

WEEKLY ACTIVITIES

OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE WEEK

- Sunday, Dec. 16**
 8:15 A.M. First Worship
 Teacher Appreciation
 Breakfast
 9:30 A.M. Sunday School
 Hispanic Worship-
 Chapel
 10:45 A.M. Second Worship
 4:00 P.M. Kids' Choir Chimes
 Orchestra
 5:00 P.M. Children's Bible Drill
 Yth. Bible Drill #330
 6:00 P.M. Children Christmas
 Musical
- Monday, Dec. 17**
 7:00 P.M. CBS Night Bible Study
- Tuesday, Dec. 18**
 8:45 A.M. MDO
- Wednesday, Dec. 19**
 3:00 P.M. FLC Opens
 5:00 P.M. Children's Choirs
 5:30 P.M. Chi Rho Caroling
 Stewardship Committee
 6:00 P.M. Kids' Activities FLC
 Prayer Meeting FH
 7:30 P.M. FLC Open until 9:00
- Thursday, Dec. 20**
 10:00 A.M. Happy Tones
- Friday, Dec. 21**
 9:30 A.M. Fun Friday
- Saturday, Dec. 22**
- Sunday, Dec. 23**
 8:15 A.M. First Worship
 9:30 A.M. Sunday School
 Hispanic Worship-
 Chapel
 10:45 A.M. Second Worship
 6:00 P.M. Family Night
 No Service

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS



Jonathan Hicks
612 S Willow Apt. G-48
Cookeville, TN 38501



Samuel & Rebeca Lufi
1466 S Jefferson Ave Apt. D5
Cookeville, TN 38506

BUDGET & ATTENDANCE REPORTS

Budget (12/09/07)		Sunday School Attendance	
Budget Goal per Week	\$29,225.62	<i>Attendance Reports (12/09/07)</i>	
Budget Gifts this Week	\$31,569.06	General Officers	5
Difference from Goal	+\$2,343.44	Preschool	73
Total Designated Gifts	\$21,583.09	Children	67
Total Gifts this Week	\$53,152.15	Youth	51
Budget Goal to Date	\$701,414.88	Adults	382
Budget Gifts to Date	\$644,241.64	Total	578
Difference from Goal	-\$57,173.24		
Budget Gifts to Date Last Year	\$673,199.91		
Decrease from Prior Year	\$28,958.27		
Higher, Greater, Together Year to Date	\$60,884.44		
Higher, Greater, Together Total Gifts	\$2,598,143.86		

We are managers and stewards of what has been entrusted to us by God.
 "The earth is the Lord's, and all it contains, the world, and those who dwell in it."
 (Psalm 24:1)

NEWS HIGHLIGHTS

- DEACONS OF THE WEEK**
 Tim Collins - Chief Deacon
 Don Williams
 Wayne Leimer
 Jerry Joyner
 7 p.m. Phone Duty: Larry Beck
- WEDNESDAY DINNER - 12/19**
 Soup bar, salad, cheese bread/cornbread, dessert
- WEDNESDAY VOLUNTEERS -12/19**
 5:00 – Mr. & Mrs. Richard Newman,
 Mr. & Mrs. Gus Rich, Ann Hertzfeldt
 5:45 – Mr. & Mrs. Ed Griggs, Mr. & Mrs. Randall Ramsey, Ruth Ann Southerlan

- EXTENDED SESSION - 12/16**
Bed Babies - Lois Weatherholt, Debbie Ramsey, Holly Turbeville
- Creepers/Toddlers** - Dan & Christine Blakley
- 2's - Lily Qiu, Kim Groves
 3's - Brenda & Jerry Gaw
- To add prayer requests please call the church or visit our web page at www.fbccookeville.org.

Volume 8
 Issue: 50
 Newsletter Date:
 December 16, 2007
 Page 1

First Chronicles

Chronicling the life of the First Baptist Family

HISPANIC MINISTRY UPDATE

Feliz Navidad

Well, one more year is gone...!
 I just want to tell you, all my brothers and sisters, that this year was a big blessing. Even when we do not understand many things, God knows why and how and reminds us that He is in control.

The Hispanic church is in a process of adaptation. Change is necessary as God allows. People come and people go, sometimes that's the way, but the Hispanic church left behind a touch for good in every single person who was with us. God takes the glory always.

My wife and I are doing good. Christmas is a very nice time, but at the same time, we always remember our families in Venezuela. My wife and I are doing well at the seminary too, but she is better. She got A's all year long. I had just one B this year. She beat me!

I want to take time to thank all of you for your prayers for my country, Venezuela. Thanks a lot. God is in control. I have to repeat that to myself always.

My wish is that next year the Lord uses us all as one to fulfill His purpose and to bring people to Jesus. The other things He will provide. Remember always: "God is in control."

