

Bridge Builders Newsletter

First Baptist Church of Macomb
136 W. Carroll
Macomb IL. 61455

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First Baptist Church of Macomb
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December 2006
Issue 378



Join Us For Worship
Sunday Morning Service
9:30 a.m.
Saturday Worship
5:00 p.m.

Vision and Purpose Statement:

To encourage and empower changes within ourselves,
to meet the needs of the congregation, community and the world.

Phil. 4:13, James 2:26

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2006 Daily Bible Reading Guide for December

12/1	Daniel 9-10	Revelation 2	12/16	Jonah 3-4	
12/2	Daniel 11-12		12/17	Micah 1-3	
12/3	Hosea 1-4		12/18	Micah 4-5	Revelation 13
12/4	Hosea 5-6	Revelation 3	12/19	Micah 6-7	Revelation 14
12/5	Hosea 7-8	Revelation 4	12/20	Nahum 1-3	Revelation 15
12/6	Hosea 9-10	Revelation 5	12/21	Habakkuk 1-3	Revelation 16
12/7	Hosea 11-12	Revelation 6	12/22	Zephaniah 1-3	Revelation 17
12/8	Hosea 13-14	Revelation 7	12/23	Haggai 1-2	
12/9	Joel 1-3		12/24	Zechariah 1-4	
12/10	Amos 1-3		12/25	Zechariah 5-6	Revelation 18
12/11	Amos 4-5	Revelation 8	12/26	Zechariah 7-8	Revelation 19
12/12	Amos 6-7	Revelation 9	12/27	Zechariah 9-10	Revelation 20
12/13	Amos 9-10	Revelation 10	12/28	Zechariah 11-12	Revelation 21
12/14	Obadiah 1	Revelation 11	12/29	Zechariah 13-14	Revelation 22
12/15	Jonah 1-2	Revelation 12	12/30	Malachi 1-2	
			12/31	Malachi 3-4	

Journey to Bethlehem

As we Journey to Bethlehem I want us to realize that it is good to be children sometimes and never a better time than at Christmas when the mighty founder was a child himself. And the Angel came to her and said "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." Luke 1:28 NRSV

A story is told about an American soldier who was on a tour of duty in Vietnam. It was Christmas and he whistled a Christmas carol as he strolled down the street. He was moved by the scores of children he saw. Dirty and hungry many of the little ones in the war-torn country had little to rejoice over. One tiny little girl shyly smiled as the soldier walked by. Her dress was ragged, her feet were bare, and her enormous brown eyes showed more sorrow and hardship than most adults have seen. He stopped and knelt in front of the little girl. He pulled a stick of chewing gum out of his pocket and held it out to her. Her eyes welled up with tears and she turned away. Worried he had frightened or offended her in some way, he started to put the gum back in his pocket. But the little girl reached out and took it from his hand. She then pointed to her eyes and spoke to him in broken English, "Happy tears, Mr. American, happy tears."

As you journey with me to Bethlehem may we open our hearts and minds to what God is trying to teach us this Christmas Season. May we create an atmosphere in our lives that we are always reaching out and giving to others. May our tears be happy with the realization of what God had done for us. May our tears be happy as we spend our time with those we love. May our tears be happy as we find the Christ of Christmas

Annetta and I would like to wish all of you a Merry Christmas and we are looking forward to Journeying with you to Bethlehem.

— Pastor Wally





Musing on Missions
by Meryl Cook

A change in the Campbell Soup Label Savers has come to our attention. The Campbell Company will no longer be accepting the front panels. They now want only the UPC from the label. This includes the kid holding the pencil and the words "Labels for Education".

Many schools and Christian Centers use these to exchange for needed items. Our ABWM continues to collect this part of the wrapper.

A Love Offering will be taken in our church for Alan and Whitney Brown, missionaries in Greece. Whitney was a member of First Baptist and lived in Macomb until she entered Wheaton College. Be sure to indicate on the envelope that it is for the Browns.

