

# FIRSTWORD

FIRSTBAPTISTCHURCH DECATUR, AL  
fbcdccatur.org

November 2011 Issue Vol. 43 No. 11

## The Gift of Christmas

# Share the Hope

CHRISTMAS...a time to reach out to our community and tell...  
tell of God's mercy, tell of His grace, and tell of His love for us.

This year, Christmas on Church Street is about telling...

## Sharing the Hope of Jesus!

PARTNER with us this year as we apply our Acts 1:8 directive  
to "be witnesses in Jerusalem" which is right here in Decatur.

This year will be different. This year we need your help.  
Actually, we cannot Share the Hope without you! Consider  
your place of service in one of these three special evenings:

## Christmas on Church Street

### FRIDAY EVENING, DECEMBER 9

It will be our privilege to host 150 people for dinner at 6:00 pm from local missions in our community. Groups will come from the NCC, CCC, Tennessee Valley Outreach, the Dream Center, Alabama Baptist Children's Home, Hope Place, Lexie House, Milestone Recovery Center, the Salvation Army, and Hands Home. Our greatest need for volunteers will be to serve as greeters, hosts & hostesses (sitting with our guests at the dinner tables), food preparation assistants, servers, for set-up & clean-up of the kitchen & ROC, as well as, hall monitors and security for the evening. The FBC Worship Choir & Orchestra, along with the dancers and drama cast, will present our *Share the Hope Christmas Concert* following the meal. This automatically means the concert personnel will not be available to fill the roles listed above.

### SATURDAY EVENING, DECEMBER 10

Our Stephenson Chapel will be on the annual *Christmas Tour of Homes* sponsored by the Old Decatur and Albany Districts. Beautiful seasonal decorations and various musical ensembles performing throughout the evening will welcome the hundreds of people who will visit between 3:00 pm and 8:00 pm. Assistance with decorating will be needed prior to the event, and shifts of ushers and greeters with smiles and warm handshakes will complete the holiday experience.

### SUNDAY EVENING, DECEMBER 11

The busy weekend will conclude with performances at 4:00 pm and 7:00 pm of *The Gift of Christmas: Share the Hope Christmas Concert*. Tickets will be \$2.00, available beginning Wednesday, November 2. Proceeds will be used to offset the Friday evening meal with the remainder being donated to the Neighborhood Christian Center. Ushers and greeters will be required to assist those who will come, and there are still openings for nativity and drama cast members.

*As you can see, it takes many hands to support a project like this. Please pray for this special weekend and your involvement to make it a success. You may volunteer by calling the church office or sign up on the Sunday morning bulletin insert.*

*"Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth...a living Hope." 1 Peter 1:3*



## A MESSAGE FROM Dr. Hurt

My Dear People,  
Have you ever stopped to consider what is really important? It really boils down to three things: your relationship with God, your relationship with your family, and your relationship with friends. The rest of life is

just fluff. I have never seen a hearse with a U-haul trailer attached to it. Far too often we allow unimportant things to drive our lives. Sometimes the simple things, which are usually the most important, go unattended.

This past Wednesday night, we were reminded of the brevity and uncertainty of life as we listened to the testimony of Steve Escue. Steve has been battling pancreatic cancer for the past 22 months. Through all of his struggles and setbacks, Steve has remained true to his God and church. He, along with his wife, Jill, will be moving to Bowling Green, Kentucky for the remainder of his life. Keep this sweet family in your prayers.

As a church, we have worked hard to become a true Acts 1:8 church. Over the past six months, we have averaged sending teams out at a rate of one per six weeks. God has given us an opportunity to be active in Belize, Haiti, Lansing, Lynch, Phil Campbell, and Decatur. "The Great Commission" was never an option. If it was, it would have been called "The Great Suggestion." Thank you, Paul Radosevich, for leading the charge to take the Gospel to all the nations.

Right now we are running behind in our attendance and offerings. Let me encourage you to help us make a strong push towards the end of the year. If you have gotten behind on your financial giving, get caught up. If you have been relaxed in your attendance, start coming again. God is doing some great things in our midst in and through His church. Don't you want to be a part of some positive ministries? If so, come find where God is moving and join Him.

I am looking forward to seeing each of you this Sunday in Bible Study and worship. Until then, I remain...

Sincerely yours,

## LEGACY WOMEN'S MINISTRY

*Legacy Women's Ministry*

*Ladies Holiday Sampler*

Thursday, November 17

6:00 pm in the ROC

Tickets will be available October 30- November 13

**Hostesses are still needed!**

Contact Vickie Allaway in the Church office for more details: 256-353-0423 ext. 111!

