

## Called Church Meeting

This Sunday, December 4, **10:40 a.m.**

Nominating Committee will present the following nominees for the Pastor Search Committee for church approval:

*Ruby Coffey*

*Pat Herrell* (Board of Trustees)

*Nathan Hopper* (Board of Deacons)

*Tim McBride*

*Eleanor O'Neill*

*Richard Poindexter, Chair* (Board of Christian Ed)

*Dot Taylor* (Board of Missions)

## Missions-First

The Board of Missions encourages you to be involved in the mission endeavors of First Baptist. Each week a list of current endeavors is published in the newsletter. Take a moment to check the list and decide where you would like to help.

- **The Loose Change Offering** for December will benefit the Union County Community Shelter.
- **School Uniform Closet** - First Baptist provides school uniforms for children in need in Union County Schools. Especially needed: navy blue collared shirts in M, L, XL and khaki pants (girls and boys) in sizes 6-14. Contact Glenda Poindexter to help.
- **Food Paks 4 Kids ministry** provides food-filled backpacks on weekends for children at Rock Rest Elementary. A list of needed food items can be found on the church website. Please place donations in the Gathering Area. Contact Carol Tyson to help. **Supplies are low. Please contribute food items as you are able.**
- **Loaves & Fishes** is requesting contributions of 5-pound bags of flour, sugar and cake mixes for December. Please place donations in the marked container in the Gathering Area.
- **Red Cross Blood Drive** - co-sponsored by our church and Benton Heights Lions Club. The next date for the Blood Drive is Friday, December 16, 2:30-7:00 p.m. in the old Fellowship Hall.

**THANKS FOR HELPING!**

## Christmas Service for the Bereaved

Sunday, December 11, 3:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary

Refreshments served in the Multipurpose Room following the service

If you know of people who could benefit from this community-wide service, please extend them an invitation

Co-sponsored by Gordon Funeral Home

## Children's Christmas Pageant

Wednesday, December 14, 6:45 p.m.  
in the Sanctuary

presented by the Weekday Preschool children and preschool, children and youth of First Baptist

Join us for carols, scripture & singing

## 2012 Flower Calendar

posted on wall outside of Church Office

To schedule a Sunday,

fill in the information on the calendar

Please make payment in the church office at least one week before your chosen Sunday

# Church Calendar

## Sunday, December 4

- 8:00 AM Board of Deacons
- 9:30 AM Bible Fellowship
- 10:30 AM Child Care
- 10:40 AM **CALLED CHURCH MEETING - SANCTUARY**
- 10:45 AM Service of Worship
- 12:00 PM College Class Lunch/Bible Study
- 5:00 PM Youth Pageant Rehearsal
- 7:00 PM Chancel Ringers

## Monday, December 5

- 10:30 AM Song Service at Brian Center
- 6:00 PM Faith & Fitness Group, Church Parking Lot
- 6:30 PM TOPS
- 7:00 PM Board of Christian Education  
Board of Missions

## Tuesday, December 6

- 9:30 AM Blanket Workshop - Multipurpose Room
- 6:00 PM Pastor Search Committee
- 6:30 PM Board of Trustees

## Wednesday, December 7

- 5:30 PM Fellowship Meal  
*Buffet: meatloaf, creamed potatoes, corn,  
green beans, bread, dessert*
- 6:15 PM Child Care  
Children's Music  
Lynda Looney's Report on Haiti Mission Trip
- 7:15 PM Chancel Choir

## Friday, December 9

- 5:00 PM Young-at-Heart Trip to Concord - Dinner/Play

## By the Numbers ...

### Sunday, November 27, 2011

Bible Fellowship Attendance.....	87
Worship Attendance.....	117
Weekly Budget Requirements.....	\$ 9,853
Weekly Budget Receipts .....	\$ 8,187
Budget Receipts to Date.....	\$110,912
Expenses to Date.....	\$114,091

