

# FIRSTWORD

FIRSTBAPTISTCHURCH DECATUR, AL  
fbcdeatur.org

December 2011 Issue Vol. 43 No. 12



## Christmas on Church Street

The Gift of Christmas

*Share the Hope*

**December 11, 2011**

Performances:  
4:00 p.m. & 7:00 p.m.

**TICKETS\* \$2.00**

Available at the ROC Welcome Desk  
Sundays & Wednesdays and in the  
Church Office during the week

*\*Proceeds will be donated to the  
Neighborhood Christian Center*

The Curtain & Light Theatre Company Presents a Fundraiser for  
the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for International Missions:



## A Night of Comedy Sketches, Testimony & Dessert

Saturday, December 3  
Fellowship Hall  
6:30 p.m.

Tickets - \$8 each  
Max \$30 for Families of 4 or more  
Available at the ROC Welcome Center

**FBC Lottie Moon Christmas Offering**

**Goal: \$80,000**



## Christmas Eve

**Candlelight Service**

December 24  
5:00 pm

Preschool Childcare will not  
be available for this service.



# How do you read the Bible?

Many of our people have been involved in reading the Bible through in 2011. Some accomplish this journey in 12 months and some invest more time in reading all the way through the Bible.

There is no race. Reading through in a year is simply one model. We wish to encourage everyone to be involved in regularly reading God's love letter to us, the Bible.

If you began and schedules delayed you, please do not be discouraged. Just resume your reading. God has some wonderful insights that will greatly enhance your life. His desire is that you spend time with Him, so He can give them to you. People hiking pause to rest, so they can then continue on their journey.

The beginning of a New Year is a time people make commitments. What biblical commitments are you considering? Perhaps a commitment to read all 27 books of the New Testament this year, from Matthew to Revelation.

Last February, we hosted a Walk Thru the Bible Old Testament Seminar. The response was so positive we are hosting a Walk Thru the Bible New Testament this February and the companion Kids in the Book for our children. This exciting Bible learning experience will be Sunday, February 26. Some people might like to begin now and read through the New Testament before our seminar. That is a great goal for Bible reading.

Christmas is a time of giving gifts. How about a book like *Read the Bible for Life* by George Guthrie available at Lifeway Christian Bookstore or online at [www.LifewayChristianresources.com](http://www.LifewayChristianresources.com)? Perhaps a copy of *Learn the Bible in 24 hours* by Chuck Missler? We plan to offer a Wednesday class on this book in the New Year.

**The key is to be reading the Bible!**



## December 2011 Holiday Schedule

### ADVENT WORSHIP CALENDAR

Our Advent Worship themes will be centered around the Lottie Moon

Missions Emphasis:  
HIS HEART, HIS HANDS, HIS VOICE

#### **Sunday, December 4**

Second Sunday in Advent  
Regular Sunday Morning Schedule  
Children's Choirs Music Program—6:00 pm

#### **Wednesday, December 7**

Regular Wednesday Meal & Family Bible Study (ROC)  
No Children's Activities  
Youth IMPACT will meet

#### **Sunday, December 11**

Third Sunday in Advent  
Regular Sunday Morning Schedule  
Christmas on Church St. Performances – 4:00 & 7:00 pm

#### **Wednesday, December 14**

Regular Wednesday Meal & Memorial Service (Chapel)  
No Children's Activities  
Youth IMPACT will meet

#### **Sunday, December 18**

Fourth Sunday in Advent  
Regular Sunday Morning Schedule  
No Evening Service

#### **Wednesday, December 21**

No Activities or Service

#### **Friday, December 23**

ROC & Church Office Closed

#### **Saturday, December 24**

Candlelight Lord's Supper Service, 5:00 pm  
ROC & Church Office Closed

#### **Sunday, December 25**

In lieu of our regular Sunday schedule we will have only one activity, a family Christmas Service at 10:30 am.

#### **Monday, December 26**

ROC & Church Office Closed

#### **Wednesday, December 28**

No Activities or Service

#### **Friday, December 30**

Church Office Closed at 12:00 noon  
ROC Open All Day

#### **Sunday, January 1, 2012**

In lieu of our regular Sunday schedule we will have only one activity, a family New Years Service at 10:30 am.

