

Bridge Builders Newsletter

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

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•
• December 2010 •
• Issue 424 •
• Published Monthly •
• • • • •



Join Us For
Sunday Worship
9:30 a.m.
&
Sunday School
10:45 a.m.

Vision and Purpose

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

Philippians 4:13, James 2:26

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2010 Daily Bible Reading Guide for December

12/1	Esther 9,10	12/11	Job 13	12/21	Job 28
12/2	Job 1,2	12/12	Job 14	12/22	Job 29,30
12/3	Job 3,4	12/13	Job 15	12/23	Job 31,32
12/4	Job 5	12/14	Job 16,17	12/24	Job 33
12/5	Job 6,7	12/15	Job 18,19	12/25	Job 34
12/6	Job 8	12/16	Job 20	12/26	Job 25,26
12/7	Job 9	12/17	Job 21	12/27	Job 37
12/8	Job 10	12/18	Job 22	12/28	Job 38
12/9	Job 11	12/19	Job 23,24	12/29	Job 39
12/10	Job 12	12/20	Job 25-27	12/30	Job 40
				12/31	Job 41,42



from *humbug* to hallelujah!

Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship

*Celebrate a Christmas
of Miracle Transformations*

Friday, December 24

5:30 p.m. Worship with Family Focus

7:30 p.m. Worship with Communion

First Baptist Church of Macomb
136 West Carroll
(corner of McArthur & Carroll)



IMPORTANT INFORMATION About our Newsletter

To become more cost effective, beginning January 1, 2011, we will discontinue the bulk mailing of the newsletter. However, we will continue to publish our monthly newsletter.

Please select one of the following options so that you can continue to get the latest FBC news

- † You may have the newsletter emailed to you.
Send your email address to FBCsecretary@macomb.com.
- † You may read an electronic version of the newsletter on our church website
Go to www.fbcmacomb.com and select "Newsletters".
- † You can pick up a copy on the table by the church office or in the back of the Sanctuary.

If you *do not* regularly attend our worship and do not have email, you can have a copy mailed directly to you. Please contact Leann at 309.833.2479 or FBCsecretary@macomb.com to do so.

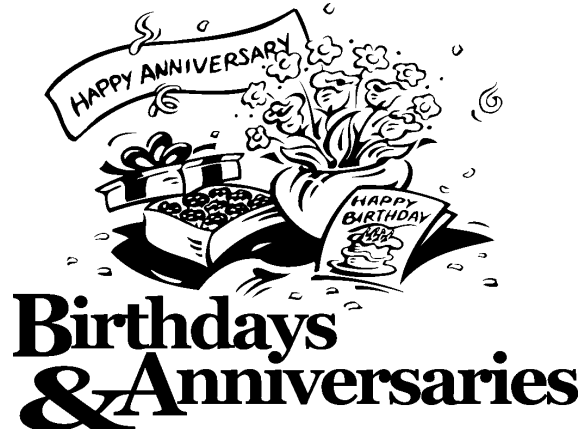
Honoring Jesus in Your Heart All Year Long

Incredibly, George Frideric Handel composed his most famous composition, *Messiah*, in just three weeks. The lyrics are truly inspiring, and the reason is that they are *inspired*. All the words in Handel's *Messiah* are straight from the Bible.

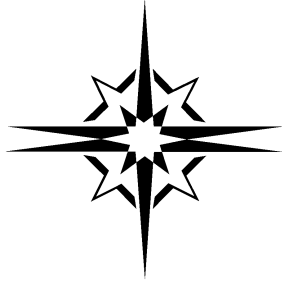
Today, no Christmas season seems complete without a rendition of *Messiah*. But did you know that this oratorio was first performed in April for Easter? That's because *Messiah* doesn't end with the birth of Christ; it continues to his death and resurrection. The message of the manger is part of the seamless story of salvation, which includes the Cross and the empty tomb. Cherish that truth this year. Don't let your journey from *Humbly* to *Hallelujah!* come to an end. Keep the wonder of God's Christmas gift foremost in your mind and honor him in your heart all year.

