

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

DEACON ELECTION 2008

The deacon nominating ballots for the upcoming deacon election 2008 will be mailed on February 5. Church members will be nominating 12 people to be placed on the ballot for deacon selection for upcoming deacon election. According to policy, all resident adult members 18 years of age and older who have been members of First Baptist Church of Athens, Georgia, for at least two years are eligible for nomination. Their names will be published and mailed to the church membership. If anyone does not want their name to be placed on the deacon nominating and election ballots, please submit this request to the church in writing, making this request by January 25.

CHURCH CONFERENCE

The Missions Committee has scheduled a church conference for February 10. They are seeking congregational approval for requested funding to the 501014 Designated Missions-A Committee from the following:

1. YMCA (Athens, Ga.) - \$1,000.00
2. Open Hearts Center (Athens, Ga.) - \$1,000.00
3. Morningstar Treatment Services (Brunswick, Ga.) - \$750.00
4. WNC Slavic Ministries, Inc. (Raleigh, N.C.) - \$500.00
5. Serenity River Residency Center (Athens, Ga.) - \$200.00

UPCOMING EVENTS IN 2008

Active Parenting of Teens: Starts January, 2008
Operation INASMUCH: March 1, 2008
Women's Bible Study: Begins February 10

African-American Choral Ensemble 20-year Reunion Concert

Saturday, February 23, 2008 - 7:30 p.m.
Hodgson Concert Hall
FREE - No Tickets Required

For more information, please contact Gregory Broughton at gbrought@uga.edu or 706-542-2793.

National Alliance on Mental Illness of Georgia Free Education Program Offered Begins March 6, 2008

NAMI-Georgia announces a FREE education program for family members of individuals with serious mental illness. A series of 12 weekly classes, to be held in the evening, begins March 6, 2008 at Central Presbyterian Church, 380 Alps Road, Athens, Georgia. Contact Lane Chason at 706-369-0647 for additional information. Registration is required and the number of participants is limited.

The First Baptist Pulpit

January 20: Dock Hollingsworth
January 27: Ron Higdon, Interim Pastor,
First Baptist Church, Athens, GA

Ron Higdon's Schedule

January 5-19: Vacation in Orlando, Florida
January 25: Driving to Athens
(unless inclement weather)
January 28: Moving van loading up
February 2: Moving van delivery to Athens
February 2: Pat Higdon flying into Atlanta and driving to Athens

WELCOME TO NEW OFFICE TRAINEE

As you visit the church office, stop by and give a First Baptist welcome to Cheryl (Cheri) Rose, who joined us at the beginning of the new year. Cheri is in training to become the new Accounting/Human Resources Coordinator when Arlene Wood retires in March. A resident of Watkinsville, Cheri comes to FBC after ten years as the Office Manager for a local contracting firm and has substantial accounting, payroll, human resource, and computer-related experience. Welcome aboard, Cheri!

ABC's of FBC Sunday, January 27, 2008 5:00-6:30 p.m.

*Have you ever wondered what makes
Baptists distinctive?*

Or

*Would you like to know more about the identity of
First Baptist Church of Athens?*

Or

What is the history of First Baptist Church of Athens?

Or

*Would you like to have an idea of what events are
coming up on the church calendar?*

If so, we have a class for you!!! ABC's of FBC 101 on January 27th at 5:00 to 6:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Chili and hot dog supper is being provided.

Please RSVP by January 24th.
Also, childcare will be provided based upon reservations.

Call 706-548-1359, e-mail to
info@firstbaptistathens.org.

Everyone is welcome: Veteran members, new members, potential members or visitors just wanting to know more about First Baptist.

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH HOSTS 2008 Downtown Lenten Services Theme: "The Lenten Road" 12:00 Noon, Thursdays During Lent Begins Thursday, February 7, 2008

*When the days drew near for him to be taken up,
he set his face to go to Jerusalem.*

Jesus led his disciples down a difficult road that led to death on a Roman cross. For us, the road to Jerusalem is one of many roads on which we are confronted by Christ during this solemn season.

