

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS



The Board of Deacons
cordially invites everyone 55+ to the
36th Annual Valentine Banquet
Monday, February 9, 2009 at 6:30 p.m.

RSVP to the church office by Monday, February 2.
Please let the office know if you need transportation.

International Valentine Banquet
February 10, 2009 - 6:00 p.m.
Fellowship Hall

Adults in Missions each year invites members of the international community to a Valentine Banquet. This invitation is extended through the program sponsored by Sarepta Association and includes those attending language classes and their families. It is always a good evening. We invite members of First Baptist to join us in welcoming this group to our church. Call the church office and tell us if you can be with us for dinner that evening.



All Ladies Are Invited
to a Bridal Shower
For Our Interim Youth Minister
Hannah Marshall

This drop-in shower will be on **Sunday, February 15, 2:00-4:00 p.m., in the Fellowship Hall.** Hannah is registered at Williams Sonoma and Bed, Bath and Beyond. Join us as we celebrate this special time in the life of one who not only grew up in this church, but is now providing leadership and encouragement to all the youth of our church during this time of transition. Questions?? Call Teresa Granger (706-543-6286) or Marcia Caskey (706-369-8474).

Thank You from Finance Committee

The Finance Committee would like to extend thanks to the church congregation for their generous gifts during the Christmas season and the end of the year. We were able to pay all expenses for the year 2008 and still have a small cushion to begin 2009. We did not fund the entire budget for 2008, but through constant monitoring and very thrifty use of funds, we were able to maintain the financial integrity of the church.

Again, thanks for everyone's sacrificial giving. This effort has given the church the ability to continue our excellent programs through the effort of the staff and congregational volunteers.

Tony Byrd
Finance Committee Chairman

What's for Supper

FEBRUARY 4

HOT MEAL: Barbecue, Bun, Baked Beans, Cole Slaw, Fruit Cup, Dessert

CHILDREN: Pizza, Salad, Dessert

SALAD BAR: Baked Potato, Taco Salad Fixings

FEBRUARY 11

HOT MEAL: Spaghetti with Meat Sauce, Tossed Salad, Fruit Cup, Breadsticks, Dessert

CHILDREN: Hot Meal

SALAD BAR: Baked Potato, Vegetable Soup

CHURCH FAMILY NEWS

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

The FBC family welcomes its newest members, **Tyler and Quinn Kelley**. Tyler and Quinn come to us by Transfer of Letter from Grove Level Baptist Church, Maysville GA. They have one child: a daughter, Charlotte. We welcome the Kelleys to First Baptist.

A SPECIAL THANK YOU

Virginia Gerrett and her family would like to thank the church family for all of your kindness during her recent surgery and illness. Your prayers and thoughts have meant so much to them.

SENIOR ADULTS

We Are Going to Washington, DC.

Final payment of \$431.00 is due in the church office by Monday, February 2, 2009. Itinerary will follow payment.

A MUSICAL NOTE...

Cedar Shoals High School Concert Choir

The Cedar Shoals High School Concert Choir will give a Carnegie Hall Benefit Concert on Sunday, February 8 at 2:00 p.m. in the sanctuary. This choir, directed by our own Linda Moon, has been invited to sing at Carnegie Hall this spring under the direction of John Rutter. The concert is free and open to the public, and a love offering will be taken to help these worthy student musicians participate in the Carnegie Hall Concert in New York City.

KID'S CORNER

Acolyte Schedule

February 1 Mitchell and Amelia Graves

Extended Session Schedule

	Toddlers/Two	Threes/Fours
February 1	Bailey	Hooper
February 8	Howell	Hilley
February 15	C. Smith	Lastinger
February 22	Hill	Carter

Reflections

Dr. Ron Higdon

This column begins with an enthusiastic "Thank You" to all of those who helped make the C. S. Lewis weekend a truly spectacular event. First, of course, to Perry Bramlett, who brought his wisdom and wit to five exceptionally well-attended Lewis presentations, our gratitude and appreciation.