I do look forward to traveling through the wonderful Advent season with you.

Pastor Wally



7	-	Eva Osborn	22	-	Lou Melvin Mantobaye
11	-	Ron & Marilyn Smith (a)	25	-	Brooks Wallace
12	-	Elizabeth Dietrich Mary Hainline	29	-	Luke Johnson George & Johnsy Mangalaraj (a)
16	-	Allen & Leann Walters (a)	January		
19	-	Jim Richardson	1	-	Jerry McKamy
20	-	Tina Lankford	2	-	Jim Harman
			7	-	Caleb Carper



A Song With A Message

According to modern folklore, the song "The 12 Days of Christmas" was written to help young believers learn about their faith.

Although no evidence proves that claim, some say the popular carol contains these codes:

The partridge in a pear tree is Jesus Christ.

Two turtle doves are the Old and New Testaments.

Three French hens stand for faith, hope and love.

The four calling birds are the four gospels: Matthew, Mark, Luke and John.

The five golden rings are the Law: the first five books of the Old Testament.

The six geese a-laying represent the six days of creation.

Seven swans a-swimming represent the gifts of the Holy Spirit: prophesy, serving, teaching, exhortation, contribution, leadership and mercy.

The eight maids a-milking are Jesus' eight beatitudes.

Nine ladies dancing are the fruits of the Holy Spirit: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control.

The 10 lords a-leaping are the Ten Commandments.

The 11 pipers piping stand for the 11 faithful disciples.

The 12 drummers drumming symbolize the 12 statements of belief in the Apostles' Creed.



MISSIONS CORNER

By Meryl Cook

Former Baptist International Missionaries, John and Debbie Coats came to Macomb October 25 and met at Aurelios with several members of

the Blandinsville and Macomb Baptist Churches. Pastor Dean Reeverts made the arrangements. They showed pictures and talked of their work in Cambodia. They also had mounted specimens of several insects common in Cambodia.

For several months they have lived with Debbie's parents in Pennsylvania as she recovered from an illness. However, the family expect to return to Cambodia the last of December under the sponsorship of Eastern Mennonite Missions. They will live in the capitol of Phnom Penh and continue ministering to those in poor health while building the church. Their boys, Micah and Jesse, are both teenagers and will return with them.

Cambodia has a population of about 14,000,000 of which 95% are Buddhists.

The World Mission Offering was collected during October and totaled \$1234.90.

202 boxes were filled for Operation Christmas Child on November 13. Debbie Derry and Maureen Hamilton have worked all year to collect "bargains" and organized the project. Thanks to all for helping in these special projects.

The approach of the Christmas season is a time when routines change. The word "holiday" has its origin in "holy day" and means set apart or different from ordinary days. Christmas, however, is more than a day: it is a season. The

season before Christmas is called "advent". This is a religious term meaning preparation for a special holy day.

Everywhere the symbols of Christmas appear.

The wreath is a circular object used as a decoration throughout the Christmas season. When Jesus was crucified, a crown of thorns was placed upon His head because He was called the "King of Jews". The unique feature of the wreath is that it is a circle which symbolizes eternity. It has no beginning or end. It reminds us that we are celebrating a life that will influence us and our world forever.

The evergreen is a symbol that points to its meaning "ever-green". Not only does it point to eternity and everlasting life, its very color symbolizes life.

The holly comes to us from medieval days when people were afraid of anything they could not understand. Since it stayed green all winter, people assumed it had special powers to withstand the forces of winter. The "ever-green" quality is a reminder of everlasting life. We might add that ongoing life should be a life of quality, not just quantity. The rich dark green of the holly represents hope. Life also has its hardships. The sharp points on the holly leaf symbolizes the hardships and suffering that life contains.

