

Education Ministry

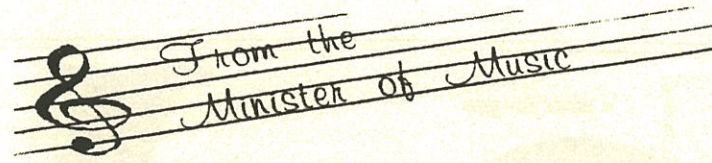
On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshipped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold and of incense and of myrrh. [Matthew 2:11]

On the way to work this morning I heard over PBS an interview with a man from Oregon. He suggested giving Christmas gifts that ministered and helped people in the third world who were in great need of the bare necessities of life. Instead of giving the latest fad that people really do not need, he recommended a gift in someone's name to a third world humanitarian organization that provides food, medicine, and clothing. For example, an eighteen dollar gift to a certain humanitarian group will furnish enough food for one month for a family living in Bangladesh. A thirty dollar gift to another organization is enough to purchase a milk goat which in turn furnishes needed nourishment for many destitute people. He offered more suggestions that were worthwhile which met critical physical needs. As I listened to him, I thought of the greatest gift of all. This gift is the baby born in Bethlehem who grew in "wisdom and stature in favor with God and man" and died on a cross to give us eternal and abundant life." To know Jesus as Lord is an indescribable gift that meets the deepest needs of all people.

Although we should give to organizations that meet physical needs of people, it is even better to give to our mission organizations that meet the spiritual needs of people without hope. We were challenged in the Pastor's sermon last Sunday to give to world missions. We, as believers, should finance our missionaries called to give their lives in witnessing and sharing this wonderful gift to people throughout the world. Our mission gifts not only give hope and Good News to people living in despair and darkness, but have eternal benefits. What a blessing to those who receive Christ, and blessed are those who give gifts in His name!

Wanda and I look forward to the Christmas Season at Fayetteville's First Baptist Church. The Christmas music concert presented by the Sanctuary Choir last Sunday evening was a blessing to us. I have never heard our choir sound better. The next two Sunday evening concerts will be a wonderful and worshipful as well. What would the season be without Christmas music to remind us of the reason for the season?

A receiver of the greatest gift,
Bob



WHAT JOY it gave me to direct this past Sunday evening's Christmas presentation. A good number of our church family attended and many of you brought guests. Those of us involved appreciated your presence. Months of preparation go into this kind of effort. Your support at the concert adds to the fulfillment we experience as we seek to honor God. Thank you all for coming!

Sanctuary Choir, you were simply wonderful. I cannot remember hearing you sing with greater depth of feeling. You have heard me say many times, "God loves right notes." While accurate singing must always be our goal, correct pitches and rhythms alone do not music or ministry make. Disciplined, engaged hearts and minds are needed to accomplish these tasks. This you did; glorifying God, blessing His people, and hopefully effectively sharing the *good news* with the lost.

All of our instrumentalists ministered well. Debbie Hoyt and Becky Riggs' duet set everything in motion. Tintinabulators (bell ringers), what would Christmas be without bells? Thank you for the special touch you added with your skillful ringing. Claudette Hunnicutt, Rita Savage and Jennie Riggs were more than successful in meeting the challenge of a program with varied and difficult accompaniments. Many directors must always consider this element first in selecting their music. *This is never a factor in my deliberations.* There are no limitations for us in this area. And that, my dear people, is nothing to sneeze at!!! Thank you, instrumentalists, one and all.

Children's ensemble, *nothing* in Sunday evening's concert touched me more than your contribution. You will be children for such a short time. The exquisite, enchanting voices God has given you at this time in your life is a precious gift. No youth or adult choir can give us what you gave us Sunday evening. Thank you for being just what God made you and doing what only you can do!

In 1971, I directed my first Christmas program. In the twenty-five years since then, I have never had an ensemble of players who more capably portrayed their roles than the five who ministered Sunday evening. Arlene Hudson, David and Andrew Landers, Amanda Ford, and Deby Salsman; what a blessing you were! Thank you for making my job so easy and for making the characters you depicted so real to us.

MY FIVE FAVORITE CAROLS ARE: Have you completed your card. I hope you will. This is a tool to help me prepare for our **CHRISTMAS CONCERT III: A Congregational Carol Sing, Sunday, December 22 at 6:00 p.m.** It will be a great evening. Plan to come and bring friends. (Remember, carols are Christmas songs about Jesus. Some of you may want to complete another card. We will not be singing "Frosty" or "Jingle Bells" that night.)

THIS SUNDAY EVENING — CHRISTMAS CONCERT II, a concert featuring all of our Children's Choirs (preschool choirs will not participate in this concert), Youth Choir, Ladies Handbell Choir, *Campanella* (children's choirchime choir), *New Song*, and *Harmony of Faith*. The church-wide Christmas fellowship follows. This is a great outreach opportunity. Bring someone!

