



The messenger

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November 2010

Annual Church Thanksgiving Supper Planned

This year's annual Thanksgiving Supper will be held on Sunday, November 14 at 5:30 PM in Pitman Hall. The meal will be potluck with the ABWM furnishing the meat and the drinks.

As always, this special meal is followed by a special program, and this year is no different. We will have a songfest and special entertainment following the meal. You may wish to invite friends and family to share in the fun.

The ABWM Thanksgiving dinner is also the time of the year when we offer up our annual Thank offering. The ABWM uses this special collection in part, to help fund its annual mission project for the year. In addition, much of the offering is returned to the church to be used as the congregation designates—usually for some special project. Please pray about your offering, and plan to attend the meal and program. If you are unable to attend, please send or mail your Thank offering to the church in care of the ABWM.



New home – open house planned

Rick and Linda Gerson invite you to join them for an Open House in their home at 2800 S. 13th St. in Springfield on

Sunday, November 21. Stop by anytime between 4 and 6 PM.

To get to the Gerson's new home, take I-55 to Stevenson Drive and turn right (east). Turn left on South 11th St., then go 4 blocks and turn right on to East Culver Ave., and then take the 2nd right on to South 13th St – their house will be on the left hand side.

Plan now to help welcome the Gerson's into their new home.

Pick up your beautiful scenic 2011 calendar today.

They make great Christmas gifts

and are only \$8 each. Proceeds will help fund a folding curtain for the kitchen serving window.



“By faith and obedience, by constant meditation on the holiness of God, by loving righteousness and hating iniquity, by a growing acquaintance with the Spirit of holiness, we can acclimate ourselves to the fellowship of the saints on earth and prepare ourselves for the eternal companionship of God and the saints above.”

—A.W. Tozer

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3 Supper & Kids Club 6 PM Bible Study 6:45 Choir 8 PM Tyler Burch	4	5 Allie Sharp 	
7 Communion Sunday	8	9 Carol Paisley	10 Supper & Kids Club 6 PM Business Mtg 7 PM	11 ABWM Noon meeting	12	13
14 ABWM Thank Supper 5:30 PM Janet McCready	15	16	17 Supper & Kids Club 6 PM Bible Study 6:45 Choir 8 PM Mary Payne	18 Thanksgiving Day  Tom Mullen	19	20
21 Open House at the Gerson's 4-6 PM Food Pantry	22 Travis & Sara Kershaw	23 Audrey Lomelino Gloria Smith	24 No Wednesday activities	25 Thanksgiving Day  Tom Mullen	26 Alicia Kirchner	27 "Hanging of the Greens" decorating 2 PM
28  [1ST SUNDAY @ Advent	29	30 Pulpit Committee 7 PM	1 December Supper & Kids Club 6 PM Bible Study 6:45 Choir 8 PM	2 December	3 December Danielle Burch	4 December Breakfast with Friends At Hawkins' Home 7:30-9:30

Christmas preparations

Advent, which means "coming," is the season of the church year when Christians prepare to celebrate Jesus' birth.

In anticipation of Christmas, Christians often decorate their churches and homes with symbols. Many families use special Advent calendars with "doors" to open—one per day until Christmas. Each door may suggest a Bible reading and family activity. Families may sing carols, light an Advent wreath, say a prayer or read a brief Christmas story.

Preparing for Christmas at home is a joyful tradition that draws family members closer to God and each other.

Wanda Hein has purchased, in memory of her mother, Beatrice Peterson—a new Advent candle stand. Join us on the first Sunday in Advent as we usher in the Christmas season.

"Not what we say about our blessings, but how we use them, is the true measure of our thanksgiving."

—W.T. Purkiser

First Baptist Christmas wishes

Earlier this fall, you were asked to think of items you "wish" we had at First Baptist. Some of our wish list items so far include: one or more half moon tables for the youngsters, one dozen "Hands On" Children's bibles for Wednesday night, a storage cabinet for the basement, and storage "bins"—one per child containing their very own craft supplies, a sturdy CD player, a media cart, a nice wooden coat rack for the sanctuary, a new toaster, more lightweight tables.... can you think of more?



READY TO GIVE THANKS

There seem to be times when being thankful comes as naturally as breathing. Then there are times when we are called on to be thankful and there is an embarrassing blank page that pops up on our mental screen. The “attitude of gratitude” is probably just that. It is a condition that prevails in our spirit, mind and soul and it pops to the surface with little or no effort.