## Young-at-Heart Trip to Concord for Dinner & a Play

Friday, December 9

leave from the church at 5:00 p.m.  
(need a few volunteers to drive — contact the church office)

have dinner at K & W Cafeteria

see "A Broadway Christmas Carol" at  
Old Courthouse Theater



## Children's Party

for grades 1-5

Saturday, December 3, 5:30-8:00 p.m.  
Multipurpose Room

**pizza - games - crafts, etc.**

**FRIENDS ARE WELCOME!**

For reservations, call/email the church office



*"The CBF Offering for Global Missions  
brings us together to become part of  
God's mission"*

The offering will be received during December  
Envelopes are provided in your  
December envelope packet

## Blanket Workshop ...

The Crafters on Mission invite you to help with a blanket workshop (experience not needed!) on Tuesday, December 6 at 9:30 in the Multipurpose Room. The blankets will be given to United Family Services.

**Bring finger foods for snacks and lunch** and join with others for this special mission project.

## Pastoral Care Emergencies

Minister on Call December 3-10

**Paul Sims — 704-219-1440**



# The Worship of God

December 4 - 10:45 am

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

## Anthem by the Chancel Choir

*"Climb to the Top of the Highest Mountain" by Carolyn Jennings*

## Sermon by Gene Derryberry

*"Some Things Are Hard to Hear"*

Scripture: Isaiah 40:1-5; Psalm 85; Luke 1:26-38  
Matthew 1:18-25

*Audio CDs of our worship services are available in the church office.  
Audio recordings of sermons are available at*

## Committees

### **Bible Fellowship Greeters:**

Joy Agape Class

### **Church Office Volunteer:**

Martha Parris

### **Security:**

Gathering Area –Ken Handy

Narthe-R. V. Lee

### **Ushers:**

R. V. Lee, Ann Wild, Aileen Sowder,

Nancy Thomas, Frances Vaughan

### **Offertory:**

Joe Litaker, Vickie and Larry Tuggle,

Lynda Looney

### **Preschool Extended Session:**

Robin Haas, Eleanor O'Neill

### **Money Counters:**

Frances Vaughan, Ray Sowder

### **Wednesday Night Helpers (December 7):**

Diane Whitley, Annette Kilby, Pat Turner,

Ken Thomas

## New Media Center ...



Nathan Hopper is the first patron of our new Media Center in Room 307. The room was unveiled at our Open House on November 27. Visit the Media Center each Sunday morning before Bible Fellowship and check out a book. Children's Worship and Media items are now housed in the old Media Center. Come and join us in these exciting new spaces.

## FBC

### Mission Minded Youth

#### December 2

Work at OCC Warehouse

#### December 4

Pageant Rehearsal

#### December 7

Pageant Rehearsal

#### December 10

Habitat for Humanity Recycling Center

## Operation Christmas Child ...

On Sunday, November 27, members of our Mission Minded Youth Group used the items you donated to fill **55 shoe boxes** for Operation Christmas Child. Thank you for making this possible with



your donations. Boxes will be delivered to the Charlotte Processing Center on December 2 when the youth go there to volunteer for a shift with the Union Baptist Association.

## First Baptist Family

*Please remember the following in prayer:*

Lois Jones

Ed Varney

Martha Barrett, sister of Jane Austin

Wert Carte, friend of Denise Hopper

Gavin Jones, great-nephew of Richard and

Emily Massey

John Kilby, father of Alvin Kilby

Gordon Springs

Deb Stein

Alvin Robinson, father of Annette Kilby

Carol Brooks, mother of Pam Caskey

Ritch Hothem, cousin of Don Haver

### **SYMPATHY**

To the family of Arleigh Gaskins in her death

## **PEACE — An Advent Devotion**

As we prepare our hearts, home, and church for the season of Advent, let us take a closer look at the Hebrew word “*shalom*” and explore what it means for us. Most people recognize the definition of the term shalom to mean peace and that it can be used as a greeting and farewell word. But shalom can also mean wholeness, health, tranquility, rest, and safety. It implies a completeness leading toward a state of perfection and fullness. It can also lend itself to mean to be friendly or to reciprocate.

