

First Baptist Church Centerton

inFOCUS

Dates & Events in Focus

- >> SOUNDS OF CHRISTMAS
- >> CANDLELIGHT SERVICE
Today
- >> PRAYER AT ROBIN GILL'S
December 21
- >> MEN'S PRAYER BREAKFAST
December 23
- >> CHRISTMAS WORSHIP
(ONE 10:30 A.M. SERVICE)
December 25
- >> NEW YEAR'S DAY WORSHIP
(ONE 10:30 A.M. SERVICE)
January 1
- >> PASSION MISSION TEAM
December 31–January 6
- >> PASSION 2012
January 1–6
- >> UPWARD PRACTICES BEGIN
January 3–7

Grace & Peace

Christmas Blessings...

Thank you dear church for your sacrificial giving. You continue to demonstrate faithfulness in giving by bringing your tithes and offerings, including the 2011 World Mission Offering. At Christmas we think of giving, because God gave His best gift, without reservation. We imitate Him when we give to the cause of Christ. May I say, I see His reflection in so many of you. It is an honor to be your pastor!



Dessert Theatre...

We are so indebted to the adult choir and orchestra for leading our church in outreach ministry during the Christmas season. First, they traveled at great expense to the Varner unit of the Cummins prison system in Pine Bluff on December 10; then of course they just presented the Dessert Theatre for our community this past Thursday, Friday, and Saturday. **Jim Daniel's** vision of the music ministry taking the gospel to the ends of the earth is happening by God's grace. Thank you again choir and orchestra.

Candlelight Service Tonight...

The entire music ministry, including children, students, and adults will combine to lead us in a special time of worship and celebration of the Christmas season tonight at 6:30 p.m. We will worship our Lord in a precious time of Christmas celebration. See you at 6:30 p.m.!

Christmas Next Sunday!

Remember we will have only one joint service at 10:30 a.m. on Christmas day. It will be crowded, but happily so! There will be no Sunday School or evening service. When we think of the joy of being together, let us not forget those who are not with us: those who have gone to heaven in this past year; missionaries who are laboring in the fields of lostness all over the world; military who are sacrificing so much to protect our freedoms. Let us rejoice over the incarnation of Christ, while at the same time sorrow over the millions who do not yet know Him. May 2012 be the greatest year of growth, in every way, in the history of our church. By God's grace, it will be so!



Missions and Passports

As a couple of folks were getting their mission trip applications ready to turn in this past week, they discovered that the use dates on their passports would expire before the trip they planned to go on. They caught it in time. Like changing batteries in your smoke alarms or filters in your HVAC, passport renewals can slip up on you. Please use this season of emphasis on missions to check your passport. When God calls you to go, will you be ready?

Mill City Update

Stephen McDonald writes: Amanda and I are continuing to get acclimated to life in New England. As we look towards winter, I imagine that we might miss the deep south a little more. We'll do our best to enjoy having an actual winter. The church is doing well. We baptized four individuals two weeks ago, and are about to have our first core group of members sign the membership covenant. We will probably have between 30-35 people that are members after our first membership service in January.

After long discussions with the building owner with whom we have been talking for months, we have almost reached the conclusion that we will need to go in another direction. Nonetheless, thankfully we don't need a cool building in order to be faithful as a church. We have outgrown our current meeting space, so we are looking at another option to transition to for the next three years or so. Maybe at that time we could explore this building that we have had our eyes upon. We still pray that somehow, someday we might see something come together with the building that we really want, but we don't believe that this is happening at this time.

In February, we will start our Spring community groups. We will expand to three or four community groups that will meet in homes for a meal, Bible study, and prayer together each week. These are where people are really plugged in to the life of the church and a community of believers. Please begin praying for these community groups.

We are beginning to finalize our budget for 2012. Our people are so faithful in giving. Pray that we would steward the resources of the church well and allocate resources appropriately. Thank you for your continued prayer and support.

Holiday Schedule Changes

The offices will be closed on Friday, December 23 and Monday, the 26th. We will also be closed on the Friday and Monday surrounding New Years Day. Friday, December 30 and Monday, January 2.

