

First Baptist News



VOLUME LVI

JANUARY, 2012

NO. 1

Reflections

Dr. Paul Baxley

Monday, January 16 will be a very important day in the life of First Baptist Church, particularly in our ministry to the larger Athens community. That day is the annual Martin Luther King holiday, and a number of schools and businesses are closed that day. For years, there have been a number of commemorations of this day in our community, but this year, we have several ways to participate in the day. I hope you'll take advantage of as many as possible.

During the morning hours that day, our Mission Team strongly encourages that church members participate in the Day of Service. The Mission Team itself is organizing ways for our church to make improvements to the facilities of the Athens Area Homeless Shelter. If you'd like to volunteer for that project, please contact Don Nelson, chair of the Mission Team, or Phil Caskey, who represents our church on the community group planning the Day of Service projects.

Between 11:30 a.m. and 1:15 p.m., a luncheon will be served in Fellowship Hall, and we are inviting the entire community to join us for lunch. That luncheon is being coordinated by Pam Bickley (Recreation Team), Vicki Horton (Food Service Team), Sherri Divers (Welcome Center-Visitation Team), and Helen Mills (Sisters on a Mission). Please contact one of them if you'd like to volunteer. We are also asking Sunday School classes to bake desserts for the meal. We will need greeters as well as volunteers to help serve the meal.

At 1:30 p.m. in our Sanctuary, we will host the annual Community Ecumenical Service. Last year, it was my privilege to be one of the preachers for that service, and later in 2011, our congregation was asked to host the 2012 service. Our Deacons eagerly agreed that this was a wonderful opportunity for our church as we seek ways to build new relationships in our community and imagine new ways to be involved in God's mission. The preachers for this year's service will be Glenn Doak from First Presbyterian Church and James Kendrick from East Friendship Baptist Church. Music will be provided by our choir and by the choir of Hill Chapel Baptist Church. Plan now to be present for this significant service of worship.

The Planning Committee for the Ecumenical Service has set as the theme for the event: "A Table of Brotherhood." That theme partly inspired our decision to invite the community to lunch. The theme

(Continued on page 5)

In the Spotlight



"A Table of Brotherhood"

**FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH HOSTS
Martin Luther King Holiday
Day of Service Luncheon
and
Annual Community Ecumenical Service
Monday, January 16**

Athens MLK Day of Service: 8:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m.

During these morning hours, our Mission Team strongly encourages that church members participate in the MLK Day of Service. The Mission Team itself is organizing ways for our church to make improvements to the facilities of the Athens Area Homeless Shelter. If you'd like to volunteer for that project, please contact Don Nelson, chair of the Mission Team, or Phil Caskey, who represents our church on the community group planning the Day of Service projects. (Additional information can be found at the Day of Service website: handsonnortheastgeorgia.com/athensmlk/.)

Community Luncheon: 11:30 a.m.-1:15 p.m. First Baptist Fellowship Hall

We are inviting the entire community to join us for lunch. The luncheon is being coordinated by Pam Bickley (Recreation Team), Vicki Horton (Food Service Team), Sherri Divers (Welcome Center-Visitation Team), and Helen Mills (Sisters on a Mission). Please contact one of them if you'd like to volunteer.

Annual Community Ecumenical Service: 1:30 p.m. First Baptist Sanctuary

We are serving as the host congregation for the annual service this year. The preachers for this year's service will be Glenn Doak from First Presbyterian Church and James Kendrick from East Friendship Baptist Church. Music will be provided by our choir and by the choir of Hill Chapel Baptist Church.

MINISTRY AREAS

Children

Hannah Coe

January is here, which means our Children's Lock-In is just around the corner! Our lock-in will take place Friday to Saturday, January 20-21. Dinner, breakfast, and snacks will be provided. Mr. Charles Adams always has fun games and activities planned for the evening! We hope you will bring a friend. Please let us know by January 15 if you plan to attend.

January 4
Children's Choir and Mission Kids resume
January 20-21
Children's Lock-In!
March 10-11
Children's Choir Festival
FBC Greenville

Children's Music News

A big thank you to all of the choir workers, musicians, and parents who worked so hard to make the Christmas musical *Tails from the Manger* such a success. Children's Choirs of FBC Athens will resume for the new year on Wednesday, January 4 at 5:45 p.m.. We will start working on a new anthem which we will sing with Ken Medema on February 26. Come join us and bring a friend!