Mike

YOUTH MINISTRY of Fayetteville's First Baptist Church

"For since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities - His eternal power and Divine nature - have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that men are without excuse." Romans 1:20.

Just try to count the ways that God has revealed Himself to man. It is almost impossible. I think of nature. The waves of oceans, the mountains of Colorado, the fields of the midwest, the fjords of Norway. What an awesome display of the presence and existence of God.

I think of people. How intricate and specifically we are made. Each has a distinct personality as well as likes and dislikes. Each person shows some of the characteristics of the personality of God.

But above these and all others, I think of God's intervention in the life of mankind. I think of a burning bush. I think of the Red Sea. I think of fire falling from Heaven on an altar soaked with water. I think of three men standing in a blazing furnace yet they are not burned. I think of little boys defeating giants and elderly adults having babies. But most of all I think of a small animal stall on a quiet, still night. I think of a baby's cry and a father's frantic effort to make mother and child comfortable. I think of the innocence, the majesty, and the wonder. To think that God would intervene with humanity in the only way we could fully relate and fully be redeemed. Just try to think of the power of it. God in the form of a helpless child. God meeting us at the point of our greatest need. Emmanuel, God with us!!!

Please continue to pray for our youth as the semester winds down and as finals approach. Pray that this Christmas season would afford them the opportunity to share the love of Christ with their friends, and that they would remember the reason that we as believers celebrate during the season. Thanks so much. God bless.

In Him,
Jim



WHAT SHALL WE GIVE THE CHILDREN?

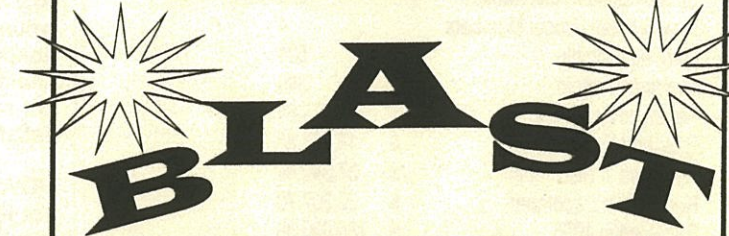
What shall we give the children? Christmas is almost here. Toys and games and playthings, As we do every year? Yes, for the magic of toyland is part of the Yuletide lore To gladden the heart of childhood but I shall give something more.

I shall give them patience, a more sympathetic ear
A little more time for laughter, or tenderly dry a tear.
I shall take time to teach them, the joy of doing some task.
I'll try to find time to answer more of the questions they ask.
Time to read books together, and take long walks in the sun.
Time for a bedtime story, after the day is done.
I shall give these to my children, weaving a closer tie,
Knitting our lives together with gifts that money can't buy.

(author unknown)



ALL-YOUTH NEW YEAR'S EVE



Tuesday, December 31, 1996

8:00 p.m. - 2:00 a.m.

Jones Center

Springdale, Arkansas

\$3 per student



Featured concert
Pamplin Recording Artist

Jeni Varnadeau



**Youth Spring Break
Ski Trip**

Next deposit \$81 due this Sunday,

December 15

Praise Record - Dec. 8

Sunday School Enrollment	1052
Sunday School Attendance	520
New Sunday School Members	4
Morning Worship	521
Evening Worship	340
Received December 8	\$ 20,279.87
Required December 8	\$ 16,153.85
Received in December	\$ 37,340.64
Required in December	\$ 32,307.70
Received in 1996	\$ 780,033.39
Required in 1996	\$ 791,537.95
Find Us Faithful - 12/01/96	\$ 27,181.04
Find Us Faithful - 4/14/96	\$ 176,005.81

*Balance owed FUF

loan 12/01/96 \$ 1,082,774.14

*On 12/01/96 the Construction Loan (963,881.96) and the Prop. Acquisition Loan (111,000) plus interest due (7,892.18) was consolidated into one loan.

World Mission - 12/08/96 \$ 10,780.13

EXTENDED SESSION - Dec. 15

Babies: Debbie Rose, Maxine Mayes

Older Babies: Margaret Little, Jane Eaves

Ones: Jim & Vicki Rader, Lesley Purtle

Twos: Ron & Deedra Branscum

Threes: Kendal Hudgins, Carol Earhart,

Lyndsey Loyd

Fours: Randy & Christel Kirk,

Jackue Loyd

PARKING/VAN MINISTRY-Dec. 15

Parking all members

Van Harry Norman

NEW MEMBERS

Brandy Hale

1363 N. Salem Rd.

Fayetteville, AR

Janjula De Silva

1211 N. Leverett, #21

Fayetteville, AR

443-2190

HOSPITALIZED

Mary Bond WRMC, #517

MEMORIALS

In memory of Minta Robinson

Bea Crook

In memory of Mr. Caswell Wilson

Larry & Sheila Bourland

DEACON OF THE WEEK

Charles Oxford, December 15-21, 1996

WOMEN ON MISSION

Prayer Group will meet December 17th at 9:30 a.m. in the Conference Room.

