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<p><b>Birthdays</b> <b>December 21-January 10</b></p> <p>Dec. 21 Beulah Hazle Iva Phelps Donna Rodgers Luther Cochran Sue Young Jason Wheeler</p> <p>Dec. 22 Geneva Wyatt Edgar Bell Ben Conner Kenneth Higgason</p> <p>Dec. 24 Sandra Braden Carey Coffey</p> <p>Dec. 25 Don Edlin</p> <p>Dec. 26 W. L. McCoy</p> <p>Dec. 27 Detra Darst</p> <p>Dec. 28 Hazel Denham Marschall Keith</p> <p>Dec. 29 Marlene Newton</p> <p>Dec. 30 Kristin Thompson</p> <p>Dec. 31 Kristin Estes Holly Neagle</p> <p>Jan. 1 Lorene Elkins Carol Greer Susan Howard Craig Warnshuis</p> <p>Jan. 2 Rhonda Bush Tina Thompson Eli Royalty</p> <p>Jan. 3 Donna Whitlock Alena Phelps</p> <p>Jan. 4 Virginia Marcum</p> <p>Jan. 5 Harold Priddy</p> <p>Jan. 6 Jeremy Adams</p> <p>Jan. 7 Donna Wells Vick McGrew Kelly Newton</p> <p>Jan. 9 Bethany Stiles</p>	<p><b>MIKE'S-SPACE</b></p> <p>Because of Western Recorder policy this will be my last Link article until New Years. Because of that and because we do not attempt to send out Christmas cards to the entire congregation, let me wish you and yours a very merry Christmas and happy New Year!</p> <p>For Donna and I, it truly has been a roller coaster type year. I started the year still working in the Hardin County school system and ended up being your full-time pastor. Donna started the year still managing her parent's gift shop and ended up a pastor's wife again. While there have been some adjustments to make, Donna and I have enjoyed the transition.</p> <p>I have spent a great deal of time observing and thinking about First Baptist Church this past year. Recently I have been making plans for the future. With that in mind, I want you to pray about something for me. The second Sunday of the new year I plan to bring a State of the Church address. This message will give you some of my impressions of the current condition of First Baptist Church and some ideas as to what we can attempt to do in the near future. I'm excited to talk to you about these things. And I hope you'll mark this date on your calendar and plan to attend.</p> <p>One of the most difficult things we have had to deal with this past year has been changes in the ministry staff here at First Baptist. Adam Townsend will begin his ministry as Minister of Education and Children soon, and we are in the process of searching for a new Minister of Youth. And soon we will begin searching for a new Minister of Music because of Greg Harry's resignation.</p> <p>Greg's last Sunday with us will be Dec. 28. There will be a farewell reception for Greg and his family after the evening service. Plan to come and thank Greg for all his faithful service during his years here at First Baptist.</p> <p>Finally, I plan to be on vacation the week of New Year's, which means I'll be away the first Sunday in January. Thank you for allowing me to have time off. I hope to come back to you refreshed and ready to jump into the Lord's work for 2009.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Yours in Christ, Bro. Mike</p>	<p><b>First Baptist Church</b> <b>730 Tonieville Road</b> <b>Hodgenville, Ky. 42748</b> <b>Phone 358-3193</b> <b>Fax 358-0917</b> <b>E-Mail for Staff</b></p> <p><b>First Name of staff member@fbchodgenville.org</b></p> <p><b>Office Hours</b> Monday - Friday 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.</p> <p><b>Mike Rodgers</b> <b>Pastor</b> Home Phone: 369-9173</p> <p><b>Greg Harry</b> <b>Music Minister</b> Home Phone: 358-5179</p> <p><b>Marty Lee</b> <b>Interim</b> <b>Minister to Students</b> Home Phone: 358-5861 Cell Phone: 769-8188</p> <p><b>Sally Lewis</b> <b>Administrative Assistant</b></p> <p><b>Sybil Johnson</b> <b>Pianist</b></p> <p><b>Tom Gill</b> <b>Custodian</b></p>
	<p> <i>We wish you a very, merry Christmas!</i> <i>Bro. Mike, Greg, Marty, Sybil, Tom and Sally</i></p>	
	<p> In your bulletin next Sunday morning, you will receive a Lottie Moon brochure. Please READ. It tells about two people who in very different ways "Go Tell the Story of Jesus." What are you going to do to tell the story?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Are you going to GIVE so missionaries can GO tell others about Jesus?</li> <li>2. Are you going to PRAY daily for God's missionaries all over the world?</li> <li>3. Are you willing to GO if that is what God wants you to do? He may want you to be a missionary in Hodgenville, somewhere else in Kentucky, in another state or on another continent.</li> </ol> <p>Are you ready to go where He wants you to go? What are YOU going to do to OBEY HIS COMMAND and "Go Tell the Story of Jesus?"</p>	<p><b>The Link will not publish next week and the week after due to Christmas and New Years.</b></p>
		<p><b>Bro. Adam Townsend</b> will be here in January to start his ministry at FBC as Minister of Education and Children. If you need to reach him, his email address is active now. <a href="mailto:adam@fbchodgenville.org">adam@fbchodgenville.org</a></p>
		<p><b>December Greeters:</b> Mona Bell, Jim and Carol Boley, Hannah Harry, Bill Hazle, Mae Burden, Shirley Crawford, Jan Wright, Liane McDowell, and Julie Skeens <b>Host:</b> Mona Bell</p>
		<p><b>Dec. 21: Deacons of the Week:</b> Bill Shoemaker &amp; Dean Williams <b>Head Usher:</b> Jimmy Edwards <b>Dec. 28: Deacon of the week:</b> Denny Duggins &amp; Jimmy Edwards <b>Head Usher:</b> Jimmie McDowell</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Children's Workers</b></p> <p><b>December 21:</b> <b>Breakfast:</b> Vicky Williams <b>Infant:</b> Linda Back, Mary D. Meredith, Mary Lou Newton <b>Toddlers:</b> Brad and Beth Turner <b>2's &amp; 3's:</b> Terry and Deena Bradley <b>Jr. Children's:</b> Suzanne Boone and Cindy Smith <b>Evening Worship:</b> Perry Huccaby and Carol Hornback <b>Wed., December 24:</b> Debbie Dickerson and Maria Durham</p> <p><b>December 28:</b> <b>Breakfast:</b> Jennifer Adams <b>Infants:</b> Kitty Dixon and Cathy McClure <b>Toddlers:</b> Marty and Teresa Lee <b>2's &amp; 3's:</b> Larry and Sandra Braden <b>Jr. Children's:</b> Allison and Katie McDowell <b>Evening Nursery:</b> Ron and Jennifer Mills <b>Wed., December 31:</b> Liane McDowell and Jean Thomas</p>

