



Volume 40, Issue 12

December

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Special points of interest:

- *Singing Christmas Tree*
December 2, 3, & 4
Nightly @ 7:00 pm
Tickets are still available.
- *Children's Christmas Program*
Sunday, December 18th @ 10:00
am Family Night (Youth Fund-raiser) & Children's Christmas Party Follows the Service
- *Lottie Moon Christmas Offering*



By the time you receive this newsletter Thanksgiving Day will be past. I hope you were able to enjoy your family for this special time of giving thanks. The Singing Christmas Tree will also be over. Each year this has been a tremendous blessing to the community. Now, we look forward to Christmas, a time of giving. Even though many think more these days about what they will receive rather than what they are giving, the season is meant to be a reminder of the greatest gift ever given, Jesus Christ. "For God so loved the world that he gave his only beloved son that whosoever would believe on him should not perish, but have everlasting life." As you give your gift this year, give it in the same spirit of love that God gave for you.

I recently traveled to

From The Pastors Study

Wilkesboro to visit with Dave dela Paz, who is a pastor of Shekinah Glory Baptist Church in the Philippines. Dave has spoken here at First Baptist before. He showed me a couple of DVD reports on the ministry there. My heart was broken as I heard of the masses of people there, which live in poverty situations much more severe than any poverty situations here in America. Even greater than the physical poverty is the spiritual poverty in which they live. Millions there have never heard the gospel of Jesus Christ. As the gospel is being preached, many come to know Jesus on a daily basis.

I am reminded of the passage in Mathew 9: 36-38, "But when Jesus saw the multitudes, he was moved with compassion on them, because they fainted,

and were scattered abroad as sheep having no shepherd. Then said he unto his disciples, the harvest truly is plenteous, but the laborers are few; Pray ye therefore, the Lord of harvest, that he will send forth labourers into his harvest."

Let us stop and think for a moment of the compassion Jesus had for the multitude. He was seated on the throne of glory, but chose to give of himself to come to this earth, to suffer needlessly, to die a gruesome death, and rise from the grave to break the chains of sin and death in order that we may find fellowship with him and live forever. Seated on his throne he had compassion. When walking on this earth he had compassion even knowing the trail would lead him to an anguishing death.

Continued on page 4...



Notes of Interest

Newsletter Information—Keeping the church informed is a big responsibility. If your group, committee, or organization has information that the church needs to know about, please have your information ready by the 18th day of the month. You can email the church office with your info @ fbc_sparta@skybest.com or there are forms located outside the church office to fill out and place in the box outside the office door. Please consider placing your information in the monthly Contact.

Newsletter Folding Party—Would you be interested in helping get the newsletter assembled & ready to mail on

Thursday, December 22nd @ 9:30am? If you would like to volunteer, please contact the church office at 372-8446.

Transportation—If anyone is in need of transportation to church on Sunday Mornings please contact the drivers for the month of December. They are Stephen Cassell @ 657-1786 or 372-4968 and Alan Dowell @ 372-1623.

Attention Nina Crouse—WMU—Study Group—The study Group will meet on Monday, December 12th @ 1:30pm.

Family Night Dinner—Our monthly Family Night Meal will take place on Sunday, December 18

following the Morning worship service. The Youth will provide the meal as a fundraiser. Also the children's Christmas Party will take place during this time. Come out and enjoy this time of good food and good fellowship.

Operation Christmas Child Update—First Baptist Church was credited with turning in 128 shoeboxes and that means we accomplished our goal. Also for the county wide total as of Tuesday, November 22, nine hundred and eight (908) shoeboxes had been collected at Sparta United Methodist Church distribution center. The county wide goal this year was 625.

What to give?

To your enemy,
forgiveness.
To an opponent,
tolerance.
To a friend,
your heart.
To a customer,
service.
To all men,
charity.
To every child,
a good example.
To yourself,
respect.

—Bren Arnold

Birthdays & Anniversaries for December



- 1 Sara Williams
- 2 Amos Wagoner,
- 3 Garrett Bare,
Jo Roskosh
- 5 Letha Kenchel
- 6 Abigail Wilkins
- 14 Margaret Royal
- 15 Alice Estep
- 17 Joshua Braxton,
Josh Howard
- 18 Brooke Bedsaul,
Rose Estep
- 19 J.T. Pardue
- 20 Mary Becker,
Sharon Leftwich
- 21 Linda Goodwin
- 22 Tom Miller,
R.B. Ridgeway,
JM Sturgill



- 25 John Black
- 26 Taylor Franklin,
Brittany Poole,
Devin Caldwell
- 28 Tim Caudill,
Maghan Edwards,
Aaron Gambill
- 29 Morgan Lyons,
Earnest Shaw
- 30 Steven Cassell



- December 1, 1979**
Ben & Kaye Royall
- December 7, 1995**
Santiago & Elaine Reales
- December 17, 1960**
Tommy & Mary Higgins
- December 17, 1977**
Roger & Carla Collins
- December 17, 1995**
Steven & Karowin Cassell
- December 26, 1959**
Walt & Shelby Greer
- December 26, 1976**
Gerald & Sharon Leftwich
- December 27, 1980**
Gary & Beverly Poole
- December 29, 1960**
Harold & Jean Hoppers



**Youth Meeting:
Wednesday @
6 pm
Sunday @
4:00 pm**



Don't Forget

Sunday, December 4th is our collection day for **Donations for the Solid Rock Food Closet.**

Please place your food items in the boxes in the vestibule and any cash donations in the basket on the altar table. Thank you for your continued support!



