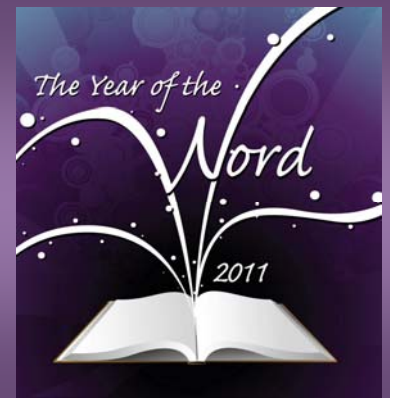


# FIRSTWORD

FIRSTBAPTISTCHURCH DECATUR, AL  
fbcdeatur.org

January 2011 Issue Vol. 43 No. 1

Many opportunities are available to allow  
God's Word, the Bible, to impact  
your life more in 2011!



## Sunday School Leadership

### Appreciation & Inspiration Dinner

WITH SPECIAL GUEST:

## ALLAN TAYLOR



Minister of Education with FBC Woodstock and author of "Sunday School Done Right!," "The Six Core Values of Sunday School," and "Disciplining and Restoring the Fallen." FBC Woodstock, GA now involves over 5,000 people in Sunday School each Sunday.



Sunday, January 30, 2011

6:00 pm

Reservations needed for food preparation.  
Contact the church office at 256-353-0423

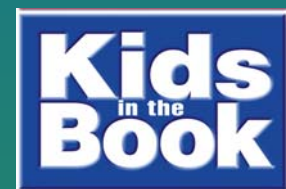
## Two Bible Seminars

Sunday, February 27, 2011



### The Old Testament

In only a few memorable hours, understand, like never before, 4,000 years of life changing Godly wisdom. Enjoy moving worship services and the 1:30-6:00pm seminar. All adults and youth involved.



1st-6th graders will enjoy an adventure tailored to children. Action involvement in stories, games, and puzzles stimulating their imagination and creativity.

Watch for sign up information.

## A MESSAGE FROM DR. HURT

My Dear People,

As we get ready to close the chapter on 2010, let's be thankful for several God moments in the life of our church which happened over the past twelve months.

First, do you realize that we have a full staff for the first time in six years? God has blessed us with the additions of Barry Thompson, Associate Pastor of Education/Administration and Sara Lansford, Director of Preschool Ministries. Take the time to get to know and encourage these wonderful additions to our team.

Second, this past summer we had the fifth largest Vacation Bible School in the State of Alabama. In addition to that, it was the largest VBS in our church's history. Kristy Knight and her team saw over 30 professions of faith from this ministry. Most of these decisions were from children not associated with our church.

Third, do you realize we had over 600 people participate in mission opportunities? Our church has had mission trips to Belize; Mexico; Lansing, Michigan; Carpenter's for Christ in Alabama; Georgia; Lynch, Kentucky; and Decatur, Alabama. In addition to that hands on mission work, First Baptist Decatur has ranked first in gifts to the Lottie Moon Christmas offering in our association and in the top 100 across the Southern Baptist Convention. Our church also ranks first in Annie Armstrong in our association, and we are listed in the top 10 churches in gifts to the Alabama Baptist Children's Home. Our church has worked hard to become a true Acts 1:8 church. Talk with Paul Radosevich about opportunities for 2011.

Fourth, our church witnessed 130 first-time decisions for Christ through our Team Impact Crusade this fall. Also, we were able to schedule over 30 school assemblies in our city and county. Who knows the long term impact of this ministry.

Finally, during a tough economic year across our nation, we have been able to operate our church finances in the black all year. I'm not sure how many of us realize the significance of this feat. Barry Thompson, Larry Chapman, and Terri Howard do a great job of keeping our finances where they need to be. In other words, if we don't have it, we don't spend it.

As we sail into 2011, may I share with you our goals for the new year? Hopefully, you will begin to pray about where you can get plugged into God's church.

First, we want to be people of God's Word. As a challenge to us, we want to try to read the entire Bible in a year. In order to live by God's word, we have to know it. Also, find a group or Sunday School class that you can attend each week.

Second, we want every member to be a witness. When was the last time you invited a friend to church? I'm not talking about inviting them to a meal or special program but to Sunday School or Worship. We have to be intentional in our evangelistic efforts in our community. It begins with a simple invitation to our friends.

Third, we want to expand our mission focus as we build on our Acts 1:8 theme. In 2011, we will have the opportunity to expand our mission field to Mexico and Haiti. You can participate in three ways. A good way of remembering these is the three P's: prayer, participation, and provisions. Get involved in a mission opportunity in 2011.

Finally, we want to be faithful in our giving. We're not just talking about our tithes but also our debt retirement and our mission giving. We have set aside every fifth Sunday as a day of debt retirement. Everything above our weekly need will go directly to our debt. Also, you will have an opportunity to give to missions on a weekly basis rather than just seasonally. Hopefully, this will make it easier to achieve our goals for Lottie Moon and other special offerings.