February 7: The Road to Damascus (Acts 9:1-19) Frank Granger

Lent begins on this road where life is given a new direction.

February 14: The Road Home (Luke 15:11-24) Glenn Doak

The prodigal son shows us the wisdom (and the necessity) of seeking this road.

February 21: The Road to Jerusalem (Matthew 16:21-23) Robert Salamone

The disciple Peter becomes a roadblock on this road prompting Jesus to say, "Get behind me, Satan!" and invites us to take up the cross and follow.

February 28: The Road to Jericho (Luke 10:25-37) Patrick Chandler

As the Good Samaritan stopped on this road, so Jesus stops to care for us in our needs and teaches us to "do likewise."

March 6: The Bethany Road (Mark 11:1-11) Richard Washington

This road leads to the home of Mary and Martha and the funeral of their brother Lazarus, and then on to Jerusalem for the Palm Sunday parade.

March 13: The Road to Calvary (John 19:17-30) Bill Britt

This road is the one Christ trod carrying a cross. It is the road of suffering, pain, and agony. It also is the road to redemption.

WHAT'S FOR DINNER...

January 23

Hot Meal: Oven Fried Pork Chops, Baked Potatoes, Green Beans, Apple Sauce, Biscuit, Dessert

Children: Domino's Pizza, Salad, Dessert

Salad Bar: Baked Potato, Chili

January 30

Hot Meal: Chicken Fingers, Macaroni and Cheese, Broccoli Spears, Jello and Fruit, Breadsticks, Dessert

Children: Hot Meal

Salad Bar: Baked Potato, Taco Salad Fixings

THE NEW BAPTIST COVENANT CELEBRATION World Congress Center Atlanta, Georgia January 30 - February 1

We have been organizing a group to attend the New Baptist Covenant Celebration on Thursday, January 31. The theme of this event is based on Luke 4. There will be two plenary sessions on Thursday and multiple small group seminars from which to choose throughout the day. Thursday's plenary sessions include messages delivered by Tony Campolo; Marian Wright Edleman, Founder of Children's Defense Fund; Julie Pennington-Russell, Pastor, First Baptist Church, Decatur, GA; and the author John Grisham. Musical guests will include Kate Campbell and Kyle Matthews. The website has full details of the plenary sessions and all seminars and presenters: <http://www.newbaptistcelebration.org/>.

If you are interested in going with a group from First Baptist Church, Athens, please contact Frank Granger at 706-548-1359, or via e-mail at frank@firstbaptistathens.org.

The New Baptist Covenant is an informal alliance of Baptists. More than 30 racially, geographically, and theologically diverse Baptist organizations from throughout North America are being represented at the New Baptist Covenant Celebration in Atlanta. Representatives from these Baptist groups have reaffirmed traditional Baptist values, including sharing the gospel of Jesus Christ and its implications for public and private morality, as well as their obligations as Christians to fulfill the Biblical mandate to promote peace with justice, to feed the hungry, clothe the naked, shelter the homeless, care for the sick and the marginalized, and promote religious liberty and respect for religious diversity.

Circle Meeting

MEF Circle: Tuesday, January 22 at 10:30 a.m. at the home of Martha Pool.

CHURCH FAMILY NEWS

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

We welcome our newest member to the church family, **Valerie Hardy**, who joined on Sunday, January 6, by transfer of letter. **Valerie** is our new Children's Minister. She resides in Loganville, Georgia. Welcome **Valerie**!



SYMPATHY

The church extends their love and support to **Donna Line and her family** in the loss of Donna's grandmother, Mary Fierce of Wisconsin, who passed away on Tuesday, January 8.

The church extends their love and support to the family of **Don Wells** of Brunswick, Georgia (former member of FBC) who passed away on Friday, December 28.



