

# 2008 in Review

As we complete 2008, I believe it is good to reflect on what has happened at First Baptist Church. The following is a list of those who have joined our fellowship in 2008 as well as the various ministries that have been carried out. This is by no means an exhaustive list of ministries.

## New Members in 2008 (as of 12/21/08)

Marissa Augustyn	Baptism	Susan Johnson	Baptism
Jessie Banks	Baptism	John Jolly	Baptism
Jean Baswell	Letter	Chelsea Machleit	Baptism
Tommy Basewell	Letter	Regan Maples	Baptism
Ken Bowman	Letter	Dianne Mendez	Baptism
Mickenzie Bowman	Baptism	Jennifer Muth	Baptism
Tracie Bowman	Letter	Eric Padgett	Baptism
Bronson Chandler	Baptism	Janet Phillips	Letter
Tyler Chandler	Baptism	Paul Phillips	Letter
Patrick Clifton	Baptism	Dewayne Pierce	Letter
Tom Crow	Baptism	Yolanda Pierce	Letter
Caitlyn Elrod	Baptism	Logan Pierce	Letter
Barbara Forrister	Letter	Jay Rainey	Baptism
Callie Garret	Baptism	B.J. Spellman	Baptism
Andrew Hairrell	Letter	Scott Stansell	Letter
Anna Hairrell	Letter	Jacob Whitmire	Baptism
James Hairrell	Letter	Lucas Whitmire	Baptism
Tina Hairrell	Letter	Joshua Whitmire	Baptism
Amie Henderson	Baptism	Lamar Williams	Letter
Wayne Henderson	Baptism	Jullian Willingham	Baptism
Vera Jarrell	Letter	Paul Wynn	Baptism

As we look at the church year in review, it is evident that much has been happening at First Baptist Church! What is even more exciting is to see how many people have received Christ through our various ministries. I am excited about what God has in store for us in 2009.

Pastor Jim

## Major Events

- ✓ Upward Basketball
- ✓ First Baptist Church youth compete at State Bible Drill Competition
- ✓ First Baptist Church Returns to Radio
- ✓ Gordon Mote in Concert
- ✓ Annie Armstrong Offering Goal Exceeded by \$500+
- ✓ Christian Counseling Ministry Begun
- ✓ Choir Musical: "I've Seen Jesus"
- ✓ Revival with Rev. Mike Boatfield
- ✓ RimROcCers have 112 playing on 8 open teams and 5 church teams
- ✓ Patriotic Worship Celebration with General Bernie Enzor
- ✓ Vacation Bible School
  - ✓ Over 30 respond to Christ
- ✓ Team Effort Youth Mission Trip
- ✓ Discipleship Strategy Launched
- ✓ Resource Center Opened
- ✓ Sunday School "Command Center" opened
- ✓ First Baptist Church hosts the 175th Anniversary Celebration of the Cherokee Baptist Association
- ✓ Children's Fall Festival
- ✓ Judgement House
  - ✓ Total Salvations: 65
  - ✓ Total Rededications: 81
  - ✓ Total Decisions: 146
  - ✓ Total Attendees: 744
- ✓ **Sunday School hits record high attendance of 386**
  - ✓ Sunday School remaining consistently over 300!
- ✓ **Operation Christmas Child: 213 shoe boxes**
- ✓ **New Sunday School Class: Homebuilders Class**
- ✓ **2 Mission Banquets**
- ✓ **Evangelist Brady Weldon at ROC**

**Merry Christmas**  
and a  
**Happy New Year!**

*May the joy of Christmas brighten the coming New Year!*

From your church staff

Jim	Brandon	Steven
Sheila	Joyce	Tina
Sherry	Lillian	Homer
Carolyn	Mandi	
Tabitha	Karen	



# Church News/Events

## FOCUS ON MARRIAGE EVENT

First Baptist Church will host Focus on the Family's "Focus on Marriage" simulcast. Speakers will include Beth Moore, Gary Smalley, John Trent, Del Tackett, Francis Chan and Gary Thomas. The event will be on Saturday, February 28th from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. The cost will be \$50 per couple. If you are interested, please sign up on the bulletin board by the Welcome Center. *Payment is due by January 18, 2009.*

## HOLIDAY CLOSINGS

The church office and the ROC will be closed , Dec. 24-27, and Dec 31-Jan. 2

## CHRISTIAN COUNSELING AVAILABLE

Dr. David Miller is now taking appointments. Please call the church office at 927-3316.

## YOUNG AT HEART

The YAH will meet Tues., Jan. 13, 10:30 AM in the Fellowship Hall. Bring a covered dish and join the fun.

## STATE BIBLE DRILL/SPEAKERS

### TOURNAMENT RETREAT January 2009

Many of our Bible drillers will be attending this retreat. If any individual or Sunday school class would like to help sponsor our drillers, please contact Steven or Grace Hayes or put your contribution in the offering plate and designate "Bible Drill Retreat". The cost of the trip is approximately \$60/person.

