



Volume 12 Issue 49 December 4, 2011

# FIRST CHRONICLES

Chronicle the life of the First Baptist Family

## Pastor's Heart



It's easy to lose Jesus in Christmas. The hurried and harried preparations. The emphasis upon family time or the disappointments that intermingle with family activities. Even the special preparations for church events. All of these can conspire to rob Jesus of this season.

But Christmas really isn't about family times. It's not about special music. It's not about shopping, or gifts, or dinners. Christmas is about God breaking into our world and our dilemma. It is about God's only answer for our sin problem. It is about our only hope for heaven.

In a way, Christmas is about the cross. Certainly Christmas is about Christ!

All the other stuff, even the good stuff, is really about traditions that have grown up around the season. Christmas has not always included expensive gifts, and make-believe stories, and travel to Granny and Gramps. We do ourselves, our children, and our God a disservice when we forget that. Too many will celebrate a Christ-less Christmas this year. The closest many will come to Jesus in this season is putting a porcelain baby in a tiny toy manger.

It takes focused attention and intentional choice to make the celebration and worship of Jesus the center of this season. We do so at the Adkisson home by making sure that the Bible story is the first thing celebrated on Christmas morning. But we also do it by reminding each other where the true meaning of Christmas resides: in the manger and on the cross.

By the way, it doesn't mess with my joy if someone says, "Happy Holidays" to me. After all it is a holiday time, between Thanksgiving and the New Year. Now, I plan to say "Merry Christmas" to everyone. But I will show the love of Christ by saying, "Happy Hanukkah" to my Jewish friends. Even, Happy Kwanzaa to my African American friends, if they celebrate that season. My prayer for all is a happy and blessed New Year.

I strongly believe that if we will show the love of Jesus to everyone around us instead of wearing our pet peeves upon our shoulders we will bear fruitful witness to the real reason for this season. Oh, go ahead and graciously share with a store manager that you'd rather hear "Merry Christmas" and that you don't want the significance of the season hidden. But show grace and kindness to all who wish you well. That's the Christian thing to do.

On a different note: Are you an angel? Have you ever met one? That will be our focus this morning. And next week we will meet a very special Angel in the pages of God's word. So don't miss either emphasis.

The word says, "Let love of the brethren continue. Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by this some have entertained angels without knowing it." (Hebrews 13:1-2)

See you in Worship,  
Pastor Randy

**Lottie Moon Christmas Offering**  
For International Missions  
Providing housing, salary and more  
**Church Goal: \$30,000**

8 months	\$27,240
7 months	\$23,350
6 months	\$19,460
5 months	\$15,570
4 months	\$11,680
3 months	\$7,780
2 months	\$3,890
1 month	\$4,552

**Church staff**  
 Randall L. Adkisson, Ph.D., *Senior Pastor*  
 Mike Head, *Associate Pastor of Administration*  
 Charlie Hutchinson, *Associate Pastor of Pastoral Care & Senior Adults*  
 Bill Stone, *Associate Pastor of Youth & Collegiates*  
 Steve Farris, D.Min., *Assistant Pastor for Outreach, Adult Education and Missions*  
 Ann Hertzfeldt, *Director of Preschool & Children*



**MORNING SERVICE OF WORSHIP**  
**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 4, 2011**  
 10:00 A.M.  
 TELEVISION REPLAY AT 10:45 A.M.

Worship/Childcare: For your comfort and that of others, childcare is provided for children under the age of four. Children 4 years old thru kindergarten may attend children An usher will be glad to direct you to the childcare ministry located on the second floor.

\*If you are able, please stand as indicated.

Please note that numbers are included for all hymns found in The Baptist Hymnal.

- Greeting Ruth 2:4 Todd Arnold
- Prelude arr. Rice
- Heart Strings Harp Ensemble, Pat Butler, director arr. Mohr
- Ordinance of Believer Dr. Randall Adkisson
- Welcome Dr. Randall Adkisson
- \*Gathering Carol 94 REGENT SQUARE

- Lighting the Second Candle of Advent: PEACE Dr. and Mrs. Larry Peach
- Responsive Reading including Matthew 11:28-30 and Isaiah 9:6
- Message in Song Raney
- Sanctuary Choir and Praise Ringers
- \*Carol of Praise MENDELSSOHN
- Sermon Dr. Adkisson
- Luke 2:9-13
- \*Commitment Hymn 238 TRUETT
- Offertory Prayer Bob Lovell
- Worship with Tithes and Offerings
- Offertory Music arr. Woods
- Heart Strings Harp Ensemble, Pat Butler, director arr. Witman
- with Leman Marsee, soloist