My personal thanks goes to Beth Jones of the Athens Banner-Herald who gave us splendid coverage with her fine article about Perry Bramlett. She was kind enough to come to my office for a discussion about the Lewis weekend and for the photos she used in the article. A big thank you goes to Frank Granger (always a man of many talents) who designed the poster that became our ad in the newspaper. He also supervised the food arrangements, as well as room and display set-ups.

All the sessions were not only well-attended, but we were privileged to have a rather large number of visitors. It was a weekend that not only met, but exceeded our expectations. A final thanks to all of those who attended and brought such a fine spirit to the meetings.

As a part of our response in the worship service on Sunday, the congregation was invited to make a personal commitment to the mission and ministry of FBC. The Transition Team composed a commitment card that you will find at the conclusion of this article. Following the hymn of response and during the offering, each person was invited to sign the card and then to take it home, place it in their Bible, and make the additional commitment to daily pray for the church.

The sermon for the morning was *Letting Go of the Negatives of the Past in Order to Claim the Positives of the Future*. You will note that the final words on the commitment card are... *as we move forward*. We are now in the final stages of our study. We are presently *Clarifying the Congregation's Identity* and will soon begin our work of *Committing to New Clergy Leadership and the Future*.

I ended the sermon with a benediction-blessing that I believe is the reason we are able to move confidently into the future. I end this reflection with that benediction that comes from the pen of Kennon Callahan:

*The love of God is renewing.
The power of God is astonishing.
The grace of God is amazing.
The purpose of God is moving.
The hope of God overcomes all.
Thanks be to God.*

COMMITMENT CARD

The mission of First Baptist Church, Athens, is to share the love and message of Jesus Christ through worship, missions, and spiritual growth. The core values of First Baptist are that we are Christ-centered and Biblically based. We value acceptance, caring, accountability, and growth.

As of this date, _____, I _____, a member of the congregation of First Baptist Church, pledge my commitment to the mission and values of this congregation as we move forward.

Signed: _____

Sermon Schedule

February 1: *The Church Will Always Be a Disappointment*
I Corinthians 1:1-3; 9-11
February 8: *Judgment Day as Awards Day*
I Corinthians 4:1-5

Education Ministry



From Frank

Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern the will of God—what is good and acceptable and perfect. (Romans 12:2).

As I reflect on this past weekend and our C. S. Lewis event, I am reminded of these words from the Apostle Paul. This weekend held a spirit of revival, perhaps not the typical type of revival which we think of initially, but nonetheless a revival both mental and spiritual. I sensed from all in attendance a deep appreciation for the life, writings, and witness of C. S. Lewis. We also enjoyed Perry Bramlett who invited us into the world of C. S. Lewis and whetted our appetites to read, absorb, and discuss more from this inspirational and influential man. I have always appreciated the value this congregation places on the activity of expanding the mind and nurturing the heart. Our church provides a welcoming atmosphere that communicates these two activities are not mutually exclusive.

Our very first pastor, James Shannon, encouraged this practice when he referenced 2 Peter 3:18 in one of his sermons: *Grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ*. How fortunate we are to have individuals such as C. S. Lewis who inspire so many to join this journey which holds in spiritual embrace the pursuit of intellectual curiosity and heart-filled devotion of Christian practice. How fortunate, too, we are to be in a community of faith which welcomes those who travel this journey as well.

I'll share with you a brief report on attendance. We had, cumulatively, in attendance approximately 540 people for all the events. The number of individuals who attended one or more of the events numbered over 210. And yes, others from our community and neighboring counties attended with us. Thanks to each of you for extending your hand of welcome to them. I am also thankful to our Christian Formation Committee, chaired by Mary Colley, for their faithful labor in serving, staffing the book sale table, and assisting people as they entered.

CHURCH CONFERENCE

Sunday, February 8, 2009

**Proposed Senior Minister
Committee Policy**

**Note: Discussion on February 4th during
Wednesday night activities.**

As the Transition Team continues its work, the time to select a Pastor Search Committee is not far away. The Proposed Senior Minister Committee Policy recommended by the Deacon Board was published in the January 17th newsletter. This is modification of our current policy and will need the approval of the congregation in Church Conference. The conference to consider this matter is scheduled for the 11:00 a.m. worship service on Sunday, February 8, 2009. I encourage you to be present and be a part of this decision.

