

First Baptist Church  
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## Announcements:

- WMU will be collecting garden seed packets for the River Ministry now through Mid- February.
- The next Church Plant Prayer Meeting will be on Sunday, January 22 at 5:00 pm.
- We will have a church fellowship potluck on Sunday, January 29th after the Worship service.



# THE ANCHOR

*“so we do not drift away”*

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Happy New Year! I hope this newsletter finds you jumping into 2012 with both feet, excited about the things that God has in store for you this year as you follow Him. We would do well to start this year by reminding ourselves of the daily call that Jesus has given us as we press in after Him: “If anyone would come after me he must deny himself, pick up his cross daily and follow me.” Luke 9:23. No need for any resolutions this year, just a renewed heart and love for God because of the great mercy and grace He showed for us at the cross and letting His love change our hearts until we naturally act, think and love like He does.

One of the things I have continually run into scripture as I read through the book of Jeremiah in my quiet time is the reality that when God finds fault with us, it is because we have been unfaithful. This usually takes two forms. The first is spiritual adultery wherein we simply look to other people and things to satisfy our hearts and meet our needs instead of turning to God alone. We are a fickle people who constantly look for greener pastures instead of trusting in God to be enough and to take care of all our needs. We are all aware of this problem, and it is this very issue that prompted Jesus to say what He said in Luke 9:23. This will forever be a struggle until Jesus returns, but is something we must constantly run to God for help with, asking Him to change our hearts until we become more like Him.

The other form of unfaithfulness that God repeatedly speaks against is not helping the oppressed. In Isaiah 58:6-7 God says that the kind of correct religion he desires from us is to, “loose the bonds of wickedness...let the oppressed go free...share your bread with the hungry...bring the homeless poor into your house.” Amazing isn’t it, that God’s idea of faithfulness is not just wrapped up in our trusting Him, but also in our meeting the needs of the needy and oppressed around us? For us to be faithful, we must see the hurting around us as God does and help meet their needs. Sounds suspiciously like James 2:15-17 doesn’t it?

It is with this in mind that we started the Full Weekend Project, providing 12 families with enough food for the weekend so that they do not go hungry. If we do not care and show these families God’s love in this tangible manner, not only will they never gain an understanding of the great love God has for them, but we will have to answer God why we did not, “share our bread with the hungry.” In caring for these families this way, we are striving to fulfill the great commission. But what if this was just the start? What other ways might God be desiring to use our church to meet the needs of the oppressed around us? Surely you see the living conditions of so many in our city, what might God desire for us to do to help there? My hope and prayer is that as we learn to be faithful in trusting God and meeting other’s needs (loving God and loving others), that we would also keep our hearts open for how God desires us to help the oppressed around us. What is God putting on your heart?

### Weekly Schedule

Sunday:  
 SS 9:45  
 Worship 11:00  
 FBCU 6:00  
 Youth 6:00  
 Praise Service 6:30  
 Choir 7:30

Wednesday:  
 Prayer Meeting 6:30

### Prayer List



- Spiritual Growth
- Unity as a church
- The 414 Project
- TSEASA Ministry
- Youth/Children’s Minister

### Memory Verse

*“But I am poor and needy; hasten to me, O God! You are my help and my deliverer; O LORD, do not delay!”*

**Psalm 70:5**



## Full Weekend Project



Friday, January 6<sup>th</sup> 2012 will mark our first food delivery to Roger E. Sides Elementary to be given to children who do not get enough to eat over the weekend. These children eat lunch and sometimes even breakfast at school, but then don't have anything at home on Saturday and Sunday. For most of us it's hard to believe that anyone might not have food for several days at a time, but it is the reality for some children here in our own community.

Each Friday we will provide enough food for about 12 different households to have meals over the weekend. These families were determined by the school as the ones most in need and could change in number at different times. Our prayer is that God will use **Full Weekends** to make a difference in the lives of these children that will go beyond their bellies. We pray that they will come to realize that there are people in the world who love and care about them simply because they are children of God. No strings attached!

We currently have about 20 church volunteers who are doing things such as grocery shopping, loading backpacks, and making deliveries to the school. Your continual prayers are coveted as we strive to be used by God as His hands and feet. If you are interested in being a part of this ministry in any other way, or have any questions, please contact Jolee Cornelius or Dara Camber.

“When they had finished breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, “Simon, son of John, do you love me more than these?” He said to him, “Yes, Lord; you know that I love you.” He said to him, “Feed my lambs.” He said to him a second time, “Simon, son of John, do you love me?” He said to him, “Yes, Lord; you know that I love you.” He said to him, “Tend my sheep.” He said to him the third time, “Simon, son of John, do you love me?” Peter was grieved because he said to him the third time, “Do you love me?” and he said to him, “Lord, you know everything; you know that I love you.” Jesus said to him, “Feed my sheep.”

John 21: 15-17

### Stewardship

	<u>Budgeted</u>	<u>Received</u>
Month:	11,705.14	24,132.45
Year:	140,461.68	227,254.24

Please be in prayer for the Youth Minister Search Committee as they begin earnestly seeking out the person God is preparing to lead our Youth. Please pray for wisdom and guidance for each member of this committee. Also be in prayer for the new Youth Minister.



Thank you all who donated canned foods for the Kans for Kids drive. It was a huge success.

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Total Lottie Moon Offering:  
**\$2243.00**

Thank you to all who gave.  
We surpassed our goal!

## Sound Bytes

*Let us not love in word or talk, but in deed and in truth. -1 John 3:18*

I have a confession to make: I am a sucker for end of the year recaps on the news. This year is was no exception. From the intriguing court trials and the drama of the upcoming election, to the natural disasters that made us all stop and take stock of what's truly important and how blessed we truly are, I enjoy all of them. I guess I enjoy them mostly because it stirs in me the deep instruction God constantly calls His people to which is to pause and remember His goodness.

For me 2011 was a monumentally important year. It will go down as one of the years I will remember the rest of my life. From the loss of my grandfather after a long and well-fought battle with Alzheimer's disease to Brenna beginning school, it was a remarkable year. There is one event that will tower over all the rest when I look back several years from now: The Africa mission trip. I'm sure that all those who went on the trip will attest that it was a life-altering week. We saw God move in ways we have only heard about. We got the opportunity to love on people who desperately need Jesus as well as the missionaries we support. The bonds of friendship that were formed in our group during that time have only deepened since we've returned. I'm also keenly aware that a trip like the one we took could only have been as successful as it was through the support of our amazing church family through monetary gifts, vigilant prayer, and supportive words and deeds. I know I wrote an article that expressed this thought when we arrived back home over the summer, but it bears repeating: Thank you so much for all you did to spread the Gospel of Christ half a world away. As I look forward into the new year, I can only pray that God will continue to demonstrate to us His power, might, and mercies each and every day. In the words of our pastor: I too am glad to be on this journey with you!

~Nathan Jones