

Bridge Builders Newsletter

Issue 433

November 2011

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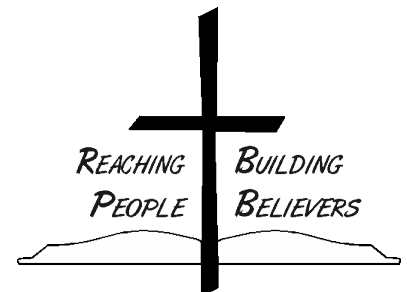
Building Update

Praise the Lord, FBC's property at 1515 Candy Lane is now annexed into the City! Last month our petition for annexation was voted on and accepted.

This past month the Building Team, in coordination with the Board of Trustees, has hired Mr. Charlie Fink as the Project Manager for FBC's new building project. He is already giving us valuable advice and suggestions, and is working with us in our next steps. The team has been consulting with the contracted local engineering firm to complete the site elevation work that is necessary before we can choose a company to do the dirt work on the construction site. The team has selected a company for performing the soil tests which are needed to determine the building's foundation footings. The site elevation work and the soil tests are expected to be completed in the next few weeks, after which we will be submitting bid requests to companies for doing the dirt work on the site. Also the team is working to select a company for bids on the steel work for the building frame.

We have received preliminary site construction drawings from the architect, and the engineer is already working with those drawings to determine the water and sewage connections we will need into the city systems. The engineer and architect have been working together, and have already found some ways to save costs. With Mr. Fink's assistance, we are ensuring the steel work to be done will be bid on to our expectations. And we are getting ready for the dirt work phase to begin, which means we will have to break ground very soon!

Thank you God for continuing to provide for our needs. Thank you for answer to our prayer in providing resources we need through Mr. Fink's added expertise and willing heart to serve you, and the greatly helpful engineer who has a desire to save us costs and see our project successful. We continue to look to you for your guidance in what we do, that we use our resources wisely, and that we are wise and knowledgeable in our discernment of the matters before us. Provide all this to us, according to your will. We praise you. In the name of Jesus, Amen.





Senior Pastor's Article

One of the most beautiful Psalms of thanksgiving is the 100th Psalm. And it reads like this. **"Shout for joy to the Lord, all the earth. Serve the Lord with gladness; come before Him with joyful songs. Know that the Lord is God. It is He who made us, and we are His; we are His people, the sheep of His pasture. Enter His gates with thanksgiving and His courts with praise; give thanks to Him and praise His name. For the Lord is good and His love endures forever; His faithfulness continues through all generations."**

I believe with all my heart that we are a people and a nation that has truly been blessed by God. And of all those who "give thanks to Him and praise His name" our name should be at the top of the list! It is not uncommon to compile wish lists at Christmas, and draw up a list of resolutions for the New Year. But there is another list we often overlook, a Thanksgiving Day list of all for which we are thankful. Let me cite a part of the list that several housewives compiled. They wrote that they were especially thankful:

"For automatic dishwashers, because they make it possible for us to get out of the kitchen before the family comes back in for their after dinner snacks.

"For husbands who attack small repair jobs around the house because they usually make them

big enough to call in the professionals.

"For children who put away their things and clean up after themselves. They're such a joy, you hate to see them go home to their own parents.

"For teenagers, because they give parents an opportunity to learn a second language.

"For Smoke alarms, because they let you know when the turkey is done.

Now our list might not be the same as theirs, but I'm convinced that if we began to make a list, we would find that we have much more for which to be thankful than just our material possessions. Like you, I am sure, my list would include the major things like my family, health, friends, and the nation we live in, despite all its flaws. But even more than that, I'm thankful for my salvation, our church family, and the mercy that God showers upon us each day. With Jesus we have so much for which to celebrate on Thanksgiving! I pray that this will be a meaningful Thanksgiving season for you and all your family.

I do look forward to celebrating the Thanksgiving season with you.