- \*Presentation of Offering
- \*Doxology HYMN TO JOY
- Sharing of Spiritual Decisions Dr. Adkisson
- \*Benediction PLANO
- \*Departing Chorus 657
- \*Postlude Instrumentalists

The Poinsettia in the Sanctuary today is in memory of Lowell Smith given by Brenda and Family. December 1st would have been Lowell and Brenda

- Gathering Carol IN DULCI JUBILO
- Welcome Dr. Randall Adkisson
- \*Hymn of Praise 60 SLANE
- Scripture Reading arr. Gassman
- Message in Song Young Musicians/Reflection Choir
- Scripture Reading Neisha Hibbs and John Apple, co-directors
- Carol Medley Young Musicians/Reflection Choir
- Sermon arr. Gassman
- \*Hymn of Commitment Dr. Adkisson
- Offertory Prayer ESPINOSA
- Musical Offering Randall Ramsey
- \*Sharing Spiritual Decisions
- Benediction Dr. Adkisson
- \*Postlude Instrumentalists

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## News Highlights

### Deacons of the Week

Richard Cashion - Chief Deacon  
Howard Stephenson, Jack Mattson,  
Robert Fuller

### Wednesday Dinner - 12/07

Soup, cheese bread, salad, dessert

**Please make dinner reservations by 1:00 p.m. on Tuesday.**

### Wednesday Volunteers - 12/07

**5:00 p.m.** - Carolyn & Stan Piela,  
Lois Weatherholt, Mike Shirley

**5:45 p.m.** - Melanie Hutcherson,  
Gloria Vick, Donnie King

### Extended Session - 12/04

Babies 1 - Aniekla Artola, Diane Bohlen

Babies 2 - Stefanie & Brian Smith

2¢ - Ethan & Julie Bernhardt

3¢ - Tracy & Bedelia Russell

### Budget

Budget Goal per Week	\$28,738.65
Budget Gifts this Week	\$18,958.67
Difference from Goal	-\$9,779.98
Total Designated Gifts	\$782.00
Total Gifts this Week	\$19,740.67
Budget Goal to Date	\$632,250.38
Budget Gifts to Date	\$597,404.28
Difference from Goal	-\$34,846.10
Budget Gifts to Date Last Year	\$599,997.43
Decrease from Prior Year	\$2,593.15
HGT Year to Date	\$20,492.00
Higher, Greater, Together Total Gifts	\$2,830,653.58

### Sunday School Attendance

#### November 27, 2011

General Officers	3
Preschool	38
Children	42
Youth	28
Adults	264
<b>Total</b>	<b>375</b>



Church office: (931) 526-7108  
Snow Line: (931) 526-4685  
www.fbccookeville.org  
18 South Walnut Avenue  
Cookeville, Tennessee 38501

# Christmas Musical next Sunday evening

The Music Ministry of First Baptist will present a concert of Christmas music Sunday evening, December 11, at 6:00 p.m. This annual event will feature the Sanctuary and Chi Rho Youth Choirs as well as the FBC Orchestra and the Praise Ringers Handbell Ensemble.

Todd Arnold planned the program, which is entitled *Joy Has Dawned*. This concert highlights the joy found in the hearts of mankind in response to the birth of the Christ Child.

The Sanctuary Choir will sing the popular and upbeat Christmas hit "Jesus, Oh, What a Wonderful Child," + Vivaldi's *Gloria* (first movement), and "Song of the Christ Child," + written by Todd Arnold. The FBC Orchestra will also play on the *Gloria*.

The Chi Rho Youth Choir will present three songs during the program: a cheerful Mary McDonald arrangement of "Who's The Little Baby," + a stirring setting of Chris Rice's "Welcome Holy Child," + and a highly favored arrangement of "Silent Night," + performed in years past that will include soloists singing the popular carol in German, Spanish, and Korean. The youth choir boys will sing a foundational ostinato in Zulu throughout the piece as well.



The Orchestra will play settings of two carols arranged by Dan Goeller: "Infant Holy, Infant Lowly," + and "Pat-a-Pan." + "Pat-a-Pan" is reminiscent of *Dance of the Swans* from *The Nutcracker*, which alludes to the theme of the tasting party later in the evening. The orchestra will also perform a driving arrangement of Michael W. Smith's "Emmanuel." + Under the direction of Carol Tittle, the Praise Ringers Handbell Ensemble will play a peaceful setting of "Away in a Manger." +

The program will conclude with a regal setting of the Townend/Getty hymn "Joy Has Dawned," + after which the concert is titled, and will be performed by the Sanctuary Choir and Orchestra. The congregation will also sing some of our most beloved Christmas carols. Be sure to mark your calendars and bring a friend to share in this wonderful evening of music and fellowship.

