



First Servant Weekly

Dr. Gil McKee, Senior Pastor

December 18, 2008

Volume 7, Issue 51

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How Great Is Our God

During morning worship on December 21 and 28, we will experience a sermon series called "How Great is Our God." While Tim Simpson, our college minister, guides us into a better understanding of greatness and demonstrates the full extent of the love of Christ, Noel Mills, a local artist, will capture his words on huge canvases.

This Sunday:

8:30 & 11:00 a.m.

Joy
Worship Choir
Soloist: Candy Hocutt

Welcome to Worship
Matt Rouse

Hark! The Herald
Angels Sing

Offertory Prayer
Vial Fontenot
Minister of Missions

I Have Seen the Light
Worship Choir
Trio: Andrew Bryant,
Emil Turner, Larry Murphy
Quartet: Wayne Beall,
Stan Turnipseed,
Sam Mottesheard,
Charlie Payne

Joy to the World!
The Lord is Come

Morning Message
Rev. Tim Simpson

God Is Good

O Come, Let Us
Adore Him

Candlelight Service

Sunday, December 21

6:00 p.m.



Birthday Party for Jesus

The preschool and children's Sunday School classes will participate in a Birthday party of Jesus on Sunday, December 21 during Sunday School. Each person should bring one of the items listed below as a gift to be donated to Sav-A-Life of Tuscaloosa, a ministry to pregnant women. Items include washcloths, hooded bath towels, baby lotion, baby wash,

baby blankets, disposable diapers, sleepers, bodysuits, baby clothing, bottles, pacifiers, socks or booties.

Church Newsletter Online

This week you may have received an email link to this newsletter via the church website. In 2009 we will begin delivering our weekly newsletter and other publications using this method. Please contact Barbara Smith at 345-7554 or Barbara@fbctuscaloosa.org if you would like to receive this newsletter by email, or if you need to continue receiving First Baptist publications by U.S. mail.

Please note that the *First Servant Weekly* newsletter is not published Christmas week.

Word from the Pastor...

Thank you, **Matt Rouse** and our entire music ministry, for another very successful *Christmas at First*. The music and drama were incredible, and I have already heard testimonies concerning how God used it to touch the lives of people with the good news of Jesus Christ. As far as I am concerned, there is not a better music ministry in the entire state of Alabama. God has truly blessed FBC!



Speaking of blessings, I would be negligent not to thank all of you who have sent Sharon and me cards, notes, letters and other expressions of love during this Christmas season. We truly appreciate each and every one. Your kindness to us is almost overwhelming at times. Thank you!

As you know, this is **Carl Wells'** last month with us as our Minister to Senior Adults. What began as a six-month commitment from Carl has turned into six wonderful years of ministry and service together. Words cannot express my love, respect and appreciation for Carl and Eleanor. A reception has been planned for them on **Sunday, January 11, from 4:00-6:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall**. I hope you will plan to drop by and express your love and appreciation.

I want to encourage you to be in church on Sunday evenings during 2009. On January 4 I will begin a new series of messages on Sunday nights titled, **"Fundamentals of Spiritual Growth."** If you are interested in knowing how to really grow in your relationship with Jesus Christ, this is a series of messages you will not want to miss.

Finally, I want to encourage us one more time to **"Finish Strong"** financially in 2008. As you know from the letter I sent out last week, we need receipts of more than \$600,000 this month in order to meet our *Mission and Ministry Plan* expenses for the year. While I realize that we are in tough economic times, let me encourage you to do the very best you can in your giving to the Lord. Let's be faithful to Him as we know He will be faithful to us!

Merry Christmas! Bro. Gil

Canned Food Drive

The Community Soup Bowl is feeding more people than ever before and they need our help. Our church supports this important mission financially but we can also help by donating canned vegetables and fruit, and elbow macaroni. Please place the items in the marked bins throughout the church.



Pledge Update

Through Sunday, December 14 we have received pledges totaling **\$1,879,082** toward the plan total of **\$3,956,651**. There is still time to make your pledge to the 2009 Mission and Ministry Plan.

Finish Strong in 2008

Remember to "Finish Strong" by helping First Baptist meet our offering goal of \$635,000 by the end of December. This is the amount needed to meet our current financial obligations. As of Sunday, December 14 the contribution total is \$177,025. All contributions for 2008 must be in the church office or postmarked by Wednesday, December 31.

2009 Wednesday Nights at First

Begin the New Year by attending Wednesday Nights at First! Wednesday Nights at First (WNF) kicks off in 2009 on Wednesday, January 7, with a full slate of activities and studies for preschoolers, children, and youth. **Adult DiscipleLife studies begin the following week on Wednesday, January 14.** Adult studies include *Foundations: Essential Truths of the Christian Faith, One Month to Live: 30 Days to a No-Regrets Life, Isaiah and Micah*, and *Faith and Culture*. Also beginning Wednesday evening, January 14, are the following First Ladies' Bible Studies: *Adventurous Prayer, Esther*, and *Captivating*. Another special study beginning on January 14 is **Dave Ramsey's Financial Peace University (FPU)**. Orientation sessions for FPU will be Wednesday, January 7, at 6:00 p.m. and Sunday, January 11, at 5:00 p.m. For a complete schedule for WNF and descriptions of these studies, please pick up a "Wednesday Nights at First" brochure from the literature racks throughout the church or visit the church's website, www.firsttuscaloosa.org.