Alan Reddish, Chair
Board of Deacons

MISSIONS MOMENTS

FOOD BANK DONATIONS

"Proud" was the first word that "popped" into my head when the final tally for the Food Bank donations was calculated. I was so proud of this church, but then I began to think that *proud* didn't seem to "fit." To me, the word *proud* seems "cold" and as Webster defines it—"having or displaying excessive self-esteem." This certainly didn't "fit" the images I have of y'all during the Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays.

My memories are full of so many wonderful things: of Wilson Denney and Sanford Butler repairing and painting the "Tree of Life" so the huge number of cans, jars and boxes for the Food Bank could be safely and soundly supported; of Sanford loading his trailer with all the food to be delivered before Thanksgiving; of Harry Haynsworth depleting his yard of greenery so the sanctuary windows could be continuously refreshed; of delivering the fruit each week and having the director tell me how excited the children were at the sight of fresh fruit—canned fruit is good, but fresh is wonderful (She said the parents would wait until their children got home from school and would bring them so they could choose a fruit); and especially of you, the members of this "beautiful" church (Webster gives two appropriate definitions), magically making the "Tree of Life" blossom, the "Currier and Ives" tree become bare (of gift bags), and the coffers of the Flower Committee swell.

The final tally isn't what's important, even though I've listed it below. It's the caring people who make up this "family," who even when the economy is dangerously teetering know that we are so very blessed, and that it's our privilege to be able to share. And to use Webster's suggestion, I'm "jubilant"!

- 1,342 items to the Food Bank (total of Thanksgiving and Christmas deliveries)
- 51 gift bags to Denney Towers (One gentleman in a wheelchair with tears in his eyes said he hadn't received a gift in years.)
- 40 windows of fruit (and canned goods which were used for props—tally included above)
- \$700 check to the Food Bank (excess window and poinsettia donations)

With the many heartfelt thanks from the recipients and myself,

Janice Love,
Flower Committee Chairman

P.S. The holidays are over, but just as hunger doesn't end on December 25, we shouldn't discontinue practicing the true meaning of Christmas. We can't afford to become lax in sharing with those less fortunate. We need to continue bringing cans and jars and boxes to the Missions Room. As a physician might prescribe: "Take one 'can' a week for your heart (and someone else's life)." Thank you again for helping make my Christmas memories so special.

Doing Missions in Our Community

Food Bank
February 10-11 and 24-25: Senior Adult Committee
Our Daily Bread
Thursday, February 12: Joe Callaway Class

NEEDED: Little Items for Prizes!!

The Council on Aging has a time every day when they play BINGO and everyone enjoys the game. They are in need of little things to give as prizes. Nothing expensive...just a little something for the winner, like a pocket size Kleenex, a pen, note pad, roll of mints, individual package of candy or gum, etc. Please bring to the Missions Room and place in the box marked "Bingo Items for Council on Aging." Questions? Call Lois Gibbs @ 706-369-7672. Thank you!

TASTE OF ATHENS

Members of First Baptist Church of Athens can satisfy their culinary impulses and benefit some good causes with a pair of upcoming events in the community. On February 22, the annual "Taste of Athens" event will be held at The Classic Center to benefit Community Connection of Northeast Georgia. This event features several of the area's top chefs, restaurants and pubs offering samplings of their food, as well as a silent auction and a Birthday Cake Competition between some of the area's best bakers in honor of Community Connection's 25th Anniversary. Tickets are on sale, and for more information, you can call 706-353-1311 or visit www.tasteofathens.org.

ENTRÉE OF HOPE

On April 28, "Entrée of Hope" benefiting The Ark, will be held at various restaurants across the community. This annual event features restaurants donating 10 percent of their proceeds from that day to The Ark, so all you have to do is go eat at one of the participating restaurants! More information will be available as the date grows near, but be sure to mark both dates on your calendar!