The writer, Cornelius Plantings described the Old Testament concept of shalom as “the webbing together of God, humans, and all creation in justice, fulfillment, and delight in what the Hebrew prophets call shalom. We call it peace but it means far more than mere peace of mind or cease-fire between enemies. In the Bible, shalom means universal flourishing, wholeness and delight — a rich state of affairs in which natural needs are satisfied and natural gifts fruitfully employed, a state of affairs that inspires joyful wonder as its Creator and Savior opens doors and welcomes the creatures in whom he delights. Shalom, in other words, is the way things ought to be.”

Therefore, during our season of Advent, let us seek ways to bring shalom into our hearts and our homes and our church. Let us discover and employ ways to make things “the way things ought to be.”

Shalom Aleichem. In the Gospels, Jesus often uses this greeting and is interpreted as “Peace be unto you.”

**Prayer** — *Dearly Heavenly and Gracious Father, please open our hearts and our minds to the peace that you want us to know and feel. Educate us as to how to spread this feeling of completeness and tranquility you want for us. Help us to become carriers of this peace to our families, friends, and neighbors. Oseh shalom. In Jesus Christ’s name we pray, Amen.*

— Tim McBride

**Fall Bazaar Update**  
 Raised \$5,413 during Bazaar  
 Received donation of \$587 from Crafters on Mission  
**Total given to Crisis Assistance — \$6,000**

**Blood Drive**  
 Friday, December 16  
 2:30 - 7:00 p.m., old Fellowship Hall  
**Sponsored by FBC & Benton Heights Lions Club**

**Steeple Views First Baptist Church • 109 Morrow Avenue • Monroe • NC 28112 • 704.283.8534**  
*“Free and faithful Baptists ministering in the heart of Union County since 1852”*

Web-site..... [www.monroefirstbaptist.org](http://www.monroefirstbaptist.org)  
 Gene Derryberry, Intentional Interim Pastor ..... [gene.derryberry@monroefirstbaptist.org](mailto:gene.derryberry@monroefirstbaptist.org)  
 Paul M. Sims, Associate Minister ..... [paul.sims@monroefirstbaptist.org](mailto:paul.sims@monroefirstbaptist.org)  
 Sara Spahr Stubbs, Associate Minister..... [sara.stubbs@monroefirstbaptist.org](mailto:sara.stubbs@monroefirstbaptist.org)  
 Timothy D. Belflowers, Organist..... [belflowers@aol.com](mailto:belflowers@aol.com)  
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 Carlie Spainhour, Christian Education Intern ..... [carlie.spainhour@monroefirstbaptist.org](mailto:carlie.spainhour@monroefirstbaptist.org)  
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 Kathy Cole, Ministry Coordinator ..... [kathy.cole@monroefirstbaptist.org](mailto:kathy.cole@monroefirstbaptist.org)  
 Elizabeth Mshar, Weekday Preschool Director..... [liz.mshar@monroefirstbaptist.org](mailto:liz.mshar@monroefirstbaptist.org)

**MISSION STATEMENT OF FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH:** *The First Baptist Church of Monroe exists to glorify God. We desire to be led by the Holy Spirit into the community and the world in order to share the glory and grace of God through Jesus Christ. We are an open fellowship of free and faithful Christians, committed to a journey characterized by serious study, intentional worship, loving and compassionate fellowship and hands-on ministry.*

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**RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**



December 1, 2011

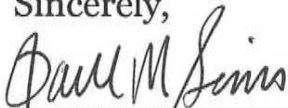
TO THE CONGREGATION OF FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH:

Several months ago, I entered into conversation with the First Baptist Church of Corbin, Kentucky about the possibility of my returning there to serve on their ministerial staff. After thought and prayer, I have accepted their offer to become their Minister of Music and Worship. Therefore, I submit my resignation as your Associate Minister, effective January 31, 2012.

I have been proud to serve as your Associate Minister for the last twelve years. I am appreciative of the support you have shown me and I am grateful for the good things we have accomplished together.

Please know of my love and prayers for you as you seek God's leading and as you continue to discern your unique ministry in this community.

Sincerely,

  
Paul M. Sims