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**January 2012**

## State of the **CHURCH** **REPORT**

This year's annual meeting will be held on Sunday, January 22 following morning worship service. The ABWM will provide a soup and salad luncheon for a free will offering to help with their mission efforts. Plan to share a meal and then stay for the meeting afterwards.

All committee chairpersons should have their 2011 annual reports turned into the office by January 15th. The report should contain a recap of your committee's efforts, and their goals for 2012. Please do not run off your report ahead of time—as the church copier will collate and staple all originals into booklet form without assembly.

Please plan to attend this very special annual meeting, and remember that regular business meetings are held on the Wednesday after the first Sunday of every odd numbered month. Members are encouraged to attend and share their opinions and goals on the state of First Baptist Church.

### ***Ten to attend SKWIM event***

Six High School youth and four adult sponsors will be traveling to Greenlake, Wisconsin on January 13-16. This annual event is a combination of Christian Fellowship with music, ministry, fellowship, and of course—skiing and swimming!! It's a great way for our church youth to interact with other youth groups within the Great Rivers Region and beyond.

### ***Breakfast is served.....***

Mike and Janis Hawkins again open their home on Saturday morning, January 21 anytime between 8:00 - 10:00 AM for breakfast. They are located at 80 Sugar Creek Hills.

No meeting, no agenda—just an opportunity for church family get together for a time of fellowship and good food. You needn't bring anything but your appetite!



### ***S.W.A.T. Members invited to attend Winter Jam***

The Winter Jam Tour Spectacular, Christian music's largest annual tour is coming to St. Charles on Saturday, January 21 and plans are being made to take as many of our S.W.A.T. members as possible. The cost is \$10 per person plus a meal or two enroute. It will be a late night, but youth who attend will be expected to be in Sunday School the next morning!

Founded and hosted by Grammy®-nominated Christian music mainstay NewSong and produced by Premier Productions, the Winter Jam 2012 Tour Spectacular will be headlined by Grammy®-nominated alternative rockers Skillet. It also features Sanctus Real, former Newsboys frontman Peter Furler, Kari Jobe, Building 429, Group 1 Crew, illusionist Brock Gill, and national speaker Nick Hall. In addition, the OneVerse Pre-Jam Party will include performances from Dara McLean, For King & Country, and We As Human. VeggieTales' Bob and Larry will also make a special appearance.

More than 90,000 people made decisions for Christ during last year's tour. Since its formation by NewSong in 1995, Winter Jam has featured many of the top names in Christian music, including TobyMac, Third Day, Newsboys, Steven Curtis Chapman, and Jeremy Camp, among others. The Winter Jam 2011 Tour Spectacular outpaced attendance for all other tours in the first quarter, including Bon Jovi, U2, Lady Gaga and Justin Bieber, according to Pollstar's 2011 Worldwide First Quarter Ticket Sales "Top 100 Tours" chart.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Pam Hawkins	2	3 Justin Liles	4 <b>Supper and Kid's Club 6 PM</b>	5	6	7 Patty Englert Abigail Snodgrass
8	9	10	11 <b>Supper and Kid's Club 6 PM</b>  Alyssa Britenstine	12	13 	14 Carol Britenstine
15 <b>SKWIM 2012</b> <b>Food Pantry Sunday</b> Zach Lemar 	16  	17 Kyle Hawkins	18 <b>Supper and Kid's Club 6 PM</b>  Kyle Brown Nathan Clark Rick & Linda Gerson	19	20  Rob Liles	21 <b>Breakfast at the Hawkins'</b> 8-10 AM <b>ABY meets @ 10 AM</b> <b>Winter Jam in St. Charles 6 PM</b>
22 <b>Annual Meeting ABWM will serve luncheon</b>	23	24	25 <b>Supper and Kid's Club 6 PM</b>	26	27 <b>Extreme Fusion Event @ Virden Church of the- Brethren</b>	28
29	30	31 Anna Kiel Jill Hawkins	 "Here am I; send me!" <small>Isaiah 6:8</small>			

### ***The Pastor is in!***

Pastor John's new office hours are from 10 am-12 pm Monday through Friday. Except for third Tuesdays of the month, when he will be out doing visits. Please call him if you need to meet with him at a different time or place.