Pastor Wally

Opening Prayer Leaders

- November 6
David Harman
- November 13
Dustin Lambert
- November 20
Mike Folk
- November 27
Gerald Jones
- December 4
Brittany Jones

Candle Lighters

- November 6
Leanne Jones
- November 13
Brooks Wallace
- November 20
Zach Lankford
- November 27
The Wheeler Family
- December 4
Tyler Green

Missions Corner by Meryl Cook

Seldom do we hear of American Baptist Missionaries serving in Brazil. At the present time there are four: Philip and Corrine Smith and Bruce and Ann Borquist. The language used in ministry is Brazilian Portuguese. The Borquist's serve with the cross-cultural mission agency of the National Baptist Convention and train new missionaries in the areas of spiritual growth, cross-cultural effectiveness, and community and economic development. They promote mission in Brazilian churches.

The Smith's are involved with Hope Unlimited for children, an American Baptist International Ministries (IM) partner ministry in Brazil that addresses the needs of more than a thousand street children every year. Hope Unlimited was founded in 1991 by IM Missionary Philip Smith. Hope Unlimited welcomes children who have been abused or abandoned by their families.

Corrines' ministry focuses on older children who are orphaned and eventually transition from a boarding school to independent living. "I feel like the mother that many of the children never had as I share with them the love and hope of Jesus". Natalie came to them in 1996 when she was 10 years old. She and her mentally ill mother had been roaming the streets. They lived underground in a crypt. Natalie had no friends, other than the stray cemetery dogs. This affected her ability to speak.

"Through our ministry over eight years, Natalie grew to

have hope. She even named a stray dog we "adopted" HOPE. She learned to read and write as well as to socialize with people, and she graduated with a trade. Natalie is now married and has a son."

"Ours is a residential program that provides a safe refuge to homeless Brazilian street children and youth ranging in age from 8-10 years. Our orphanage is not typical. Presently we have 250 children who live in homes on three different campuses. The homes have house-parents who make a ten year commitment. We also provide the children with counseling, vocational training, and job placement, and we also have a thrift store and church.

The church is a refuge as well, providing a place of worship for our orphan graduates who often find local churches unwelcoming. Our congregation now has about 100 in attendance. All the church ministries are funded by the graduates' tithes. Many bring their estranged family members with them so that the church has become another way for hope to be unlimited".

A new preschool serves 500 families from the slums.

Kim Kushner has been one of our "missionary specials" for the past two years in El Salvador. She assisted the Baptist Federation in mentoring and supporting new leaders and provided administrative assistance in grant writing.

Kim has changed jobs and now looks forward to serve and partner with our Baptist brothers and sisters in Cuba. Cuba

currently has the fastest church growth rate of any of our partners in Latin America. Rapid growth creates an increasing demand for new leaders. As Cuba enters into a period of significant social change, church leaders need to be prepared to respond spiritually and socially to new challenges.

Due to the complexity of relations between Cuba and the US, Kim will travel back and forth to Cuba, rather than residing full time there. While in the US her ministry base will be in the Valley Forge, PA area.

On a personal note she plans to be married in a spring wedding in Philadelphia.

Sue Hagerty is the only other IM missionary in Cuba. She serves on the Baptist Theological Seminary Faculty and also trains writers and pastors to produce Christian educational material for 278 churches and their mission.

Birthdays:

November 3

Kim Brown, IM Thailand

November 11

Kit Ripley, IM Thailand

November 16

Stan Slade, Global Consultant, Theological Education Valley Forge

Bible Book—I, II, III John

General Income & Expense Summary

Month	Income*	Expenses
January	\$13,707.38	\$16,750.06
February	\$17,235.90	\$16,254.56
March	\$13,362.72	\$16,502.94
April	\$13,081.73	\$15,729.54
May	\$17,527.49	\$15,900.26
June	\$16,352.32	\$18,031.64
July	\$15,278.89	\$15,866.00
August	\$17,112.45	\$16,485.60
September	\$13,730.46	\$15,171.28
October	\$14,607.54	\$17,666.22

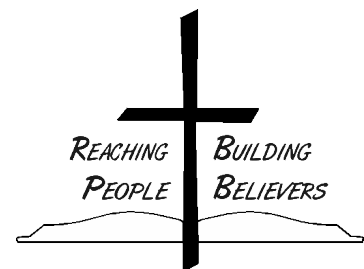
- Includes Tithes, Offerings, Gifts, & Interest

Volunteer Nursery Assistants

November 6
Angie Richardson
 November 13
Angie Green
 November 20
Brittany Jones
 November 27
Paula Black
 December 4
Cassie Jones



- 4—Bennie Arvin
 Donna McMahon
- 5—Alice Bishop
- 8—Richard Hainline
- 11—Leighton Lambert
 Donna Marlowe
- 13—Ginny Doxstader
- 18—Allen Black
- 20—Ian Molina
- 30—Isa Molina
 Dorothy Riney



Sermon Series

Do You Have An Attitude of Thanksgiving?