**Adult Continuing Christian Education
Wednesday Evening Colloquium
6:00-7:00 p.m., Fellowship Hall**

January 23, 2008

The Letter of James, Bryan Whitfield, Instructor, Roberts Department of Christianity, Mercer University, Macon, GA

January 30, 2008

Success Is a Routine, Bert Richards, Author, Instructor of Accounting, Georgia State University, and FBC Member, Athens, GA

February 6, 2008

Ash Wednesday Service, Sanctuary

**Active Parenting of Teens
Sunday Evenings, 6:00-8:00 p.m.**

**This multi-week parenting course continues;
spaces are still available.**

The Active Parenting of Teens is an interactive program which helps parents understand developmental changes in teens' behavior, communicate effectively with teens, prevent and handle drug and alcohol use, discipline while teaching responsibility, encourage toward better behavior, and explore and encourage nonviolent conflict resolution inside the home and out. Materials cost is \$15.00. Registrations for the course are being received. Please register through the church office at 706-548-1359 or online at www.firstbaptistathens.org/parenting.

Schedule for Sessions:

- Session 2: January 27 Session 5: February 24
- Session 3: February 10 Session 6: March 2
- Session 4: February 17

When Enough Is Enough?

Women's Bible Study in Winter 2008
*Learning and Growing from
Character Traits of Biblical Personalities*
Sundays, 5:30-7:00 p.m.

Paula Hooper will be leading a special Bible study for women. Participants may register through the church office at 706-548-1359 or by e-mail at frank@firstbaptistathens.org.

First two sessions are scheduled for February 10 and February 17, 5:30-7:00 p.m. Participants will be able to pick up the packet of materials in the church office January 28.

Sessions I and II:

When Do I Have Enough? Finding Contentment in What We Have...and Don't Have: A Look at Adam and Eve's, Paradise Gained, Lost, and Gained Again

Sessions III and IV:

When Am I Good Enough? Ceasing the Struggle for Acceptance: What We All Have in Common with Peter

Sessions V and VI:

When Am I Gifted Enough? Letting Personal Difficulties, Trials and Challenge Strengthen Rather than Defeat Us. A New Glimpse of Mary



CAMP OUT LOCK IN!!

All kids K-5 are invited to our Camp Out on Friday, January 25! We will have dinner, games, work on mission projects, and sing around the campfire. Kids ages K-2 will need to be picked up by 9 p.m. Kids grades 3-5 will spend the night and be picked up by 8 a.m. Saturday morning. Parents, don't worry...we won't be "camping" outside in the cold; we will be in the nice warm church! We are looking forward to a great night of fun and fellowship! Call the office and let Miss Valerie know you are coming (706-548-1359).

2008 Children's Ministry Calendar

March 1-2 Joyful Singers travel to FBC-Greenville, SC
July 17-20 Passport Kids Camp (3rd-6th graders, Crossville, TN)

Mark these dates and look for more to come!!

55+



**35th ANNUAL
VALENTINE BANQUET**

Monday, February 11, 6:30 p.m., Fellowship Hall

The Board of Deacons cordially invites everyone 55+ to the 35th Annual Senior Adult Valentine Banquet Monday, February 11, 2008 at 6:30 p.m. Call the church office to make your reservation by Friday, February 1. Transportation provided upon request.

BRUNCH AT CRACKER BARREL

Thursday, January 24, 2008, 10:00 a.m.

Please call the church office at 706-548-1359 by noon January 21, 2008 to make reservations for brunch at Cracker Barrel. We will order from the menu and pay as you leave. We will have a good ole FBC fellowship and a short meeting for announcements.

**55+ AND FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
DAY IN ATLANTA**

Please go by or call the church office at 706-548-1359 and sign up for a day in Atlanta. We will visit and tour The Chick-Fil-A Headquarters, have lunch at a Chick-Fil-A, tour the New World of Coke, and then travel to Blue Willow Inn at Social Circle for dinner. The cost for the trip is \$65 per person. This includes meals, tours, tips, gratuity and bus fare. The date for the trip is April 17, 2008.

