FIRST THOUGHTS
David Hull, Pastor

Every year I am amazed by the level of participation in the preparation for the Living Christmas Tree. Not only are there more than 200 musicians who work hard for months to bring beautiful music to our ears, but there are so many more involved in this presentation. In recent days I have witnessed . . .

Hardworking staff -- who go the extra mile of service during the LCT season.

Ticket volunteers -- who smile and greet the community as they come to pick up tickets.

Tree builders and decorators -- who make a “dormant stump” of steel, wood, and cloth come alive again.

Light and sound engineers -- who add the “sights” to the “sounds” of the Tree.

Cooks to feed the workers -- who help provide the energy needed for the work.

Childcare to take care of workers’ children -- who free up the hands of parents to be working on the Tree.

Friends inviting friends -- who help to share the story with others.

When the time comes for the presentation we will add to that . . .

Ushers -- who offer a warm greeting to those in attendance.

Parking lot attendants -- who battle the elements to control the traffic.

More childcare workers -- who care for little children so that there are not competing “sights and sounds” that would detract from the presentation.

Friends bringing friends to the Tree -- who understand that this whole experience is to be shared with others.

Did I leave anyone out? The whole thing is a wonderful picture of ministry in the church. Not just at Christmas, but all of the year, God wants the church to work together to live out our calling for ministry and mission. We do not all have the same gifts – we do not carry out the same assignments. We do serve for a common mission, and that is to tell the wonderful story of the One who was born in Bethlehem. Ministry is not done by a few – it is a total team effort in the church. We know that when it comes to the Living Christmas Tree. Those are good things to remember all year long.
Family Matters

CHRISTIAN SYMPATHY
Sharon and Tom Turner in the loss of her mother and Cole Franks in the loss of his great grandmother, Bonnie Williams.

Family and friends of our Dot Mann especially to her daughter, Benita Hines, and her niece, Laura Biggerstaff.

Acknowledgements

Our gratitude is deep for the many persons who have given of themselves in time, talent, and energy. The LCT has been a church-wide project! The Ministry Team members listed below served as chairs of their sub-committees and represent just a portion of the many who have served so willingly in preparation for this presentation.

LCT Ministry Team

The Music Ministry Expresses Special Gratitude to the Following:
Scott Goosby and the Custodial Staff | Pam LaPier and the Kitchen Staff | Angela Seanor and the Childcare Staff | Janet Creech, Susan Keene, Kathy Lane, Nancy Morton, Emily Parker and the teams of Choir and Orchestra Librarians

The FBC Television Ministry | Hannah Alderson for ASL Interpretation | Colonial Graphics Group-Printing | Saint Photography | H.G. Peake
Company–T-shirt Design | HEMSI for providing emergency medical service

Life Retreat
A Weekend for You
February 22-24
Tickets available beginning January 7
www.fbchsv.org/life

a service of HOPE & PEACE

Sunday, December 23
2:00 PM in the Sanctuary

Music, scriptures, beautiful symbols, and words of comfort and inspiration will be woven together in this uniquely meaningful service of worship. Many people in our church and community have experienced some kind of loss in the past year. Christmas may be a difficult time for those who are living through grief. The message of Christmas offers hope and peace to all who grieve. This service will proclaim this message and give us an opportunity to experience the life-giving renewal that comes through hope and peace.
One part of our mission is to provide resources to carry the gospel to the ends of the earth. During the month of December, you have the opportunity to support world missions by your financial gifts.

**FBC Goal:** $70,000

**Given to date:**
- Global Missions: $9,435.00
- Lottie Moon: $10,526.44
- Total: $19,961.44

**Year-End Contributions**

December 31 will be here before you know it! Remember that giving stock and other appreciated securities is a great way to donate to First Baptist and, hopefully, avoid some of those capital gains taxes coming down the pike in 2013. It’s EASY – but it does take a few days, so don’t delay! Contact Alison in the Finance Office for more information (alison@fbchsv.org or 256-428-9417).

The Finance Office will be open for business until 5:00 PM on New Year’s Eve.

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**Wednesday Night Dinner Menu**

**Wednesday, December 19**

**Adults**
- Chicken Tenders
- Mashed Potatoes
- Green Beans
- Rolls
- Cupcakes

**Salad**
- Fried Chicken Salad

(Reservations for salad must be turned in by noon on Wednesday.)

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**STEWARDSHIP REPORT**

12/09/12

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<td>Year-to-Date Goal</td>
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<td>This Week</td>
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<tr>
<td>To Date</td>
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**ATTENDANCE**

**Sunday School**

- Preschool: 71
- Children: 87
- Students: 158
- Adults: 614
- Brookdale: 17
- Visitors: 24
- TOTAL: 971

**Worship Service**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Attendance</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td>869</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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**THANK YOU**

Thank you notes have been received from Dian Poole and Lucas and Alex Stone. They have been placed on the bulletin board across from the church office.
We are hosting a churchwide "Happy Birthday Jesus" party on Wednesday night, December 19. It will be in Fellowship Hall and will be the Wednesday night program. The meal will be as usual. For the evening we'll be singing carols, doing a craft, reading the Christmas story and participating in a drama of the Christmas story. Everyone will leave with a Jesus Birthday present.

Mental Health First Aid Course

Mental Health First Aid is a 12 hour course designed to give members of the public key skills to help someone who is developing a mental health problem or mental health crisis. A wide range of mental health problems including: depression, anxiety/trauma, psychosis and psychotic disorders, eating disorders and substance use disorders will be discussed. The classes will be in room 111 on Wednesdays, Dec. 19 and January 9 & 16 from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. Cost is $20.00 for materials. Classes limited to 25. For more information and to register call 256-682-6271 or e-mail fcn@fbchsv.org.

New Service Opportunities

With the new building we must staff two new welcome centers, provide greeters for the two main entrances, and add more greeters at other doors. We are also staffing a new group of greeters that will be located near guest parking to provide a warm welcome and instructions into the building. If you have a smiling face and would like to know more about serving contact Mike Pearce at 256-428-9448 or mike@fbchsv.org. There are a variety of times and schedules, including one that will fit your schedule.

Staff News

Dru Murphree has submitted his resignation as Part-Time Media Director effective January 7, 2013. We are grateful for the multiple contributions that he has offered in this role. Dru has led our media ministry through a very busy year of growth. As you see him around the church, please express your thanks to him for his ministry and service to First Baptist Church.