**RM renovation**  
MINISTRIES  
Grades 10-12

**FALL ESCAPE**  
Nov 11-13 cost \$85

Sign up deadline Wed Nov 2nd along with \$45 deposit.

## FAITHFUL HEARTS

### LEADERSHIP TEAM MEETING

Thursday, November 3

Time: 10:00 am

Location: Conference Room 121

### DAY TRIP TO "AN EVENING WITH DR. DAVID JEREMIAH"

Thursday, November 10

Leave the Church at 5:00 pm/Return around 10:30 pm

Von Braun Center in Huntsville, AL

Church Bus Transportation

45 Tickets Available

NO COST—Call the church office to reserve your ticket!

### DAY TRIP TO "MUSIC CITY CHRISTMAS"

Friday, November 18

Fontanel Mansion in Nashville, Tennessee

Leave the Church at 12:00 Noon/Return around 11:30 pm

Motor Coach Transportation by Capital Trailways

COST: \$75.00

Cost includes transportation, tour of Fontanel Mansion (Barbara Mandrell's Former Home), and the dinner show

Reservation and Payment Deadline is Tuesday, November 8  
TRIP IS CURRENTLY FULL- call the church office to be placed on the waiting list!

### "READING BUDDIES" MINISTRY

Monday, November 28

We'll meet at Somerville Road Elementary School at 9:45 am to help children with their reading skills. Lots of help is needed, so please come join us as we minister to the children of our community!

We finish at 10:30 am

### CHRISTMAS DINNER

Friday, December 2

Location: ROC

Meal prepared by: Sue Strickling

Special Guest: Glynis Steele

# MISSIONS CORNER

God continues to take First Baptist Church all around the Globe. Here are just a few ways in which God has led our mission ministry lately:

- Faithful Hearts Mission Trip to Lynch, Kentucky to serve the people of Appalachia
- Collegiate ministry helped a Decatur widow by fixing her window, painting and doing a little carpentry.
- FBC sent a team to La Vallee, Haiti to build Evangelical Baptist Church of La Vallee. God's spirit is spreading there as new church plants are spreading all across Haiti. It is exciting to see the Children of Hope and their new home as well as to experience the blessing of the donated mattresses.

## Ways to get involved in the missions God is doing here at FBC:

Please be in prayer for where the Lord is leading you or your Bible Study class to serve Him and in making a difference.

### Operation Christmas Child

We are currently collecting Operation Christmas Child Boxes! You can participate by filling a shoe box with toys, clothes, crayons, etc...for a child in need. Fill up a shoe box for the appropriate age and return it to the church by Wednesday, November 2. Details for filling a shoe box can be found at: <http://www.samaritanspurse.org/>

### Christmas Toy Store at Neighborhood Christian Center

Last year the NCC gave away 7500 toys to over 200 families touching 400 children. This year, they need volunteers beginning December 7 to help with the following:

- Sorting through items given for the store
- Setting up the store
- Bringing toys for the store (new toys or good condition toys)
- Providing refreshments the days the store is open (December 15-17)
- If you know Spanish they need your help on December 16 to be a host to Hispanic families in translating.

Contact Tim and Pamela Bowling at the Neighborhood Christian Center to let them know you are coming to assist in being the hands to the community this year for Christmas Toy Store (256-351-7633).

### 2012 Haiti Medical Mission Trip

April 21-28, 2012

We are Looking for a medical team (limited to 18) to join us in Jacmel, Haiti. We are in need of a few other doctors, nurses and support. There will be a clinic set up in La Vallee and for the orphans at Children of Hope. Cost is \$1800 which includes flight tickets, meals and lodging. If you have any questions or would like to sign up email: [paul13@fbcdeccatur.org](mailto:paul13@fbcdeccatur.org).

### Mountain View Baptist Church, Phil Campbell, Alabama

If you would be interested in helping our sister church in Phil Campbell, AL during the summer of 2012 email Paul at [paul13@fbcdeccatur.org](mailto:paul13@fbcdeccatur.org). Help will be needed for building their new church, providing meals or just supporting them as the needs come. More details to come.

## RECREATION

### UPWARD BASKETBALL SEASON IS HERE!



Stop by the ROC desk for a brochure with more information and to sign up for Basketball as well as Cheerleading!

We also need some volunteers to help with our Upward Program: Referees, Coaches, Half Time Devotion Leaders, Concession Stand Workers, and Prayer Partners.

Please come join us as we introduce children to Jesus Christ by creating opportunities to serve through sports!

