

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

SPECIAL THANKS

Friends and Family of First Baptist:

This is the first year in our memory that we have not sent Christmas cards. Like our good intentions, the Madonna stamps and greeting cards of the season just passed, lie on the desk, reminding us each day of the missed joy of sharing and telling you how much we have wanted to join in the celebration and joy of reaching out to you in the spirit of HOPE, PEACE, JOY, and LOVE, as you have done for us.

We have come into this season of our lives when time seems to be lived on fast forward, with the realization of diminishing abilities and changing priorities from day to day. As an example, one of the side effects of potent medications is blurred vision; such infirmities are true of many of our companions at Talmage Terrace. We enjoy where we are living and all our surroundings help to make the journey easier. Frances says that our home here is a special blessing, of which we are daily conscious.

Be assured of how much we have enjoyed and appreciated the lovely, meaningful, thoughtful cards and messages which have encouraged and strengthened us, as well as adding to our lives a precious sense of communion as a part of our church family.

Frances and Bill Thurman

A NOTE FROM THE OFFICE

Ministers' Days Off

Bill and Frank—Friday, Matt and Randy—Thursday

Hospital Visitation Schedule

Bill—Monday and Wednesday, Matt—Tuesday, Frank—Thursday, Randy and Bailey—Friday

Office Space Needed

Local Faith-based Women's Service Organization, Women to the World, a charity reaching out to hurting women and children around the world, is in need of a small office space (200 sq. ft.) for administrative work for volunteer and donor-related activities, no public or beneficiary access. Please contact Doris Aldrich at 706-255-8702 for more information for February 1 occupancy. This mission organization is an Athens-based, non-profit development agency.

STEPHEN MINISTRY

Stephen Ministry Training will be held on the following Sundays from 3:30-5:30 p.m. in Room E112.

January 21, January 28

February 4, February 11, February 18

IHNA

Got too many 2007 picture calendars? IHNA can use them for their families to keep track of appointments, etc. Deliver them to either the IHNA house or the church office.

55+

January 25, 2007, 12 Noon, Potluck Luncheon

Please mark January 25 on your calendar for a potluck luncheon in the church Fellowship Hall. Charlotte Marshall and others will present the program, "Identifying the Past." Call the church office - 706-548-1359 - to make a reservation so we can buy enough chicken fingers and let us know the type of dish you will bring: vegetable, salad, dessert, etc.

Friday Evening, March 23, 2007

Darrell Huckaby has agreed to be our after-dinner speaker. His articles appear in the Sunday Athens Banner-Herald and other papers across the country. Check out his website, www.darrellhuckaby.net/biography and you will find he is a proud UGA graduate, author of six books, and travels extensively across the South speaking to church, civic organizations, and corporate functions. Watch for more details in future newsletters. Mark your calendar now and plan to attend.

STUDENT SCENE...

I am so excited about all of the things that we have going on for the Spring! In just a few short weeks (February 9-11), we will have our Disciple Now 07 with FBC Gainesville. The theme of the weekend is "Live Deep." I am hopeful that this will be a wonderful weekend of reconnecting with who we are as Christians and as fellow travelers on this journey called life. As an extra bonus, if you sign up before January 31, the cost is only \$45 for the weekend. You can still sign up after February 1, but it will cost \$60 per person. Sign up by putting your name on the sign up sheet in the youth area or by emailing matt@firstbaptistathens.org or suzy@firstbaptistathens.org.

For more than ten years now, the CBF of Georgia has offered an opportunity for youth from all over the state to come together and serve a community in need somewhere in Georgia. Along with this time of service are times for worship and fellowship. If you are interested in participating in March Mission Madness (March 16-18) this year, please email Matt and let him know by January 31. The cost for this weekend is \$75.

If you are a youth or adult planning on participating in the Summer Mission Trip to Brazil, we need your \$300 deposit in the office ASAP. Please get this to us so that we can reserve your spot. Come and be a part of our Sunday mornings at the Corner and our family groups. Check our website for dates and times!

Blessings,
Matt

Fundraiser Breakfast, Sunday, January 21, 8:30 a.m.

Hosted by Adults in Mission

Donations to benefit the Youth Mission Trip to Brazil.

Carnival Celebration, Wednesday, February 14

Donations to benefit the Youth Mission Trip to Brazil.

It is a beautiful day in Athens...