Rev. George Rosales was elected president of Great Rivers Region at the 39th Annual Meeting held October 6-8 in Chesterfield, MO. Rev. Rosales has served as pastor of FBC in Greenfield since 1998. Greenfield moved to a new facility this past summer. Several from our church helped with the construction of the new building, which is located north of town.

George was an electrical engineer

in his native country of Bolivia when he felt called to the ministry. He graduated from Northern Baptist Theological Seminary and pastored a church in Elgin before coming to Greenfield.

The Board of International Ministries has decided not to have a National World Mission Conference at Green Lake in 2007. In response to demands, there will be a Global Mission Gathering: Living Stones for Mission (1 Peter:2) August 4-9. This will be a low tech/high touch conference where conferees will have numerous opportunities to interact with our BIM missionaries. It will also provide practical hands on intensive workshops, designed to train and equip conferees for possible service overseas. The keynote speaker will be Dr. Dan Fountain, who served as a Medical Missionary to the Congo for 35 years. Dan is the author of numerous books on community health including "God, Medicine and Miracles". 21 missionaries from around the world plan to be workshop leaders.

The Edna Martin Christian Center in Indianapolis, IN has completed an extreme makeover in their building. A partial list includes new heating & air conditioning, new plumbing fixtures, new roof, paint, handicap accessibility, playground equipment, lighting and doors.

An open house to celebrate was held November 1.

The theme was "Rebuilding Our Building, So We Can Better Rebuild Lives".

Larry Lindley is Executive Director. Until recently, Larry was one of our Special Interest National Missionaries.

International Missionaries, Ketly and Vital Pierre write of their ministry in Bluefields, Nicaragua. They have recently gotten a transformer that brings electricity to their church. The concrete road to Bethel Baptist Church should be completed by the middle of December. This connects Bluefields on the east coast to Managua, the capitol. Currently, final touches are being added to the dormitory that will be used to house children whose parents are out of the country working on cruise ships.

Many work groups have come from the US to labor on this building. Three families have been added to the church as a result of Christians working on the construction.

Bethel is planning a soccer tournament in November. The goal of this tournament is evangelism. It will provide a unique opportunity to reach individuals who would not normally come to an event in the church.

Matt & Lori Mann are missionaries from Laos, but are on home assignment. Matt had to return for 10 days to visit staff and program. They have a center for street children and have enrolled 35 of the poorest children in school using STEP funds (Student Education Funds).

The house mother was proud to show Matt the 100 frogs she is raising in the backyard of HOPE Home. If all goes well they will eat some at the Home as well as provide extra income by selling them at the market.

December 27-31, Urbana 06 Inter- varsity will meet in St. Louis, MO. It is the 21st Student Mission Convention. Over 25,000 people will gather to worship God and learn about God's love for people of every tribe, nation, and language, and how each can be a part of His global mission. Several students from Western plan to attend.

The Ministers and Missionaries Offering will be collected during December. This is a thank you gift for some 3000 retired ministers and missionaries, who have served 15 years or more. Part of the offering is used for emergency care when necessary. Our goal is \$2700.

Total received for the World Mission Offering in October was \$3313.69. Thank You!

Birthdays:

Dec. 2 Ann Clemmer IM Congo
Dec 3 Kari Davidson IM Japan
Dec 18 Debbie Coats IM Cambodia

Bible Book for December is Job



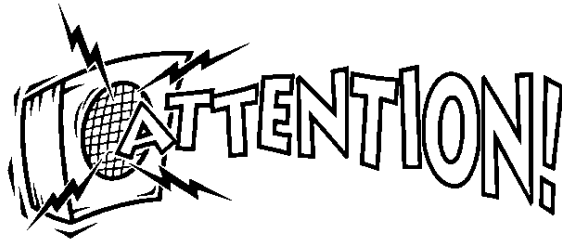
BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

December

- 2 - **John & Margaret Shaver (a)**
- 7 - Eva Osborn
- 10 - Matt Runyan
- 11 - **Ron & Marilyn Smith (a)**
- 12 - Mary Hainline
- 25 - Brooks Wallace
- 26 - **Craig & Julia Burns (a)**
- 29 - Luke Johnson

January

- 1 - Jerry McKamy
- 2 - Jim Harman
- 7 - Caleb Carper
- 9 - Mikaylia Oppel



The January 2007 newsletter will not be mailed until the first week in January due to the December holidays.