One of the major symbols of Christmas is light. This speaks to the abundant life Jesus offers us. Colored lights remind us of the variety of wonderful things we have in a lifetime.

The candle was invented to give light. If it did not give light, it would not exist. When burning it continues until it is consumed. In the same way, Jesus came to give His life. Electric candles in windows are symbols of light to guide loved ones home.

Candy canes look like a shepherd's staff. This staff or cane was a stabilizing tool for the shepherd as he walked. It was also a tool to rescue lambs that fell in dangerous crevices. The candy cane reminds us that Jesus, the Good Shepherd, cares for us.

Gift giving at Christmas stems from the story of the wise men who brought gifts to the Christ Child. It is one way to show that we have learned to share the love of Jesus with others.

Many Christmas trees are topped with an angel. The Biblical account of Jesus' birth indicate a massive invasion of angels. The term "angel" means messenger. Therefore, the angel becomes an important symbol for the whole experience of Christmas.

It is not unusual to hear bells in the marketplace as well as church towers. It reminds us of the inclusiveness of Christmas. One of the thrilling things about the Christmas season is that it affects everyone. Listen to the bells and remember that they call us to community.

Dr. Joel Poinsett of South Carolina was appointed the first American diplomat to Mexico. He saw flowers that were used as decorations in their nativity processions. These were called "flame flowers" or "flowers of the Holy Night". Dr. Poinsett was a botanist and sent cuttings back to the US. The green symbolizes life. Red is the color of blood which is essential to life. Hidden in the red is a little gold color, the symbol of precious things. Jesus came that we might have life and have it abundantly.

May the symbols the Christmas have a special meaning to everyone this year.

Alan Brown sent an e-mail the last of October. They are adjusting well to their new home and environment in the Athens area in Greece. He

experienced teaching for 5 days on a sailing boat that runs a Bible school for 6 weeks, sailing along the Aegean Sea. He taught on 1st and 2nd Corinthians. It is said there are already more foreign believers in Greece than there are Green believers. Alan says "Our desire is to build better bridges between the Greek and foreign workers who are coming over or have just arrived or will coming in the future." Alan continues, "Fear and pride have been obstacles for many years and we are praying for God to use us to help break those down. Whitney is actively praying and seeking where she will serve, not sure if it will be in ministry to trafficked women as before or in a different area. She is excited about the various prospects here in such a big city." Recently the clutch system had to be replaced on their car. By faith he put \$1200 on their Visa card. He asks for continued prayer to guide them in their ministry.

Lake Springfield Baptist Camp is building a new house for the manager. Doug and Jennifer Brady moved into the tiny manager's home early in 2009 with their 3 little boys. This summer a baby girl arrived making 6 people living in a home designed for 2. In July, water flooded their home and mold began to grow. At that point the camp board voted to build a new home. Enough funding was received by October to begin construction.

Bible book for December—Matthew**Birthdays:**

December 2—Ann Clemmer, IM Congo

December 15—Bill Clemmer, IM Congo

December 18—Debbie Coats, Cambodia
Mennonite Mission

Nursery Assistants

December 12—Angie Richardson
December 19—Stephanie Foulk
December 26—Johnsy Mangalaraj
January 2—Paula Black
January 9—Samantha Clark

OPENING PRAYER LEADERS

December 12—Lora Wallace
December 26—Richard Hurt
January 2—Steve Smart
January 9—Bob Babcock

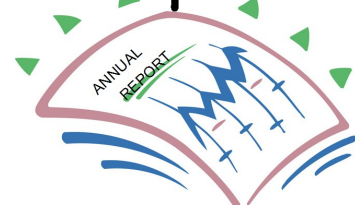
CANDLE LIGHTERS

December 12—Tyler Green
December 26—Tim Green
January 2—Zach Lankford
January 9—Tucker Clark

Reminder

Please bring your annual reports into the office by December 31st!

Annual Reports



During the week of
December 27—December 31
the church office will be closed.