Teresa Granger

College

Frank Granger

70% of Needed Donations Received Endow-a-Chair Furnishings Campaign Thanks to all who have helped.

We are very grateful for these donations and have been able to purchase some of our items already. Our room is located on the third floor above the rotunda of the Fellowship Hall, Room F-319. Come by for a visit! We have only 2 chairs remaining that can be endowed. If you or your group has interest in making a specific donation toward an item or items, please contact Frank Granger. You may also make a donation directly to the fund simply by writing a check made out to First Baptist for "College Furnishings."

Now Serving: Atlanta 2012 February 17-18, 2012 Worship, Missions, Fellowship For and With College Students

Now Serving will be held on the Mercer University campus in Atlanta on February 17-18 and will be a wonderful time of worship, missions, and fellowship with college and graduate students from different campuses and churches across the Southeast. Trip includes lodging, two meals and one snack on Saturday, mission supplies, and t-shirt.

We will meet about 5:30 p.m. on Friday afternoon, go to supper together, then travel to Atlanta. We will return about 7:00 p.m. on Saturday.

Youth

Hannah Coe

Our youth will have several special opportunities to serve this winter and spring. On January 16, I hope our youth will take part in the "A Day On" Athens tradition by participating in local service projects hosted by our church and by HandsOn Northeast Georgia. Following our service projects, we will return to FBC Athens to enjoy a community lunch and then participate in the annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Day Ecumenical Service. In February, our youth will play a vital role in hosting our yard sale! A portion of the yard sale's proceeds go into our Youth Summer Mission Trip account. Finally, in March, our youth group will head to St. Simon's to participate in March Mission Madness! Parents and youth, please mark these events and deadlines on your calendar.

January 8 Important Deadline
MLK Workday Sign Up
March Mission Madness \$90 registration fee due
January 16 **MLK Workday and Ecumenical Service**
8:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m.
February 4 Youth Yard Sale!
February 5 Youth Super Bowl Party
Location: TBA
March 9-11 **March Mission Madness**
St. Simon's Island

Music Ministry

Randy Brittain

American Guild of Organists Concert

The Northeast Georgia Chapter of the American Guild of Organists will present a concert on Sunday, January 22 at 3:00 p.m. at First Baptist Church. The year 2011 was designated by the Music Teachers National Association as the Year of Collaborative Music. The Northeast Georgia AGO Chapter, along with local members of the American Music Teachers Association, will continue this collaborative effort into 2012 with a concert featuring organ/piano duets, music for organ and voice, and music for organ and other instruments. The concert will be in our sanctuary and is free and open to the public.

I hope you will consider attending and support the church musicians of our local chapter of the American Guild of Organists.

50+

Please help "**Warm Up Athens**" by collecting new or gently used and clean coats, blankets, scarves, socks, gloves, sweaters, hats, and other warm clothing for men, women and children. These items will be delivered to the Athens Area Homeless Shelter for the homeless in our community. Donations may be put in the designated bin in the Missions Room by January 31. Please see the 50+ bulletin board for more details.

Enroll in the **AARP Driver Safety Program**. Save \$\$\$ on your car insurance for 3 years upon completion of the course. Classes are held at the Council on Aging, 135 Hoyt Street. Please call 706-549-4850 to enroll. Cost for AARP members is \$12; all others \$14. Please pay by check or cash at the first class. For more information, call the Council on Aging. Dates for the January class are: Thursday and Friday, January 26 and 27, 9:00 a.m. to noon.