## WEDNESDAY DISCIPLESHIP CLASS FOR 2009

### Men/Women

1st Base: Developing Spiritual Habits  
2nd Base: Developing Christ-Like Character  
Blended Families Workshop  
Walking Ministry (*Tentative*)\*

### Women

Beth Moore Study on Esther  
First Place 4 Health (*Tentative*)\*

### Youth

Chaos Youth Group

### Children

Girls in Action (girls grades 1-6)  
Royal Ambassadors (boys grades 1-6)  
Mission Friends (boys and girls ages 3-5)  
Preschool Choir (boys and girls ages 3-5)

### Suppers by Sageberry

Please call 927-6342 to renew your reservation or sign-up. 2 and under=free; 3-6yrs=\$3.00; 7+=\$5.00

*\*Announcement will be published on January 4th regarding the status of these classes.*

# Steven's

## Sunshine or Rain?

Looking into the face of my young son, Trace (he is 2), as he sees HO HO, Santa Claus for anyone over the age of 3, is like looking at the beautiful sunshine. His eyes light up and his smile almost consumes his little face. He is so happy to see him because he knows who Ho Ho is and he knows that Ho Ho desires to see him. There is a mutual relationship here, one from my over eager son who runs to him like a magnet behind an ear to ear smile and the other from Santa who is ready to swoop kids up and tell them Merry Christmas. It is a love, love situation. Everyone is happy and there is sunshine all around.

Looking into the face of my young daughter, Emma (she is 4), as she sees the most horrible scary terrifying person ever, Santa Claus to normal people, is like looking at rain. Wait, I think that it is like looking at rain because by the time I can get her to pull her head from behind her jacket all I can see are her little tear soaked cheeks. There is no mutual relationship here it is all one sided. Santa loves her but in no way does she love Santa. She loves the idea of Santa and what he does but she wants nothing to do with him.

Sometimes I just say WOW when I think of stuff like this. They do not realize they are doing it but my kids give me visual illustrations everyday. You see, sometimes we are like Trace and want it all. We are talking about God, by the way, not Ho Ho. The mutual relationship we have is truly awesome, love is flowing both ways. But more times than not, we are more like Emma. The idea of God is enough. As long as we have accepted him we just want the blessing. We do not want to spend time with him much less have a relationship with him, we just want the things he can give us with no effort from us. As this illustration unfolded before I saw something neat. Santa walked by and smiled at Trace and he smiled at Santa, enough to put the sunshine on his face. But then he missed Emma because she was hiding and crying behind her jacket. Trace did not want sister to miss this so he started hollering. SANTA SANTA YOU MISSED SISTER!! SANTA SANTA YOU MISSED SISTER!! With all the commotion Santa did not hear so Trace took it a step further. He physically went and grabbed Santa's leg and made him listen. The story did not end well to say the least but the illustration was fabulous.

How many people are we over looking this holiday season and not doing everything we can to tell them about who can make their lives full of sunshine? Do not sit in the rain when you can do whatever it takes to make sure that the best thing that has ever happened to us is shared with others. Trace just wanted to make sure his sister got what brought him joy. Make sure everyone you know, knows who brings you true joy.



# Brandon's Beat

## The Heart of Christ

An angel came to Mary and told her she would be with child. Everything she knew was about to change. People looked at her differently. She was snubbed by her peers. Her husband-to-be, Joseph, had thoughts of putting her away quietly. Her world was closing in around her, and then something happened. About 22 days after the angel had visited her something inside her changed the very face of humanity and eternity forever. In darkness and silence a heart began to beat. I'm sure it wasn't perceptible to most, but at that heart beat the very gates of heaven and hell trembled and bowed in reverence to what had occurred. Even though it would have taken the most sensitive of modern scientific instruments to hear I believe it reverberated through time and space spreading angelic choruses exuberation and demonic wails of defeat that would deafen a stone. After thousands of years of prophecy it finally happened. Emmanuel. It was the same heart that would power the Christ as he walked on the shores of Galilee. It was the same heart that pounded as he watched thousands gather to hear Him speak. It was the same heart that loved so deeply and profoundly that Christ bled drops of blood as He prayed in anguish in the garden. It was the same heart that powered his broken body up the hill of Golgotha and gasped for blood to pump as he hung upon the cross for our transgressions. For a few moments it stopped beating, again spreading emotion and screams though heaven and hell. The sky was black, and the earth trembled at what had just happened. But, three days later, in darkness and silence the sound of a heart beat was heard, spreading hope, peace, and love once again. Let me invite you to hear the heart of Christ this Christmas season. May we be challenged to tune other ears so that they may hear it too. It still beats, stronger than ever, calling us to Him, reminding us to rejoice for Christ has come!

