

First Chronicles

Chronicling the life of the First Baptist Family

342 children involved in Upward Basketball and Cheerleading

The Upward Basketball and Cheerleading season is underway with two weeks of games completed. Approximately 342 children are participating in Upward this season with 40 basketball teams and nine cheerleading squads.

Nearly 1,000 people fill the Family Life Center at First Baptist Church every Saturday, watching games between 8 a.m. and 8 p.m. Each person that enters the gymnasium has the opportunity to hear the gospel as faithful volunteers give devotionals during half-time of each game.

Volunteer directors, commissioners, coaches, referees, and clock operators are vital to the Upward ministry. These people strive to share the love of Jesus, help every child grow physically, socially, spiritually, and mentally, help children develop self-esteem, character, an understanding of sportsmanship, and a respect for authority, while also teaching the fundamentals of basketball and cheerleading.

There are six more weeks of games in the Upward season and plenty of activities still to come. Sunday, February 3 will be Upward Day at First Baptist Church as basketball players, cheerleaders, coaches, parents, and siblings join the FBC family in worship during the 10:45 a.m. service. On February 28, Upward teams will go to a Tennessee Tech basketball game. Tickets are available for all Upward Basketball players, cheerleaders, volunteers and their families for \$1.



Upward games run from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. on Saturdays. Approximately 342 children are involved in Upward Basketball and Cheerleading.

The Upward season will conclude with Awards Night on February 25 at 6 p.m. Each child will receive an end of the season award at Awards Night, and a basketball player, cheerleader, and coach or referee will receive the Most Christlike Award.

Pastor's Heart

In my own devotion this week, the Lord reminded me of His hidden purposes in daily trials. We can never know all that God is doing, but Paul tells us that one purpose in our trials is to prepare us to bless others with comfort.

“Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort; who comforts us in all our affliction so that we may be able to comfort those who are in any affliction with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God.” (2 Cor. 1:3-4)

The classic devotional *Streams In the Desert* states:

Store up comfort. This was the prophet's mission. The world is full of comfortless hearts, and ere thou art sufficient for this lofty ministry, thou must be trained. And thy training is costly in the extreme; for, to render it perfect, thou too must pass through the same afflictions as are wringing countless hearts of tears and blood. Thus thy own life becomes the hospital ward where thou art taught the Divine art of comfort. Thou art wounded, that in the binding up of thy wounds by the Great Physician, thou mayest learn how to render first aid to the wounded everywhere. Dost thou wonder why thou art passing through some special sorrow? Wait till ten years are passed, and thou wilt find many others afflicted as thou art. Thou wilt tell them how thou hast suffered and hast been comforted; then as the tale is unfolded, and the anodynes applied which once thy God wrapped around thee, in the eager look and the gleam of hope that shall chase the shadow of despair across the soul, thou shalt know why thou wast afflicted, and bless God for the discipline that stored thy life with such a fund of experience and helpfulness. -- Selected

God does not comfort us to make us comfortable, but to make us comforters. --Dr. Jowett

God is preparing you to minister to others. It is not easy, it is not always pleasant. But it will one day be a blessing for others and a mission for your life.

In His Love,

Pastor Randy

**Important
Upward Dates**
Feb. 3
Upward Day at FBC
Feb. 25
Awards Night
Feb. 28
Upward to TTU game

leader, and coach or referee will receive the Most Christlike Award.

First Baptist, Stevens Street, and Washington Avenue partnering in benevolence

Mike Head
Associate Pastor for Administration

Several months ago I became burdened regarding the benevolence needs in our community. Every day people called requesting help for various needs including food, rent, utilities, gasoline, etc. We then asked them to come into the church office and give us information regarding their need and then sought to help them if possible. Our first requirement was that the individuals had requested help from Helping Hands, a community organization formerly known as the Clearing House. Helping Hands receives funds from many churches in the Cookeville area and disburses funds according to the funds available and then refers people to various churches and community agencies. Our church has budgeted \$4,500 per year to assist in this effort. Some individuals only need temporary assistance because of sudden job loss, illness, or other circumstances. On the other hand, we all know stories of individuals who basically depend on charitable organizations to pay their bills instead of becoming financially responsible for themselves. I began to pray that God would open doors to really meet the needs in our community – spiritually, as well as physically.