Advent is here

December 3 is the First Sunday of Advent. It is the day when the church officially begins to prepare for Christmas. Advent means “coming,” therefore, we make ready for the coming of the Lord.

Where should we begin? With ourselves, of course. We should prepare our hearts for Christ to live in them fully. Get rid of the clutter within — the odds and ends of foolish thoughts and familiar sins we find difficult to “let go and let God handle.” Advent is heart-cleaning time, so call in the Holy Spirit Cleaning Service, and make room for the best Guest anyone ever had. Start now! Let the Spirit “Cast out our sin and enter in. Be born in us today” (from “O Little Town of Bethlehem”).

The cleaning service has a guarantee: “When our ‘Worker’ finishes with your heart, you’ll have the best Christmas ever!”

Merry Christmas



What is Christmas?

Christmas is belief in the past, courage for the present and hope for the future. It is a fervent wish that every cup may overflow with blessings rich and eternal, and that every path may lead to peace.



Sunday, December 24
5:30 p.m.
&
7:30 p.m.

*Let's Go to Bethlehem and
Find the Christ of Christmas*
Luke 2:1-14

What it means

“What means this glory round our feet,”
The Magi mused, “more bright than morn!”
And voices chanted clear and sweet,
“Today the Prince of Peace is born!”

“What means this star,” the shepherds
said,
“That brightens through the rocky glen?”
And angels answering overhead,
Sang “Peace on Earth, good will to men!”



—James Russell Lowell,
Christmas Carol

REMEMBER with **LOVE**
GIVE with **GRATITUDE**

Dear Friends,
When Hurricane Katrina devastated the Gulf Coast in August 2005, the Rev. Thom Black, age 80, and his wife Doris, 75, lost their home in Slidell, Louisiana. All that remained were a few things—documents, medi-

cations, photographs, a few clothes and Thom's motorized scooter and walker—they had packed in their station wagon before escaping to their son's home in Foxworth, Mississippi.

“When we left, we thought we would be back in a few days, little realizing we would not see our home again,” the couple wrote in their Christmas letter to family and friends. “Katrina was very unkind to us.”

Thom, along with more than 3,000 retired American Baptist ministers, missionaries and widowed spouses, received a Thank You check in the fall of 2005. His check went to a new address in Ohio, where the Blacks had relocated to be near their three daughters. Thom and Doris sent the following note to American Baptist congregations:

“We received our Thank You check with gratitude following our great loss. Any gift we received was a blessing to us. We appreciate everyone who gives to this offering every year—it helps and blesses in many different ways.”

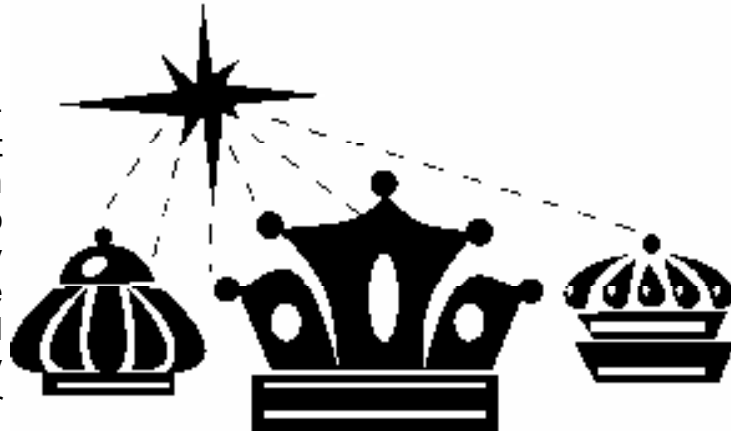
Thank You checks, as well as emergency financial assistance, are made possible by the contributions of American Baptist congregations to the annual Retired Ministers and Missionaries Offering (RMMO).

