



The messenger

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November - December 2011

Thank meal and offering November 13

The ABWM will be sponsoring our annual Thanksgiving Supper in Pitman Hall at 5:30 PM on Sunday, November 13. The entire congregation is invited to attend this special meal and as always, your Thank Offering will be received.

The ABWM will provide the meat and the potatoes and some dressing. The rest is pot-luck and you are invited to bring your favorite vegetable, salad, or dessert to share.

There is no entertainment following the meal this year, so you are invited to just "hang out" and enjoy a time of fellowship together with your church family.



Giving thanks for all

It's easy to list the blessings in life: good health, family, a satisfying career, a comfortable home. We might even be thankful for things other than what is granted, such as freedom, clean drinking water, reliable transportation and food enough to eat. Then there are the little things, such as gardens, sunrises, pets, and coffee.

What about life's storms or unanswered prayers? Should we be thankful for these? Loss and hardship remind us of our dependence on God. He uses trials to draw us closer to him, to show us that he is our rock and refuge. In misfortune and grief, we discover God's comfort and strength. Should we not, then, be thankful for the storms, too?

"Whenever you get a blessing from God, give it back to him as a love gift. ...Offer the blessing back to him in a deliberate act of worship. If you hoard a thing for yourself, it will turn into spiritual dry rot, as the manna did when it was hoarded. God will never let you hold a spiritual thing for yourself; it has to be given back to Him that He may make it a blessing to others."

—Oswald Chambers

Community Choir to present Cantata



Our entire choir will be participating in a North Mac Community Choir presentation of "**Celebrate His Name! Proclaim His Birth!**"




This special presentation will be held at the Virden United Methodist Church on Sunday, December 18 at 7:00 P.M.

The cantata will be directed by Rev. Mary Alice Cunningham, pastor of both the Virden and Girard United Methodist Churches. The narrator will be Rev. John Huxtable of the Christian Church of Virden. And, area children will perform as nativity characters.

This beautiful piece of music examines several of the names of Christ and what they convey in the Christmas story. For instance, how does the "Lamb of God" relate to the shepherds and their flock? Or how does the royal title "Son of David" fit in with the journey of Mary and Joseph to Bethlehem?

Lyricist Pamela Martin helps you understand the connections, and Mary MacDonald and Larry Shackley have created a tapestry of traditional carols and memorable new Christmas music that will set your heart on the true meaning of Christmas.

Plan now to attend and support the efforts of our own choir members and those of many area churches, as they present, "**Celebrate His Name! Proclaim His Birth!**"

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
 November		1 Exercise Class 6:15 Community Cantata Practice 7:00 PM	2 Supper & Kid's Club 6 PM Bible Study 7PM Choir 8 PM	3 Tyler Burch	4	5 Allie Sharp
	6		8 Exercise Class 6:15 Community Cantata Practice 7:00 PM	9 Supper & Kid's Club 6 PM Bible Study 7PM Choir 8 PM Carol Paisley	10	11
13 Deaconate meets after worship ABWM Thanks Giving Supper 5:30 PM in Pitman Hall	14 Roger Smith	15 Exercise Class 6:15 Community Cantata Practice 7:00 PM	16 Supper & Kid's Club 6 PM Bible Study 7PM Choir 8 PM	17	18 Financial Committee Meeting 7 PM	19 "Breakfast Club" Meets at the Hawkins' home 8 - 10 AM
20	21	22 Exercise Class 6:15 Community Cantata Practice 7:00 PM Travis & Sara Kershaw	23 Supper & Kid's Club 6 PM Bible Study 7PM Choir 8 PM Gloria Smith	 Thanksgiving Day	25 Tom Mullen	26 Decorate church for the Advent Season 1:00 PM Alicia Hawkins
27 	28	29 Exercise Class 6:15 Community Cantata Practice 7:00 PM	30 Supper & Kid's Club 6 PM Bible Study 7PM Choir 8 PM			

Breakfast Club

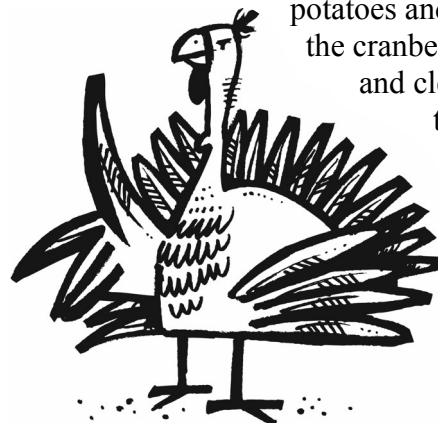


meets again!






Janis and Mike Hawkins invite you to their home at 80 Sugar Creek on Saturday, November 19 to once again share in their First Baptist Breakfast fellowship time. It will be held from 8 AM until 10 AM. Just stop by anytime during those two hours to share in some great food and some Christian fellowship.

Baptists love to share fun over a meal so please come join in the fun!