*I was once young and now I am old, but not once have I been witness to God's failure to supply my need when first I had given for the furtherance of his work. He has never failed in his promise, so I cannot fail in my service to him.*

—William Carey

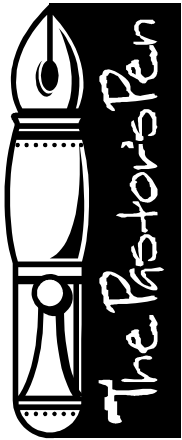
### **Children's Sermon**



Volunteers are needed to help each week with a Children's sermon during worship and child care in the nursery. You can choose one or the other—or both! Please mark the calendar on the table at the back of the sanctuary with your choice of dates.

### **Area ABY meeting to be held in Virden**

The area ABY board will meet on Saturday morning January 21, at 10 AM at our church. The board meets monthly to help plan the ABY gathering, and usually meet at Lake Springfield Baptist Camp, but during the winter months while the camp is closed, they need an alternate location. Since four of our own church's youth currently serve on the board, and since we are centrally located for others, the January, February, and March meetings will be held in Virden.



Greetings,

Happy New Year to all of you! I hope your new year has kicked off with a bang! I am so excited to begin the year with all of you at First Baptist. When you all called me and my family to be with you, we were excited for the challenges and opportunities to come. I must say, I am personally ready to kick this year off with a bang! We have a lot of ministry opportunities planned for this upcoming year. A little something for everyone. It is my prayer that we all find servant hearts as we serve others around us this year.

The S.W.A.T. youth group will be taking off in a couple of weeks for S.K.W.I.M. ski trip in Wisconsin. We will be taking 6 youth, and 4 adults to this weekend retreat, where they will be challenged to focus more on their relationship with Christ, along with fun times of skiing and fellowship. When they return we hope to keep them busy, not just doing fun trips, but doing mission projects each month, so we can truly be young examples of Christ to all we encounter.

I also want to take a minute to thank all of you who support me and my family. The generous gifts at the holidays were much appreciated, and were a huge blessing to me and my family at the holidays. I would also like to thank all of you who have made our transition to Virden smooth and painless. We are at home, and feel very much a part of you all.

Lastly, as many of you can tell, many things at the church have been changing. We are seeing a larger involvement from the youth on Sunday mornings. We are also seeing more youth on Wednesday nights. Sunday mornings we are starting to see some growth as well. But most importantly I see growth as a body of Christ. We are coming together to work for the glory of God, and in hopes to build his kingdom. In just three months, we are growing, imagine what this year will look like if we stay centered in Christ all year long. The revolution starts today, are you ready?!!!!!!

Here's to a New Year full of hope and promise,

*Pastor John*



## **Living above the weather**

Have you ever boarded an airplane in a snowstorm? The sky is gray with heavy clouds. Snow is coming down hard, with no sign of letting up. Plows clear the runway and unfamiliar machinery de-ices the wings. Passengers might consider it madness to fly in such weather.

But the pilot knows the storm is earthbound. Past the clouds is glorious sunshine. The plane can fly above the weather, if only it can get off the ground.

When troubles overtake us like a storm, we may wonder in the midst of the darkness if God still cares or if he is even there at all. But if we believe that God, like the sun, is unchanged in good weather and in bad, we can ride it out. For storms are earthbound, but we are not.

—Kari Myers

## **A New Year's blessing**

May God make your year a happy one!  
 Not by shielding you from all sorrow and pain,  
 But by strengthening you to bear it as it comes;  
 Not by making your path easy,  
 But by making you sturdy to travel any path;  
 Not by taking hardships from you,  
 But by taking fear from your heart;  
 Not by granting you unbroken sunshine,  
 But by keeping your face bright, even in the shadows;  
 Not by making your life always pleasant,  
 But by showing you when people and their causes need you most, and by making you anxious to be there to help.  
 God's love, peace, hope and joy to you for the year ahead.