In order to bring you the monthly income & expenses accurately the newsletter will be mailed by the 7th of every month.

Month	Income*	Expenses
January	\$16,421.02	\$16,098.49
February	\$20,265.93	\$16,611.35
March	\$21,917.26	\$17,292.50
April	\$12,562.54	\$15,956.75
May	\$25,480.80	\$16,478.84
June	\$12,450.97	\$16,729.74
July	\$12,820.07	\$14,349.19
August	\$18,015.91	\$14,641.03
September	\$16,786.79	\$17,389.35
October	\$14,794.53	\$14,104.31
November	\$15,019.77	\$17,951.41

General Income & Expense Summary

*** Includes Tithes, Offerings, Gifts, & Interest**



The Deacons are collecting non-perishable food items for Christmas meal boxes for those in need. Please bring them and put them on the desk in the Friendly classroom. If anyone knows of someone who could use a box, let a deacon know so they can be added to the list. On December 11 at 1:00 p.m. the Deacons will meet at FBC to assemble the boxes.

Monday, December 13

6:30 p.m.

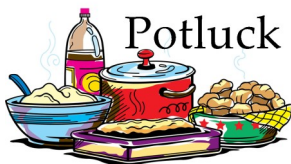
First Baptist Seniors will meet at FBC. Everyone is to bring homemade cookies to share and are going to sing Christmas Carols. If you would like to bring a \$5.00 children's gift donation to WIRC, please do so. Please sign the back of the registration card if you are planning to attend and/or need a ride or you may call the church office.



Sunday, December 19

During worship, our children & youth will share their talents as a gift, to Jesus. You won't want to miss this worship service!

Sunday, January 9



Potluck

5:00 p.m.—Potluck

6:00 p.m.—Annual Meeting in the Sanctuary



THANK YOU!
THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU!
THANK YOU!

To First Baptist Church Family,

Thank you for the prayers and concern during my illness. Thanks to Betty Ingledue for the visit and the altar flowers. They are still pretty.

Alice Bishop

Dear First Baptist Church and Church Members,

Our Management 350 class appreciated your willingness to help our group out by letting us put donation boxes at your facilities. We want to thank the members of your church for taking the time to bring in items to donate to the less fortunate. This food and clothing drive would not have been possible or near as successful without the help of your church and its members. Our group appreciated your help and the members of the community who need these items appreciated it too.


Sincerely,
Nikki Williams
Jamie Balfanz
Margaret Toraason
Ashley Forshall
Alyssa Hansen

We would like to thank everyone who participated in any way in putting the Operation Christmas Child shoeboxes together. Those who prayed, gave monetary gifts, donated items to fill the boxes, fill their own shoeboxes or helped us fill them. We can't imagine the happiness and the opportunity to know Jesus that these shoeboxes will bring to children who have almost nothing. Thank you again.

Maureen Hamilton & Debbie Derry

Theme: from *humbug* to hallelujah!

Christians aren't immune from the stress and busyness that marks our culture at Christmastime, so *From Humbug to Hallelujah* really says it all. The overriding message in this biblically based series suggests that the transformation in the life of Ebenezer Scrooge in Charles Dickens' classic tale *A Christmas Carol* can be the real experience of people in our churches, thanks to the power of Immanuel... *God with us!* Join us as we go from Humbug to Hallelujah and celebrate the birth of Christ.



Dec 12, *Value Relationships Especially at Christmas*

Dec 19, *Write a Good Ending to Your Christmas Carol*

Dec 24, Christmas Eve
Celebrate a Christmas of Miracle Transformations
5:30 p.m. Worship with Family Focus
7:30 p.m. Worship with Communion

Dec 26, *Honor Christmas in Your Heart All Year Long*
Pastor Claudia speaking

from h/bug to hallelujah!