Disciple Now 2009
January 23-25
Ryan John & Antjuan Marsh
Great Bible Study Leaders
DNow Recreation
Amazing Worship
Life-Changing Bible Study

41 Hours of Spiritual Growth

Cost: \$50
\$75 after January 14

Minister on Call

In case of an emergency need during the weekend (5:00 p.m. Friday - 8:00 a.m. Monday), please call 535-5988.

Recently Hospitalized

As of 12/16/08:

DCH Regional Med Center:

Charles Johnson
Velma Meeks
Kathryn Phillips

Forest Manor Rehab:

Carolyn Pickering

Sympathy to:

- Jerry Plott and John Plott and families in the death of their mother.
- Judy Carter, Susan Dickey and Daniel Pike and families in the death of their aunt.
- Grady Hathcock and family in the death of his wife, Georgia.

December 21 Volunteers

TV Ministry

Bryan Owings, Ben Owings, Rick Dowling, Randy Glover

Welcome New Member

by Letter/Statement:

6: Leigh Adams

New Student Ministry Website



www.thearenafirst.com

GO TELL
the story of Jesus

**Lottie Moon Offering
for International Missions
Our Goal: \$75,000
Given to Date: \$23,287**



December 7, 2008

Weekly Ministry Budget Need	74,035.75
Ministry Plan Gifts	\$86,026.94
Surplus for week	\$11,991.19

Touching Tomorrow Today	\$11,715.75
Designated Gifts	\$11,711.00
Total Gifts	\$109,453.69

2008 Mission/Ministry Plan Summary

Year-to-Date Need	\$3,701,787.50
Actual Year-to-Date Gifts	\$3,180,209.15
Difference	(\$521,578.35)

Gifts given in Memory of:

Dan Avery, Mildred Bailey, Robert Crow, Franklin Mills, Minnie J. Mills, Samuel V. Mills, Jay Ricks, LeAnn Strong.

Gifts given in Honor of:

Gil McKee and FBC staff, Second-Hand Rose Ministry, Mr. and Mrs. Daniel MacLemore, Jr., Rodney McCoy, Pete and Martha Pierson, JoAnn Robertson.

Bible Study Attendance

Sunday School - December 14, 2008

	Enrollment	Attendance
Preschool	179	111
Children	204	114
Students	213	137
College	229	28
Adults	1422	655
Total	2247	1045

\$2,782,575 (total amount pledged)

\$2,500,000
\$2,000,000
\$1,500,000
\$1,000,000
\$ 500,000
\$2,365,463 (actual amount given)
\$417,112 (remaining pledge balance)

First Baptist Tuscaloosa

721 Greensboro Ave.
Tuscaloosa, AL 35401

205-345-7554

Children's Center:
205-391-3115

Child Development
Program
205-366-4411

www.firsttuscaloosa.org

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Sunday, December 21

8:30 a.m. Worship
9:30-11:00 Library Open
9:45 Sunday School
11:00 Worship
4:30 ESL classes
6:00 Candlelight Service

Tuesday, December 23

6:00 p.m. Spanish Church
Christmas Party

Wednesday, December 24

No evening meal or other activities.
Church office and Children's Center closed.

Thursday, December 25

Church office and Children's Center closed.

Friday, December 26

Church office and Children's Center closed.

Sunday, December 28

10:00 a.m. Lord's Supper Service

Foundation Election

The First Baptist Foundation was established on December 5, 1962. Since its inception, the First Baptist Foundation has distributed funds for the financial needs and concerns of First Baptist Church as determined by the Board of Directors of the First Baptist Foundation. When you come to worship this Sunday, December 21, you will have the opportunity to elect a Board Member to a new term on the First Baptist Foundation. Chuck Malone and Allen McGiffert have been nominated by the Foundation's Board of Directors. Please vote for one of these men. Ballots will be available in your worship guide Sunday morning. Completed ballots should be placed in the offering plate.

Holiday Schedule/Events:

Sunday, December 21: Tim Simpson preaching in morning services. Candlelight service, 6:00 p.m.

Wednesday, December 24: Church office and Children's Center closed. No evening activities.

December 25 and 26: Church office and Children's Center closed.

Sunday, December 28: No Sunday School, one morning service at 10:00 a.m. with Tim Simpson preaching. No evening worship service.

Wednesday, December 31: Church office will be open. No evening activities.

Thursday-Friday, January 1-2: Office and Children's Center closed.

Sunday, January 4: Regular schedule. Dr. McKee begins a new evening sermon series, *Foundations of Spiritual Growth*.



FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

721 Greensboro Avenue ~ Tuscaloosa, Alabama 35401
205.345.7554 ~ Fax 205.391.3108 ~ www.fbctuscaloosa.org
~ Prayer Line 205.366.4430 ~

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Mission Statement:

First Baptist Church meets to **magnify** Jesus Christ and **multiply** His Kingdom, to mature believers into effective Christ-followers, and to **minister** to others in Jesus' name.

"The Living Word," our Worship Service broadcast -
11:00 a.m. every Sunday