Everyone who attends the program will be invited to a Christmas Tasting Party following the concert. Linda Sharpe is coordinating the set-up and décor for this annual extravaganza of food and fellowship. The thematic setting of this year's tasting party is *The Nutcracker*.

## Sanctuary Poinsettias

The time is coming for us to decorate our sanctuary for the Christmas celebration. The cost is \$8 per poinsettia. Orders and money are due Monday, December 5. Please fill out the form below and place it in the offering plate or bring it by the church office.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Please place \_\_\_\_\_ poinsettia(s)

In memory of \_\_\_\_\_

OR

In honor of \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_ I will pick up (after Christmas Eve service) \_\_\_\_ Take to shut in

## HOLIDAY DATES AND EVENTS

### December 4

6 p.m. Children's Christmas Music

### December 11

6 p.m. Christmas Musical

7 p.m. Tasting Party

### December 21

No Wednesday night activities/service

No meal

### December 24

6 p.m. Christmas Eve Lord's

Supper Service

### December 25

10 a.m. Worship Service Only

*Merry Christmas!*

### December 26-30

*Church office and FLC closed*

### December 28

No Wednesday night activities/service

No meal

### January 1

10 a.m. Worship Service Only

(Adult S.S. Classes that choose to meet will be at 9:00 a.m.)

*Happy New Year!*

## Bulletin Board

### WOMEN

#### WMU Day Group Meeting

Tuesday, December 6 @ 9:45 a.m.

Room 145

Everyone is invited to join us for this meeting to learn more about the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering.

### YOUTH

#### Youth Progressive Dinner

Friday, December 16 from 6:00-9:00 p.m.

There will be lots of delicious food, plus great fellowship and fun. Those needing a ride should meet at the church at 5:45 p.m. Invite a friend to come with you. Please sign up by December 14.

### MINISTRY

#### Chick-fil-A Night for Backpack Program

Thursday, December 15 from 5:00-8:00 p.m.

Anyone who places an order that night and tells the staff that they are there for the Spirit Night will earn 15% of their purchase for the backpack program.

### MISSIONS

#### India Mission Trip Meeting

Would you allow God to use you in North India next year? There will be an information meeting Dec 18 after the morning service in Room 177. You will also find info in the Central Lobby. Deadline to sign up with \$100 deposit is Jan 8.

### COMING IN JANUARY

Cappuccino Class would like to invite any gals age 21 and up to join us for a multi-generational Coffee Cup Bible Study Series: "Sumatra with the Seven Churches." Register and preorder study book by January 2 at church office. Book cost is \$10.

#### Adult Grief Recovery

Have you lost a husband, wife, child, parents, grandparents, aunt, uncle, and/or friends? Join us for Grief Share beginning January 10. This 13-week class will meet in Room 177 at 9 a.m. Call the church office at 526-7108 for more information.



## Weekly Activities

### Sunday, Dec. 4

8:45 A.M. Sunday School  
10:00 A.M. Morning Worship  
11:30 A.M. College Lunch @

Cochrane's  
Senior Adult Lunch  
Orchestra

4:00 P.M. Handbells

5:00 P.M. Bible Drill

Bible Buddies

6:00 P.M. Evening Worship

### Monday, Dec. 5

5:30 P.M. Deacon's Mtg.

6:30 P.M. CBS Bible Study

#177

### Tuesday, Dec. 6

8:45 A.M. MDO

9:45 A.M. WOM Day Group

5:15 P.M. Harps

### Wednesday, Dec. 7

3:00 P.M. Open Gym

3:30 P.M. Study Hall

4:00 P.M. Luminesce

5:00 P.M. Children's Choirs

Youth Choir

Youth on Mission

5:30 P.M. Stewardship Mtg.

6:30 P.M. Prayer Meeting

Sanctuary Choir

Children's Missions

Yth Worship/Bible

Study

7:45 P.M. College Bible Study

8:30 P.M. Men's Basketball

### Thursday, Dec. 8

9:30 A.M. CBS

10:00 A.M. Happy Tones to

Life Care

6:00 P.M. All Choirs Bonus

Rehearsal

### Friday, Dec. 9

8:45 A.M. MDO

9:30 A.M. Fun Friday

6:00 P.M. All Choirs Bonus

Rehearsal

Happy Birthday

Jesus Party

### Sunday, Dec. 11

8:45 A.M. Sunday School

10:00 A.M. Morning Worship

4:00 P.M. Handbells

Orchestra

5:00 P.M. Bible Drill

Bible Buddies

6:00 P.M. Christmas Musical

7:00 P.M. Tasting Party