# The Link...

...between a ministering church and the home.

## First Baptist Church

730 Tonieville Road, Hodgenville, Kentucky 42748  
(270) 358-3193, [www.fbchodgenville.org](http://www.fbchodgenville.org)

Volume XXXVIII No. 49

# First Baptist News - Page 2

<b>Greg's Notes</b>	<b>Student Ministry Stuff</b>	<b>Children's News</b>
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**Joseph's Amazing Night**

*So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth... to Bethlehem...with Mary, who was expecting a child... and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. Luke 2:4-7*

The birth of my children was an amazing experience. No doubt it is an amazing experience for any father (not to diminish the role of mothers.) I saw how fragile life was and how dangerous the birthing process can be, then I consider Joseph and the birth of his son.

I imagine Joseph was not much different from imminent fathers today—wanting to make his wife comfortable; wanting to make sure that mistakes are not made; wanting get it over with.

Picture this—there you have Mary and Joseph—she's in labor and Joseph "don't know nothing 'bout birthin' no babies." There's already been a visit from angels informing him this was no ordinary baby. He was none other than the "Messiah!" It was Joseph's job to get this baby into the world without a hint of a malpractice suit, especially from this child's "natural" Father.

Then it begins. Joseph has seen animals give birth before but not his wife. The water, the blood, the animals all around. God looking over his shoulder; the head, the shoulder, here He comes. He's out. Cut the cord. Clean up—pretty simple. That's just the half of it.

Now the people start coming -the shepherds with stories of those pesky angels, the wise men who brought gold and spices. Each bringing their own amazing stories.