I hope you will help us achieve the goals God has laid out for us for 2011. We are looking forward to an exciting New Year.

Grace and Peace,



## "FAITHFUL HEARTS"

### "FAITHFUL HEARTS" LEADERSHIP TEAM MEETING

Thursday, January 6  
10:00 am in Conference Room 121

### "FAITHFUL HEARTS" EVERYBODY'S BIRTHDAY PARTY

Thursday, January 13  
12:00 (Noon) in the ROC  
COST \$5.00

Meal Provided by Texas Smokehouse- Barbecue Brisket Sandwich, Potato Salad, Baked Beans, and Special Birthday Cakes

Entertainment: "Minute to Win It" Games

Call the Church Office or Use the Worship Bulletin Tear-Off to make reservations!

### "FAITHFUL HEARTS" TRIP TO THE PRESENTATION OF "ALWAYS PATSY CLINE" AT VIRGINIA SAMFORD THEATER IN BIRMINGHAM

Thursday, January 27

COST is \$54.00 plus dinner (Includes ticket and transportation)

This musical tribute to the life of Patsy Cline is based on a true story about Patsy's friendship with a fan from Houston, Texas named Louise Seger.

This musical play, complete with down home country humor and true emotion includes 27 of Patsy's songs. This play is directed by Norton Dill and Katie Holmes. Featured actresses are Emily Herring as Patsy Cline and Celeste Burnum as The Fan.

Capital Trailways will provide transportation.

Leave the church at 4:15 pm.... Return around 11:30 pm

Reservation and payment deadline is Monday, January 31!

Call the Church office to make reservations!

### "FAITHFUL HEARTS" READING BUDDIES MINISTRY

Monday, January 31

Meet at Somerville Road Elementary School around 9:45 am

We'll sign in, get our reading assignments, and read with the children for 30 minutes.

Come join us!

For more information on the activities listed in the January issue of the First Word, visit our website at [www.fbcdeatur.org](http://www.fbcdeatur.org).

## WORSHIP

### CHRISTMAS on CHURCH STREET



Matt Richards, Executive Director of Tennessee Valley Outreach accepting check from Dr. Bill Hurt and the FBC Christmas on Church Street Ministry on December 12, 2010

The 2010 presentations of *Christmas on Church Street* are history and we are grateful to our Worship Choir, Orchestra, Youth and Children's Choirs, and the First Productions Team for a wonderful experience of worship and celebration! Over 300 were involved in presenting this concert and we are grateful to each one for their commitment and leading us so beautifully! The glorious music presented, along with the piano artistry of Nielson & Young, was all done for God's praise and glory! We also rejoice in the \$3,500 gift that was presented to Tennessee Valley Outreach as a result of the new ticket

procedure. This will help Matt Richards and that ministry to reach out to hundreds across our community this Christmas season. Thank you FBC family for embracing that decision and being a vital part in local missions!

### JOIN IN JANUARY

Worship Choir and Orchestra resume on Wednesday, January 5, 6:45 pm. January is the best time to consider being a part of these dynamic groups! Come and give it a try! You'll be surprised at how easy it is to become a part and serve through worship leadership each week.

### STUDENT CHOIR SUMMER MISSIONS INFORMATION MEETING

Student Choirs will resume on Sunday, January 23. There will be a joint Informational Meeting for ALL students and parents who are interested in the spring semester Student Choir ministries and the requirements to be a part of the summer missions trips to Waveland, MS (7<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup>) and San Diego, CA (9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup>). Watch your mail for all the details!

## UPCOMING EVENTS

Mark your calendar for Marriage Weekend with Clay and Rene Crosse here at FBC on March 25-26, 2011.



UPWARD Basketball games begin January 8

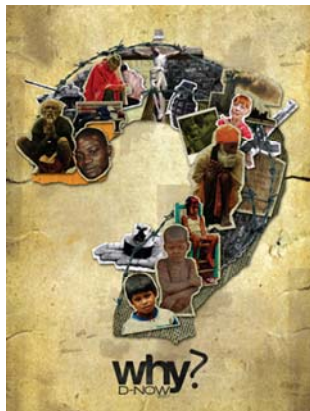
### DNow 2011

Feb 11-13<sup>th</sup>  
Cost \$45  
6<sup>th</sup>- 12<sup>th</sup> grade

It will be here before we know it!

Host homes are needed. Weekend spent in host homes from Friday pm until Sunday am.

Host homes provide a place to stay and transportation for the weekend. It's a great experience! Please contact Larry Hyche or Donna Calvert for more info.



## MISSIONS CORNER



Lottie Moon Christmas offering to date is \$40,227.07 and our goal is \$85,000.

We had a great time in Mexico this past Thanksgiving with the missionaries. Hearing and seeing the needs is a truly incredible "Task."

There were three take-a-ways from the trip:

- "It is an honor to be a missionary" as one of the youth shared with us.
- "I have seen Lottie Moon in action and the needs that are needed."
- "We need people to come and help in short term trips."

