

FROM YOUR PASTOR

I hope you are enjoying the Christmas season as much as I am. The music Program of First Baptist continues to provide first rate music and the message of Christ's coming. Thank you!!

The all-church fellowship was wonderful. Thanks to all of you who brought your "goodies" to share. It was a lot of fun. My prayer is that you will be a giver. There are many less fortunate people that you can bless by being a giver. You can also be an encourager this Christmas season to some one who is hurting or is lonely. I also pray that you will have a blessed and holy Christmas.

I will look for you this Sunday in Sunday School and worship.

Love

Preacher

YOUTH MINISTRY
of Fayetteville's First Baptist Church

"Basically, all of us, whether insiders or outsiders, start out in identical conditions, which is to say that we all start out as sinners." (Romans 3:9-10, The Message).

Jesus is the great equalizer. No matter who we are or where we come from, when we come to Jesus we realize that we are all the same. We are sinners in need of a Savior. And it is that Savior who died for us though we were the ones that deserved death. (Romans 5:8)


As we embark on this Christmas season, my prayer is that we will realize that we, if we are believers, have been saved by grace, and that the love God has shown for us has been shown for all mankind. Every person is loved equally in the eyes of God. I am reminded of the lyrics of a song by the contemporary Christian music group, The Kry. "Let not the wise man boast of his wisdom, let not the strong man boast of his strength, let not the rich man boast of his riches, for all men are equal down at the cross." And at the manger as well!!!

Laura and I want to wish all of you a very Merry Christmas and pray that the Light that came into the world almost 2,000 years ago will strengthen your heart, give you hope, and guide your path. Happy Birthday Lord Jesus!!!! God bless you.

In Him,
Jim

ALL-YOUTH NEW YEAR'S EVE BLAST

Tuesday, December 31, 1996
8:00 p.m. - 2:00 a.m.
Jones Center
Springdale, Arkansas
\$3 per student



WILD
GAMES

MOVIES

ICE
RINK

KARAOKE

CONCERTS
BY LOCAL
BANDS


Featured concert
Pamplin Recording Artist
Jeni Varnadeau

**Education
Ministry**

The people walking in darkness
have seen a great light;
For to us a child is born,
to us a son is given,
and the government will be on his shoulders.
And he will be called Wonderful Counselor,
Mighty God,
Everlasting Father,
Prince of Peace.
Of the increase of his government and peace there will be no
end.
He will reign on David's throne
and over his kingdom,
establishing and upholding it with justice and righteousness
from that time on and forever. [Isaiah 9]

Wanda and I extend to you our beloved church family
a most happy Christmas Season and a prosperous
New Year. Please accept our sincere appreciation for
the many cards, prayers, invitations of fellowship, and
acts of kindness given to us during this Holiday
Season. May God bless each of you and may the
words of the great prophet, Isaiah, give you peace.

Merry Christmas,
Bob and Wanda

 *From the Minister of Music*

WONDERFUL JOB! Our children's choirs, handbell groups, youth choir, and ensembles sang and rang splendidly Sunday evening. The Christmas *goodies* afterwards were delectable and it always thrills me to see our folks *fellowshippin'* with each other and our guests. Everyone is blessed as we live out this function of the church — fellowship. It may seem less holy than the other four: worship, evangelism, ministry, and discipleship, but fellowship is the one which adds the human touch making the others real!

PLAN TO BE PRESENT this Sunday evening, December 22 when we sing the First Family's favorite carols. This is another opportunity for outreach. Invite someone to come whose church has no evening service or someone with no church home at all! More importantly, invite someone who has no savior.

I LOVE CHRISTMAS! God always speaks to me in unique ways during this season. I look forward to it annually. This year's message came last weekend. Friday our family went to the doctor with Pam. We *all* wanted to know our baby's gender. "We can't be 100% accurate," the doc said, "but I'd say 99 to 1 he's a boy." Through the amazing marvels of modern technology we watched the doctor check head size, brain development, heart function, spinal and umbilical cords, kidneys, and bone structure. It was like meeting my new son ahead of time.

I remember well the night Justin was born. The first time he cried I thought, "That's a sound I've never heard before and yet it has an indescribable familiarity. It's saying, 'I'm your firstborn, the first creature you had a part in making, and I belong to no other man but you.'" It was thrilling! But, Tim's birth was no less exciting. Being an *only child*, I remember thinking, "You look so much like your brother did when he came, and yet the way you move, the sound of your voice; it's so obvious that you are a completely different personality, a totally unique individual, a brand new creation." Boy, was that an understatement! What a joy it has been to experience *siblinghood* vicariously through my sons. And now I am to have another. What a privilege. What a blessing. I am so humbled.

Saturday evening, at the invitation of some of our friends, we attended First Baptist, Springdale's living Christmas tree. As a father-to-be once more, I couldn't help but identify with Joseph. How must he have felt? To experience on the one hand the pride and joy of any father at the birth of his firstborn, and yet to know on the other that Jesus was really not his flesh, blood, and bone. What a special man he had to have been to deal with such ambivalent emotions. And can you imagine being chosen by God to be the earthly father of God? What an awesome privilege. What a glorious blessing! And yet how humbling.