Over the last few years, I have developed working relationships with Stevens Street and Washington Avenue with my counterparts at those churches which include talking and meeting regarding various issues. In our discussions, we prayed about a joint effort to address the entire benevolence issue. We all had benevolence ministries of some form and felt that by working together we could find ways to really help people instead of just temporary fixes. We began meeting with specific emphasis on this benevolence need and, we believe, the Lord has given us direction regarding a new and exciting ministry opportunity.

All of our churches address benevolence needs in various ways. Stevens Street saw the need several years ago to develop a Care Center on their property. This center is currently open three days per week and assists with food, clothing, and limited utility help. At the center, counselor volunteers meet with the persons requesting assistance to determine ways the Care Center can help and to share the gospel of Jesus Christ. Other volunteers sort food that has been contributed, make boxes to be distributed, sort and put out clothes that have been donated, assist persons as they

GENERAL PARAMETERS OF WORKING WITH CARE CENTER
JANUARY 2008

1. First Baptist Church, Washington Avenue Baptist Church, and Stevens Street Baptist Church will join together in partnership to operate the Care Center currently operated by Stevens Street Baptist Church.
2. The administrators of those three churches will serve as the management committee for the operation of the Care Center. A volunteer director and assistant director will provide daily guidance for the ministry.
3. First Baptist and Washington Avenue will provide funds and volunteers to enable this ministry.
4. Stevens Street will continue to underwrite the overhead of the building and provide funds and volunteers to provide this ministry.

Any of the churches may terminate the agreement at any time.

SPECIFIC PROPOSAL

1. First Baptist will publicize this ministry opportunity to its members and encourage participation in this ministry.
2. First Baptist will send \$400 per month from the existing Benevolence Line Item to Stevens Street Baptist Church to provide benevolence funds through this ministry.

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See BENEVOLENCE on Page 4

Mission Opportunity

There is still room for two willing vessels to go on a mission trip to Grenada March 7-14. Training for this trip begins today after church so if you are interested please see Steve Farris or Bill Stone right way.



Youth Day Trip

Monday, Jan. 21

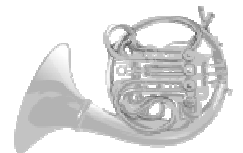
Ice skating & Opry Mills



10 a.m.-5 p.m.
Cost: \$7 plus money for lunch and shopping
Sign up today.

Orchestra Resumes

Orchestra rehearsal resumes today at 4:00 p.m. Orchestra parts are available for all instruments. For more information see Jonathan Nelms.



Kid's Corner

Crosspoint: This Christian Sports Camp is designed for 4th-6th graders. Being an athlete is not a requirement. Crosspoint staff work with students with varied levels of athletic ability. Crosspoint offers hands-on sports instruction in many different sports including basketball, baseball, cheerleading, flag football, gymnastics, and softball. Along with the hands-on sports instruction, students will enjoy quiet time, Bible study, free time, worship, track times, and church group time. Students choose two sports and one track time. Track times include praise team, creative painting, drama, disc games, kitchen chaos and sign language.



Centri-Kid: This camp is designed for 3rd-6th graders. Centri-Kid is home of high energy worship, age appropriate Bible study, and lots of fun. Centri-Kid uses recreation and track times to build on what the kids are learning in Bible study and during worship. Along with Bible study worship and recreation, kids will enjoy quiet time, track times, free time, church group time, and parties where the staff interacts with the kids one more time before lights out. Centri-Kid offers more than 30 different types of track times including praise team, creative painting, photography, cheerleading, percussion, weird science, football, drama and kitchen chaos. Students have their choice of two track times.



First Baptist has 15 spots reserved for Crosspoint in Campbellsville, Kentucky June 16-20. The total cost is \$240. Reserve your space by turning in a \$50 deposit to the church office by January 25. Two chaperones are also needed for this trip. If you are interested, see Ann Hertzfeldt.

First Baptist has 10 spots reserved for Centri-Kid in Carson Springs, TN June 9-13. The total cost is \$258. Reserve your space by turning in a \$50 deposit to the church office by January 25. Two chaperones are also needed for this trip. If you are interested, see Ann Hertzfeldt.

Upper Cumberland Women's L.I.F.E. CONFERENCE

2008

Saturday, January 19
9:00 a.m.— 4 p.m.

Avery Trace Auditorium
Featuring: Jan Silvius & Chonda Pierce

Cost: \$35

Tickets will be available at the door.

This conference benefits the CPC & Healing Hearts Ministry.

All 55+ Birthday Celebration Luncheon

(meal furnished)

January 27

Fellowship Hall

RSVP to the

Church Office by

Jan. 23

Give your birthday month.