FINANCIAL & ATTENDANCE REPORT

FINANCIAL REPORT

Weekly Needs:	\$22,256.25
Received week of January 18	\$10,724.87
Received week of January 25	\$6,994.38

ATTENDANCE

January 18	January 25
9:00 a.m. Worship-65	
11:00 a.m. Worship-197	11:00 a.m. Worship-305

OUR CHURCH AT WORK

Co-Deacons for the Weeks of:

February 1-7: Genie Chamberlin and Richard Coleman
February 8-14: Ed Dempsey and Nancy Dempsey

Fellowship Committee Schedule

FEBRUARY
Sherman Reynolds, Wayne Rogers,
Jimmy Thomason, Amy Young

Periodicals
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FIRST BAPTIST NEWS
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FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
355 Pulaski Street
Athens, Georgia 30601-2860
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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Ministers	Randy Brittain Minister of Music
Ron Higdon Interim Pastor	Frank Granger Minister of Education
Hannah Marshall Interim Minister of Youth and Young Adult College Students	Anne Brittain Organist/Music Associate
Jon Appleton Pastor Emeritus	
www.firstbaptistathens.org	

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February Calendar

- FEBRUARY 1
Communion Service
- FEBRUARY 8
Cedar Shoals High School Concert Choir
2:00 p.m.
- FEBRUARY 9
55+ 36th Annual Valentine Banquet
6:30 p.m.
- FEBRUARY 10
International Valentine Banquet
6:00 p.m.
- FEBRUARY 17
Boy Scout Court of Honor
6:30 p.m.
- FEBRUARY 22
IHNA Host Week Begins
- FEBRUARY 25
Ash Wednesday

First Baptist News
ATHENS, GEORGIA

STUDENT SCENE...



There are many good things occurring in the youth ministry here at FBC. These good things point to God, who has surrounded these students with a fully capable and loving congregation. Please look at the calendar below and see how you may be further involved in this vital part of our church family! If you want to know how to get involved, please see the NEEDS sections below.

♥Hannah

STUDENT CALENDAR

• **SUPER BOWL PARTY THIS SUNDAY!!!** (NO youth choir)

When: February 1, 2009, 6:00 p.m. - the end of the Super Bowl

Where: Ken and Susan Parker's home

Why: To Fellowship in Fun together!

Needs: Adults to bring food and stay to watch the game with us. Please contact Hannah ASAP if you can provide food!

• **Upcoming Sunday Night Youth Activities:**

Sunday, February 8: Talk #2 - Culture Series (following Youth Choir)

Sunday, February 15: Talk #3 - Culture Series (following Youth Choir)

• **Sign Up Stuff:**

March Mission Madness 2009

When: March 27-29, 2009

Where: Milledge Avenue Baptist Church, Athens GA (MABC)

What: MMM is a CBF-sponsored annual youth event for other CBF youth groups in Georgia. Students travel to a host church (this year MABC), worship together, do mission projects together on Saturday, and have a great time getting to know new people.

Who: FBC youth and their friends (this is a friend-friendly event)

How Much: The total cost of the event is \$35.

Needs: We currently need 9 adults to serve as chaperones for worksites. We ask for this number of chaperones in order to support our neighbor host church, MABC, as they facilitate this huge event!

Chaperones help students stay safe and on task at their worksites around Athens. Chaperones also help transport students from MABC to various worksites and back to MABC when they are finished working. A chaperone can expect to work from approximately 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. on Saturday, March 28th.

Don't have a student who is a member of the youth group? Don't know any of the youth? That's okay!! We're looking for adults who don't normally get a chance to interact with the youth to seize an opportunity to serve, not only our youth group but also youth groups across Georgia and to support mission projects in the community.

Please contact me if you are willing to serve. Hannah@firstbaptistathens.org.

• **Passport Choices 2009**

When: July 5-10th, 2009

- Final deadline to sign up: April 1, 2009 (initial payment of \$50 per student due)

- Informational meeting on April 5, 2009 (time and location TBA)

Where: Wingate University in Wingate, NC

What: Passport Choices is a camp designed specifically for youth ages 6th grade to 12th grade. Passport Choices allows students to choose what their daily activities will be. They get to choose between mission work, faith in the arts, body image workshops, recreation ministry, and many more. This is an opportunity that EVERY student should have a chance to experience during the course of their youth group years! Check your calendars now for this formative opportunity in the life of your student(s)!