Now your amazing night: You and I couldn't lift a finger to change our condition of sinfulness but God could and did. God, from the vastness of the universe, took on the form of a child, as small and insignificant as a single cell amoeba in relative terms, that you and I might be forgiven, unable to be sinless, just because He loved us. I still wonder why.

Now that truly is **amazing!!!**

**Greg**

**Cantata Choir, simply terrific! Thanks for your hard work. Chloe and Macie, you did great!**

As we approach the Holiday season I'd like to thank everyone who has supported our students and our student ministry over the past year. We've undergone lots of changes during the past year and we couldn't have done the things we've done without all of your help. Thank you.

**Holiday Schedule for Youth:**  
 Wednesdays – will meet this week (Dec. 17) but not on Dec. 24, Dec. 31 or Jan. 7. Current plans are to resume Wednesday night youth on Jan. 14 along with the children's programs.

Sunday Nights – will meet this week (Dec. 21) but not on Dec. 28 or Jan. 4. Current plans are to resume Sunday night youth programs on Jan. 11.

**Progressive Dinner:**  
 The annual student progressive dinner will be held on Monday, December 22. Times have not been finalized but the event will probably start around 5:00 pm. This will be a restaurant progressive dinner with appetizers, soups/salads and desserts. Students and adults who would like to attend should sign up in the youth area as soon as possible. The cost is \$10 per person.

**Upcoming Events:**  
 Sunday, Jan. 18 – Snow Tubing at Perfect North Slopes  
 Sunday, Feb. 1 – Super Bowl Party  
 Saturday, Feb. 7 – Valentino's  
 Feb. 20-21 (Fri.-Sat.) – Jr. High Believe Conference in Cincinnati (for grades 6-8)

In Christ,  
-Marty

Don't Miss It...

This was part of the Christmas KidMo lesson on Sunday. As the birth of Jesus was told and incorporated into our Christmas holiday, this point was brought out to our children. They even repeated it to each other at the end of the lesson. And what an important point it is that we should all probably repeat it..."don't miss it!" Don't get so caught up in the busy schedule and parties, the search for the perfect gift or the desire for the perfect gift that we miss the reason for the celebration, Christ's humble birth.

As my family and I cut back this year on our "secular" Christmas focus (mostly due to the current state of the economy), I can't help but think of the good that can be found during this time as well. As we strive to save more (which we as Americans overall do not do very well) and trim our excessive spending, our focus has become more of our thankfulness for what we have and the family and friends that we don't appreciate nearly enough. The time together is so much more important than how many gifts we stuff under the tree. As my ailing step-father tearfully reminded us this week, each day is a gift from God. We get so consumed with the busy-ness of this season that we miss the true celebration. I pray that you can take time out to make sure you and your family "don't miss it!"

On a very thankful note, the Children's Committee wants to express a special word of thanks to Greg Harry and Steve McCubbin. Our chairs for the Children's Floor were delivered this week, without the call ahead notice we were expecting. These two gentlemen took time out of their day to unload this huge delivery. Thank you both!!!!

Deena

<p><b>Sunday, December 21</b>                  8:30 a.m. Orchestra Rehearsal                  9:15 a.m. Praise Team Rehearsal                  9:45 a.m. Bible Study                  11:00 a.m. Morning Worship                  6:00 p.m. Evening Worship                  7:00 p.m. Business Meeting                  7:00 p.m. Church-wide Christmas Caroling</p> <p><b>Monday, December 22</b>                  10:00-11:00 a.m. CFC Open for Walking                  5:00 p.m. Body Sculpting                  5:00 p.m. Youth Progressive Dinner</p> <p><b>Tuesday, December 23</b>                  8:00 a.m. Men's Prayer Breakfast                  9:00 a.m. Art Class</p> <p><b>Wednesday, December 24-Christmas Eve</b>  <b>Office Closed</b>                  11:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Service</p> <p><b>Thursday, December 25-Christmas Day</b>  <b>Office Closed</b></p> <p><b>Friday, December 26</b>                  10:00-11:00 a.m. CFC Open for Walking</p> <p><b>Sunday, December 28</b>                  8:30 a.m. Orchestra Rehearsal                  9:15 a.m. Praise Team Rehearsal                  9:45 a.m. Bible Study                  11:00 a.m. Morning Worship                  6:00 p.m. Evening Worship</p> <p><b>Monday, December 29</b>                  10:00-11:00 a.m. CFC Open for Walking                  5:00 p.m. Body Sculpting</p> <p><b>Tuesday, December 30</b>                  8:00 a.m. Men's Prayer Breakfast</p> <p><b>Wednesday, December 31- New Year's Eve</b>  <b>Office Closed -No Evening Services</b></p> <p><b>Thursday, January 1-New Year's Day</b>  <b>Office Closed</b></p> <p><b>Friday, January 2</b>                  10:00-11:00 a.m. CFC Open for Walking</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Youth Schedule for Sunday Nights</b></p> <p><b>Middle School and High School</b>                  5:30 Coffee and Dessert Bar                  6:00 Middle School D-Group                  6:00 High School Worship</p> <p>These programs will not meet on Dec. 14th due to the Christmas Cantata or December 28th.</p>
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**Church-wide Christmas Caroling**  
 After Evening Worship December 21st