Youth

The youth is still growing and on fire for God. We have a few things planned for December. We are having a dinner December 18th right after church service. We will be serving hamburger steaks, salad, and baked potatoes. We hope that everyone will

be able to stay after and help support us. We would like to thank everyone that was able to attend our chili bean, pinto bean dinner. We raised close to \$750. This will help us with some of our winter activities. We are looking forward to taking part in the

Singing Christmas Tree and helping our community come closer to God. We hope that you will continue to pray for us and we thank you for everything that you have done for us.

Mitchell Reedy

While they were sleeping

It was an evening like any other. Ordinary men were doing an ordinary job. Shepherds were "keeping watch over their flock by night" (Luke 2:8). Was it chilly? Were they tired? When angels appeared with news of a Savior, had the shepherds been talking about their

troubles or sharing a good joke?



How quickly, how mysteriously, how unexpectedly an ordinary night became the turning point of human history. How remarkable that God chose to set his great rescue plan in motion when only a young couple was

paying attention and only a few shepherds were awake.

God's work is sometimes so secret we may wonder if he's there or if he cares. The Christmas story tells us that God works out breathtaking plans for our lives in the dark, often while we're sleeping or going about our ordinary routines.

Leadership/Calendar Meeting

There will be a meeting of the Leadership and staff on Tuesday, December 13th @ 7:00 pm. We will be discussing goals and plans for the new year. Also we will be

scheduling events for the next three months, January, February and March. I know there is already changes in the calendar, that will effect different groups, so come out and help

make plans for these changes.

Embrace Women's Ministries



**Bible Study
Monday Nights
@ 6:30 pm
Cost of the
Workbooks:
\$15.00**

It was a joy to be a part of the Baptist State Convention this year and not only have the opportunity to work in the Embrace booth, but to see and feel the unity of the Spirit in the speakers as well as the business sessions.

There will be a mission trip to Muldova and New York with Ashley Allen the director of Embrace. This is planned for women to go and to see and share the needs in those areas. If you have any interest in either

one of these please contact Eva Rice and she will give you all of the information. It would be great if we could send at least one woman on one of these trips this year.

There were 4 ladies that went to the Women's Detention Center in Wilkesboro and shared with 18 inmates, as well as took them bibles and some personal items. If you have any trial size lotions, hair conditioners, deodorant or shampoos, please

bring them to the church for the next visit to these women. These women need your prayers as well as the courage and strength to make choices that will lead them down the right path. There will be several of our ladies that will go to the Samaritan's Purse to help with the shoe boxes. As we begin to collect our thoughts and gifts for the holiday season, let us begin to think about our outreach as much as our in-reach.

A Christmas Tapestry



“Christmas reminds us we are not alone. We are not unrelated atoms, bouncing and ricocheting amid aliens, but are a part of something, which holds and sustains us. As we struggle with shopping lists and invitations, compounded by December’s bad weather, it is good to be reminded that there are people in our lives who are worth this aggravation, and people to whom we are worth the same. Christmas shows us the ties that bind us together, threads of love and caring, woven in the simplest and strongest way within the family.”

—Donald E. Westlake

Pastor's Study Continued...



This compassion was for the people because of their condition of helplessness. With no thought of his own self Jesus laid down his life for you, me and the world.

My question is this: where is such

compassion today? In as much that Jesus, our Lord and Savior has this compassion for us, could we not, also, feel such compassion for our fellow man? When was the last time you felt compassion for the lost state of mankind?

What course of action do you think is the best way to deal with your compassion? When are you going to get started? Note: we are to pray for laborers. That's a good place to start.

Deacons Minutes

The meeting was called to order by Gary Poole. An Opening Prayer was given by John McCray. Gary Poole gave the devotion. We reviewed and approved the minutes from September 2011 Deacons Meetings. A motion was made to approve the minutes and seconded. The motion passed unanimously. The September 2011 Financial report was

presented by Cecil Brooks. A motion to approve was made and then seconded. The motion was approved unanimously. Deacon Family books were given to the new deacons. A request by the Children's Ministry team to move the time for Sunday School and Church was discussed but was dismissed since it had recently been voted on twice by the Church to remain at

our current times.

The Deacon Prayer List was updated and Gary Poole led the group in prayer for those on the list.

NEW BUSINESS:

A Deacon Family Report was given by all present.

