

Bridge Builders Newsletter

Issue 434

December 2011

Senior Pastor
Wally Holt

Associate Pastor
Claudia McCain

Director of Youth
Ministries
Mike Foulk

Office Manager & Editor
Leann Walters

Inside this issue:

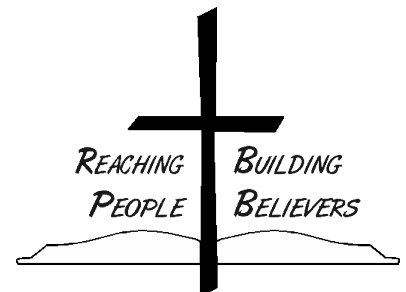
Senior Pastor's Article	2
Birthday's & Anniversaries	4
General Income & Expense Summary	4
Sermon Series	5

Building Update

During the month of November, the site elevation work was completed and the building team has received bids in response to our request for the site dirt work. We are excited to see the process for ground breaking is nearing its start. However, as we enter winter, we have begun to anticipate that the actual dirt work may have to begin in the spring after the ground thaws and not this month of December. The actual start time will be determined by the availability of the company who we contract with for the work.

We continue to survey interested companies on the steel work that needs to be completed for the building frame. Mr. Charlie Fink, our project engineer, is assisting us in reviewing specifications. The building team is continuing to review the options with onsite visits to current facilities serviced by the interested companies.

We are moving forward in the process. Thank you Lord for providing us direction, and helping us to be accountable in every step along the way. Thank you for helping us to stay strong in our faith, and in our encouragement of one another, so that we may continue to make progress as a church - not to build a building, but to grow a church of faithful people. Do not let this building be a distraction, but we pray Lord, that you let it be your victory through us that we are reaffirmed that in all things by faith you can do anything. We will give you praise and worship as you enable us to serve you. Amen.





Senior Pastor's Article

The Amazing Emmanuel! The Amazing God that is with us. Right now there is nothing more important than the implications of Christmas for your life! I want to encourage you to slow down for a few minutes and allow the Amazing Emmanuel to enter your life during this Advent season. Many people often feel lonely at Christmas. Right now, you may not feel like God is with you. But God's presence in your life has nothing to do with your feelings. Your emotions are susceptible to all kinds of influences, so they are often unreliable. One thing you can always count on is that God's love is unconditional, he loves you on your bad days as much as on your good days. He loves you when you don't feel his love as much as when you do. He loves you regardless of your performance, your moods, your actions, or your thoughts. His love for you is unchanging. Everything else will change during your lifetime,

but God's love for you is constant, steady, and continuous! It's the foundation for unshakable confidence. There is nothing you can do that will make God stop loving you. So, with that in mind how much do you think God loves you? When the Romans nailed Jesus to the cross, they stretched his arms as far as they could. With his arms wide open, Jesus is physically demonstrating, "I love you this much! I love you so much it hurts! I would rather die than live without you!" The next time you see a picture or statue of Jesus with his outstretched arms on the cross, remember, "he is saying I love you *this much!*"

I want to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. I look forward to being your pastor in 2012.

Pastor Wally

Opening Prayer Leaders

- December 11
Justin Derry
- December 18
Bob Babcock
- December 24
5:30—*Richard Hurt*
7:30—*Judy Hurt*
- December 25
David Harman
- January 1
Wayne Melvin

Candle Lighters

- December 11
Tim Green
- December 18
Leighton & Langdon Lambert
- December 24
Annetta & Pastor Wally
- December 25
Tara Geltmacher
- January 1
Celena Mangalaraj



January Meetings

Annual Business Meeting

Sunday, January 15
6:00 p.m.

Tuesday, January 17

(note the change of date)

6:00 p.m.—Pastoral Relations Team Meeting
6:30 p.m.—Board Meetings

Board Meetings



Missions Corner by Meryl Cook

A total of \$1038 was received for the World Mission Offering in October. Thank you.

202 boxes were filled for Operation Christmas Child on November 12. This was the same number filled a year ago. \$1476 was received for the postage to mail the boxes. Thank you for this tremendous response! Debbie Derry and Maureen Hamilton were in charge of the project. The boxes were taken to *The Crossing* here in Macomb where they started their journey to children around the world.

In a recent letter from Betty Martin, Executive Director of Murrow Children's Home as he asks that we continue to collect Campbell Soup Labels. They have 119,182 points toward the van. This is about 1/10 of the points needed. Clip the bar code and include the points earned on cans of soup and give to Meryl Cook or leave in the church office.

Bacone has started providing dinner for all three cottages during the week. The children attend All Nations Christian Church on Wednesday nights and Van Lake Church on Sundays.

Although Macomb First Baptist does not include any support for Bethel Neighborhood Center at Kansas City, Kansas, in their church budget, ties are close in the American Baptist Churches of the Great Rivers Region. They celebrated their 100th anniversary on September 17.