How Much: approximately \$200

This year, we will set up a payment plan for those students registered to go to Passport Choices. The first payment deadline and the deadline to sign up for Passport Choices is April 1, 2009. The first payment requirement is \$50.

Needs: Chaperones!! Depending on how many youth sign up to attend Passport Choices, we will need both male and female chaperones for the week—possibly more than one male and more than one female.

If you are available to help as a chaperone/driver, I would love to take you along to experience this awesome week of worship, learning, and fellowship.

Don't have a student who is a member of the youth group? Don't know any of the youth? That's okay!! We're looking for adults who don't normally get a chance to interact with the youth to seize an opportunity to influence the lives of our students!

Please contact me at Hannah@firstbaptistathens.org to discuss if you are interested. **Chaperones attend Passport Choices for free!



EVENTS BOX February 1-14

2/1	Worship Service-Fellowship Hall	9:00 AM
2/1	Sunday School and Bible Study	9:45 AM
2/1	Worship Service- Sanctuary	11:00 AM
2/1	Sunday School at Denney Towers	2:30 PM
2/1	ABC's of FBC Member Orientation- Fellowship Hall	5:00 PM
2/1	Youth Super Bowl Party- at the Parker's Home	6:00 PM
2/3	Boy Scout Troop 22 Meeting-Youth Area	7:30 PM
2/4	Christian Formation Committee- Fellowship Hall	11:00 AM
2/4	Property Management Meeting- Farrall Conference Room	5:15 PM
2/4	Wednesday Night Activities	5:00 PM
2/4	Wednesday Evening Dinner- Fellowship Hall	5:00-6:00 PM
2/4	Prayer Focus and Devotion	5:45-6:00 PM
2/4	Children's Wednesday Activities- Preschool-Grade 5	6:00-7:15 PM
	Children's Choirs	6:00-6:45 PM
	MISSIONkids!	6:45-7:15 PM
2/4	Youth Wednesday Activities- Self-Study in the Fellowship Hall	6:00-7:00 PM
2/4	Adult Studies- <i>Adventures in the Life of Faith:</i> Led by Ron Higdon	6:00 PM
	Discussion of proposed Senior Minister Committee Policy	
2/4	Sanctuary Choir-Choir Room	7:00-8:15 PM
2/4	Transition Team-Pastor's Office	7:15 PM
2/8	Worship Service-Fellowship Hall	9:00 AM
2/8	Sunday School and Bible Study	9:45 AM
2/8	Worship Service- Sanctuary	11:00 AM
	Church Conference	
2/8	Sunday School at Denney Towers	2:30 PM
2/8	Ad Hoc Task Force Meeting-E112/113	12:30 PM
2/8	Cedar Shoals High School Concert- Sanctuary	2:00 PM
2/8	Youth Choir Rehearsal-F-316	5:15-6:00 PM
2/8	Children's Committee Meeting-E112/113	5:00 PM
2/8	Youth Activities-Youth Area	6:00-7:30 PM
2/8	Adult Handbells-Handbell Room	6:15 PM
2/9	AIM Board Meeting-Library	10:00 AM
2/9	Newsletter Deadline	12:00 Noon
2/9	Senior Adult Committee Meeting- Farrall Conference Room	2:00 PM
2/9	Valentines Banquet-Fellowship Hall	6:30 PM
2/10	First Cup-Live Oak Area	8:00 AM
2/10	Missions Committee Meeting-E112/113	5:30 PM
2/10	International Valentine Banquet- Fellowship Hall	6:00 PM
2/10	Explorer Scouts-E112/113	7:00 PM
2/10	Boy Scout Troop 22 Meeting-Youth Area	7:30 PM
2/11	Finance Committee Meeting-E112/113	5:15 PM
2/11	Wednesday Night Activities	5:00 PM
2/11	Wednesday Evening Dinner- Fellowship Hall	5:00-6:00 PM
2/11	Prayer Focus and Devotion	5:45-6:00 PM
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