



Wow, it is hard to believe we are on the preface of closing out the year 2014. As we prepare to close the door behind us, we anxiously await the opening of a new door to the future.

As a people, we have been blessed so much! However, the downfall of the blessed is becoming accustomed to being blessed and losing site of the source of our strength and blessings.

We all need constant reminders to help us reflect on how blessed we are and direct our appreciation and worship to our heavenly Father who gingerly loves and cares for all of His children. One of the ways we can offer our thanks is to praise the Source of our blessings. The vehicle for this offering of praise is called the Doxology. The Doxology is defined as a hymn, prayer, or formula of worship in praise of God.

In most Christian hymnbooks, we find the Doxology; normally, it is the first song in the hymnal. But, few know the story behind these words, which were first published in 1709, and yet fewer still know of or much about the life of the composer. The composer of the Doxology, common to our Christian hymnbook, is the Anglican Thomas Ken.

Thomas was orphaned as a child, subsequently he was raised by his older sister. Thomas attended private schools as a youngster during times of political and religious turbulence. This environment only deepened his love for the Christian heritage of his youth.

As an adult, Thomas held various positions in the church and in academia. In 1651, he became a scholar at Winchester College, where most of his life was spent intertwined both in the college and in the church. There he sought to uplift the spiritual lives of his students.

In 1674, Ken published *A Manual of Prayers for the Use of the Scholars of Winchester College*. In it, he charged his readers to “be sure to sing the Morning and Evening Hymn in your chamber devoutly.” By 1709, his compilation of hymns produced the rendition of the Doxology, which has been produced in countless languages and treasured by those who possess it. Thomas Ken's remix of the Doxology has given the world a priceless instrument of praise. **Here it is!**

*Awake, my Soul, and with the Sun, Thy daily Stage of duty run, Shake off dull Sloath, and joyful rise, To pay thy Morning Sacrifice.*

*All Praise to Thee, who safe hast kept, And hast refresh'd me whilst I slept, Grant, Lord, when I from Death shall wake, I may of endless Light partake.*

*Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise him, all creatures here below; Praise him above, ye heavenly host; Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.*

May we adhere to the instruction of this Christian scholar to “be sure to sing the Morning and Evening Hymn in your chamber devoutly.” May we forever sing the praises of our God for His goodness towards us.

Psalm 100:1-5 (NLT) *Shout with joy to the LORD, all the earth! <sup>2</sup>Worship the LORD with gladness. Come before him, singing with joy. <sup>3</sup>Acknowledge that the LORD is God! He made us, and we are his. We are his people, the sheep of his pasture. <sup>4</sup>Enter his gates with thanksgiving; go into his courts with praise. Give thanks to him and praise his name. <sup>5</sup>For the LORD is good. His unfailing love continues forever, and his faithfulness continues to each generation.*

Merry Christmas,  
Pastor Tim



Sunday School 9:30 am  
Morning Worship 10:45 am  
Evening Worship 6:00 pm



Wednesday Evening  
Choir Practice - 6:30 pm

## Operation Christmas Child

Thank you from the Women on Mission. We filled 52 shoe boxes and donations were sincerely appreciated.

## Open Door Mission Caps/Socks

Thank you to those of you who supplied caps and socks. The men and women at the Open Door Mission really look forward to this time of the year and are very pleased in receiving the caps and socks. Thank you to Diane and Shirley who helped wrap 100 caps. Thanks again for helping those in need.



## Winter Wonderland

Saturday, December 6th - 4:00 pm



Come worship Jesus the greatest gift humanity has ever received and enjoy an afternoon of fellowship with your brothers and sisters in Christ. This event will include door prizes, Christmas gift exchange and a meal catered by Famous Dave's BBQ. The cost is \$12.50 a person; tickets will be sold in advance of the event so please sign up as soon as possible! **There is limited space for forty people; first-come, first served!** This year, we invite all attendees to participate in a gift exchange. There will be no "dirty Santa gifts"! Instead, there will be a random drawing for all the gifts. We ask that every attendee would bring a gift with a value at a **minimum** of \$10.00 and please, no **re-gifts** and no gender-specific items. **Suggestion**, buy something you would like to receive. For those with a giving spirit, we will take donations from anonymous donors who would like to help someone in the church to attend this wonderful event. If you want to sponsor someone specifically or in general let us know. You can purchase your tickets from Caryl Shaw, Donna Hines and Debbie Machetta.