#### **Monday, January 2, 2012**

ROC & Office Closed

Students 7-12th grades

# Christmas Break

kick-off event

Wed Dec 21

6pm til Midnight

More info coming in parent newsletter

## CHURCH STREET KIDS MUSIC

I want to thank all my volunteers for teaching this semester in Church Street Kids Music. This program could not exist without the 43 dedicated workers who came each week to teach our children about music and how to use music to worship God. I also want to thank the parents of our children for bringing their children each week. There are so many activities available to children today. Thank you for choosing to invest your time and energy into this program. I hope that your children will use the skills they have learned this semester to show God's glory as they grow in their musical abilities.

## FAITHFUL HEARTS

### CHRISTMAS DINNER

Friday, December 2

**Time:** 6:00 pm

**Location:** ROC

**COST:** \$5.00

Meal prepared by Sue Strickling

Special Guest: Glynis Steele

Please bring canned goods for the CCC Food Pantry as our gift to the community.

Call the church office or use the worship bulletin insert to make reservations.

## A CHILD'S NIGHT at CHRISTMAS

**Sunday Evening, December 4**  
**FBC Worship Center \* 6:00 p.m.**

Presented by  
Church Street Kids  
Music Students



## MISSIONS CORNER

### EAST ACRES MINISTRY CHRISTMAS PROJECT

A very special way to start the Christmas season! It is time for the annual East Acres Family Christmas event – Saturday, December 10, 2011. This is a special day of caring for the residents in this community. We will be providing goodie bags for the children and chili for the families again this year. Watch for the sign-up sheets in your Sunday School classes over the next several weeks. You will want to be part of this special ministry event. If you can't make chili – monetary contributions are always welcomed. Chili can be delivered to the church kitchen (2nd floor) on Friday, December 9, at 6:00 pm. Thank you for your care and support of this ministry. Contact: Jo Ann Gentry, 256-476-4192 or Rhonda Woodall, 256-345-1454.

### Mission Action 2011

This year God has taken us all around the Globe, from Alabama, Belize, Kentucky, Michigan and Haiti. FBC has sent out teams to be on Mission about every six weeks and we know of over 825 people who have volunteer their time. Thank you so much for taking the Good News throughout the Globe! Please pray for how God is going to continue to use FBC in 2012!

"And how will anyone go and tell them without being sent? That is why the Scriptures say, "How beautiful are the feet of messengers who bring good news!" Romans 10:15



## CDs AVAILABLE

**Terry Moore & Elizabeth Erickson Carter**

"Pipes, Pedals, & Praise" and "In This Very Room"

Pick up yours in the church office, Emiron Music, or by visiting

[www.pipespedalsandpraise.com](http://www.pipespedalsandpraise.com)

Cost: 1 for \$10 or 2 for \$15



# MEMORIAL SERVICE

December 14, 6:00 p.m.  
Stephenson Chapel

## REMEMBERING OUR LOVED ONES

## RECREATION MINISTRY

For more information on the activities listed in the December issue of the First Word, visit our website at [www.fbcdecatur.org](http://www.fbcdecatur.org) or on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/fbcdecatur](http://www.facebook.com/fbcdecatur).

**HELP WANTED: VOLUNTEERS (THIS MEANS YOU!)**

- > REFEREES
- > COACHES
- > CONCESSION STAND WORKERS
- > HALF-TIME DEVOTION LEADERS
- > PRAYER PARTNERS

CONTACT THE ROC FOR MORE INFORMATION

## TIME TO REJOICE

With Tim and Libby Britt in the birth of their son, William Roger "Rowe" born on November 10. (Grandparents: Mark Lovelace & Bob & Ann Allen; Great Grandparents: Bob & Bette Money Penny).

## SHARING IN SORROW

We would like to extend our Christian sympathy to Jean Braswell in the loss of her husband, Johnnie; Charlie Dubois in the loss of his wife, Liz; Melba Maxwell in the loss of her daughter, Janet Marie; Allison Marks in the loss of her mother, Nancy Spink; and Jill Eaton in the loss of her sister, Jeanne Skapik.

## THANK YOU NOTES

Notes of appreciation have been received from Thomas, Cheryl, Sammy, & John Hall; The McMurtrie Family; University of Mobile; The Mixon Family; The Transformers Ministry; and The DuBois Family. Notes are placed on the bulletin board outside the Church office.

Permit No. 220

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