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**Christmas Eve**

**Christmas Eve Candlelight Service**  
**11:00 p.m., December 24th**

*If you would like to light a candle for a loved one whom has passed away since our last Christmas Eve service, please call the church office so we may list the names.*

**Peace in the World Tonight**

**Great job Sunday evening!**

**Worship Choir and Greg**

<p><b>Dec. 14th Financial Report</b></p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr><td>Needed Weekly:</td><td style="text-align: right;">10,663.46</td></tr> <tr><td>Budget Received:</td><td style="text-align: right;">6,709.45</td></tr> <tr><td>Budget given:</td><td style="text-align: right;">499,378.89</td></tr> <tr><td>Budget needed:</td><td style="text-align: right;">533,173.00</td></tr> <tr><td>Designated:</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>    Lottie Moon</td><td style="text-align: right;">1,668.20</td></tr> <tr><td>    Becky Carnell</td><td style="text-align: right;">50.00</td></tr> <tr><td>    Upward</td><td style="text-align: right;">185.00</td></tr> <tr><td>    Youth</td><td style="text-align: right;">200.00</td></tr> <tr><td>    Video</td><td style="text-align: right;">50.00</td></tr> <tr><td><b>Total Offering</b></td><td style="text-align: right;"><b>8,862.65</b></td></tr> </table>	Needed Weekly:	10,663.46	Budget Received:	6,709.45	Budget given:	499,378.89	Budget needed:	533,173.00	Designated:		Lottie Moon	1,668.20	Becky Carnell	50.00	Upward	185.00	Youth	200.00	Video	50.00	<b>Total Offering</b>	<b>8,862.65</b>	<p><b>Dec. 14th Attendance</b></p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr><td>Bible Study</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>    Sr. Adult</td><td style="text-align: right;">24</td></tr> <tr><td>    Adult</td><td style="text-align: right;">93</td></tr> <tr><td>    Young Adult</td><td style="text-align: right;">21</td></tr> <tr><td>    Youth</td><td style="text-align: right;">23</td></tr> <tr><td>    Children</td><td style="text-align: right;">23</td></tr> <tr><td>    Preschool</td><td style="text-align: right;">18</td></tr> <tr><td>    Visitors</td><td style="text-align: right;">11</td></tr> <tr><td><b>Bible Study Total</b></td><td style="text-align: right;"><b>213</b></td></tr> <tr><td>Morning Worship</td><td style="text-align: right;">300</td></tr> <tr><td>Evening Worship</td><td></td></tr> </table>	Bible Study		Sr. Adult	24	Adult	93	Young Adult	21	Youth	23	Children	23	Preschool	18	Visitors	11	<b>Bible Study Total</b>	<b>213</b>	Morning Worship	300	Evening Worship		<p>If you are willing to assist in the rotation to prepare the <b>Wednesday evening meal for the younger youth</b> during the spring semester, please contact Dale Morris at 358-4585; 358-9223 or 505-3876 as soon as possible. The Youth budget will pay for the food. You will simply be responsible for getting it, preparing it, serving it and cleaning up. If we get enough volunteers it will only involve about three to four occasions during the semester.</p>
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