Prayer...is a word we use in the church a lot. "I will pray for you; I need you to pray about this; it is a matter of prayer; my prayers were answered; does God hear my prayers..." These are just a few of the phrases we hear and use in church. The concept of prayer is continuously questioned. I believe there is a direct correlation with how we pray and our view of God. Prayers are formal and extemporaneous. There are volumes written about how to pray, the concept of prayer, types of prayer, and the need to pray.

There is no exhaustive work or seminar on prayer. Opinions about prayer are as wide as the universe and deep as the ocean.

Over the next few weeks, I would like for us to think about prayer. My hope is to open some doors for your prayer life, challenge your idea of prayer, and deepen your relationship with God through prayer. We will begin a sermon series, entitled "Can You Hear Me Now?" that will begin this Sunday and take us to Ash Wednesday. A wireless phone service has branded this phrase with its cell phone service. It is an excellent reminder to us that there is no place in the world and there is no place in life that God cannot hear us or communicate with us. At 9:00 and 11:00 worship, we will offer various methods of prayer as a part of the worship service. Your input would be most appreciated.

As you can see on the front of the newsletter, we have various colloquium offerings for the next few weeks on Wednesday evenings. I will be leading a Bible Study in the book of Philippians. This is one of my favorite writings of Paul. I believe there is much for us to garner from this epistle in our day to day living. My hope is to scratch the surface of this New Testament letter enabling you to discover its depth.

You will also note the ministerial weekly schedule listed in this newsletter. It is my hope that we will be fully staffed within the next two weeks with administrative personnel.

See you Sunday,
Bill

MISSIONS



ANNUAL INTERNATIONAL VALENTINE BANQUET



Tuesday, February 13
Sponsored by Adults in Missions

Doing Missions in Our Community

JANUARY

Athens Area Food Bank

January 23-24: B & P Class

February 13-14, 27-28: Senior Adult Committee

Soup Kitchen

February 8: Joe Callaway Class

A MUSICAL NOTE...

Within the first month of arriving at First Baptist Church as your Minister of Music, I was asked to participate in a new and exciting church music project sponsored by Mercer University. Mercer University Press, in cooperation with the Townsend-McAfee Institute for Church Music Studies, is in the process of publishing a new hymnal for moderate Baptist congregations. The most recent Baptist hymnal, and the one we use in our sanctuary, was published by the Baptist Sunday School Board in 1991. To say that many things have changed across the Baptist landscape since that time would be a gross understatement. There is no longer a Church Music Department within the Southern Baptist Convention to even attempt such a project.

Mercer University has taken the lead on a much needed church music and worship resource for moderate Baptist churches. The editor of the Hymnal Project is Dr. Milburn Price, the dean of Baptist church musicians. Dr. Price has recently retired as Dean of the School of Music at Samford University in Birmingham, Alabama. He is devoting the next two years of his life to this new hymnal, which promises to be the crowning achievement on a long and illustrious church music career.

The published version of the hymnal will include about 600 hymns, have online resources for orchestrations/instrumental arrangements, and include numerous worship planning resources. The project involves over 50 leaders who serve as church musicians, pastors, lay leaders, and collegiate church and choral musicians. The hymnal is scheduled for publication in early 2009. I will keep you up-to-date with the progress of the new Baptist hymnal.

Blessings,
Randy

FINANCIAL & ATTENDANCE REPORT

Week of January 7, 2007	Attendance	
Weekly Receipts: \$23,151.92	9:00	88
	11:00	219
Week of January 14, 2007	Attendance	
Weekly Receipts: \$13,624.80	9:00	92
	11:00	263

KID'S CORNER



Parents and Children,

Happy New Year! I hope you are excited about all of the things we will be doing in 2007. Look for a newsletter in your mailbox over the next few weeks with details about our Lock-In, VBS, and PASSPORTkids! I can't wait to spend another year with all of you!

God bless,
Bailey E. Nelson



CHRISTIAN EDUCATION AND COLLOQUIUM COMMITTEES

Planning for Focus Group Meetings with Adults

The Christian Education and Colloquium Committees of First Baptist Church Athens are preparing for an upcoming short-term project. The committees are planning to host a series of discussion groups to gather input from our adults concerning their interests and needs in all areas of spiritual/Christian education. A schedule is in the process of being developed that will provide adults of all ages and interests to gather and give input. The committees hope to complete the focus group meetings by mid-February. We value the interests and involvement of our adults in the education ministry of First Baptist Church and look forward to hearing from you in the coming weeks.