All around the "Globe" there are needs that need to be met. Although we can't help with every area, we need to join in prayer as we take God-inspired steps in knowing how to participate in the year 2011.

We have people here in North America as well as internationally who need to be reached through the PEACE PLAN. Let's be "God's hands and feet" this next year.

First Baptist is making a difference here in Decatur through local mission activities. We have reached out to many people through the Committee on Church Cooperation, Neighborhood Christian Center, Tennessee Valley Outreach, and East Acres.



We have planned 13 global experiences next year. Ask God how you can participate, either through PRAYER, GOING, OR PROVIDING.

Be sure to pick up one of our Global Mission Booklets to see how you can participate.

## BIBLE STUDIES

### LORD, Teach Me to Study the Bible in 28 Days

Based on the book written by Kay Arthur.

- This study is open to both men and women
- Taught by Robin Henderson
- Monday evenings January 24 thru February 21
- 6:30—8:30 pm in the Loft
- Cost for the material: \$11.00
- Register by contacting brittanywillis@fbcdccatur.org

### 1 & 2 Timothy: Encouragement For Church Leaders Unleashing God's Truth One Verse at a Time

- Legacy Ladies Bible Study
- Taught by Marganne Price
- Tuesday beginning January 11
- 9:30 am
- Location: 301
- Cost for the material: \$11.00

## HOLIDAY SCHEDULE

**Sunday January 2, 2011**—In lieu of the regular Sunday morning schedule, we will have one Sunday School, and one Worship Celebration.

Sunday School—9:00 –10:00 am:

- Preschool: Age appropriate classes will be offered beginning at 9:00 am.
- Children/FIX56: Age appropriate classes beginning at 9:00 am. No SURGE— please pick your children up at 10:00 am for Worship.
- Youth: One combined class in the Loft.
- Adults: One class will be offered in the ROC with biscuits and coffee. The study will be taught by Barry Thompson.

One Worship Celebration from 10:15-11:15 am: We are honored to have the Alabama Baptist Executive Director, Dr. Rick Lance, as our pulpit guest. Dr. Lance is a positive preacher with a tremendous ministry across the state.

### Wednesday January 5, 2011—

Meals and regular Wednesday night activities resume.

#### Preschool: "A Beary Good Year" - 6:00 pm

Ages 2-Kindergarten

Bring your favorite Teddy Bear or Stuffed Animal as we discover how we can make 2011 a Beary Good Year!

#### Children—6:00 pm:

##### 1st-4th Grade PAJAMA RAMA

Wear your favorite pair of pajamas and join us for the pillow fight of the year!

##### FIX56 – BACKWARD TO 2011

Wear your craziest get-up backwards and inside out! Join your leaders for a wacky, backward goodtime!

## SHARING IN SORROW

We would like to extend our Christian sympathy to Waynell Stover in the loss of her father, Elmer Osborn; Jackie Spiegle in the loss of his grandfather, Raymond Brock; Sue Breeding, Ralph Atkins, & Pat Carter in the loss of their brother-in-law, Marvin Whitt; Mark Letson in the loss of his step-father; Joe Duncan; Margaret Earle Fite & Susan Fite Lovelace in the loss of their husband and father, Jack Fite.

## THANK YOU NOTES

Notes of appreciation have been received from Belinda Lowery, Central United Methodist Church, Phyllis Salyer & family, Diana Lewis, Patsy Rodgers & Kelly, Keri, Keith, Kooper, Klaire, & Kendal. Thank you cards are placed on the bulletin board outside the church office.

## READ THROUGH THE BIBLE IN ONE YEAR

Reading guides are available at tables throughout the Church.

An On-line guide is available at <http://oneyearbibleonline.com/> offering you **The One Year Bible** daily reading plan consists of passages from the Old Testament, New Testament, Psalms, and Proverbs. This arrangement of Scripture brings variety and a fresh approach to each day's 15-minute reading, while providing a clear understanding of the Bible's larger message. No other "through the Bible" plan presents the entire Bible in such a user-friendly format. Simply select the month and date to link to the passages for the day.

**The One Year Chronological Bible** reading plan contains the entire text of the Bible arranged in the order the events actually occurred. This unique viewpoint allows you to read the whole Bible as a single story and to see the unfolding of God's plan in history.

## ADULTS WITH ADHD\*

Mondays 6:00-7:30 pm

6 weeks, beginning January 24<sup>th</sup>,  
Heritage Room

To help adults discover coping skills,  
gain vision for their lives and lifestyle,  
and see the up side.

Facilitators: Kay Thompson & Amanda Thomas

\*all attention deficit is now called ADHD  
with addendums such as inattentive, etc.

## DIVORCE CARE GROUP

Wednesdays 5:30– 7:00 pm

6 weeks, beginning January 26<sup>th</sup>  
Heritage Room

To encourage adults who are dealing  
with the grief, stress, and relational  
issues of divorce.

Facilitator: Kay Thompson

Permit No. 220

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