January 2012

WEEK 1—JANUARY 1-7



Sunday, January 1 **New Year's Day**
 11:00 a.m.-12:00 noon Worship Service - Sanctuary
Monday, January 2 Church Office Closed for New Year's Holiday
Tuesday, January 3
 2:00-9:20 p.m. Church Directory Pictures
 7:30 p.m. Boy Scouts Troop 22 Meeting - Youth Area
Wednesday, January 4 **Regular Wednesday Evening Activities**
 7:30 a.m. Prayer Breakfast - Covenant Carpenter
 2:00-9:20 p.m. Church Directory Pictures
 5:00-6:00 p.m. Wednesday Evening Dinner - Fellowship Hall
 5:15 p.m. Property Management Meeting - Farrall Conference Room
 5:45 p.m. Gather for Prayer and Announcements
 5:45-7:15 p.m. Children's Choirs & Missions
 5:45-6:25 p.m. Children's Choirs
 6:35-7:15 p.m. Mission Kids
 6:00-6:50 p.m. Adult Study - Fellowship Hall
 Guest Speaker: Dr. Robert Ayers, Professor Emeritus of Philosophy and Religion, University of Georgia
 6:00-7:00 p.m. Youth Activities (Grades 7-12) - Youth Area
 7:00-8:15 p.m. Sanctuary Choir - Choir Room
Thursday, January 5
 2:00-9:20 p.m. Church Directory Pictures
Friday, January 6
 2:00-9:20 p.m. Church Directory Pictures
Saturday, January 7
 9:30 a.m. - 5:10 p.m. Church Directory Pictures



WEEK 2—JANUARY 8-14

Sunday, January 8 **Regular Sunday Morning Worship**
 IHN Host Week Begins
 9:45-10:45 a.m. Sunday School and Bible Study
 11:00 a.m.-12:00 noon Worship Service - Sanctuary
 12:00 noon Children's Team Meeting - Farrall Conference Room
 2:30 p.m. Sunday School at Denney Tower
 5:15 p.m. Youth Choir - F-316
 6:00 p.m. Youth Activities - Fellowship Hall
Monday, January 9
 10:00 a.m. AIM Board Meeting - Fellowship Hall
 2:00 p.m. Staff Meeting - Farrall Conference Room
 6:30 p.m. Deacons' Ham & Egg Supper - Fellowship Hall
Tuesday, January 10
 10:30 a.m. IHN Board Meeting - Fellowship Hall
 2:00-9:20 p.m. Church Directory Pictures
 7:30 p.m. Boy Scouts Troop 22 Meeting - Youth Area
Wednesday, January 11 **Regular Wednesday Evening Activities**
 2:00-9:20 p.m. Church Directory Pictures
 5:00-6:00 p.m. Wednesday Evening Dinner - Fellowship Hall
 5:15 p.m. Finance Committee Meeting - E113
 5:45 p.m. Gather for Prayer and Announcements
 5:45-7:15 p.m. Children's Choirs & Missions
 5:45-6:25 p.m. Children's Choirs
 6:35-7:15 p.m. Mission Kids
 6:00-6:50 p.m. Adult Study
Option 1: Basic Christian Beliefs - Fellowship Hall
Asking the Basic Questions: What Is a Christian? Led by Paul Baxley
Option 2: Meeting Our Missions Partners:
 Hosted by Frank Granger - E108/109
Athens Area Homeless Shelter
 Shea Post, Director
 6:00-7:00 p.m. Youth Activities (Grades 7-12) - Youth Area
 7:00-8:15 p.m. Sanctuary Choir - Choir Room
Thursday, January 12
 10:00 a.m. Yoga Class - Fellowship Hall
 2:00-9:20 p.m. Church Directory Pictures
 6:00 p.m. IHN Coordinators' Meeting—E108/109
Friday, January 13
 2:00-9:20 p.m. Church Directory Pictures
Saturday, January 14
 9:30 a.m. - 5:10 p.m. Church Directory Pictures



WEEK 3—JANUARY 15-21

Sunday, January 15
 IHN Host Week Ends
 9:00 a.m. Missions Team Meeting - Farrall Conference Room

9:45-10:45 a.m. Sunday School and Bible Study
 11:00 a.m.-12:00 noon Worship Service - Sanctuary
 2:30 p.m. Sunday School at Denney Tower

Monday, January 16
 10:00 a.m. Quilters - S-104

11:30 a.m.-1:15 p.m. First Baptist hosts Martin Luther King Day Activities
 Luncheon - Fellowship Hall
 1:30 p.m. Community Ecumenical Worship Service - Sanctuary

Tuesday, January 17

10:00 a.m. Circle 5 at the home of Diane Box
 6:00 p.m. Virginia Appleton Circle at the home of Julie Massey Jenkins

7:30 p.m. Boy Scouts Troop 22 Meeting - Youth Area
Wednesday, January 18 **Regular Wednesday Evening Activities**