—Author unknown

## First Baptist Church Birthdays and Anniversaries

1-Jan Pam Hawkins	23-Apr John Liles	27-Aug Libby Klocke
3-Jan Justin Liles	29-Apr Ayden Liles	31-Aug Carroll Morony
7-Jan Abigail Snodgrass	30-Apr Helen Burris	5-Sep Travis Liles
7-Jan Patty Englert	2-May Kathy Price	9-Sep Betty Mullen
11-Jan Alyssa Britenstine	4-May Marilyn Clark	12-Sep Brianna Walters
14-Jan Carol Britenstine	14-May Janis Hawkins	22-Sep Tony Kershaw
15-Jan Larry Butler	15-May Don & Helen Burris	24-Sep Jan Morony
15-Jan Zach Lemar	21-May Ben Clark	24-Sep Mike Hawkins
17-Jan Kyle Hawkins	21-May Ryan Brown	24-Sep Richard & Doris Weerts
18-Jan Kyle Brown	25-May John Parrish	28-Sep Ryan Burch
18-Jan Nathan Clark	28-May Terry & Marilyn Clark	29-Sep Barb Klocke
18-Jan Rick & Linda Gerson	29-May Catherine Sloman	30-Sep Jennifer Brown
20-Jan Rob Liles	31-May John & Kelsey Parrish	30-Sep Justin Dibler
26-Jan Kelsey Parrish	6-Jun Rick Gerson	7-Oct David Liles
31-Jan Anna Kiel	7-Jun Tom Dibler	7-Oct Jim & Pat Smith
31-Jan Jill Hawkins	11-Jun Norma Hotarek	7-Oct Mike & Debbie Liles
2-Feb Hannah Henry	16-Jun Cole & Sue Langley	11-Oct Katie Hawkins
3-Feb Wanda Hein	18-Jun Steve & Debbie Kershaw	14-Oct Adam Kershaw
4-Feb Dale Mullen	22-Jun Ben & Amanda Clark	17-Oct David Dibler
6-Feb Don Price	22-Jun Ray Klocke	19-Oct Brandy Palmer
7-Feb Linda Snodgrass	22-Jun Rochelle Lundstrom	19-Oct Sue Langley
8-Feb David Lewis	28-Jun Rich Weerts	27-Oct David & Kaye Liles
24-Feb Doris Weerts	30-Jun Jim Wright	28-Oct Peg Vidakovich
25-Feb Julius Turner	30-Jun Mark Wright	29-Oct Joshua Snodgrass
27-Feb Gretchen Henry	1-Jul Lance Hickey	3-Nov Tyler Burch
1-Mar Diane DeSmidt	1-Jul Roger & Gloria Smith	5-Nov Allie Sharp
4-Mar Lonnie Crawford	5-Jul Dale & Betty Mullen	9-Nov Carol Paisley
4-Mar Peyton Parrish	12-Jul Debbie Liles	14-Nov Janet McCready
7-Mar Aiden Snodgrass	14-Jul Audrey Price	14-Nov Roger Smith
9-Mar Jane Primrose	18-Jul Linda Gerson	23-Nov Audrey Lomelino
14-Mar Bob Dibler	21-Jul Don & Audrey Price	23-Nov Gloria Smith
16-Mar Cole Langley	21-Jul Sharon Crawford	25-Nov Tom Mullen
17-Mar Bart Rogers	29-Jul Debbie Klocke	26-Nov Alicia Kirchner
20-Mar Kent Riffey	30-Jul Marge Berriman	3-Dec Danielle Burch
20-Mar Trent Cain	2-Aug Macie Brown	6-Dec Kyle & Pam Hawkins
22-Mar Kaye Liles	5-Aug Jay Turner	7-Dec Mike Liles
27-Mar Patty Sloman	8-Aug Lonnie & Sharon Crawford	13-Dec Betty Wallace
1-Apr Craig Paisley	9-Aug Kim Liles	13-Dec Piper Parrish
4-Apr Beverly Britenstine	14-Aug Steve Kershaw	14-Dec Velma Rich
7-Apr Carter Dibler	15-Aug Tim Snodgrass	17-Dec Maggie Hawkins
7-Apr Debbie Kershaw	16-Aug Ray & Libby Klocke	20-Dec Mike & Janis Hawkins
7-Apr Mary Agnes Cain	17-Aug Della Phillips	22-Dec Edgar Lewis
10-Apr Jim Smith	17-Aug Drew Hawkins	22-Dec Joey Langley
11-Apr Sophia Hawkins	18-Aug Linda Liles	23-Dec Pat Smith
14-Apr Terry Clark	18-Aug Richard Weerts	23-Dec Rev. Carroll & Jan Morony
21-Apr Aaron Snodgrass	25-Aug Alex Walters	24-Dec Gerald Phillips
21-Apr Karen Browning	26-Aug Tracy Lewis	27-Dec Don Burris

### Did you find an error?

Page 4 lists all the birthdays and anniversaries of the members of First Baptist Church. If you see any errors, please help us correct them now—this is the list that we use when mentioning the names in the Sunday bulletin, so if your birthday or anniversary is not on this list, please let Debbie Kershaw know soon!