In 1911, the Women's American Baptist Home Mission Society founded Bethel Neighborhood Center in

response to the desperate needs that existed in the West Bottoms of Kansas City, Kansas. Bethel, however, was not the first organization to begin this work but followed the closing of another organization, the *Bethel Mission*.

Congregationalists, witnessing the rapid growth and change taking place in Kansas City founded the 'Bethel Mission' in 1893. Kansas City was becoming a mecca for commerce in the Midwest. People from all over the world were coming to Kansas City in hopes of a new and better life. What new immigrants found was a city ill prepared for the rapid increase in population. Police were paid from fines collected from the crimes committed. Crimes were able to continue because the rest of the city did not want to support the police with their own money. This alienated the district from the rest of the city.

The 'Patch' as it was known, was an 8 acre area of the West Bottoms where over 1200 people lived in small shanties. The floors were often made of dirt, the sky was visible through the roof, and lacked any protection from the elements on all sides. This was where poorest meat packing employees lived for two dollars a month rent. Employees of the meat packing plant would be even more fortunate to make it home safely. Gangs of thieves would wait on payday for victims so they could steal their hard earned money.

The Bethel Mission sought to overcome these challenges as they located in the shadow of the meat packing companies. The mission provided a daycare, kindergarten, a physician and a

dispensary, Church and Sunday School Services, and language classes.

In 1903, a progressive Congregational minister became the head resident of the mission. Leroy Halbert would lead the mission for the next 6 years and would advocate the city government take a stand for those struggling in the West Bottoms. In 1909 he was chosen to be head of the Kansas City, Missouri Board of Public Welfare, the first of its kind in the nation.

L.A. Halbert left in November 1909 and the mission closed. 17 months later, in the same building, a new leader, Nathane Clyde, came and Bethel Neighborhood Center began and continued to serve Kansas City, Kansas for the next 100 years.

Rev. Mang Sonna is the current Executive Director. Today their programs include a food pantry, clothing—especially for refugee families, a Christmas shop, programs for working poor, senior adults, single mothers, young people, English classes for immigrants, health screening, nutrition education and access to health care in the community. They hope for a new building with more space to run their programs, and eventually a free health clinic. Many refugees have come the past few years from Burma.

Birthdays:

Dec 2—Ann Clemmer, IM Congo

Dec 15—Dr. Bill Clemmer, IM Congo

Dec 17—Sarah Chetti, IM Lebanon

Bible Book—Job

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
November	\$19,938.70	\$16,723.14

Volunteer Nursery Assistants

December 11
Annetta Holt
 December 18
Angie Richardson
 December 25
 ?
 January 1
 ?

- Includes Tithes, Offerings, Gifts, & Interest



6—Damaris Hanson

2—John & Margaret Shaver

7—Eva Osborn

11—Ron & Marilyn Smith

12—Beth Dietrich
 Mary Hainline

16—Allen & Leann Walters

19—Jim Richardson

29—George & Johnsy Mangalaraj

22—Lou Melvin
 Mantobaye

25—Brooks Wallace

Sermon Series

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.

- 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*

Welcome Jack & Katie Cook to FBC

Jack and Katie like the Green Bay Packers football team, Harley Davidson motorcycles, and dirt track racing. They love coming to church, being with family and going for walks when the weather is nice. Jack loves to help his father-in-law, Jack Clark, when he can. Katie loves to help her mom, Lori Clark. They have two children, Jasmine and Leo who love to help out their grandparents as well.

Numbered Giving Envelopes

Please pick up your numbered giving envelope box on the back table in the sanctuary. If you do not have a box & would like one, take an unlabeled box & record your name next to the appropriate number on the sheet provided.

Christmas Break

December 21—No Small Group Studies
December 24—No Men's Ministry
December 25—No Sunday School (Christmas Day)
December 28—No Small Group Studies
December 31—No Men's Ministry
January 1—No Sunday School (New Year's Day)
January 4—No Small Group Studies



Thank You

To my church family,

Thank you for the Altar flowers that Betty delivered and for the prayers, cards and concern during my unexpected hospitalization.

Thank you, too, to Claudia for her three visits to the hospital.

I'll be back soon!

Sincerely,

Meryl Cook



Thank You

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, filled 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



Christmas Meal Boxes

The Deacons will be working on Christmas Meal Boxes on December 17 for those in need. If anyone knows of someone who could use a box, let a deacon know so they can be added to the list. We are collecting non-perishable food items. Please bring and set in the friendly classroom on the desk.



First Baptist Seniors Potluck

First Baptist Seniors will be having a potluck in the FBC Fellowship Hall. Ham will be purchased and a collection will be taken to cover the cost. Please bring one gift per person (limit \$1) for gift exchange and come prepared to share a Christmas memory. Please bring a dish to pass. 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.