The deadline to sign up and pay is Wednesday March 5, 2008, so that tickets can be purchased and the bus trip can be finalized. The trip is for First Baptist members and a friend. There are only 35 spaces available on a first sign up basis. If you have questions, please call Joe Clark, 706-549-3808.

Periodicals
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FIRST BAPTIST NEWS
(USPS 193-040)
FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
355 Pulaski Street
Athens, Georgia 30601-2860
706-548-1359

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

| | |
|--|--|
| Ministers | Randy Brittain Minister of Music |
| Ron Higdon Interim Pastor | Matt DuVall Minister of Youth/Young Adults |
| Valerie Hardy Minister of Children | Jon Appleton Pastor Emeritus |
| Frank Granger Minister of Education | |
| Anne Brittain Organist/Music Associate | |
| www.firstbaptistathens.org | |

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VOL. LII **January 19, 2008** **No. 2**

*Youth Choir
Concert*

*Sunday,
January 20, 2008
5:00 p.m.*



**The Youth Choir of
First Baptist Church of Athens
will host a concert featuring
80 student singers from
Baptist churches across Georgia.**

**DIRECTED BY
Dr. John Simons**
Associate Professor
Church Music, Mercer University

Admission is free.

**EVENTS BOX
January 20 - February 2**

| | | |
|------|--|--------------|
| 1/20 | First Worship - Fellowship Hall | 9:00 AM |
| 1/20 | Sunday School and Bible Study | 9:45 AM |
| 1/20 | Classic Worship - Sanctuary | 11:00 AM |
| 1/20 | Sunday School at Denney Towers | 2:30 PM |
| 1/20 | Stephen Ministry Supervision - E112/113 | 3:00 PM |
| 1/20 | CBF Youth Choir Concert-Sanctuary | 5:00 PM |
| 1/20 | Youth Activities-Youth Area | 6:00 PM |
| 1/21 | Senior Adult Committee Meeting - Farrall Conference Room | 2:00 PM |
| 1/22 | MEF Circle - Martha Pool Home | 10:30 AM |
| 1/22 | Worship Committee - Farrall Conference Room | 5:15 PM |
| 1/23 | Personnel Meeting - Farrall Conference Room | 5:30 PM |
| 1/23 | Wednesday Evening Activities | 5:00 PM |
| 1/23 | Wednesday Evening Dinner - Fellowship Hall | 5:00-6:00 PM |
| 1/23 | Prayer Focus and Devotion | 5:45-6:00 PM |
| 1/23 | Schedule for Children Preschool - Grade 5 | 6:00-7:15 PM |
| | Children's Choir | 6:00-6:45 PM |
| | MISSIONkids! | 6:45-7:15 PM |
| 1/23 | Schedule for Youth | 6:00-7:15 PM |
| | Youth Activities - Youth Area | 6:00 PM |
| 1/23 | Adult Continuing Education - Fellowship Hall | 6:00-7:00 PM |
| | The Letter of James | |
| | Bryan Whitfield, Instructor, Roberts Department of Christianity Mercer University, Macon, GA | |
| 1/23 | Sanctuary Choir | 7:00-8:15 PM |
| 1/23 | Associate Deacons' Meeting-F319 | 7:15 PM |
| 1/24 | 55+ Brunch at Cracker Barrel | 10:00 AM |
| 1/24 | Parkview Board Meeting - Farrall Conference Room | 12:00 Noon |
| 1/25 | Children's Lock-In | |
| 1/27 | First Worship - Fellowship Hall | 9:00 AM |
| 1/27 | Sunday School and Bible Study | 9:45 AM |
| 1/27 | Classic Worship - Sanctuary | 11:00 AM |
| 1/27 | Disciples Class Potluck-Fellowship Hall | 12:00 Noon |
| 1/27 | Sunday School at Denney Towers | 2:30 PM |
| 1/27 | Christian Formation Committee-E112/113 | 4:30 PM |
| 1/27 | ABC's of FBC-Fellowship Hall | 5:00 PM |
| 1/27 | Youth Choir-F316 | 5:15 PM |
| 1/27 | Active Parenting of Teens-E108/109 | 6:00 PM |
| 1/27 | Youth Activities-Youth Area | 6:00 PM |
| 1/27 | Adult Handbells-Handbell Room | 6:00 PM |
| 1/28 | Newsletter Deadline | 12:00 Noon |
| 1/30 | Wednesday Evening Activities | 5:00 PM |
| 1/30 | Wednesday Evening Dinner - Fellowship Hall | 5:00-6:00 PM |
| 1/30 | Prayer Focus and Devotion | 5:45-6:00 PM |
| 1/30 | Schedule for Children Preschool - Grade 5 | 6:00-7:15 PM |
| | Children's Choir | 6:00-6:45 PM |
| | MISSIONkids! | 6:45-7:15 PM |
| 1/30 | Schedule for Youth | 6:00-7:15 PM |
| | Youth Activities - Youth Area | 6:00 PM |
| 1/30 | Adult Continuing Education - E108/109 | 6:00-7:00 PM |
| | The Book of Job | |
| | Nancy deClaisse-Walford Associate Professor of Old Testament and Biblical Languages McAfee School of Theology, Atlanta, GA | |
| 1/30 | Sanctuary Choir | 7:00-8:15 PM |
| 2/2 | Youth Yard Sale - Fellowship Hall | 8:00-Noon |
| 2/10 | Church Conference | 12:00 Noon |