### SYMPATHY NOTE

Christian love and sympathy is extended to Susan Hincy and family in the death of her grandmother, Estelle King; to Phil Powell and family in the death of his sister, Willene Mansfield; and to Lurline Brooks and family in the death of her aunt, Ocie Moore;

### LAST DAY FOR CONTRIBUTIONS FOR 2008

is Sunday, December 28.

2009 Offering Envelopes are in the back hallway next to the Welcome Center. Note that if your envelope number is above 400 —you will be reassigned a new number beginning January 2009.

## Theological Corner: The Virgin Birth

"Larry King, the CNN talk show host, was once asked who he would most want to interview if he could choose anyone from all of history. He said, 'Jesus Christ.' The questioner said, 'And what would you like to ask Him?' King replied, 'I would like to ask Him if He was indeed virgin-born. The answer to that question would define history for me'."

In the first chapter of the first book of the New Testament, the Apostle Matthew states that Jesus was born of a virgin: "The birth of Jesus Christ came about this way: After His mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, it was discovered before they came together that she was pregnant by the Holy Spirit." (Mt 1:18)

Why is the virgin birth of Jesus Christ important? Theologian Wayne Grudem gives three main reasons. 1) The virgin birth shows that salvation must ultimately come from the Lord. The conception of Christ was not through human effort, but was the result of divine power. It was God who conceived Christ in the womb; therefore, it is God from whom our salvation comes. We cannot attain salvation through effort on our own. 2) The virgin birth made possible the uniting of full deity and full humanity in one person. If Christ had taken on the form of man in heaven and descended to earth, we would have difficult for us to see how Christ could be fully human. If Christ had been conceived normally, we would have found it hard to believe that He was God. Through the virgin birth we can see how Jesus is both fully God and fully man. 3) The virgin birth also makes possible Christ's true humanity without inherited sin. The virgin conception of Christ interrupted the line of descent from Adam—the first man. Thus the legal guilt and moral corruption that belongs to all other human beings did not belong to Christ. Even though Mary was a sinner, one of the miracles of the virgin birth is not only the conception of Christ without a human father, but also the prevention of the transmission of sin from His mother, Mary.

Although the virgin birth may be difficult to fully grasp, it is a fundamental of our faith which explains how Christ was fully God and fully man. Through the virgin birth, Jesus was uniquely qualified to die for the sins of the world.

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*Dear Friends of Earline Whitten*

*You are invited to attend her*

*90th Birthday Celebration*

*December 30th, 2-4 PM*

*At the ROC*

*Only the gift of your presence is requested.*

# First Baptist Church of Centre The Beacon

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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*Connect, Commit, Impact*

## WEEKLY EVENTS

Sunday		Wednesday at the Church	
8:45 a.m.	IMPACT Contemporary Worship	12:00 p.m.	Prayer Service
9:45 a.m.	Bible Study	<b>Wednesday at the ROC</b>	
11:00 a.m.	Traditional Worship	5:15 p.m.	Supper
4:00 p.m.	Youth Bible Drill	5:50 p.m.	Preschool Music
4:30 p.m.	Children's Bible Drill	6:15 p.m.	Discipleship Classes
4:30 p.m.	Adult Choir	6:15 p.m.	CHAOS-Youth Bible Study
6:00 p.m.	Children's Music	<b>Fridays at the ROC</b>	
6:00 p.m.	Evening Service	5:15 p.m.	Celebrate Recovery

Want your life back?



## Celebrate Recovery

On the campus  
of the ROC  
Every Friday Night  
at 5:30 p.m.

A safe place to  
work through your hurts,  
habits, & hang-ups.

### WELCOME CENTER GREETERS

- 1-4 Ruth Brannon, Bonnie Murphy, Matt Woodfin
- 1-11 Graham & Billie Brown, Lana Evans
- 1-18 Scott & Lynn Curry, Ruth Matthews
- 1-25 Doug & Frances Newman, Gail Hayes

### DEACON OF THE WEEK

- Dec. 28-Jan. 3  
Dennis Trammell 526-8794
- Jan. 4-10  
Merle Grimes 927-8134
- Jan. 11-17  
John Ward 927-4454
- Jan. 18-24  
Jamie Jordan 557-2882
- Jan. 25-31  
Don Whitt 526-8694

### CHURCH OFFICE

927-3316  
Fax: 927-8483  
www.fbc-centre.org

### ROC

927-6342

### Shepherd's Fold

Daycare  
927-6345

### MINISTERS

Dr. Jim Wright  
Pastor  
927-4487

Rev. Steven Langford  
Minister of Youth & Children

Rev. Brandon Snow  
Minister of Music/Media

### STAFF

Tina McCord  
Office Manager/Financials

Joyce Woodfin  
Secretary

Sheila Barrett  
ROC Administrator



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