The RMMO materials call us to Remember with Love, Give with Gratitude. I invite you to join me in making a generous contribution to the RMMO offering when it is taken this month. Our goal is \$2700.00.

May God richly bless you as you give to this offering.
Pastor Wally

Bible quiz

According to Matthew's gospel, King Herod heard that wise men (astrologers) from an eastern land had come to Jerusalem to honor one they believed was "born king of the Jews." Herod was frightened because he did not want any competition for his position or his power.



Herod told the wise men to return when they found the new king, and tell him where he could go to pay homage himself. Of course, Herod had murder on his mind.

The wise men found the child, but what did they do afterward?

- A. They immediately returned and told Herod where to find the child.
- B. They returned to their own country by another road (or way).
- C. They stayed in Bethlehem until Herod died.
- D. They returned to Herod, but gave him misinformation.

The answer can be found in Matthew 2:12.

Answer: B. They returned to their own country by another road (or way).



There will be no Men's Ministry meetings in December. The next meeting will be Saturday, January 6 here at FBC.

★ Thank You! ★ THANK YOU! ★

Kids Hope United would like to thank First Baptist Church for the monthly monetary donation. Each monthly donation helps them continue protecting children and strengthening families in our communities.

With warmest regards and fellowship,
Patricia Griffith, Executive Director

Kodiak Baptist Mission wishes to thank First Baptist Church for the quarterly monetary donation. This helps us to continue reaching out to the poor, needy, and lost of this generation with the love of Christ. Without your faithful support we could not accomplish what we have thus far.

The summer day camp program has brought in a large number of children who would otherwise not be supervised during the time their parents are working.

May God bless you and your families as you have blessed others.

In Christ,
Trevor Jones, Executive Director

Dear Congregation of FBC,

I want to send a note of thanks to all of you for your prayers. The Lord certainly answers our prayers.

The echo I had several months ago showed a mass in the left side of my heart. When they went down to take a picture of the mass before they could operate—the mass was not there! Only diagnosed as a shadow. Nothing further to be done...what a blessing I had this Thanksgiving. Prayers were answered and thanks to all of you.

Love,
Bonnie Moore



Operation Christmas Child was a huge success! 193 boxes were filled and mailed! Thanks to all of you who prayed, contributed money, and/or filled boxes! The boxes will make so many poor children happy.

— Debbie Derry and Maureen Hamilton



There will be a luncheon for Leann England at the Old Dairy at noon on Thursday, December 7. Leann is our church secretary and will be getting married December 16. Please let Maureen Hamilton or Annetta Holt know if you are able to attend.

Please make sure that your materials for the Annual Report are in to the church office no later than Friday, December 29.





Friday, December 1
6:00 p.m.—8:00 p.m.

Saturday, December 2
6:00 p.m.—8:00 p.m.

Free Hot Chocolate
Christmas Carols played live from
our pipe organ may be heard
through our bell tower or come in-
side and listen



Special Couple's Party for Special First Babies

January 7, 2007
4:30—6:30 at FBC

2007, 4:30—6:30 p.m at the church. Hors d'oeuvres will be served. Everyone is encouraged to come, wish them God's best and visit with each other. The Glaue baby is a boy and is due late January and the Mangalaraj baby's sex is not known at the time of this writing and is due late February.

A Christmas Prayer

Dear Lord,

You have brought us to Christmastime once more. May we not relish the glitz, and miss the glory of your incarnation. May we not focus so much on the parties and the presents, the decorations and the allure of the creations of humans, but instead think of Christ who bore the imprint of your very being and who carried with intensity and complete dedication your message of love and hope for us all.