I was grappling with these thoughts and feelings when suddenly they were swept away by others. As I looked at the tiny baby boy, portraying baby Jesus, I asked myself, "What kind of God do we worship?"

Now that I've *seen his face*, I can hardly wait for the birth of my new son. I wonder, "Will he be more like Justin or more like Tim, a combination of the two, or something entirely new?" So many have said, "*This* baby will be a special blessing; you'll enjoy it far more than you have your other two." Maybe that will be true, but it's extremely hard to believe. Could there really be more than what I've already enjoyed? I can't imagine it! But I'll just have to wait and see. After all, I'm just a earthly father, limited in my knowledge. Yet think of it, God knew/knows all things!

What did *He* feel the night His Son was born? Unlike mortal fathers, He knew all that would follow: the journey to Egypt, a boy's hands learning the carpenter's trade in Nazareth, the teenager baffling rabbis in the temple, miraculous wine in Cana, stilled storms on the Sea of Galilee, blind eyes opened, corpses called back to life, shouts of *Hosanna!* Unlike me, He knew the beginning and the end of His Son's earthly life — the manger... *and* the cross. Yet... He let Him come anyway.

I have a loving heart. I would like to believe that I could give up my life for you. But don't ask me to give up my sons, not any one of the three. It's too dear a price. They're mine! Flesh of my flesh, blood of my blood, bone of my bone. I love them too much!

What kind of God do we worship? What kind of love does He possess? What kind of gift has He given us?

Mike

Praise Record - Dec. 15

Sunday School Enrollment	1048
Sunday School Attendance	499
New Sunday School Members	2
Morning Worship	494
Evening Worship	323
Decisions	1
Received December 15	\$ 19,212.37
Required December 15	\$ 16,153.85
Received in December	\$ 56,553.01
Required in December	\$ 32,307.70
Received in 1996	\$ 799,245.76
Required in 1996	\$ 807,691.80
Find Us Faithful - 12/15/96	\$ 4,483.95
Find Us Faithful - 4/14/96	\$ 180,489.76
*Balance owed FUF	
loan 12/01/96	\$ 1,082,774.14
World Missions as of 12/15/96	\$ 26,123.76

EXTENDED SESSION ~ Dec. 22

Babies: Evelyn Brooks, Alma Kitchens
Older Babies: Judy Allen, Karen McCoy, Barbara Bolding
Ones: Jonathan & Leslie Martin, Michael Allen
Twos: Mike & Mindy Hunt
Threes: Pam Earhart, Allen Thrasher, Steven Thrasher
Fours: Linda & Terry Dilley

PARKING/VAN MINISTRY-DEC. 22

Parking all members
 Van Bob Mayes

NEW MEMBER

Alan Chapman
 304D Fairway Cr.
 Springdale, AR 72764

HOSPITALIZED

Mary Bond WRMC #228
 Dixie Cole WRMC #438

DEACON OF THE WEEK

Keith Robbins, December 22-28, 1996

LIVE POINSETTIAS

Those who ordered live poinsettias may pick them up after evening worship on December 22 or the Christmas Eve Service on December 24. If you cannot pick yours up either of these times, they will be placed in the welcome center for pick up later.

GENERAL BUSINESS MEETING

Because of the all-church fellowship following evening worship on December 15, the regular business meeting for December will be held December 22 after evening worship.

MEMORIALS

In memory of Linda Dingman
 Rodney & Mary Ryan
 In memory of George Liles
 Margaret Liles
 In memory of Mrs. S.H. Roberts
 Roy & Edgar Roberts Trust
 In memory of Minta Robinson
 M/M Bruce MacDonald

Gift given in honor of:

Dr. Rodney & Mary Ryan
 by Fern Maddox

HOLIDAY SCHEDULE

CHRISTMAS DINNER, WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 18, 5:00 P.M.
 (No mid-week activities December 25 or Jan. 1)

FAVORITE CAROLS SERVICE, SUNDAY, DECEMBER 22, 6:00 P.M.

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE, 6:15 P.M.
 Candlelight Lord's Supper

The Church Office will be closed Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, and New's Years Day.

I would like to thank everyone for their kind words, prayers and cards during this time. It has given us strength and comfort. May God bless each of you.

Russell H. Hall and Family



WORLD MISSION PRAYER EMPHASIS

Debbie McCord works quietly. But that doesn't mean she's an ineffective missionary in Seoul, South Korea.

"I'm very comfortable being a homemaker who reaches out in my neighborhood," Debbie explains. She stays busy with daughter Mindy, 14, and son Matt, 10, as well as church activities. But during school hours she does her main outreach ministry: evangelism through hospitality. Debbie opens her home to Korean women in the neighborhood, building relationships that lead to invitations to their homes. One friend, Mrs. Ahn, wasn't a Christian when she moved nearby. Now she is, through Debbie's ministry of friendship, and so are her children. "I hope the day will come when her husband will know the Lord, too," Debbie adds, asking for prayer for him.