## Christmas Caroling

Monday, December 8th - 6:00 pm

It's time to go Christmas Caroling. With a smile on your face, please come meet us at the church as we gather together to go neighborhood caroling. Please bring cookies or a snack for a time to fellowship.

## Women on Mission Cookie Exchange

Saturday, December 13th - 10:00 am

Bring your favorite cookies and a potluck dish to share. We will have a great time trying all the cookies. You can bring the recipe and share that with others if you like. Bring a container to take some cookies home. We will also need volunteers to deliver cookies to the shut ins. Hope you can make it.

## Christmas Cantata

Sunday, December 14th - 6:00 pm

The choir at First Southern will be bringing a Christmas Cantata called “Mary, Did You Know?” Come and brings your friends and family to this musical Celebration of Jesus Christ. Following the cantata you will be able to take part in our candlelight procession to commemorate this light that came into this world. Refreshments to follow.

## Pray for Our Men and Women in Uniform”

**Devon Henesley** - Grandson of Jean Johnson  
**Branch** - Navy **Rank** - 2nd Class  
**Assignment** - Virginia Beach

**Megan Hines** - Daughter of Pastor Tim and Donna Hines - **Branch** - Marines  
**Rank** - LC- **Assignment** - South Carolina

**Joshua Woolworth** - Nephew of Chery Hanna  
**Branch** - Navy **Rank** - Basic Training  
**Assignment** - Great Lakes, Illinois

**Brandon Woolworth** - Nephew of Chery Hanna  
**Branch** - Air force **Rank** -  
**Assignment** - Tucson, Arizona



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# First Southern Baptist Church Newsletter

**Glorifying God ~ Loving One Another ~ Reaching the World**

**Pastor: Dr. Tim Hines**

**Associate Pastor: Ken Hillard**

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## Our Doors are Open

Come join us each week as we open our doors for worship, teaching, fellowship and discipleship training.

Each Sunday our doors are open at 8:30 am for a time of fellowship around the coffee pot. Starting at 9:30 am we have a time of Bible study and then at 10:45 am we begin our weekly Sunday morning service.

Our Sunday morning services burst with energy as our worship leader leads the congregation to praise and worship our God and Savior Jesus Christ. Our pastor is committed to preaching dynamic sermons proclaiming the truth of God's word to our hearts.

In the same fashion, our pastor has dedicated our Sunday evening fellowship time to focus on the Old Testament book of Daniel. The book of Daniel is an enchanting study; it is chock full of mystery, suspense, action and faith. Please make plans to attend these evening sessions, as they will enlighten and encourage you in your daily walk with the Lord.

The Wednesday evening fellowship has discontinued and we will resume regularly scheduled meals and Bible study on February 4, 2015. Between this time, we will offer specialized training. These classes will be listed and everyone will be given the opportunity to sign up. More details on these classes will be coming in the Sunday bulletin in the very near future.

Please make plans to attend all of the weekly events sponsored by your church. Remember, our doors are open!



## December Calendar

- 1st-7th - Lottie Moon Week of Prayer
- 4th - Prayer Meeting - 10:30 am
- 6th - Winter Wonderland - 4:00 pm
- 7th - Church Council - 4:30 pm
- 8th - Rest Home Ministry - 11:00 am
- Christmas Caroling - 6:00 pm
- 9th - Church Wide Visitation - 5:30 pm
- 11th - Prayer Meeting - 10:30 am
- 13th - Women on Mission - 10:00 am
- 14th - Christmas Cantata - 6:00 pm
- 18th - Prayer Meeting - 10:30 am
- 20th - Men's Breakfast - 8:30 am
- 21st - Lord's Supper - 10:45 am
- No Evening Service
- 22nd - Rest Home Ministry - 11:00 am
- 24th - Jan 2- Office Closed
- 25th - No Prayer Meeting
- Open Door Mission - 6:15 pm
- 28th - No Evening Service

## Happy Birthday

- 6th - Dean Marshall
- 18th - Roberta King
- 24th - Holly Brewer
- 24th - Jackie Burns
- 24th - Mabrie Huff
- 27th - Jean Johnson
- 30th - Lisa Villafuerte
- 31st - Andrew Fellows
- 31st - Doreen Fellows



## Week of Prayer for International Missions

November 30 - December 7

## Lottie Moon Christmas Offering

Our Church Goal: \$5,000