A discussion was held concerning the need for increased space for the youth ministry.

The meeting ended with a circle prayer.

Deacons Meeting



Monday, December 12th @ 7:00 pm



What's on your list?

*A little smile,
a word of cheer,
A bit of love
from someone near,
A little gift from
one held dear,
Best wishes for
the coming year ...
These make a
Merry Christmas!*



—John Greenleaf Whittier

Senior Adults

On November 15th, eleven senior adults traveled to Highland Park Baptist Church for the Surry Assoc. Senior Adult Christmas

Luncheon. Pastor McCray led the musical portion of the program. The fellowship and good

food was enjoyed by all. We wish everyone a very blessed Christmas.



Lottie Moon Christmas Offering

Every December the memory of Lottie Moon is honored by Southern Baptists everywhere, when we begin a world wide mission offering campaign that is taken up in her name. Lottie

Moon served 39 years as a missionary in China. She sacrificed her life to spread the good news about Jesus Christ. Her heartfelt vision was for the Chinese people and she worked diligently to

spread the gospel. Jesus commissioned us to be his heart, his hands and his voice. Your support through praying and giving can help reach others with the gospel.

HISHEART HISHANDS HISVOICE



2011 Lottie Moon Christmas Offering®

National Goal: \$175 million
Week of Prayer for International Missions: December 4-11, 2011

Our church goal: \$5,000

imb
offering

LAWSONMISSIONS.COM

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
OF SPARTA

PO Box 668
202 South Main Street
Sparta, NC 28675

Phone: (336) 372-8446
Fax: (336) 372-8446
Email: fbc_sparta@skybest.com
Website: www.spartafirstbaptist.com

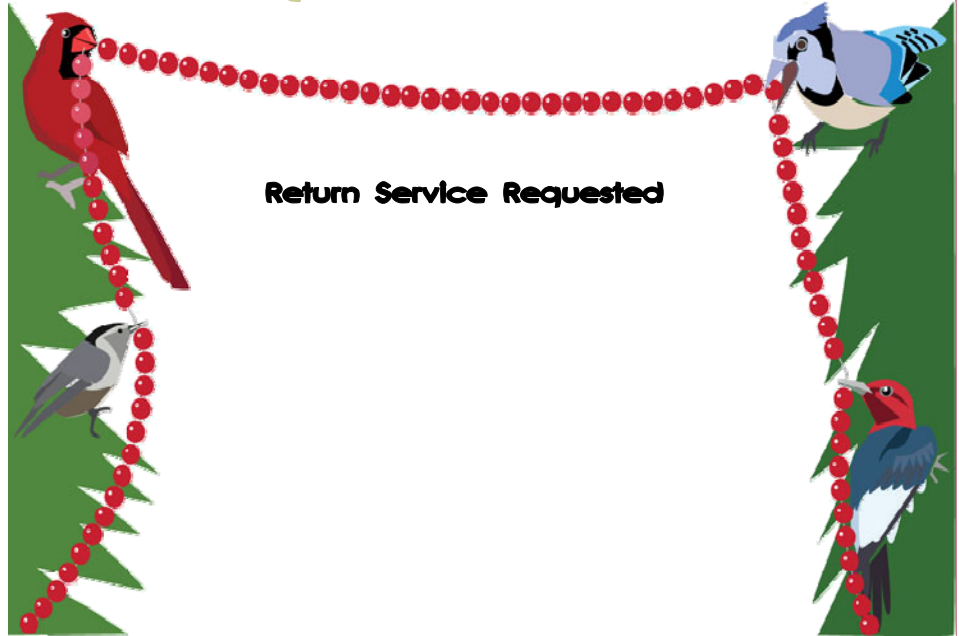
*Sunday School Attendance
In November, 2011*

<i>Date</i>	<i>Attendance</i>
6	76
13	77
20	77
27	65

*Sunday School Enrollment 185
Average Attendance 74*

Contact Monthly Newsletter

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Return Service Requested

Committees and Special Services for December

Nursery Schedule

Barbara Lyon (372-4565)

- 4 Sylvia Jackson
- 11 Barbara A. Church
- 18 Paula Carson
- 25 Mike & Alex Wagoner

Van Drivers

Stephen Cassell
@ 657-1786 or
372-4968
Alan Dowell
@ 372-1623

Heat & Air Controller

Alan Dowell

Family Night Dinner

Linda Bedsaul (chair)
Mary Becker
Sylvia Jackson
Carolyn Caldwell

Brotherhood

Breakfast

No Brotherhood
Breakfast this month.

Ushers

Mike Rowe
Charles Adams



Winter

Deacons

2012

Cecil Brooks
Tom Miller
Gary Poole (chair)
Warren Taylor

2013

Charles Adams
Faron Atwood
Robert Patrick
Oscar Reeves

2014

Gerald Leftwich
Ed Moore
Ricky Royal
Ben Royall

Solid Rock
Food Closet Needs—
Toiletries, toilet paper,
dish washing detergent, ...