"I have never understood why anyone would roast the turkey and shuck the clams and crisp the croutons and shell the peas and candy the sweet potatoes and compute the compute the cranberries and bake the pies and clear the table and wash the dishes and fall into bed exhausted when they could just as easily sit back and enjoy a hamburger or a pork sandwich."



-The Turkey

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		 DECEMBER		1	2	3  CRAFT SHOW In Pitman Hall 9 AM - 3 PM Lunch Served Danielle Burch
4 Community Hymn Sing First Christian 6 PM	5	6 Exercise Class 6:15 Community Cantata Practice 7:00 PM Kyle & Pam Hawkins	7 Supper & Kid's Club 6 PM Bible Study 7PM Choir 8 PM Mike Liles	8	9 VAAC Country Christmas Lighted Christmas Parade 6 PM on the square	10
11  "He's today's greeter."		13 Exercise Class 6:15 Community Cantata Practice 7:00 PM Piper Parrish Betty Wallace	14 Supper & Kid's Club 6 PM Bible Study 7PM Choir 8 PM	15 ABWM Christmas luncheon at noon at Wanda Hein's home	16 Watch Sunday bulletin for special rehearsal times for Kid's play not scheduled on this calendar!	17 Maggie Hawkins
18 "Super Gift from Heaven" 10 AM Community Cantata at Methodist Church 7 PM	19	20 Exercise Class 6:30 Mike & Janis Hawkins	21 No Wednesday Activities	22 Joey Langley Edgar Lewis	23 Rev. Carroll & Jan Morony Pat Smith	24  7 PM Candlelight Service Gerald Phillips
25  Christmas Worship	26	27 Exercise Class 6:30 Don Burris	28 No Wednesday Activities	29	30	31

Pecans and Calendars for sale!

We still have plenty of pecans available for your holiday baking! The price is \$10 per bag. There are a few packages in the freezer in the church kitchen, and Wanda Hein has more available in her freezer at home. Take one for baking and one to sell to another baker!

There are also a limited number of 2012 God's Creation appointment calendars available at a price of \$10 each. Please see Janis Hawkins to get your copy.

1st Annual First Baptist Church Holiday Craft Show planned

On December 3 for 9 AM-3 PM, come shop for unique gifts and enter the 50/50 Raffle to help support First Baptist Church's efforts to purchase a chair lift.

There will be room for only 12 vendors in Pitman Hall and the spots are filling up fast with a variety of home-made gifts and other items.

The S.W.A.T. Youth will be serving wiches to help raise money for a variety of events they want to participate in. If you would like to donate a baked item for them to sell by the slice, please let them know soon.



So what's in a name?

There are two new “names” at First Baptist Church—The first is S.W.A.T. which stands for “Students With A Testimony”. The older Youth Group from Wednesday night Kid’s Club recently had a “contest” to see who could come up with the most creative team name—the rule was that there had to be a scripture basis to the name, you had to present your suggestion, and explain what the name meant and how it was based on the scripture you chose, and then the whole group voted on the top four names. Submitted by Brianna Davis, the name “S.W.A.T.” was chosen. It is based on the scripture from 1 Timothy 4:12 *“Don’t let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for believers in speech, in life, in love, in faith and in purity.”*

Alicia Hawkins leads an exercise class each Tuesday evening at 6:30 in Pitman Hall. (For the next few weeks we will begin at 6:15 PM in order to allow for time to arrive at the Tuesday Community Choir Cantata practices.) The class has taken on a name “Your body...His Temple”. Based on a scripture that calls for us to take care of the body that God has given us... ***“Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own...”*** (1 Corinthians 6:19). If you are serious about losing weight or getting in shape, plan to participate. It can be tailored to all ages and all levels of fitness goals.

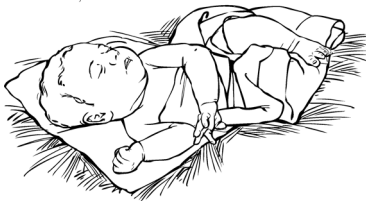
Ahh...so there really IS something in a name!! Show your support in prayer, and/or in attendance with either or BOTH of these new “names” at First Baptist!

A Christmas List for First Baptist

Last year we shared a Christmas “wish list” for items for our church and many of you responded with generous donations.

We’ll be doing that again this year so keep an eye out for items you can add to our wish list, then add it—or— you may rather go searching for the item and can then mark it off the list! Watch for the list to appear soon!

“A little child will lead them.”
Isaiah 11:6, NIV



What Child is This? will be the title of Pastor John’s sermon series in December as we begin our remembrance and observation of the birth of Christ.

Come to worship each week as we exam Christ’s birth through the eyes of different characters in the Christmas story.

“The Bible is the cradle wherein Christ is laid.”

— Martin Luther



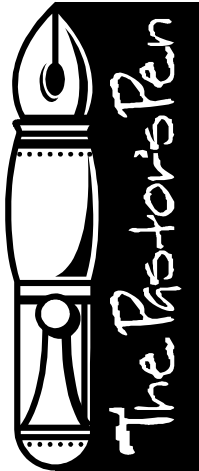
Dare to hope

Read Luke 1:13-18. How long had it been since Zechariah first prayed for a son? Perhaps you know what it’s like to lose hope. Zechariah’s story reminds us that God’s plans cannot be hampered, even when the laws of nature stand in the way. Hold on to your hope because God works miracles.

