

## SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

### A WORD FROM THE OFFICE

As winter approaches and the likelihood of inclement weather increases, please remember these guidelines we use for church closings:

On weekdays, we will abide by the Clarke County school closings, canceling activities if the schools are officially closed.

Please listen to WGAU 1340, check the FBC website ([www.firstbaptistathens.org](http://www.firstbaptistathens.org)), or call the church office to see if service and/or activities have been cancelled.

### STEPHEN MINISTRY

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

January 7	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.

### A Christmas Diary

It was the day before Christmas and all through the church, IHNA volunteers were scurrying to prepare for our guests. The pantry was stocked, thanks to Sandy Sanders. Al Henderson's family set up the live Christmas tree and trimmed it with lights. The set-up crew, headed by the Tony Thompson family, transformed the youth area into our home for the week.

At 4 p.m., Veronica, the mother, and her four-year-old daughter, Verdaisha, arrived. After attending the Christmas Eve service, we enjoyed dinner and Christmas cookies (made by Carter Vaughn). Decorating the tree with ornaments made by FBC children's missions groups was next on our list. Finally, Verdaisha wrote a note to Santa and left him some milk and cookies.

Christmas—Santa had come!! He left a note thanking Verdaisha for the milk and cookies. The stockings—put together by the Young Couples class—were running over with goodies and brought lots of smiles and laughter. Verdaisha enjoyed opening each present and took her time admiring the contents. Our scrumptious and plentiful Christmas dinner was prepared by Emily Reynolds, and Jim said that he helped. (We didn't verify the latter.)

Throughout the week, FBC volunteers enthusiastically hosted our family. The food was delicious, the hospitality genuine, and the generosity incredible. We actually had more volunteers than we needed (I'll get you next time). At the end of the week, Veronica wanted to let FBC volunteers know how much they had meant to her family: "Thank you for all of the smiles and encouragement you gave us. We will always remember this Christmas. You gave us hope."

What a wonderful gift to give. Thank you, FBC volunteers!

## CHURCH FAMILY NEWS



### SYMPATHY

The church family extends love and support to **Susan Greene** in the loss of her grandmother, Nellie Lawrence, on December 24; to **Cicero Hemphill, Sr.** in the loss of his brother, George Hemphill, Jr. on December 30; and to **Beverly Brown** in the loss of her mother, Carolyn Dotson, on December 31.

### 55+

January 25, 2007

12 Noon

Pot Luck 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](http://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.

## YOUTH SCENE...

Preparing to Go to College...

Sunday, January 7 at 6:30 p.m., Fellowship Hall

*A discussion for Seniors and Juniors and their parents*  
David Graves, Senior Associate Director of Admissions at UGA and FBC member, will be leading this session.

Fundraiser Breakfast

Sunday, January 21

Hosted by Adults in Mission  
Donations accepted to benefit the  
Youth Mission Trip to Brazil

Carnival Celebration

Wednesday, February 14

Donations accepted to benefit the  
Youth Mission Trip to Brazil

## It is a beautiful day in Athens...

Hello 2007, Goodbye 2006 ....

We have a lot to celebrate at First Baptist Church Athens. As I write this article, Arlene Wood, our financial secretary, tells me that we have reached our goal of receipts for the month of December, receiving over \$200,000 for the month. Thank you to each person who has contributed to First Baptist during 2006. Secondly, we have received pledges for 2007 from 174 people committing to \$814,195.16. That is the most pledged in recent history of the church. Thank you for your looking forward to 2007.

As I reflect on the giving and the commitment level of First Baptist, I believe we need to celebrate. Our average pledge is \$4,679.28. This represents a core group of people committed to First Baptist Church. There are few moderate Baptist churches that have such a core group at this time.

We have much to look forward to in 2007. Our music, youth, children's and discipleship ministries are working together in an unprecedented manner. This is reflected in each newsletter. The ministry of First Baptist is not about one minister and his or her bag of tricks; it is about working together as a team. We have a wonderful team of church members, church attendees, and ministers working together in ministry, fellowship, discipleship, worship, and missions. I am looking forward to 2007...

Recently, the Personnel Committee received the resignation of Meg Doster, our part-time administrative person who worked with Frank Granger and Bailey Nelson. Meg accepted a full-time position at Beechhaven Baptist Church. During this interim time, we are searching for full-time and part-time administrative personnel to work with Frank, Bailey, and me. Suzy and Arlene are doing additional tasks, and temporary personnel have been hired to enable the office to run as smoothly as possible. I would ask you to give plenty of notice for anything you may need from our administrative staff. They are great at what they do. I would also ask that you remember us as we continue to look for new people to work in the church office.

See you Sunday,  
Bill

## FINANCIAL & ATTENDANCE REPORT

Week of December 17, 2006	Attendance
Weekly Receipts: \$40,445.82	9:00 NA
	11:00 390
Week of December 24, 2006	Attendance
Weekly Receipts: \$17,298.89	9:00 52
	11:00 260
Week of December 31, 2006	Attendance
Weekly Receipts: \$98,991.52	9:00 NA
	11:00 190

## A MUSICAL NOTE...

The Britains are finally in Athens. We moved into our home in the Chaddwyck subdivision of Oconee County on Monday, December 18, just in time to celebrate Christmas together. Thank you for all the prayers, cards, food, gifts, and help in unpacking. We are blessed to have such a loving and caring congregation, and look forward to our ministry together at FBC in 2007.

### SANCTUARY CHOIR

Want to enjoy the utter delight in sharing your musical gifts in a community of dedicated singers? Then the Sanctuary Choir is the place for you. And January is the perfect time to join. Come and give the choir a try during the next three months as we prepare music for worship each week and learn a new and exciting choral work for the Easter season. You'll be glad you did!