Pastor Alain Edel and Yeni Edel



Pastor's Heart

Last week's worship time was indeed blessed. Sunday morning was a time of emphasis upon our call to reach our world for Jesus and Sunday evening's music was beyond wonderful. It was one of those days when, as a father, I was overwhelmingly thankful that my children were able to be a part of a church like God has given to us.

Last year, First Baptist literally took part in seeing thousands of people across the globe come to a vital faith relationship with Jesus. The pictures presented Sunday of our people on mission in so many different locations and with so many different people elicited great wonder and joy in my heart. To hear "Silent Night" sung in different languages by people who regularly worship as the First Baptist Family was nothing more than awe-inspiring.

The great things that God is doing through us and in us are so numerous that we become forgetful and even dismissive of God's strong presence in our midst. We simply forget what God did last week or last month, because of what we see Him doing this month. Thousands coming to Jesus in India are a forgotten trophy as we hear of so many others coming to Jesus in the Caribbean. Twenty professions of faith in VBS are forgotten as we see hundreds of children fill the sanctuary for *Upward's* Awards Night.

Moving from one work of God to another is wonderful, but we sometimes fail to relish the moment of God's work because of our anxiousness or anticipation of the next 'thing'. Sometimes we simply 'take for granted' the people, the things, and the wonderful works of God in our midst.

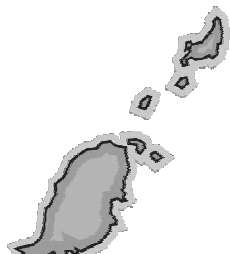
Take time this Christmas season to look back over God's great work this past year and give Him glory and praise. Be moved by His evident blessing upon you and your church. Then make a new 'surrender' to His work through your church - His church.

Scripture Memory

The Lord is not slow about His promise, as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing for any to perish but for all to come to repentance.
 (2 Peter 3:9)

Grenada Mission Trip Information Meeting

Tonight
7:00 p.m.
 4th floor in college room



See PASTOR'S HEART on Page 3

FAMILY LIFE CENTER HOLIDAY SCHEDULE

Wednesday, December 19	3:00-5:00 p.m.
(popcorn & drinks)	
Thursday, December 20	1:00-3:00 p.m.
Friday, December 21	1:00 -3:00 p.m. *
(K-6 skating, games, popcorn, & drinks)	
Monday, December 24	CLOSED
Tuesday, December 25	CLOSED
Wednesday, December 26	CLOSED
Thursday, December 27	1:00-3:00 p.m.*
Friday, December 28	1:00-3:00 p.m.
Monday, December 31	1:00-3:00 p.m.
Tuesday, January 1	CLOSED
Wednesday, January 2	3:00-5:00 p.m.

*Children Kindergarten and above
may attend without an adult.

Snow Policy

- Sunday services, programs and activities will be determined by the severity of the weather. Every effort will be made to have Sunday School and the **10:45 AM** worship service.
- Wednesday night services, programs, fellowship meal and activities will follow the Putnam County school closings and schedule changes **when prudent** and will follow policy #6 (below). Mother's Day Out will follow the Putnam County school closings and schedule changes in all cases. Any other Wednesday events will follow #6 (below) to announce changes.
- Evening programs during the week will be determined by the severity of the weather. See #6 (below).
- If at all possible, the church office will be open.
- If at all possible, the Family Life Center will be open 10:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M. Monday through Friday on "snow days." Free play policies are in effect: one guest only per person, children Kindergarten and above must be accompanied by a person 16 or older.
- ALL CANCELLATIONS WILL BE POSTED ON www.fbccookeville.org AS WELL AS THE FBC SNOW LINE (526-4685), AND, IF POSSIBLE, WILL BE BROADCAST ON WHUB RADIO (1400 AM/98.5 FM) AND CABLE TELEVISION CHANNEL 7.

ONLY CANCELLATIONS WILL BE GIVEN.

Nelms Notes

Children Singing Tonight: All of our pre-school and children's choirs will be singing in worship this evening. The service will also include selections presented by the children's choirchimes and the Luminesce Creative Arts Team. Also, Beth Prowse will present a dramatic monologue in the character of Lottie Moon. Plan now to join us for this great service of worship and carol singing.

Youth Choir Caroling Party: The Chi Rho Youth Choir will have its annual caroling party Wednesday, December 19 at 5:30 p.m. Youth choir members should meet at the home of Mike and Carra McNelly for the event. The evening will begin with a light supper before the youth carol in the Hillsdale subdivision. Youth should also bring a \$5.00 gift for a take-away gift exchange.