8, 15	3:00 p.m. 6:30 p.m.	Small Group Study Small Group Study
9, 16, 23	6:30 p.m.	FBC Praise Team Practice
9, 16	6:30 p.m.	Addicted (FBC Youth Ministry)
12, 19, 26	9:30 a.m. 10:45 a.m.	Worship Sunday School
11	7:30—8:30 a.m. 10:00 a.m.— 8:00 p.m.	Men's Ministry to assemble Fruit Plates First Baptist Church Salvation Army Bell Ringer day at JC Penney
	1:00 p.m.	Deacons to assemble Christmas Meal Boxes
12	2:00 p.m.	Worship at Grand Prairie
13	6:30 p.m.	First Baptist Seniors will meet at FBC. Everyone is to bring homemade cookies to share and are going to sing Christmas Carols. If you would like to bring a \$5.00 children's gift donation to WIRC, please do so.
14	6:00 p.m. 6:30 p.m.	Pastoral Relations Committee Boards Meet
18	7:30 a.m. 6:00—9:00 p.m.	Men's Ministry at the Old Dairy Addicted (FBC Youth Ministry) Christmas Party at Mike & Stephanie's
24	5:30 p.m. 7:30 p.m.	Candlelight Worship with Family Focus Candlelight Worship with Communion
27-31		Church Office Closed
31—Jan 1	7:00 p.m.—7:00 a.m.	Addicted (FBC Youth Ministry) Lock-In at FBC

January

Retired Ministers & Missionaries Offering

4	1:30 p.m.	American Baptist Women's Meeting at FBC
9	2:00 p.m. 5:00 p.m. 6:00 p.m.	Worship at Grand Prairie Potluck Annual Business Meeting

NATIVITY SCENE POTS

Celebrate the joy of Christmas — and remember Jesus' birth — by making this craft to decorate your home or to give as a gift.

What you need:

- 3 terra cotta pots (any size)
- Acrylic paints (including one for skin color)
- Paintbrush
- Craft glue (or a glue gun, with an adult to help)
- Brown yarn
- Material swatches
- Straw-colored raffia

What you do:

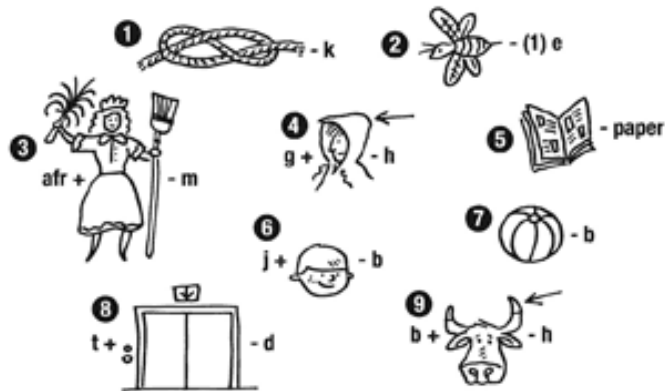
1. Decide which pot will be Joseph, Mary and baby Jesus. Turn each pot upside-down and paint a face on each one.
2. Decorate the pots by painting hair and clothes or by using yarn and material as hair and head coverings.
3. For baby Jesus, glue raffia along the bottom to look like straw in a manger.



The angel's message

On the first Christmas Eve, shepherds were watching over their flocks when an angel suddenly appeared.

Use the picture clues below to find out what the angels said to the terrified shepherds.



"Do _____ 1 _____ 2 _____ 3. I bring you _____ 4

_____ 5 of great _____ 6 that will be for _____ 7 the people.

Today in the _____ 8 of David a Savior has been _____ 9

to you; **he is Christ the Lord.**" Luke 2:10-11, NIV

"Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord." Luke 2:10-11, NIV

Answers: 1. knot-k=not; 2. bee(1)e=be; 3. afr+maid-m=afraid; 4. g+hood-h=good; 5. newspaper-paper=news; 6. j+boy-b=joy; 7. ball-b=all; 8. r+down-d=town; 9. b+horn-h=born