Youth on Area ABY Board

As a result of their attendance at the ABY Gathering in Jerseyville recently, three of our own church’s youth joined the ABY Planning Board for next year’s regional event. Kudos to Joey Langley, Brianna Davis, and Alex Walters for agreeing to take such an active role in this important event!

Many thanks to everyone who supported the youth with fund raisers such as the “pie in the face” and “the silent auction” and the Spaghetti luncheon. Please continue to lift up S.W.A.T., both in your prayers and your financial support. Next big event—SKWIM!



Ah! This is definitely one of my favorite times of year. Fall transforming into winter is awesome for me. I am a fan of snow. I really enjoy the stuff; unlike many of you I am sure. That ice stuff is another story, but pure snow I can do. And the best part of this time of year is the holidays for me. I am a huge fan of fellowship with friends and family. As Thanksgiving quickly approaches, I am looking forward to spending time with friends and family around the dinner table, eating and talking, and watching Thanksgiving Day football, (The Dolphins play on TV this year by the way). As we enter Thanksgiving I think it is important as always for us to truly set aside time from our busy lives, and take time to be thankful for people, places, and things in our lives. This November we will be doing a sermon series entitled "I am thankful for..." This excites me, as for many of holidays can make us gloomy as we focus on worldly issues, and separation from loved ones. And the reality is we have the right to be sad and mourn, but there is much to rejoice in and be thankful for, even the bad times.

In December we will focus on different perspectives of characters from the birth of Christ, and what they saw in a baby in a manger. The series will be entitled "What Child is this?" We look forward to being able to gain perspective on what the people surrounding Christ at his birth thought, when he entered this world. We look forward to celebrating our savior's birth, and His life, which was sacrificed for us. We are also happy to be welcoming family home to worship with us during this holiday season.

2012 is just around the corner, and my family and I look forward to all the opportunities that God is blessing us with here at FBC. We will be active in ministry here at this place, and look forward to the blessings we will receive. And we will be quick to give God all of the glory, honor, and praise.

In him,

Pastor John

Gestures of gratitude

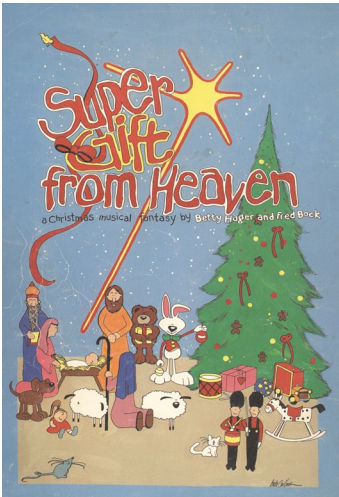
In 2005 a female humpback whale became entangled in a web of crab traps and lines just east of the Farallon island, off the San Francisco coast. Hundreds of yards of line rope were wrapped around her body, tail, torso and mouth, weighing her down so much that she struggled to stay afloat.

A fisherman spotted the whale and radioed for help. Rescuers determined that the only way to save the creature was to dive in and untangle her. This was a dangerous proposition, as one slap of the tail could be deadly.

Rescuers worked for hours with curved knives and eventually freed the whale. What she did next surprised the divers: She swam in what seemed like joyous circles, coming back to each person, one at a time, nudging them gently, in what rescuers assumed was a beautiful gesture of thanks.

May you and those you love be surrounded by people who help you get untangled from whatever is binding you and may you always know the joy of giving and receiving gratitude.





Rehearsals begin for Youth Christmas play on December 18

This year's youth Christmas play will be held on Sunday morning December 18 at 10 AM during the regular morning worship service. Plan now to step into a toy shop that "comes alive" as the toys try to decide what it is to be a gift and during the process discover that Jesus is the "Super Gift from Heaven".

Rehearsals have already begun and parts have been chosen. Parents will soon see the scripts turning up at home and you may even hear your youngster singing some of the catchy little tunes from this fun filled play.

Because its a bit more ambitious than any we've done for the past few years, we may need to be scheduling some additional rehearsals during the month of December. Additionally, lots of costuming is needed, including a size 10-12 "Easter Bunny", a Raggedy Ann, a soldier, and a clown! Of course we'll also need the traditional shepherds, Mary & Joseph, and the 3 Kings.

If you know now that your child cannot participate for some reason, it is extremely important that you notify Debbie Kershaw as soon as possible. Letters will be going home with your child soon that outline all the details including additional rehearsal times.

"Super Gift from Heaven" may be a play that some of you remember—from a long, time ago. Many of the "toys" of that performance have children of their own now! Written by Betty Hager and Fred Bock, this is a fun Christmas musical fantasy that your whole family must see...write it on your calendar now and plan to attend!



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157 W. Jackson St.
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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