Centrifuge Camp

July 7-11

Panama City Beach, FL

Total cost: \$284



Reserve your space with

a \$50 deposit paid to

FBC before Jan. 30.

Camp includes Bible study,

team-building recreation, track times, worship,

fellowship and free time

G·R·O·W

Grow Outreach begins

Wednesday, February

23 at 6:30 p.m. in the

Fellowship Hall.

Come join us.

WEEKLY ACTIVITIES

OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE WEEK

Sunday, Jan. 13

8:15 A.M.	First Worship
9:30 A.M.	Sunday School Hispanic Worship- Chapel
10:45 A.M.	Second Worship
12:00 P.M.	Senior Adult Lunch Yth Lunch/Outreach
4:00 P.M.	Choir Chimes Orchestra
4:30 P.M.	Adult Handbells Finan. Workshop #175
5:00 P.M.	Children's Bible Drill Youth Bible Drill
6:00 P.M.	Evening Worship

Monday, Jan. 14

5:30 P.M.	Deacon's Mtg.
7:00 P.M.	CBS Night Bible Study

Tuesday, Jan. 15

8:45 A.M.	MDO
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Wednesday, Jan. 16

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

Thursday, Jan. 17

9:00 A.M.	Happy Tones
9:30 A.M.	CBS

Friday, Jan. 18

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

Saturday, Jan. 19

Upward Basketball

Sunday, Jan. 20

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.	Choir Chimes Orchestra
4:30 P.M.	Adult Handbells
5:00 P.M.	Children's Bible Drill Youth Bible Drill
6:00 P.M.	Evening Worship

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

BENEVOLENCE

(Continued from Page 2)

spend time in the clothes selection, and process names and information of people assisted. Special Projects during the year include: Free Haircuts and School Supplies for Children, Christmas Gift Service, and Thanksgiving Meals. The Center also holds short worship services each day of operation in order to help meet spiritual needs of people coming for assistance. We felt that by joining our three churches together that we could continue and even expand this Care Center effort. As the Lord provides funds and as volunteers are available, this is only the beginning of reaching out to our community.

Other needed services to the poor could include medical, job training, and financial workshops as we move forward.

This vision was shared with our staff, as well as with the Missions and Stewardship Committees and we will bring a motion from the committees at the January 30 business meeting to endorse this project and utilize existing budget funds and seek volunteers to assist in this project.

As always, benevolence needs of church members will be met by our individual churches. If you have specific questions regarding this effort, please feel free to contact me. Thank you for praying with us about this very important ministry opportunity.

BUDGET & ATTENDANCE REPORTS

Budget (01/06/08)

Budget Goal per Week	\$29,225.62
Budget Gifts this Week	\$32,547.80
Difference from Goal	+\$3,322.18
Total Designated Gifts	\$3,267.20
Total Gifts this Week	\$35,815.00
Budget Goal to Date	\$818,317.36
Budget Gifts to Date	\$788,737.56
Difference from Goal	-\$29,579.80
Budget Gifts to Date Last Year	\$823,636.21
Decrease from Prior Year	\$34,898.65
Higher, Greater, Together Year to Date	\$94,355.44
Higher, Greater, Together Total Gifts	\$2,631,614.86
Lottie Moon To Date	\$41,931.03

Sunday School Attendance

<i>Attendance Reports (01/06/08)</i>	
General Officers	5
Preschool	65
Children	61
Youth	63
Adults	382
Total	576

Stewardship Verse

Because all that we have belongs to God, our goal in using that which belongs to Him is to glorify Him. "Whether, then, you eat or drink or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God." (I Cor. 10:31)

NEWS HIGHLIGHTS

DEACONS OF THE WEEK

Nolan Goolsby - Chief Deacon
Joe Maberry
Doug Winford
Bronn Rayne
7 p.m. Phone Duty: Ted Jernigan

WEDNESDAY DINNER - 01/16

Beef tips on rice, succotash, salad, rolls, dessert

WEDNESDAY VOLUNTEERS - 1/16

5:00 - Mr. & Mrs. Doug Winford, Stella Dukes, Rachel Cunningham
5:45 - Howard Stephenson, Charlie & Fran Hutchinson

EXTENDED SESSION - 01/13

Bed Babies - Jackie Donaldson, Becky Crosier, Mary Ruth Winford

Creepers/Toddlers - Kenny & Shawna Delon

2's - Margaret Atkins, Pat Chancy

3's - Patricia Fuller, Linda Chappell

Mark your calendar
VBS 2008
July 14-18