stood out to Brenda. This church from Monterey has just 12 members and they brought in 100 boxes.

"Next year is going to be even bigger," Brenda said. "God bless you all for touching children around the world."



Many volunteers showed up to work in many different capacities from wrapping boxes (above) to loading the truck (right) during the last eight days.



Pastor's Heart

Wow! Did you read the article on *Operations Christmas Child*? What a great way to make a difference during the holidays. The First Baptist family zoomed past our last year's performance and even past our ambitious 2007 goal of 500 boxes. Not only that, the Upper Cumberland effort brought in more than 10,000 boxes.

You will remember that we began the *Operation Christmas Child* effort a few years ago and then became the region sponsor and collection point. For the last several years we have loaded the boxes into a tractor-trailer in our parking lot to begin their journey of grace across the Globe.

Last year in Tirupati, India, my eyes danced as I spied *Operation Christmas Child* containers sitting in a church. Used as an open door for the Gospel in India and around the globe, those little shoeboxes were opening the door for our witness to the people there.

Beyond that impact, it was a great joy to see the smiles and hear the laughter of the volunteers who gathered over the weekend and all day Monday to pack the boxes and load them in the truck. These boxes not only bring joy to children, they brought delight to everyone involved. (Of course, I don't know if they had more fun loading the boxes or picking on me. But they really had fun.)

Congratulations to our leadership team and every volunteer. Well done First Baptist family! May each of you who took part share in the blessings of grace this Christmas season.

In His Love,
Pastor Randy

You are invited to
**In Christ
 Alone**

A Festival of Christmas Music presented by the
Music Ministry of First Baptist Church
Sunday, December 9
at 6:00 p.m.

This delightful concert of Christmas carols from around the world will feature adult and youth choirs, handbells, harps, and the church orchestra.

**Sunday School
 Teacher Appreciation**
Sunday, December 16
8:15 a.m.

Breakfast will be served. Doug Merritt from Lifeway will be our guest speaker. Please RSVP by Wednesday, December 12.

**Happy Travelers to
 Opry House**

Saturday, Dec. 8

Cost: \$32

We will see the Radio City Christmas Spectacular (Rockettes). Show time is 2:00 p.m. We will leave the parking lot at 11:30 a.m. Dinner will be dutch treat in Lebanon after the show. Please call Sue Johnson at 372-8279 to sign up by Nov. 26.



**55+ Ministry
 Christmas
 Movie Matinee**
Saturday, Dec. 1
1:00 p.m.
Room 177

Snack lunch provided. Call Carol Tittle at 526-5629 or Margaret Garrett at 528-5740 for reservations. The deadline for reservations is Tuesday, Nov. 27.



**Nelms'
 Notes**

The holidays are upon us. That means that the delightful sounds of Christmas are just around the corner. The coming weeks will offer many musical opportunities to celebrate the coming of our Lord.

Be sure to mark the evening of December 9 on your calendar. That is the night of our annual Christmas music festival and tasting party. The youth and adult choirs, handbells, harps, and orchestra will come together to present a fabulous program of Christmas music from around the world. Entitled "In Christ Alone," this program will begin at 6:00 p.m. Admission is free and open to the public. Don't miss it!

I want to thank you for your support of my service as president of the Tennessee Baptist Church Music Conference. Although I will still serve another year as past-president, my term of office ended with the Tennessee Baptist Convention.



The conference had a great year. Our membership, attendance, and finances are at a record high. Our concert attendance and CD sales have surpassed expectations. All of this has allowed us to support even more music missions and ministry such as our recent mission tour to Wales.

My wife, Glenda, was elected president-elect of the Tennessee Ladies Chorus and will assume the presidency of that organization next November. Again, thanks for your support.

- Jonathan Nelms, Associate Pastor/Music

Parent's Night Out

Babies-6th grade

Saturday, December 8 from 6:00-9:00 p.m.

Snacks, movie, play in
Family Life Center

Cost: \$7 per child with a \$20 limit for family
Registration forms available in Central Lobby, Nursery Suite, Church Office. Registration and payment due by Wednesday, December 5.

Youth & College

After Church

Fellowship

Sunday, Nov. 25

7:00-8:30 p.m.

After worship we will decorate the Youth and College Departments for Christmas. Bring an ornament or two, and we'll "trim the tree". Homemade goodies and fellowship will be shared.



Parent/Child Dedication

First Baptist will have a time of Parent/Child Dedication during the 8:15 or 10:45 service on **Dec. 9**. Families need to be registered in order to participate in this special time of worship.



During the Parent/Child Dedication, parents commit to raise their families under the authority and protection of the Lord. This is a special time for the church family also as it makes a commitment to help in the vital area of raising children in the nurture and admonition of the Lord.

Please fill out this form and drop it in the offering plate or call the church office to register your family. The registration deadline is Wednesday, **Dec. 5**.

Parent/Child Dedication Form

Child's Name _____

Parent's Name _____

Worship Service _____

Birth Date _____

Youth & Collegiate Service Project



Youth, college students and their leaders are needed to help our senior adults serve hot chocolate to spectators at the Cookeville

Kids Korner: The Golden Compass

By Ann Hertzfeldt

Director of Preschool/Children

The movie *The Golden Compass*, scheduled to be in theaters December 7, is based on the first book in a series written by Phillip Pullman. Pullman is an avowed atheist, and the trilogy entitled *His Dark Materials* deals with extremely mature themes.