**ABC's of FBC
Sunday, January 28, 2007
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 28th at 5:00 to 6:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Chili and hot dog supper is being provided.

Please RSVP by January 25th.
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.

**WEDNESDAY EVENING COLLOQUIUM
Wednesday Evenings, 6:00-7:00 p.m.
Fellowship Hall**

January 24, 2007: Bible Study: *Philippians, Living Full in the Midst of Difficulty*, Bill Ross
January 31, 2007: Bible Study: *Philippians, Living Full in the Midst of Difficulty*, Bill Ross

CHURCH FAMILY NEWS

SYMPATHY
The church family extends love and support to **Ruth Gurley** in the loss of her husband, **Harold Gurley**, on January 8; to **Jack Ramsay** in the loss of his sister, Louise Poag of Nashville, TN, and niece, Sandra Cobb of Dallas, TX; and to **Hazel Pittman** in the loss of her brother, Clarence Hershey, of Hooker, OK on December 20. Mr. Hershey is also the uncle of Gayle Noblet.

OUR CHURCH AT WORK

Co-Deacons for the Weeks of:
January 21-27: Wanda Grogan, John Knowlton
January 28-February 3: Linda Lacy, Sherman Reynolds

**Fellowship Team
FEBRUARY**

Eric Line, Helen Mills, Carl Monk, Robin O'Rear

THE EVENTS BOX

1/21	Youth Fundraiser Breakfast	8:30
1/21	First Worship	9:00
1/21	Classic Worship	11:00
1/21	Stephen Ministry Training	3:30
1/21	Stewardship Committee	5:00
1/21	Community Ministries	5:30
1/21	Missions Committee	6:30
1/22	Senior Adult Committee	2:00
1/24	Wednesday Evening Activities	5:00
1/24	Associate Deacons	7:15
1/25	55+ Potluck Luncheon	11:30
1/25	Creative Arts Committee	5:30
1/26-1/27	Children's Mission Lock-In	6:00
1/28	First Worship	9:00
1/28	Classic Worship	11:00
1/28	Stephen Ministry Training	3:30
1/28	ABC's of FBC	5:00
1/29	Newsletter Info Deadline	12:00
1/31	Wednesday Evening Activities	5:00
2/2-2/4	Youth Disciple Now	

Periodicals
POSTAGE PAID
Athens, Ga. 30601

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

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Ministers	Bill Ross Senior Minister	Frank Granger Minister of Education	Bailey Nelson Minister of Children
	Randy Brittain Minister of Music	Matt DuVall Minister of Youth/Young Adults	
	Jon Appleton Pastor Emeritus		
	www.firstbaptistathens.org		

FIRST BAPTIST NEWS (USPS 193-040) is published bi-weekly at no charge by First Baptist Church, 355 Pulaski St., Athens, GA 30601-2860. Periodicals postage paid at Athens, GA POSTMASTER: Send address changes to FIRST BAPTIST NEWS, 355 Pulaski St., Athens, GA 30601-2860.

VOL. LI January 20, 2007 No. 2



**ABC's of FBC
Sunday, January 28, 2007
5:00-6:30 p.m.
Fellowship Hall**

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, this class is for you!!!

Chili and Hot Dog supper provided.

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

See inside for details.

WEDNESDAY EVENING SCHEDULE

5:00-6:00	Wednesday Evening Dinner
5:45-6:00	Prayer Focus and Devotion
6:00-7:15	Schedule for Children, Preschool-Grade 5
6:00-6:45	Children's Choirs
6:45-7:15	MISSIONkids!
6:00-7:15	Schedule for Youth
6:00-7:15	6th Sense-Grade 6
6:00-7:15	Family Group-Grades 7 and 8
6:00-7:15	Schedule for Adults
6:00-7:00	Adult Continuing Education: Bible Study: <i>Philippians, Living Full in the Midst of Difficulty</i> , Bill Ross
6:00-7:00	<i>Active Parenting</i> , led by Frank Granger
6:00-7:00	<i>Exploring the Way: An Introduction to the Spiritual Journey</i> led by Mary Colley
6:00-7:15	Sanctuary Choir
7:15	Adult Handbell Choir