Additionally, if the name of someone who is no longer a member at First Baptist is listed here, please let Debbie know that as well—unless you wish for it to remain. Most of the people on this same list get a newsletter mailed to them, so we can save some postage if you will let Debbie know if the person no longer wishes to receive one.

Wednesday night kids—we want to recognize your birthdays too—so check the list and tell Debbie if you don't see your name on it!

**Believe.**  
**HOPE.**  
*Encourage.*  
**PERSEVERE.**

What if we took our lengthy lists of changes we want to make in the new year and narrowed them down — way down? Rather than making a half dozen or more commitments that we're unlikely to keep, how about zeroing in on a single word that captures the essence of what we want to achieve or become?

North Carolina pastor Mike Ashcraft encouraged church members to each find one word that described a characteristic or vision they wanted to achieve in the year ahead. The experiment turned into a movement, with ideas and testimonials available at [myoneword.org](http://myoneword.org).














What would your one-word resolution be?

## PUZZLE













### A caring disciple

In **Acts 9**, Peter tells of a woman who lived in Joppa. She performed good works and helped the poor. Solve the puzzle below to reveal this disciple's two names.

**Instructions:** Cross out the letters that spell each object and write the remaining letter on the blank.

___ adcltne			
___ rohmtae			
___ srgbape			
___ rbieda			
___ pehtshred			
___ rdhaenlca			
___ fadoo			

Her name in Greek

___ pdeesh		
___ dchilnero		
___ drove		
___ acehtr		
___ sarcos		
___ nusoatim		

### Home away from home

I spent five months as a college exchange student in Spain. The Sunday after I arrived, I walked to a nearby church, hoping worship would ease my homesickness. At first it didn't. The vast cathedral was a different denomination from my home church. No one welcomed me, and I couldn't comprehend all the Spanish.

As the priest began reading the gospel lesson, however, I recognized the account of Jesus' baptism. It struck me powerfully that, because our denominations shared the same lectionary (series of Scripture readings for worship), six hours later my pastor-father would be proclaiming this very passage at my home church. He would do so in a different language and to a different congregation, but it would be the same good news — indeed, the one gospel — proclaimed in my hearing.

I felt less homesick then, comforted that through Christ, the Scriptures and the church, I was connected with other Christians, even from far around the world.

—Heidi Mann

**Starting  
Again**



Now that Wednesday Kid's Club has started back up—parents please remember: If school is canceled because of weather—so is Kid's Club.

Kid's Club starts at 6 PM and ends at 7:45. Please make arrangements to pick your child up at 7:45 so that choir practice can begin on time. Also, the first Wednesday after the first Sunday of the odd numbered months is shortened due to Business meeting. On those nights, we end at 7:00 PM instead of 7:45. Thank you!!

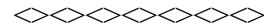
**First "Extreme Fusion" event to be held  
on January 27**

The North Mac "Extreme Fusion" Christian youth event will kick off on January 27 with a "coffeehouse" style gathering. It will be held at the Virden Church of the Brethren and then in February at the Girard Spirit & Truth. Watch the Sunday bulletin for more details on this event.

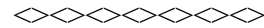
**"Leaping" into February.....**

February will be a busy month at First Baptist. Here's just a peek at what is planned:

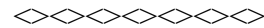
A Super Bowl Sunday (February 5) fundraiser where you can order subs ahead of time and have them DELIVERED to your home just in time for the big game!!



A Young Adult Game Night is being planned for Friday, February 10th. Sitters will be provided so parents with youngsters can enjoy the evening with other young adults.



A youth LOCK-IN on February 17-18!



Sound like a lot of activities for February?  
Relax--it has an extra day this year!!



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**RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**