In the books a young girl battles against an oppressive religious authority called the Magisterium, all religious people are depicted as unreasonable zealots, the God figure is frail, weak and flawed, having given most

of his power to a twisted regent, and eventually dies after being exposed to a gust of wind. Heaven is portrayed as a lie.

Despite winning the Carnegie Medal for Children's Literature, the books are designed by the author to debunk Christianity in the minds of children. While the movie has been toned down so as not to offend Christians, children who see it may be interested in purchasing the books. I just wanted to make you aware that the content of the books is contrary to the values that we as Christians strive to impart to our children.

College Christmas

Dinner

Friday, November 30

6:00-8:00 p.m.

Fellowship Hall



Each person should bring a white elephant gift to exchange.

WEEKLY ACTIVITIES

OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE WEEK

Sunday, Nov. 25

8:15 A.M. First Worship
 9:30 A.M. Sunday School
 Hispanic Worship-
 Chapel
 10:45 A.M. Second Worship
 4:00 P.M. Kid's Choir Chimes
 Orchestra
 4:30 P.M. Praise Ringers
 5:00 P.M. Children's Bible Drill
 Yth. Bible Drill #330
 6:00 P.M. Evening Worship
 7:00 P.M. YAC

Monday, Nov. 26

7:00 P.M. Christmas Parade
 CBS Night Bible Study

Tuesday, Nov. 27

8:45 A.M. MDO

Wednesday, Nov. 28

3:00 P.M. FLC Opens
 5:00 P.M. Chi Rho Choir
 Children's Choirs
 Youth on Mission
 5:30 P.M. Stewardship Mtg.
 6:30 P.M. Yth Bible Study
 Missions Groups
 Prayer Meeting
 7:30 P.M. FLC Open until 9:00

Thursday, Nov. 29

9:30 A.M. CBS
 9:45 A.M. Happy Tones to
 Morningside

Friday, Nov. 30

8:45 A.M. MDO
 9:30 A.M. Fun Friday

Saturday, Dec. 1

1:00 P.M. 55+ Adult Movie-FLC

Sunday, Dec. 2

8:15 A.M. First Worship
 9:30 A.M. Sunday School
 Hispanic Worship-
 Chapel
 10:45 A.M. Second Worship
 4:00 P.M. Kid's Choir Chimes
 Orchestra
 4:30 P.M. Praise Ringers
 5:00 P.M. Children's Bible Drill
 Yth. Bible Drill #330
 6:00 P.M. Evening Worship
 7:00 P.M. Yth Leaders Mtg.

To add prayer requests please call the
 church or visit our web page at
www.fbcookeville.org.

**Scripture
Memory**

Delight yourself in the
 Lord; and He will give you
 the desires of your heart.
 Commit your way to the
 Lord. Trust also in Him,
 and He will do it. And He
 will bring forth your right-
 eousness as the light. And
 your judgment as the noon-
 day. (Psalms 37:4-6)

**WELCOME NEW
MEMBERS**

Ben Tennant
 12606 Buttermilk Road
 Knoxville, TN 37932

BUDGET & ATTENDANCE REPORTS**Budget (11/18/07)**

Budget Goal per Week	\$29,225.62
Budget Gifts this Week	\$23,547.61
Difference from Goal	-\$5,678.01
Total Designated Gifts	\$2,103.25
Total Gifts this Week	\$25,650.86
Budget Goal to Date	\$613,738.02
Budget Gifts to Date	\$551,696.99
Difference from Goal	-\$62,041.03
Budget Gifts to Date Last Year	\$570,399.15
Decrease from Prior Year	-\$18,702.16
Higher, Greater, Together Year to Date	\$57,444.03
Higher, Greater, Together Total Gifts	\$2,594,703.45

Sunday School Attendance

<i>Attendance Reports (11/18/07)</i>	
General Officers	5
Preschool	72
Children	62
Youth	44
Adults	405
Total	588

**As God blesses us, our response
 should be one of gratitude and
 thanksgiving .**

“When you have eaten and are satisfied,
 you shall bless the Lord your God for the
 good land which He has given you.”
 (Deut. 8:10)

NEWS HIGHLIGHTS**DEACONS OF THE WEEK**

Hoyt Maberry - Chief Deacon
 Richard Cashion
 John Shaffer
 Randall Ramsey
7 p.m. Phone Duty: Randall Ramsey

WEDNESDAY DINNER - 11/28

Lasagna, salad, bread, dessert

WEDNESDAY VOLUNTEERS -11/28

5:00 – Mr. & Mrs. Lonnie Donaldson,
 Jeanette Phillips, Rachel Cunningham
5:45 – Mr. & Mrs. Ed Griggs, Mr. &
 Mrs. Bob Brown, Ruth Ann Southerlan

EXTENDED SESSION - 11/25

Bed Babies - Ralph & Paige Mills, Pam
 Farris

Creepers/Toddlers - Chris & Barbara
 Gaby

2's - Chris & Debbie Winningham

3's - Ted & Carolyn Jernigan