YOUTH HAPPENINGS

Sundays:

10:00 a.m. Bible Study in Youth Area—Bring your Bible!

5:15 p.m. Youth Choir-F316

6:00-8:00 p.m. Youth Gathering in Youth Area—Bring \$2.00

Wednesdays:

6:00-8:00 p.m. in the Youth Area

**CHURCHWIDE YARD SALE & YOUTH BAKE SALE
Date Changed to**

Saturday, February 2 from 8:00 a.m. - Noon

Proceeds from the yard sale will assist with youth activities and with Disciples Sunday School Class projects.

Drop off items January 27-February 1 in the Fellowship Hall.

Assistance Unloading: Sunday, January 27 just prior to 9 a.m. and 11 a.m. worship and prior to Sunday School; also 4:45 p.m.-5:45 p.m. on Wednesday, January 30. Call Al Henderson at 706-546-9086 or 706-247-6634 to arrange for pickup of donated items.

Proceeds from the 2006 yard sale assisted with Youth mission trip, fresh paint, ping pong table, restoration of the youth pool table, curtains, and furnishing of a video game room.

Disciples Class projects assisted with YMCA scholarship program, soccer balls for kids in India, lunch at Our Daily Bread 4 times, gifts for 2 angel tree kids, Parkview Playschool, Interfaith Hospitality Network, college group mission trip, Watering Malawi, and support of class members and others in time of illness or death.

FINANCIAL & ATTENDANCE REPORT

Weekly Needs: \$22,569.69

RECEIVED:

Received week of January 6 \$24,544.31

Received week of January 13 \$16,013.00

PLEDGE UPDATE: We have received pledges through January 14, 2008 as follows:

\$715,029.62 by 147 Family Units

Giving 60.92% of the 2008 Budget

Please remember to turn in your pledge cards.

ATTENDANCE

| January 6 | January 13 |
|---------------------|---------------------|
| 9:00 Worship - 72 | 9:00 Worship - 70 |
| 11:00 Worship - 262 | 11:00 Worship - 267 |

MEMORIALS

Memorials have been given in memory of or in honor of the following to the Hancock Debt Retirement Fund during the last quarter (October-December 2007).

| | | |
|-----------------|----------------|----------------|
| Eleanor Beck | Edd Gulley | Agnes Roberson |
| James Carter | Rachael Harris | Pansy Torrance |
| Pansy S. Duncan | | |

THANK YOU

A very special and heartfelt "THANK YOU" is extended to the entire FBC congregation for your tithing generosity during the closing period of 2007. Your gifts made it possible for the church to finish the year with \$72,000 more revenue than expenses. This is the strongest finish in a number of years.