5:00-6:00 p.m. Wednesday Evening Dinner - Fellowship Hall
 5:45 p.m. Gather for Prayer and Announcements
 5:45-7:15 p.m. Children's Choirs & Missions
 5:45-6:25 p.m. Children's Choirs
 6:35-7:15 p.m. Mission Kids

6:00-6:50 p.m. Adult Study

Option 1: Basic Christian Beliefs - Fellowship Hall
Who Is God? Led by Paul Baxley

Option 2: Meeting Our Missions Partners:
 Hosted by Frank Granger - E108/109
The Ark United Ministry Outreach Center
 Lucy Huggens, Director

6:00-7:00 p.m. Youth Activities (Grades 7-12) - Youth Area
 7:00-8:15 p.m. Sanctuary Choir - Choir Room

Thursday, January 19

10:00 a.m. Yoga Class - Fellowship Hall

Friday, January 20

Children's Lock-In - Fellowship Hall

Saturday, January 21

10:00 a.m. Children's Lock-In - Fellowship Hall
 Organ Rehearsals - Sanctuary



WEEK 4—JANUARY 22 - 28

Sunday, January 22 **Regular Sunday Morning Worship**

9:45-10:45 a.m. Sunday School and Bible Study
 11:00 a.m.-12:00 noon Worship Service - Sanctuary
 12:00 noon College Luncheon - Fellowship Hall
 2:30 p.m. Sunday School at Denney Tower
 3:00 p.m. AGO Organ Recital - Sanctuary
 5:15 p.m. Youth Choir - F-316
 6:00-7:00 p.m. Adult Handbells - Handbell Room
 6:00 p.m. Youth Activities - Fellowship Hall

Monday, January 23

10:00 a.m. Embroiderers' Guild
 2:00 p.m. Staff Meeting - Farrall Conference Room

Tuesday, January 24

10:30 a.m. MEF Circle - Fellowship Hall
 12:00 noon February Newsletter Deadline
 5:30 p.m. Personnel Meeting - Farrall Conference Room
 7:30 p.m. Boy Scouts Troop 22 Meeting - Youth Area

Wednesday, January 25 **Regular Wednesday Evening Activities**

5:00-6:00 p.m. Wednesday Evening Dinner - Fellowship Hall
 5:45 p.m. Gather for Prayer and Announcements
 5:45-7:15 p.m. Children's Choirs & Missions
 5:45 - 6:25 p.m. Children's Choirs
 6:35 - 7:15 p.m. Mission Kids

6:00-6:50 p.m. Adult Study

Option 1: Basic Christian Beliefs - Fellowship Hall
Who Is Jesus Christ? Led by Paul Baxley

Option 2: Meeting Our Missions Partners:
 Hosted by Frank Granger - E108/109
Interfaith Hospitality Network of Athens
 Ken Sherman, Director

6:00-7:00 p.m. Youth Activities (Grades 7-12) - Youth Area
 7:00-8:15 p.m. Sanctuary Choir - Choir Room

Thursday, January 26

10:00 a.m. Yoga Class - Fellowship Hall



WEEK 5—JANUARY 29 - 31

Sunday, January 29 **Regular Sunday Morning Worship**

8:45 a.m. College Ministry Team Meeting - Farrall Conference Room
 9:45-10:45 a.m. Sunday School and Bible Study
 11:00 a.m.-12:00 noon Worship Service - Sanctuary
 2:30 p.m. Sunday School at Denney Tower
 5:15 p.m. Youth Choir - F-316
 6:00-7:00 p.m. Adult Handbells - Handbell Room
 6:00 p.m. Youth Activities - Fellowship Hall

Monday, January 30

2:00 p.m. Staff Meeting - Farrall Conference Room

Tuesday, January 31

7:30 p.m. Boy Scouts Troop 22 Meeting - Youth Area



SERVING TOGETHER

Co-Deacons for the Weeks of:

January 1-7: Erica Spackman and Fred Young

January 8-14: Amy Young and Randan Ashmore

January 15-21: Sallyanne Barrow and Mary Barton

January 22-28: Steve Barton and Greg Bickley

January 29-February 4: Marcia Caskey and Phil Caskey

Fellowship Team for January

Linda Lacy, Carl Monk,
Robin O'Rear, Jay Ragsdale

Usher Team for January

Wilson Denney, Jerry Gouge, Carl Hedrick,
Bert Hill, Joanna Hill, Bill Horton, Larry Toole