December Events



December 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	31

- 8 6:30 p.m. FBC Praise Team Practice
 6:30 p.m. Addicted (FBC Youth Ministry) (concludes at 8:30 p.m.)
- 10 7:30 a.m. Men's Ministry
- 11 9:30 a.m. Worship (3rd Sunday of Advent)
 10:45 a.m. Sunday School
 12:00 p.m. First Baptist Seniors Potluck in the FBC Fellowship Hall
 2:00 p.m. Worship at Grand Prairie
- 13 6:00 p.m. Pastoral Relations Team Meeting
 6:30 p.m. Board Meetings
- 14 3:00 p.m. Small Group Study
 6:30 p.m. Small Group Studies
- 15 6:30 p.m. FBC Praise Team Practice
 6:30 p.m. Addicted (FBC Youth Ministry) (concludes at 8:30 p.m.)
- 17 7:30 a.m. Men's Ministry at the Old Dairy
- 18 9:30 a.m. Worship (4th Sunday of Advent) (During worship our children and youth will share their talents. You won't want to miss this worship service!)
- 10:45 a.m. Special Business Meeting to vote on perspective members Kathy Miner, Jack & Katie Cook, Lillian Lambert & Linda Lamb
- 10:45 a.m. Sunday School
- 21 No Small Groups (Christmas Break)
- 22 6:30 p.m. FBC Praise Team Practice
 6:30 p.m. Addicted (FBC Youth Ministry) (concludes at 8:30 p.m.)
- 23 TBA Addicted Christmas Party
- 24 Christmas Eve
 No Men's Ministry (Christmas Break)
 5:30 p.m. Candlelight Worship with Family Focus
 7:30 p.m. Candlelight Worship with Communion
- 25 9:30 a.m. Worship (No Sunday School (Christmas Day)
- 28 No Small Groups (Christmas Break)
- 19 6:30 p.m. FBC Praise Team
- 31 TBA Addicted Lock-in at FBC

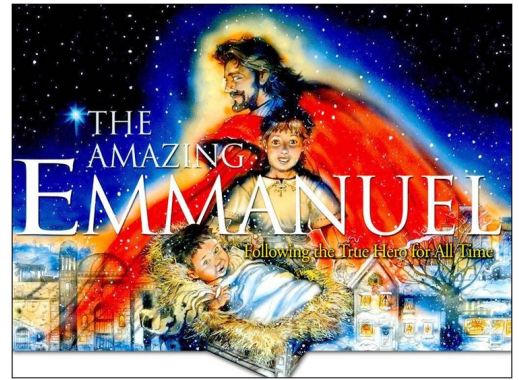
Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship

Saturday, December 24

Experience Your Hero's Super Power

5:30 p.m.—Worship with Family Focus

7:30 p.m.—Worship with Communion



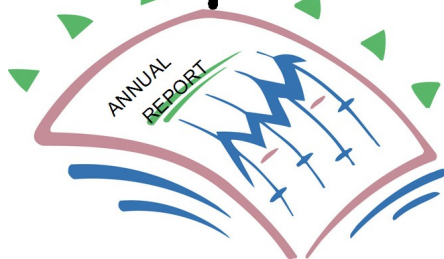
Sunday, December 18 during Worship

During Worship our children and youth will share their talents. You won't want to miss this worship service!

Sunday, December 18 immediately following Worship

A special business meeting to vote on perspective new members Kathy Miner, Jack & Katie Cook, Lillian Lambert, and Linda Lamb.

Annual Reports



Annual Reports Due

Annual Reports are due in the church office by Saturday, December 31. Please get yours in as soon as possible so the annual report can be assembled.

First Baptist Church

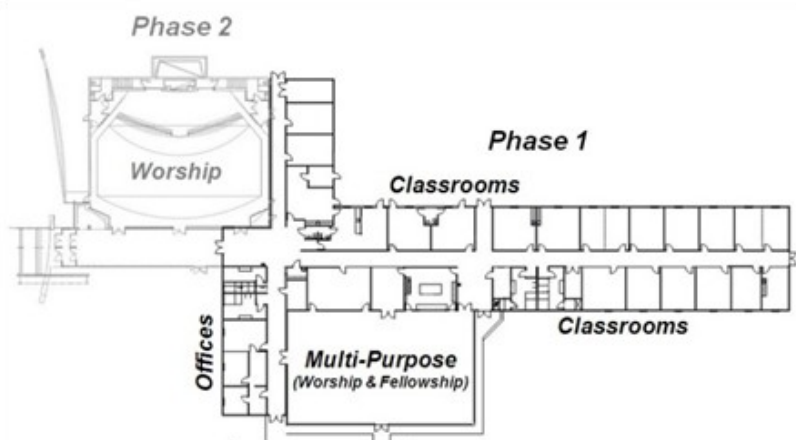
136 West Carroll
Macomb, Illinois 61455
309-833-2479
Fbcmacomb.com
fbcsecretary@macomb.com

www.fbcmacomb.com



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**