MISSIONS MOMENT



OPERATION INASMUCH

Operation Inasmuch is scheduled for Saturday, March 1, and we're hoping for an even GREATER participation this year. Please contact Marla VanDyck for InAsMuch project requests and leadership ASAP at mtvandyck@gmail.com. **Any former leaders who are interested in leading again, please contact Marla at the same e-mail address.**

A Missions Committee member has volunteered to assist each FBC project and report needs on a monthly basis to help with staffing, transportation, communication or anything else. Please help us help your project by e-mailing Reeves Carter at reeves1204@bellsouth.net or your committee liaison.

**Global Missions Offering for
Cooperative Baptist Fellowship Continues!!**

This is how we support our missionaries and mission work all over the world. Our FBC goal for the year is \$13,000!! Please give generously, from your heart.

Since June 1, 2007, we have given \$8,491 to Global Missions. The last date to give will be May 31, 2008.

THANK YOU

For the Christmas Missions to the Children

A total of 105 children were given close to \$15,000 worth of toys and clothes this past Christmas season. Thanks to all who contributed!

THANK YOU

For the Council on Aging Donations

Thanks to the FBC congregation for donating scraps of yarn and material to the Council on Aging project. Enough material was collected to make lap blankets valued at up to \$150.00.

Also, if you have old magazines you would like to donate, please bring them to the Missions Room. They are regularly collected and given to the drivers of Meals on Wheels for the shut-ins to read. Thanks!



**ANNUAL INTERNATIONAL
VALENTINE BANQUET**



**Tuesday, February 12
6:30 p.m.**

Fellowship Hall

Sponsored by Adults In Missions

IHNA News

Young Harris United Methodist has become a host congregation! Their first host week was January 12-19.

Our next host week is Sunday, March 2-9. Please sign up on the IHNA board in the main hall. IHNA Volunteer training session to be held sometime in February. Contact Linda Lacy if interested.

**Doing Missions in Our Community
January 2008**

Food Bank

| | |
|-----------------------|------------------------|
| January 22-23 | B & P Class |
| February 12-13 | Senior Adult Committee |
| February 26-27 | Senior Adult Committee |
| March 11-12 | Covenant Class |
| March 25-26 | Covenant Class |

Our Daily Bread

| | |
|--------------------|--------------------|
| February 14 | Joe Callaway Class |
| March 13 | Deacons |

A MUSICAL NOTE...

Youth Choir Concert, Sunday, January 20

Twenty-one members of our Youth Choir, along with five adult chaperones, will depart for the Calvin Center in Hampton, Georgia, this Friday afternoon to participate in the CBF Georgia Youth Choir Festival. We will join 80 student singers from CBF churches across Georgia to rehearse music in preparation for two concerts on Sunday, January 20. FBC Athens will host the concluding concert on Sunday, January 20 at 5:00 p.m. in our sanctuary. You will not want to miss this event.

Please make every effort to attend this concert and support our Youth Choir and the other student singers who are participating. Our young people are not only the "church of tomorrow," they are the church of today, and their gifts and talents can be used right now to further God's kingdom. Your presence at this concert is a tangible way you can communicate to the youth that you support all that they do at FBC.

Blessings,
Randy

OUR CHURCH AT WORK

Co-Deacons for the Weeks of:

January 20-26: Kathy Barrow, Steve Barton

January 27-February 2: Greg Bickley, Jimmy Bryant

February 3-9: Reeves Carter, Phil Caskey

February 10-16: Genie Chamberlin, Marjorie DeLozier

February 17-23: Ed Dempsey, Jim Ebert

February 24-March 1: J. Don Edwards, Joyce Gravely

Fellowship Team for January

Wanda Grogan, Bill Horton, Daniel Haygood, John Knowlton

Fellowship Team for February

David Kopp, Shelby Lacy, Mike Lacy, Eric Line