Welcome Center Team

- January 1** Branyon Foyer: Jackie Thomason and Tom and Debbie Brown
Fanning Foyer: Joyce Gravely and Karen and Kevin Price
- January 8** Branyon Foyer: Kim Rogers and Wayne Rogers
Fanning Foyer: Virginia Gerrett and Wanda Grogan
- January 15** Branyon Foyer: Jackie Thomason and Tom and Debbie Brown
Fanning Foyer: Joyce Gravely and Karen and Kevin Price
- January 22** Branyon Foyer: Al Henderson and Julie Hanna
Fanning Foyer: Virginia Gerrett and Wanda Grogan
- January 29** Branyon Foyer: Jackie Thomason and Tom and Debbie Brown
Fanning Foyer: Joyce Gravely and Karen and Kevin Price

CHURCH FAMILY NEWS

Sympathy

We extend our Christian love and sympathy to Cicero Hemphill in the loss of his mother, Annie Hemphill, on November 27.

We extend our Christian love and sympathy to **Jim Carter** in the loss of his brother, Phillip Carter, on November 27.

We extend our Christian love and sympathy to **Jennifer Baxley** in the loss of her uncle, Dwight Price, on December 3.

We extend our Christian love and sympathy to **Becky Adams** in the loss of her aunt, Carolyn Watson, on December 12.

We extend our Christian love and sympathy to **Linda and Larry Moon** in the loss of Linda's father, Lawrence Walker, on December 15.

We extend our Christian love and sympathy to the family of **Martha Austin** who passed away on Monday, December 19.

We extend our Christian love and sympathy to **Debbie, Keith, Hunter, Holden, and HollinLeigh Hargrave** in the loss of Debbie's father, Frank Bowden, on December 19.

THE DEADLINE FOR INCLUSION IN THE FEBRUARY NEWSLETTER IS JANUARY 24 AT NOON.

Send all news items to Donna Smith
donna@firstbaptistathens.org

WEDNESDAY SUPPERS

Please call the church office by noon on Monday to cancel or change your reservation. On Wednesday evening, please choose the meal for which you have a reservation so that there is enough food for everyone. Price is \$6 for adult meal/salad bar, and \$3.50 for children's meal.

January 4 HOT MEAL: Chicken and Rice Casserole, Carrots, Tossed Salad, Breadsticks, Dessert
CHILDREN: Pizza
SALAD BAR: Baked Potato, Broccoli Cheese Soup

January 11 HOT MEAL: Chicken Fingers, Macaroni and Cheese, Broccoli Spears, Fruit Cup, Breadsticks, Dessert
CHILDREN: Hot Meal
SALAD BAR: Baked Potato, Taco Salad Fixings

January 18 HOT MEAL: Barbecue, Bun, Baked Beans, Cole Slaw, Fruit Jello, Dessert
CHILDREN: Pizza
SALAD BAR: Baked Potato, Chili

January 25 HOT MEAL: Spaghetti, Meat Sauce, Tossed Salad, Fruit Cup, Breadsticks, Dessert
CHILDREN: Hot Meal
SALAD BAR: Baked Potato, Vegetable Soup

CONTRIBUTIONS & PARTICIPATION

Weekly Needs:	\$22,256.25
Received week of December 4, 2011	\$24,964.81
Received week of December 11, 2011	\$18,217.46
Received week of December 18, 2011	\$18,521.77

Year to Date November 30, 2011

Received:	\$867,723.89
Needed:	\$1,013,853.50
Expenses:	\$947,285.03
Balance:	(\$79,561.14)

11:00 a.m. Worship Attendance

December 4, 2011	261
December 11, 2011	405
December 18, 2011	238
December 24, 2011	472
(Christmas Eve Service)	
December 25, 2011	128

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Prayer Breakfast Covenant Carpenter

Wednesday, January 4, 7:30 a.m. Everyone is invited.

ITEMS NEEDED FOR YARD SALE!
As you clean out after the holidays,
plan to donate to the churchwide yard sale!
February 4, 2012
8:00 a.m.-Noon

Adult Discipleship

Frank Granger

Wednesday, January 4
Dr. Robert Ayers
6:00 p.m.
in the Fellowship Hall

Dr. Ayers is professor emeritus of philosophy and religion from the University of Georgia. A graduate of Furman University and Vanderbilt University, he was instrumental in the founding of the Religion Department at UGA.