November 6 *One of Ten* (Pastor Claudia)

November 14 *God's Great Grace*

The Amazing Emmanuel **Advent & Christmas Sermon Series**

According to *The Great Books of the Western World*, heroes are distinguished from other men and women in three ways. They are capable of extraordinary feats beyond the ability of normal folk, they are courageous, and they experience some degree of isolation. Interestingly, Jesus Christ also exhibits these characteristics. First, who did miracles that rival his? Second, our Lord also faced his opposition courageously, even when he knew his road led to Calvary. And finally, as the old spiritual states, "Jesus walked this lonesome valley. He had to walk it all alone." How fitting that during this Advent season we honor Jesus as the Amazing Emmanuel—the True Hero for all time.

November 20 *Thank God for a Hero too wonderful for words*

November 27 *Discover what True Hero worship is like*

December 4 *Learn how to share your Hero's super stories*

December 11 *Protect the weak in Superhero fashion*

December 18 *Keep alive the tale of the Wonder Child's birth*

December 24 *Experience your Hero's super power*
5:30 Candlelight Worship with Family Focus
7:30 Candlelight Worship with Communion

December 25 *Watch the sky for your Superhero's return*



FBC Movie Night

(running time: 1 hr 20 min)

Saturday, November 12, 6:30 p.m.

First Baptist Church

136 W. Carroll (Corner of Carroll & McArthur)

Nursery will be provided

Everyone is invited to McDonald's (West Jackson)
for fellowship after the movie

The worse this planet becomes, the more people ask that same old question... "If God Really Loves Me...Then Why Do I Suffer?"

It's the basis for all kinds of attacks against the God of the Bible and His teachings. It's even used to attack the evidence of His existence and the legitimacy of the Christian faith.

The response typically given to "Do You Believe in God?" is almost always the same. If there is a God and he loves me then he wouldn't do that, he wouldn't cause this, he wouldn't allow this to happen, and on it goes. This film aims to answer those questions and counteract that kind of thinking.

Is there a purpose in my suffering?

Is God truly Sovereign?

Is there a purpose in all things, even my death or someone else's?

Why do these things happen to me!?

Operation Christmas Child

Saturday, November 12

9:00 a.m.

Please join us in prayer and putting together the shoeboxes for Operation Christmas Child.

Sunday, November 13

We will dedicate the shoeboxes during Worship

National Collection Week November 14—21

Nothing is more critical to the work of Operation Christmas Child than dedicated prayer support. Planning, media coverage, national partnerships, and hardworking, passionate volunteers are all vital parts of Operation Christmas Child, but the most important component is the prayers of people just like you. We thank God for the opportunity to partner together in praying for the work of Operation Christmas Child during National Collection Week. Last year, more than 1,800 hours of prayer were committed on behalf of children around the world who received shoe box gifts and the message of Christ's love. Please join with us and others around the globe to generate a record commitment to focused prayer during National Collection Week.

First Baptist Seniors

Monday, November 14, 9:00 a.m.

First Baptist Seniors are going to the Riggins' home for breakfast and will listen to talk about Biltmore Estates in North Carolina. 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.

3rd Quarter Giving Statements

3rd Quarter Giving Statements are in the alphabetical mail slots on the table outside the church office. Pick yours up today!

November Events



November 2011						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

- 5 7:30 a.m. Men's Ministry
- 6 9:30 a.m. Worship
10:45 a.m. Sunday School
- 8 6:00 p.m. Pastoral Relations Team Meeting
6:30 p.m. Board Meetings
- 9 3:00 p.m. Small Group Study
6:30 p.m. Small Group Studies
- 10 6:30 p.m. FBC Praise Team Practice
6:30 p.m. Addicted (FBC Youth Ministry) (concludes at 8:30 p.m.)
- 12 7:30 p.m. Men's Ministry
9:00 a.m. Prayer and putting together Operation Christmas Child shoeboxes)