A story about Robinson Crusoe has been shared by Don Emmittee. I want to share it with you. *“When Robinson Crusoe was wrecked on his lonely island, he drew up in two columns of what he called the evil and the good. He was cast on a desolate island, but he was still alive—not drowned, as his ship’s company was. He was apart from human society, but he was not starving. He had no clothes but he was in a hot climate where he did not need them. He was without means of defense, but he saw no wild beasts such as he had seen on the coast of Africa. He had no one to whom he could speak, but God had sent the ship so near to shore that he could get out of it all the things necessary for his basic wants. So he concluded that there was not any condition in the world so miserable but that one could find something for which to be grateful.”*

As we approach Thanksgiving this year this might be a good time to do the kind of list I’ve just mentioned. There have been things that weren’t good and things that were very, very good. The farmers had a wet spring and were concerned about their crops. Yet, they had a right good yield and a wonderful fall for harvest. The world has many trouble spots and wars are a reality, but those are not here in our land. Haiti and other places have been devastated by earthquakes and storms, but we have been able to send money and help and have been spared those same conditions. Jobs are scarce and many people are hurting, yet most of us have enough and to spare, and many are willing to share. Illness and accidents have touched many of us this year, but many have recovered and their healing has sometimes been remarkable. Health insurance has become very costly, but how comforting it is to know we have doctors and hospitals when we need them, and using them won’t bankrupt us. Having just concluded a bizarre and costly election season, we can still give thanks that we live in a country where the people are allowed to speak and vote, yes, and worship!

The great preacher, Henry Ward Beecher, had this to say about gratitude. *“As flowers carry dewdrops, trembling on the edges of the petals, and ready to fall at the first waft of the wind or brush of bird, so the heart should carry its beaded words of thanksgiving. At the first breath of heavenly favor, let down the shower, perfumed with the heart’s gratitude.”*

God, we give you thanks for gifts and blessings that we have noticed and enjoyed, but for which we have failed to show gratitude. Forgive us. And please also forgive our failure to even notice some of the blessings you’ve given, let alone be thankful for. May we become so sensitive to the things and people and provisions you provide, that giving thanks will truly become as natural a response as our breathing...and, yes, we thank you for the air we breathe!

P.S. God, *“O Lord, that lends me life, lend me a heart replete with thankfulness.”* (Shakespeare)

Gratefully yours, Pastor Phillips



The little things

Robert Shahan, bishop of the Episcopal diocese of Phoenix, was recovering in a hospital after heart surgery. He caught the attention of a nurse and asked her to please bring him some ice.

“I have a choice for you,” the nurse said. “You can either have a new BMW or some ice chips.”

Immediately, the bishop said, “Ice!”

The nurse replied, “Don’t ever forget that.”

Shahan says that was a good reminder of the importance of life’s little things. Now he tries to always be thankful — even for such common things as ice or a glass of water.



**Decorating
for the
Holidays**

Join us on Saturday, November 27 at 2 PM as we prepare the church sanctuary and Pitman Hall for the holidays.

Everyone is welcome to help decorate for the next morning which is first Sunday in Advent! Where did the time go?

Breakfast with friends!

Mike and Janis Hawkins invite you to join them for breakfast on Saturday morning, December 4th at their home at 80 Sugar Creek Hills from 7:30-9:30 AM.

Stop by before you begin your weekend and share breakfast with your FBC friends!

Collecting supplies for missions

“In His Service–Jesus is Lord” is a missionary team of doctors, nurses, contractors and more who travel to Rwanda each year to minister to the poor. They operate out of Jacksonville. Our ABWM recently heard them speak at their fall rally and have taken up their cause.

The ladies have placed some suitcases on the table in Pitman Hall. They are asking that you help fill those suitcases with all kinds of things! You can find a complete list on the table at the back of the sanctuary. Toothpaste, soaps, deodorants, diapers, tape, bed sheets, towels, trash bags, pens, Kool-aid, and dozens of other items too numerous to list are included. The suitcase itself is used as a bed for newborns!! Please help the ladies as they work toward filling the suitcases for this very worthy mission project.

Don't forget to buy your pecans for all your holiday baking— \$10 per one pound bag! See any Koinonia class member!



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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