In the glorious name of Christ, we pray. Amen

THEME: A Journey to Bethlehem

2	Saturday	5:00 p.m.	Contemporary Worship Guest Speaker: Tim Ballard
3	Sunday	9:30 a.m.	First Sunday of Advent Guest Speaker: Dr. Richard Ricks
9	Saturday	5:00 p.m.	Contemporary Worship <i>Let's Go to Bethlehem and Find the Faith of Christmas</i> Luke 2:15-21
10	Sunday	9:30 a.m.	Second Sunday of Advent <i>Let's Go to Bethlehem and Find the Faith of Christmas</i> Luke 2:15-21
16	Saturday	5:00 p.m.	Contemporary Worship <i>Let's Go to Bethlehem and Find the Promise of Christmas</i> Matthew 1:18
17	Sunday	9:30 a.m.	Third Sunday of Advent <i>Let's Go to Bethlehem and Find the Promise of Christmas</i> Matthew 1:18
23	Saturday	5:30 p.m.	Contemporary Worship <i>Let's Go to Bethlehem and Find the Peace of Christmas</i> Luke 2:8-20
24	Sunday	9:30 a.m.	Fourth Sunday of Advent <i>Let's Go to Bethlehem and Find the Peace of Christmas</i> Luke 2:8-20
24	Sunday	Christmas Eve 5:30 p.m. & 7:30 p.m.	<i>Let's Go to Bethlehem and Find the Christ of Christmas</i> Luke 2:1-14
30	Saturday	5:00 p.m.	Contemporary Worship <i>A Year of Maturing</i> Hebrews 5
31	Sunday	9:30 a.m.	<i>A Year of Maturing</i> Hebrews 5

3, 10, 17, 24, 31	Sunday	10:45 a.m.	Sunday School
3, 10, 17	Sunday	3:00 p.m.	Small Group Studies
3, 10, 17, 31	Sunday	4:00 p.m.	Youth Group Meets
4, 11, 18	Monday	7:00 a.m.	Breakfast at the Old Dairy
6, 13	Wednesday	3:00 p.m.	Adult Small Group Study
		5:30 p.m.	Light Meal
		6:30 p.m.	Adult Small Group Studies <i>Veggie Connections</i>
7, 14, 21, 28	Thursday	6:30 p.m.	Sunday Praise Team Practice
1	Friday	6:00 p.m.—8:00 p.m.	Live Nativity at FBC
2	Saturday	9:00 a.m.	Creative Arts Ministry Team Meeting at Annetta Holt's home
		6:00 p.m.—8:00 p.m.	Live Nativity at FBC
5	Tuesday	1:30 p.m.	ABW Ministries Meeting Hostess: Lura Mason, Meet at Jefferson House
		6:30 p.m.	United in Prayer
7	Thursday	12:00 p.m.	Luncheon at the Old Dairy for Leann England
12	Tuesday	6:30 p.m.	Boards Meet
25	Monday		Christmas Day—Church office closed
31	Sunday		New Year's Eve

“Peace on Earth” Ornament

Make this Earth ornament as a reminder to pray for the peace Jesus will bring when he returns.

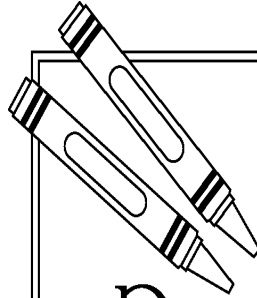
What you will need:

1. Clear glass ornament
2. Blue and green acrylic craft paint
3. Sponge
4. Scissors
5. Black permanent marker (Sharpie) or black puffy craft paint
6. Paper plate
7. Glitter (optional)



What you need to do:

1. Cut the sponge into 2 rectangles, about the size of your tallest finger.
2. Pour a little paint onto a plate. (Add glitter if you want your ornament to sparkle.)
3. Use one sponge for blue and one for green.
4. Dab the paint onto your glass ornament one color at a time. Use green for land and blue for ocean to make the ornament look like our planet Earth.
5. When the paint is dry, use the marker or puffy paint to write PEACE on the ornament.
6. Use your ornament as a Christmas decoration or give it as a present.



Just for KIDS

Peace on Earth

Do you remember what King Herod did when he heard about the birth of Jesus? He was so troubled that he issued a decree ordering the death of all male children younger than 2 years old. Jesus was not born in a time of peace, but we can look forward to His return and believe what the heavenly host proclaimed.

Follow the maze through the verse.

START

And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying, “Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.” Luke 2:13-14, KJV

FINISH