## CHURCH STREET KIDS MUSIC

We are having a great time during **Church Street Kids Music!** We have had approximately 100 children each week. The average attendance per class is as follows:

Music for Twos - 4

Music for Threes - 8

K4-K5 Choir - 27

1<sup>st</sup> -4<sup>th</sup> grade Choirs - 62

Our Christmas program will be Sunday evening, **December 4<sup>th</sup>** at 6:00 pm. It will feature the K4-K5 Choir, and the combined 1<sup>st</sup> -4<sup>th</sup> grade choirs. The 1<sup>st</sup> - 4<sup>th</sup> grade choirs will also share what they have learned in their interest tracks. Save the date and come hear them as they play drums, orff instruments, and their ukuleles. There will also be soloists and liturgical dancers. It is always a great evening when our children offer their best gifts to Christ at Christmas! Thank you for bringing your children to choir each week!

## 2011 LOTTIE MOON OFFERING

HISHEART HISHANDS HISVOICE



2011 Lottie Moon Christmas Offering®

National Goal: \$175 million

Week of Prayer for International Missions: December 4 – 11, 2011

IAMSBMISSIONS.COM

Our church goal: **\$80,000**



## Sundays & Wednesdays in November & December 2011

### November

#### Sundays:

- 6—Regular Schedule—Missions emphasis with Pastor Frankie from Haiti
- 13—Regular Schedule—Lord's Supper Service (6:00 pm)
- 20—Community Thanksgiving Service (6:00 pm)
- 27—No PM services or activities on campus

#### Wednesdays:

- 2—Regular Schedule—Last day to turn in your Operation Christmas Child Boxes
- 9—Regular Schedule—Thanksgiving Meal (5:00 pm)
- 16—No Wednesday Night Meal, Wednesday in the Word, IMPACT, & CSK (6:00 pm)
- 23—No Wednesday Night Activities on Campus
- 30—Church Street Kids Music Program Rehearsal (5:30 pm), Wednesday in the Word & IMPACT (6:00 pm)

### December

#### Sundays:

- 4— Church Street Kids Musical
- 11—Christmas on Church Street (4:00 & 7:00 pm)
- 18—No Evening Services on Campus
- 25—No Sunday School, 10:30 am Worship Service only, No Evening Services on Campus

#### Wednesdays:

- 7—Regular Schedule
- 14—Memorial Service (6:00 pm)
- 21—No Wednesday Activities on Campus
- 28—No Wednesday Activities on Campus

## SUNDAY SCHOOL PRAYER GATHERING

### Sunday School Leadership Prayer Gathering

Sunday Nov. 6, at 5:00pm in the Fellowship Hall

God uses many experiences to develop great leaders. One of the most transformational experiences in Christ development of caring Leaders comes through brokenness. Broken leaders are real. There is a vulnerability that comes from being broken. The people in your group can sense this vulnerability. When we allow God to transform us through our brokenness, it makes us more sensitive to the hurts and needs of others we encounter.

We encourage all our Sunday School Leadership to talk with the Lord about individual brokenness and to gather with other Leadership for focus prayers concerning in-reach, teacher preparation time & curriculum, spirit of peace & joy to be evident in every group, glorify Jesus, rebuke satan, and for the Lord to continue to turn our focus on a lost world in need of the Gospel.

## TIME TO REJOICE

With Danny & Kelly Smith in the birth of their son, William Greer on September 28 (Grandparents: George & Margaret Greer); with Chris & Holly Mote in the birth of their daughter, Aliza Ruth on October 7 (Sisters: Sela & Elspeth, Grandparents: Ralph & Susie Burns); and with Kyle & Cathryn Buse in the birth of their son, Conner Andrew on October 21.

## SHARING IN SORROW

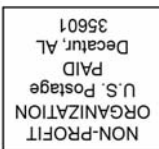
We would like to extend our Christian sympathy to David & Becky Mixon in the loss of their son, David Mixon, Jr.; Thelma McMurtrie in the loss of her husband, Mac; David Matthews in the loss of his mother, Elida Marie; Neal Patterson in the loss of his father, Ivan; Ruth Hutson in the loss of her mother, Joyce Kirkley; and Marcilla Weems in the loss of her sister, Ruth Ault.

## THANK YOU NOTES

Notes of appreciation have been received from Martha McBride, Kevin & Shannon Robertson, Marcilla Weems, Loaves & Fishes Ministry, Keith Thrasher; and Jeanne Hurst and the Family of Hilda Shelton. Notes are placed on the bulletin board outside the Church office.



Permit No. 220



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