Two Series Begin on January 11
Wednesdays at 6:00 p.m.
January 11 - February 15, 2012

BASIC CHRISTIAN BELIEFS
Taught by Paul Baxley
and

MEETING OUR MISSION PARTNERS
Hosted by Frank Granger
 See Below for Details

BASIC CHRISTIAN BELIEFS **Taught by Paul Baxley, meeting in Fellowship Hall**

Description: This six-week study will involve an exploration of basic convictions of the Christian faith. The study will draw from Biblical texts and theological writings across the history of Christianity, and there will be opportunity each week for discussion of the ideas presented.

Schedule:

- January 11:** *Asking the Basic Questions: What Is a Christian? What Is Faith?*
- January 18:** *Who Is God?*
- January 25:** *Who Is Jesus Christ?*
- February 1:** *What Is Salvation?*
- February 8:** *What Is the Church?*
- February 15:** *How Do We Understand Baptism and the Lord's Supper?*

MEETING OUR MISSION PARTNERS **Hosted by Frank Granger, meeting in Room E-108/109**

Description: During our six weeks, we will have the opportunity to meet the directors of some of our ongoing mission partners. These partners receive our support, both through our financial contributions and through hands on involvement. Join us to hear about the work of these ministries in Athens and their current activities and needs.

Schedule:

- January 11:** *Athens Area Homeless Shelter*, Shea Post, Director
- January 18:** *The Ark United Ministry Outreach Center*, Lucy Hudgens, Director
- January 25:** *Interfaith Hospitality Network of Athens*, Ken Sherman, Director
- February 1:** *Our Daily Bread*, Erin Barger, Director
- February 8:** TBA
- February 15:** *Making Lasting Connections: Joining Members with Mission Partners*



YOGA at First Baptist **Yoga for Stress Relief**

Classes presented by Samaritan Counseling Center, NEGA
 Classes led by Michelle Arington, RYT, CHC

Thursdays, 10:00-11:30 a.m.
January 12-February 16

All Yoga classes run 6 weeks for \$60 – drop in \$12
 FBC Members: 6 weeks \$54/drop-in \$11

In this class, we practice basic Yoga postures and breathing techniques that will relax the body and mind, reduce stress, and relieve tired and achy muscles. Build a resilient, centered and aligned body and mind with a gentle, yet strength building Yoga practice. This class is suitable for anyone that is new to Yoga, as well as anyone with prior experience. Individual needs and injuries are considered and addressed. Anyone is welcome!

Michelle Arington, RYT, CHC is a certified Holistic Health and Wellness Coach and therapeutic Yoga instructor at the Samaritan Counseling Center. Michelle offers nutrition education, health coaching, and yoga and mindfulness training for the purpose of stress and pain relief, emotional well-being, and personal fitness. Michelle offers holistic wellness workshops, educating the community about the benefits of yoga, and the importance of maintaining a healthy, balanced diet in order to improve emotional and physical health and to reduce overall health costs for individuals.

Reflections by Dr. Paul Baxley

(Continued from page 1)

flows from some of Dr. King's most famous words, namely his dream that "one day on the red hills of Georgia the sons of former slaves and the sons of former slave owners would sit down at the table of brotherhood." Join us on January 16 as we step into that dream together!

REMINDER: CHURCH TO CONSIDER RECOMMENDATIONS REGARDING MINISTERIAL STAFF

As announced in the December edition of *First Baptist News*, the Deacons are making some recommendations to the congregation regarding changes in our ministerial staff. They recommend that:

1. Beginning in the late spring or early summer of 2012, Hannah Coe transition from her full-time position Minister of Youth and Children to a part-time position, serving as Minister of Children.
2. That the congregation authorize the creation of a full-time position Minister of Youth and Mission effective summer 2012, and that a Search Committee be elected to seek a minister to fill that position.

On Sunday, January 8, at 8:30 a.m., a Congregational Meeting will be held in Fellowship Hall to present more details about these recommendations and answer questions. Then, on Sunday, January 22, the church will be called into conference at the Morning Worship hour to vote on the recommendations. In the event of inclement weather on January 8, the Congregational Meeting will be held on January 22. In the event of inclement weather on January 22, the church conference will be held on January 29.