Children's Choirs Carol Walnut Village: The children's choirs will be meeting Wednesday, December 19 at 5:50 p.m. at the gym entrance. They will walk to nearby Walnut Village for caroling. The group should return around 6:40 p.m. and have refreshments.

Christmas Eve Lord's Supper Service: Our annual Christmas Eve Candlelight Communion Service will be held next Monday at 6:00 p.m. This is a very special service of worship centering on the Lord's Supper. My wife, Glenda, will be singing "O Holy Night" and Janna Leigh Ryon will be playing oboe. The attendance at this service continues to grow each year. The service usually lasts about 45 minutes and is very family friendly. Plan now to join us for a memorable time of worship.

Christmas Program Thank You: Finally, I want to thank everyone who worked so hard to make the Christmas program last Sunday evening such a beautiful event. The musicians, media crew, and hospitality committee are to be commended for their excellent efforts. Both the concert and the tasting party were lovely. Bless you all.

- Jonathan Nelms

Whose Is It?

Mike Head

Associate Pastor for Administration

Over the last few years we've considered a wide variety of scriptural teachings, but in one way or another, they all relate to the premise as stated in Psalm 24:1 - "The earth is the Lord's, and all it contains, the world, and those who dwell in it."

If the earth really is the Lord's, and if everything in it belongs to the Lord, then in reality, we are managers and stewards of that which rightfully belongs to Him. We own nothing! God owns it all. He allows us to use what rightfully belongs to Him but God continues to retain the ownership. We are just managers and stewards of what God has entrusted to us.

This means that whether we are paying our taxes, buying groceries, providing for our families or giving to support the ministry of our church, we are making decisions that involve the resources God has provided for us. And the primary reason God entrusts us with material possessions — especially money — is that we might glorify Him.

Every spending decision, therefore, becomes a spiritual decision as we "seek first his kingdom and his righteousness" (Matt. 6:33). Yes, it is important to take care of our families and other obligations we have, but what is really important is to give back to God that which He has entrusted to us, that which is rightfully His. As we give voluntarily, quietly, generously and cheerfully according to the measure of prosperity God has given us, we glorify Him as we give willingly from our hearts (Ex. 25:2).

Don't be confused: The amount we give and the percentage we give are very important. Malachi 3:10 says "Bring the whole tithe in the storehouse, so that there may be food in My house, and test Me now in this," says the Lord of hosts, "if I will not open for you the windows of heaven and pour out for you a blessing until it overflows." But as we give, let's remember to keep the "main thing" the "main thing." What's of paramount importance is why we give. We give, not only for the glory of God, but also because He first gave to us. We give out of our love for Christ who has redeemed us by dying for our sins on the cross of Calvary.

That's why it's a privilege to be God's manager and God's steward of what belongs to Him. That's why it's a privilege to manage God's resources on His behalf. And that's why it's a privilege to give to the work of the Lord here at First Baptist Church.

Are you using money and possessions as if they belong to you or are you making spending decisions with the full realization that "God owns it all"?

PASTOR'S HEART (Continued from Page 1)

We have made a good start on our *Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for International Missions*. Still the goal to be reached is before us. If you have not already given graciously to our special missions offering, please pray about your part in giving this Christmas season.

While on the subject, our budget giving has not maintained last year's stellar levels. If you have fallen

behind in your worship with your tithes, I hope that you will be able to catch up in the coming weeks. It will be important to the ministry of your church in the days ahead, but it will be more important to your walk with God. Giving really is a vital and important part of worship. God's Word says, "Will a man rob God? Yet you are robbing Me! But you say, 'How have we robbed Thee?' In tithes and offerings." (Malachi 3:8)

In His Love,
Pastor Randy

TELL ME! the story of Jesus

LOTTIE
MOON
CHRISTMAS
OFFERING

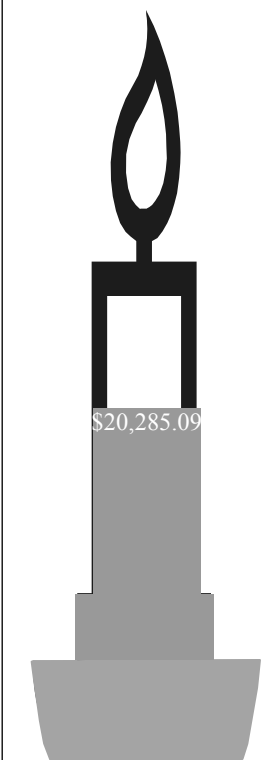
For International Missions

National Goal:

\$165 million

Church Goal:

\$36,000



\$36,000

\$30,000

\$24,000

\$18,000

\$12,000

\$6,000

**Financial
Workshop**
3 week class begins
January 6
Conference Room
4:30 p.m.
Facilitator: Larry Spain