Cancelled Services:

While we will have a Wednesday night Bible study for teenagers and adults December 21, we will not have the fellowship meal, Awana, or Mission Friends. We will not have any services Wednesday, December 28. We will have just one Worship Service at 10:30 a.m. on Christmas, December 25 and New Year's Day, January 1. We will not have Sunday School or evening services Christmas or New Year's Day. We will have childcare for Birth-Fours during these two services.

Cancelled Rehearsals:

There are no Adult Choir or Orchestra rehearsals on Wednesday, December 21 and 28; no Senior Adult Choir rehearsals on Thursdays, December 22 and 29; no 360 rehearsal on Sunday, December 25, January 1 and 8; no Overflow on Sunday, December 25, January 1 and 8.

Weather Cancellations

WEATHER RELATED CANCELLATIONS

In the event of inclement weather that makes travel dangerous, check our website first: www.fbccenterton.org/weather. Before we call a radio or television station... before

we start our phone chains to teachers or coaches, we will post decisions to cancel and postpone events on the website. Then, we will contact the local radio and television stations that regularly update their weather announcements.

Upward Progress Report

Registration closed yesterday for Upward Sports. Our initial selection of teams and assignment of coaches took place earlier this past week. Final tweaks will take place Wednesday so that we can begin contacting coaches. They, in turn, will contact up to 10 players on their teams in order to notify them of the first practices the week of January 1-7.

We are still interviewing prospective referees, and coaches for the 3rd-6th-Grade Boys teams, and for the 4-6th-Grade Girls teams. We continue to marvel at how much Upward made a difference in the character development and foundational skills of many of our Life Way athletes. No doubt other local schools can tell the difference. Christian coaches and referees help make that difference. Please pray about being a part of leading one of these older children's teams in Upward this year. For more information, you may contact **Todd Ring** at Upward@fbccenterton.org, or by phone at **479.899.2655**.

Guatemala Mission Opportunity

Ron, Ana, Danielle, and Joel Argueta are going to Guatemala, where they will distribute school supplies to children related to two ministries with whom they have relationships. If you would like to help increase their impact on these ministries, please get in touch with Ron at 479.586.5695, or the church office at 479.795.2591.

Teens in Focus

Tonight: Last SNL until January

5:30: Meet in Worship Center. Please wear your red W360 shirt and jeans.

6:30: Sounds of Christmas Candle Light Gathering

7:30: SNAC Family Christmas after worship

Wednesday: LIVE Christmas worship @ 6:05 (no LIVE December 28)

December 31: Guys' Paintball Frenzy...Meet at the Landreth Farm in Decatur 10:00-3:00, lunch provided, \$10 if you need equipment, must sign up via email: scrapbooklandreth@juno.com

D-NOW: January 25-29, 2012... don't miss it!

Year-End Giving

Contributions for the year 2011 will be received through December 31, 2011. To receive tax-deductible credit for a contribution in the year 2011, the gift must meet one of three requirements. It must be:

1. received in the church office by the last business day of the year (Thursday, December 29 by 3:00 p.m.);
2. postmarked on or before December 31, 2011; or
3. given online at www.fbccenterton.org/give on or before December 31, 2011.

Contributions received in the worship service on Sunday, January 1, 2012 will not be given credit as a 2011 contribution.

Menu for the Week

December 21: We will not have a Wednesday night meal this week.

Sunday Schedule

Sunday School	9:30 a.m.
Morning Worship Services.....	8:00 a.m.
.....	10:45 a.m.
GO! Evangelism & Worship 360.....	5:00 p.m.
Evening Worship Service & Overflow.....	6:30 p.m.

Wednesday Evening Schedule

Fellowship Meal	5:00 p.m.
Awana & Mission Friends.....	6:00 p.m.
Live @ 6:05 (Students).....	6:05 p.m.
Mid-Week Bible Study.....	6:30 p.m.
Waffles and the Word (18, 19, & 20-Somethings).....	9:00 p.m.

Focus on Attendance

For the week of:	12/11/11
Sunday School	656
Morning Worship	709

Focus on Giving

Weekly Budget Receipts.....	\$31,114.15
World Mission Offering Receipts.....	\$6,938.41
World Mission Offering Total (Jan. 1 to present)	\$96,339.31
Building Forward Receipts.....	\$350.00
Building Forward YTD.....	\$36,747.46
Special Offerings.....	\$495.00