A slate of nominees for the proposed Search Committee will be presented to the Deacons at their January 9 meeting and released to the congregation immediately following that meeting and in advance of the congregational vote on January 22.

More information is available on the church website. Also, if you have questions, please feel free to contact Lamar Houston, Chair of Deacons; Mark Sanders, Chair-Elect of Deacons; Donna Hopper, Chair of Personnel; or Paul Baxley.



Worshipping Together

Sunday, January 1, 2012

First Sunday of Christmas

Sermon: *Looking Forward*

Sermon by Frank Granger

Texts: Isaiah 61:10-62:3; Psalm 148; Galatians 4:4-7; **Luke 2:22-40**

Sunday, January 8, 2012

First Sunday After Epiphany

Sermon: *Come to Pay Him Homage?*

Texts: Isaiah 60:1-6; Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14; **Matthew 2:1-12**

Sunday, January 15, 2012

Second Sunday After Epiphany

Sermon: *I Saw You Before*

Texts: I Samuel 3:1-20; **John 1:43-51**

Monday, January 16, 2012 - 1:30 P.M.

Community Ecumenical Service—Martin Luther King Holiday

Messages by Dr. Glenn Doak and Pastor James Kendrick

Music by the Choirs of First Baptist Church and

Hill Chapel Baptist Church

Luncheon Prior to Worship in Fellowship Hall (11:30-1:15)

Sunday, January 22, 2012

Third Sunday After Epiphany

Sermon: *Unwelcome Responses*

Texts: Jonah 3:1-4:11; Mark 1:14-20

Sunday, January 29, 2012

The Fourth Sunday After Epiphany

Sermon: *Freedom and Faithfulness*

Texts: Deuteronomy 18:15-20; I Corinthians 8:1-13

MINISTERS

Paul A. Baxley
Senior Minister

Frank Granger
Minister of Education

Randy Brittain
Minister of Music

Anne Brittain
Organist/Music Associate

Hannah Coe
Minister of Youth

Jon Appleton
Pastor Emeritus

706-548-1359

www.firstbaptistathens.org

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First Baptist News

(USPS 193-040)

First Baptist Church

355 Pulaski Street

Athens, Georgia 30601-2860

Periodicals

POSTAGE PAID

Athens, GA 30601

OUR CHURCH ON MISSION

Our Daily Bread Soup Kitchen

The Disciples class to serve on January 12.

Athens Area Emergency Food Bank

The B&P Class to serve on January 10/11 and 24/25.

The Food Bank needs saltine crackers and canned tuna.

Please bring your donations to the Missions Room.

Interfaith Hospitality Network

Our next IHN Host Week is January 8-15. Volunteers, please sign up on the bulletin board in the main hallway. Contact Sherri Divers for more information.



Church Directory Picture Information CHURCH PICTORIAL DIRECTORY

Sign Up Today!

We are in the process of creating a new pictorial directory. The directory will be done by Olan Mills at no cost to the church. Sign up charts are available in our Fanning Foyer before Sunday School and in our Branyon Foyer before and after worship. You may also sign up online. Simply go to our church website home page and click on the link for Church Directory Sign Up.

The remaining dates for photography and portrait viewing are:

- Tuesday, January 3 (2:00 PM-9:20 PM)
- Wednesday, January 4 (2:00 PM-9:20 PM)
- Thursday, January 5 (2:00 PM-9:20 PM)
- Friday, January 6 (2:00 PM-9:20 PM)
- Saturday, January 7 (9:30 AM-5:10 PM)
- Tuesday, January 10 (2:00 PM-9:20 PM)
- Wednesday, January 11 (2:00 PM-9:20 PM)
- Thursday, January 12 (2:00 PM-9:20 PM)
- Friday, January 13 (2:00 PM-9:20 PM)
- Saturday, January 14 (9:30 AM-5:10 PM)

Please participate! There is no obligation to buy, but you will have the opportunity to purchase portraits should you choose. Sign up as soon as possible to get an appointment that best suits your schedule.

Every participating family/household will receive a free directory and a \$25 Portrait Certificate.

You will come to the church only once for photography and the portrait viewing. The entire process should take about an hour. If you wish to purchase portraits, they come with a 100% money back guarantee.

Whether you decide to dress formally or casually, you will want to make the most of this opportunity. The directory won't be complete without you.