DEACON CHRISTMAS DINNER RESERVATIONS

should be made on or before next Sunday, December 15th. The dinner is December 19, 7:00 p.m. at the Clarion. Please circle beef or chicken. Clip and return to the church office, or call 442-2387.

Name

beef/chicken

beef/chicken

beef/chicken

beef/chicken

IMPORTANT NOTICE

Any single contribution of \$250 or more to a charity must be substantiated in writing by that charity. The documentation also must indicate whether the donor received any goods or services in exchange for the contribution. A church's written acknowledgment must only be issued to the donor. They are not sent to the IRS. The Statement of Contributions that we currently issue satisfies these requirements.

HOWEVER, to ensure the deductibility of your church contributions, please do not file your 1996 income tax until you have received a written acknowledgment of your contributions from the church. Under the new rules that took effect this year, you lose a deduction for some contributions if you file your tax return before receiving a written acknowledgment of your contributions from the church.

Donors must deliver or mail checks on or by December 31, 1996 in order to claim charitable contribution deduction for 1996. Checks that are placed in the church offering on the first Sunday of 1997 will not qualify for a charitable contribution deduction in 1996, even if the check is predated to 1996.

The office will be closed December 24 & 25 for the holiday, so please mail your contributions for 1996 so that they are postmarked by midnight December 31, 1996, or deliver them to the office before that date. The Statements of Contributions will be generated as early in January as is possible.

WORLD MISSION PRAYER EMPHASIS



As campus minister and director of the Baptist Student Union (BSU) at Chicago State University, Tony Banks, like our own Lynn & Cindy Loyd, shares Jesus with students and faculty. He leads weekly meetings and organizes activities to involve students in worship and sharing. "Seeing students grow in understanding and breaking strongholds of bondage is very rewarding," says Tony. "Watching them learn to love Jesus is what keeps me ministering." Because college campuses are traditionally melting pots of various beliefs and ideas, Tony is constantly faced with the challenge of making a clear statement of the gospel to the school's 11,000 students. He does that by building relationships. Tony prays that God will raise up student leaders to share and evangelize. He desires to see students commit to God and love His work. He prays also that he and his students will be of one accord as they meet and learn. Tony prays that he, his wife, Pier, and their children, Natasha and Nathaniel, will focus on God's call in their lives and will stay close to one another amid their busy schedules. The relationship of campus ministries to local churches is a concern for Tony. He prays that the harmony between the campus and churches will draw more students to Christ.

WORLD MISSION GOAL: \$52,500
Amount received: 10,780.13

"The Voice" (USPS 195-220) is published weekly except the last week in December and the first week in January by First Baptist Church, College and Dickson, Fayetteville, AR 72702. Second Class postage paid at Fayetteville, AR. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to "The Voice," c/o First Baptist Church, P.O. Box 906, Fayetteville, AR 72702.



FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

College & Dickson Sts., Fayetteville, AR

(501) 442-2387

Vol. 44

December 10, 1996

No. 49

FROM YOUR PASTOR

One of the things I enjoy about the Christmas season is the wonderful music. The program this past Sunday evening was great! Great job! This next Sunday evening we will have Concert II. Following the concert we will have our annual all-church fellowship. You are invited to prepare and bring your favorite Christmas "goodie" and enjoy the fellowship with each other and "pig out". This would be a wonderful time for you to invite friends and neighbors who are unchurched to attend with you. It would also be a good time to invite an International friend. We had such a great time at Thanksgiving. Let's do it again.

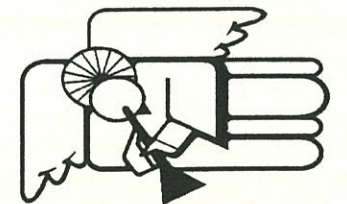
This Sunday evening is the time for our regular monthly business meeting. Because of the fellowship we have moved the business meeting to the 22nd of December.

This is the time of the year when many of you begin to think about year-end giving. There are several worthy projects you might want to consider. Some of them include: regular budget giving, World Mission Offering, "Find Us Faithful", and the new church van that has been ordered. These are just a few items.

I have been thinking recently about all of you who do so many things in First Baptist Church with so little recognition. I know that you do so without thought of recognition, but let me say **THANK YOU!!** I hesitate to make a list, but I will name a few: those of you who work in our programs; Sunday School, Discipleship Training, Music, and Missions; those who serve on committees; the sound crew, extended session, library, greeters, ushers, van drivers and anyone else. Thank you!! You are important to our ministry and I appreciate you.

I will look for you next Sunday morning in worship and Sunday School.

Love
Preacher



**This
Sunday Evening
December 15
at
6:00**

CHRISTMAS CONCERT II

featuring
Children's Choirs
Youth Choir
Ladies Handbell Choir
Campanella
New Song
Harmony of Faith

followed by



DESSERT FELLOWSHIP

Bring your favorite dessert!!
~The church will provide the drinks~