9:00 a.m. Building Team Meeting
6:30 p.m. FBC Movie Night, *Standing Firm*
- 13 9:30 a.m. Worship (dedication of Operation Christmas Child shoeboxes)
10:45 a.m. Sunday School
2:00 p.m. Worship at Grand Prairie
- 14 9:00 a.m. First Baptist Seniors going to the Riggins' home for breakfast and listen to a talk about Biltmore Estates in North Carolina
- 16 3:00 p.m. Small Group Study
6:30 p.m. Small Group Studies
- 17 6:30 p.m. FBC Praise Team Practice
6:30 p.m. Addicted (FBC Youth Ministry) (concludes at 8:30 p.m.)
- 19 7:30 a.m. Men's Ministry at the Old Dairy
- 20 9:30 a.m. Worship
10:45 a.m. Sunday School
- 23 No Small Groups (Thanksgiving Holiday)
 TBA Addicted Thanksgiving
- 24 Thanksgiving
- 26 No Men's Ministry (Thanksgiving Holiday)
- 27 9:30 a.m. Worship (1st Sunday of Advent)
10:45 a.m. Sunday School
- 30 3:00 p.m. Small Group Study
6:30 p.m. Small Group Studies

Live Nativity Cast



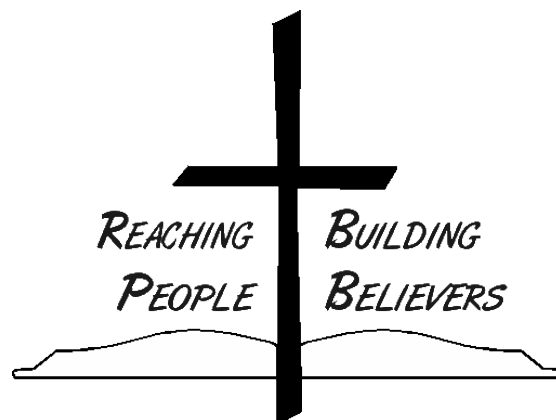
Our twelve annual Live Nativity will be Friday, December 2 and Saturday, December 3 from 6:30—8:00 p.m. Please sign up to be a cast member. The signup sheets are on the bulletin board outside the church office.

Live Nativity Help Needed

Our twelve annual Live Nativity will be Friday, December 2 and Saturday, December 3 from 6:30—8:00 p.m. Please sign up to help with one or more of the following:

- Help set up the Live Nativity Scene
- Help serve hot chocolate
- Help get the cast members into costumes
- Donate food for meals for Live Nativity cast and workers. (Please contact Angie Green, Pat Jones or Don Garlick for food needed)
- Help as needed

If you are able to assist with any of these needs, please call the church office.



First Baptist Church

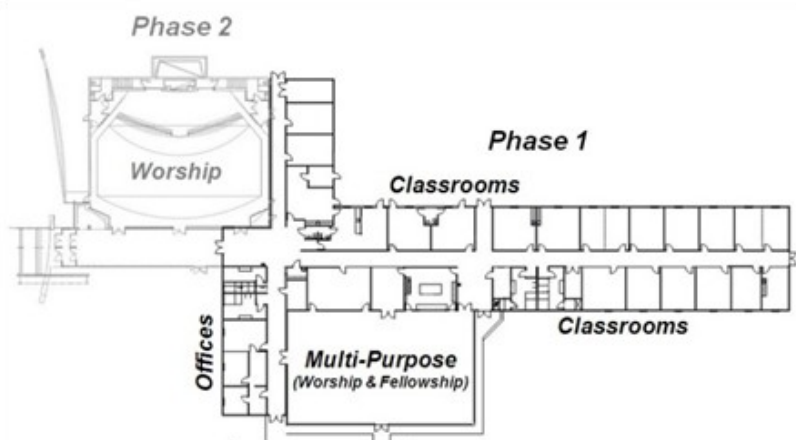
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Our New Worship Center

1515 Candy Lane, Macomb, IL



Our Mission
Reaching People—Building Believers

Our 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*

Please Join Us!

Worship—Sunday mornings at 9:30 a.m.

Sunday School at 10:45 a.m.

***Up With the Son*—Weekday mornings at 6:20 a.m. on K100—100.1**

Find us on the web at www.fbcmacomb.com

**Podcasts of the weekly message and *Up With the Son* can be heard or
downloaded from podcasts.fbcmacomb.com**