As a preacher's kid, Debbie grew up hearing about missions in Sunbeams and GA. Her call to missions came after her high school graduation. Later she served as a journeyman in South Korea. She returned there in 1982 with her husband, Steve, as a career missionary.

Debbie says her greatest challenge is balance. Family, neighbors, and church vie for her time and witness. She tries to be all God wants her to be in her relationships with everyone.

WORLD MISSION GOAL: \$52,500
Amount received: \$26,123.76

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FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

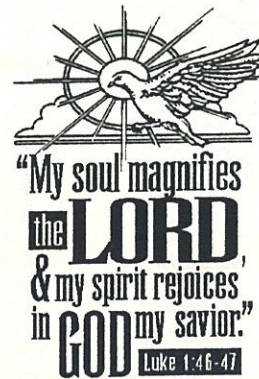
College & Dickson Sts., Fayetteville, AR

(501) 442-2387

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December 17, 1996

No. 50



Merry Christmas and Happy New Year from your Church Staff!

Jere Mitchell
 Bob Hopkins
 Mike Paslay
 Jim Thomas

Lisa Wheat
 Bruce Salsman
 Jennie Riggs
 Rita Savage
 Clementine Hembree



POINSETTIAS



DONOR:

Beatrice Allen
 James & Barbara Bolding
 Forrest Brooks
 Bill & Carol Brunner

Kathryn Dickey
 Kim Duell
 Juanita Duncan
 Luther & Wanda Freeman

Dean & Jim Harper
 Marshall & Delle Heck
 Noble & Clementine Hembree
 Lester & Dolores Hoover

Don & Claudette Hunnicutt

Weymouth Jones
 Greg & Hannah Lee

Thelma Ledford
 Cleo Liles
 Louise Matthews

David & Feriba McNair
 Eliene Morrison
 LaWanna Mundy
 Charles & Rae Oxford

Gracie Leach Pendelton
 Betsy & Lucy
 Joe & Lillian Redwine

John & Frances Reed
 Keith & Jackie Robbins

IN MEMORY OF:

Roy Allen
 Genet Blake
 Doyle Brooks
 Bertha Price
 Gussie Price
 Cy & Lottie Carney
 Maxine Vaught
 Bill Duncan
 Howard Liles
 Joe Mundy
 Elaine Harper
 Audrey Heck
 Loved Ones
 Margaret Ferrell
 Donna VanLoon
 Leola Hoover
 Clair Hoover
 Derrick Smith
 George Tharel
 Dave Simpson
 Ray Adams
 Mr. & Mrs. Druid Jones
 Carl & Jane Ferguson
 J.L. & Pearl Ferguson
 Basil Ledford
 Howard Liles
 Edwin J. Matthews
 David Matthews
 Will & Lucy Thomas
 Doyle Morrison
 Joe Mundy
 Charles & Ellen Oxford
 Carl & Alleyene Mauzy
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 Mr. & Mrs. C.L. George
 Mr. & Mrs. Joe Redwine Sr.
 Frankie Reed
 Pearl Brown
 Basil Ledford
 Noah & Cora Robbins

DONOR:

John & Dorothy Robinson

Rodney & Mary Ella Ryan

Lois Smith
 Mamie Spooner
 Reginald & Jerry Ticer
 Tom & Linda Townsend

Bill Vaught
 Charles Vinson

Johnie Williams
 JoAn Woody

DONOR:

James & Barbara Bolding
 Don & Claudette Hunnicutt

Noah Barfield

Geraldine Coleman
 Dr. & Mrs. James Haynes

David & Barbara Moore

Eliene Morrison

POINSETTIAS GIVEN TO THE CHURCH:

Edith Griffin
 Herb & Betty Huneycutt
 Bobbye Jean West

IN MEMORY OF:

Nina Cowan
 Minta Robinson
 Marion Maddox
 Doyle Morrison
 Robert M. Smith
 Art Spooner
 Sherri Ticer Wood
 Mildred Townsend
 Tom Townsend
 Ernest Summers
 Maxine Vaught
 Druid & Marvella Jones
 Derrick Sean Smith
 Mr. & Mrs. O.L. Clatterbaugh
 Jack Woody
 G.H. Crook
 Mr. & Mrs. Hosea Elkins

IN HONOR OF:

Fred Blake
 Mike Paslay
 Rita Savage
 Jennie Riggs
 Dr. & Mrs. Murray Smart
 Dr. & Mrs. Charles Oxford
 Dr. & Mrs. Jerry Mitchell
 Mark Lovell
 Vaughn & Jane Skinner
 Fred Blake
 Murray & Carolyn Smart
 Charles & Rae Oxford
 Ben Moore
 Laura & Spencer Keese
 Jere Mitchell & Family
 Shirley Norman