Blessings,  
Randy

## MISSIONS

Doing Missions in Our Community

JANUARY

Athens Area Food Bank  
January 9-10, 23-24: B & P Class

Soup Kitchen  
January 11: Office Staff

## OUR CHURCH AT WORK

Co-Deacons for the Weeks of:  
January 7-13: Greg Bickley, Reeves Carter  
January 14-20: Genie Chamberlin, J. Don Edwards

Fellowship Team

JANUARY

Wanda Grogan, Jane Hogan, John Knowlton, Linda Lacy

### THE GIVING TREE

Through the generous contributions of the First Baptist Church family, we donated more than 2,000 canned good items to the Athens Area Food Bank and made a monetary donation of \$950.

### GLOBAL MISSIONS OFFERING

Global Missions Offering Goal: \$17,000. \$10,066.79 has been given to date. The first \$13,000 goes to the overall mission effort of the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship, and the next \$4,000 is designated for the building of two wells in Africa. We will continue this campaign until May 2007.

**Education Ministry**

**PRAYER ROOM  
PLANS AND PROGRESS**

You may have seen the new addition to our Prayer Room. The door to the room contains two stained glass inserts. One of these contains the symbol of the cross, and the upper one has a symbol for the Trinity. These two beautiful pieces were created by Helen Mills, one of our members. We are grateful to her for sharing her gifts and time to help make this room complete.

**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.

**Wednesday Evenings at 6:00 p.m.  
ACTIVE PARENTING NOW  
Begins January 10, 2007**

*Active Parenting Now* is an interactive learning experience that teaches a skills-focused model of parenting to parents of children ages 5-12. The program utilizes group discussion, practice activities, brief video vignettes, and material from the *Parent's Guide*. Frank Granger will be facilitating this program. The *Parent's Guide* material is \$15.00. Sign up through the church office at 706-548-1359 or online at [www.firstbaptistathens.org](http://www.firstbaptistathens.org).

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

**January 10, 2007:** *Operation Inasmuch*, Linda Lacy, Member, First Baptist Church, Athens, GA

**January 17, 2007:** *Bible Study: Philippians*, Bill Ross, Senior Minister, First Baptist Church, Athens, GA

**January 24, 2007:** *Bible Study: Philippians*, Bill Ross

**January 31, 2007:** *Bible Study: Philippians*, Bill Ross

**BEGINS JANUARY 10, 2007  
6-Week Special Study**

Led by Mary Colley

***Exploring the Way: An Introduction  
to the Spiritual Journey***

A six-week introduction to Christian spirituality exploring the basic concepts of the Christian spiritual life along with the biblical texts that undergird them. Participants will discover the spiritual practices that will sustain them on their journey, such as lectio divina (sacred reading), breath prayer, holy listening, and simple journaling. As they are easily learned, these practices will eventually contribute to faith formation and spiritual rejuvenation.

Sign up through the church office at 706-548-1359, or online at [www.firstbaptistathens.org](http://www.firstbaptistathens.org). Cost for the materials is \$10.00. Study will begin on Wednesday, January 10.

**THE EVENTS BOX**

1/7	First Worship	9:00
1/7	Classic Worship	11:00
1/7	Stephen Ministry Training	3:30
1/7	Youth Support Meeting	4:00
1/7	New Member Orientation Committee	5:00
1/7	Junior/Senior Discussion: Preparing for College	6:30
1/7	College Bible Study	8:30
1/8	Aim Board Meeting	10:00
1/10	Wednesday Evening Activities	5:00
1/10	Property Management Committee	5:15
1/11	Relay for Life Kickoff	4:00
1/14	First Worship	9:00
1/14	Classic Worship	11:00
1/15	Newsletter Info Deadline	12:00
1/15	Senior Adult Committee	2:00
1/15	Deacons' Ham and Egg Supper	6:30
1/16	Circle 5	10:00
1/16	Joint Circle Meeting - Fellowship Hall	11:30
1/17	Wednesday Evening Activities	5:00
1/17	Finance Committee	5:15
1/17	Personnel Committee	5:30

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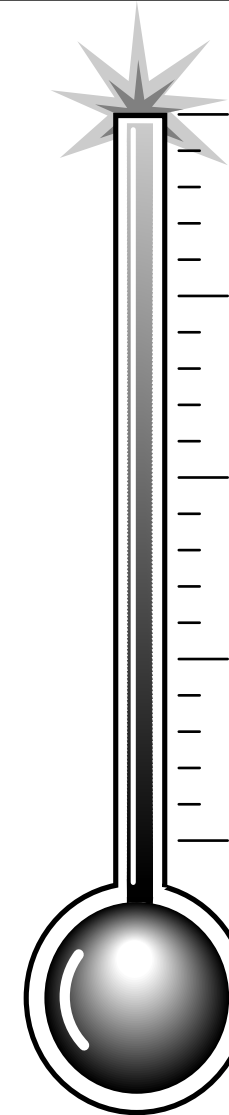
ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

<b>Ministers</b>	<b>Bailey Nelson</b> Minister of Children
<b>Bill Ross</b> Senior Minister	<b>Frank Granger</b> Minister of Education
<b>Randy Brittain</b> Minister of Music	<b>Matt DuVall</b> Minister of Youth/Young Adults
	<b>Jon Appleton</b> Pastor Emeritus
<a href="http://www.firstbaptistathens.org">www.firstbaptistathens.org</a>	

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**GLOBAL MISSIONS  
*Offering Goal***



**\$17,000**

**TO DATE  
\$10,066.79**

***The Campaign  
will continue  
until  
May 2007.***

**First Baptist News  
ATHENS, GEORGIA**