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.
The Living Christmas Tree is excited to welcome Alvy Powell as our guest soloist. He sings with the U.S. Army Chorus and has been singled out by several American presidents for his vocal skills.
WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Wednesday, Dec. 28 4-5:00 PM
Tuesday, Dec. 27 10 AM-12:00 PM
Wednesday, Dec. 21 4-5:00 PM
Tuesday, Dec. 20 10 AM-12:00 PM
CODA/140 6:30 PM
Living Christmas Tree 5:30 PM
A Tree for the Children 3:00 PM
LCT Parkers/241 1:30 PM
Sanctuary Worship 10:30 AM

The library will be CLOSED on the following days in Library Holiday Hours

Family Matters

in the loss of his aunt, Margaret Phillips
sister-in-law, Martha and Raymond Morring
uncle, Wayne and Elizabeth Hostetter
of their grandfather, George Vander Veer
Nancy and Rebecca Vander Veer

in the loss of her father, Helen Sockwell
in the loss of her

in the loss of his现在, loving, serving

WORLD MISSIONS

$39,900
Global Missions: $12,761
GIVEN TO DATE

presidents for his vocal skills.
Chorus and has been singled out by several American

Thursday, December 15, 7:30 p.m.
Saturday, December 17, 7:30 p.m.
Saturday, December 17, 4:30 p.m.
Sunday, December 18, 5:30 p.m.
Friday, December 16, 7:30 p.m.
(The Sunday afternoon presentations will feature interpretation into American Sign

**Remember that stock gifts, IRAs, and other appreciated securities are a great way to donate! Call Alison if you have questions.

Lakewood School Partnership
An Incredible Impact on the School


Thank you First Baptist for so many that have volunteered to tutor at Lakewood
School. We have over 80 students that we are actively tutoring at least once a week
and most of them twice a week. The teachers and administration are constantly
thanking us for the good work that is taking place and the progress that is being
made. This is making an incredible impact on Lakewood. Good Job!

BUT - we can always use more tutors. Please pray about becoming involved. Ask
your employers if they will provide time away for you to volunteer each week. Many
businesses have policies that encourage employees to volunteer in the community.
The tutoring is not difficult and most of the children look forward to seeing you each
week.

For new volunteers we will have a two week tutoring class in the New Year. The
sessions will be Sunday nights, January 8 and 15 at 4:00 in room 141. Ms. Lindsey,
Lakewood’s Curriculum Specialist, will be with us on the 15th to provide more
details on procedures and answer questions.

We will have sign-up sheets in the Sunday School boxes this Sunday for you to turn
in with your records and some at the East Welcome Center.

Thank you for your consideration for tutoring in the New Year.

Volunteer Opportunities

The offices of FBC will close on December 30 at 1:00 p.m.
Therefore, contributions to be posted for 2011 should be
received in the Finance Office by 1:00 p.m. on December 30.
Of course, any donations postmarked by December 31 will also
be counted. If you have any questions, please contact Alison at
256-428-9417 or alison@fbchsv.org. You may also give online
at www.fbchsv.org/give

**Remember that stock gifts, IRAs, and other appreciated securities are a great
way to donate! Call Alison if you have questions.

Sunday School
Preschool 65
Children 101
Students 153
Adults 674
Brookdale 15
Visitors 20
TOTAL 1030

Worship Services
Sanctuary Worship 1163
TOTAL 1163

THANK YOU

A Thank you note has been received from Jerry
Davis. It has been placed on the bulletin board
across from the church office.

STEWARDSHIP REPORT

12/11/11
Year-to-Date Goal $977,550.00
Offering
This Week $70,782.49
YTD $800,942.92
Debt Retirement
This Week $780.00
YTD $15,840.00
Faith Steps to the Future:
This Week $106,056.48
YTD $379,253.88
To Date: $2,785,984.83

www.fbchsv.org/give

ATTENDANCE

Good Job!

Faith Steps to the Future:

Debt retirement

YTD $800,942.92
This Week $780.00

Faith Steps to the Future:

Debt retirement

YTD $15,840.00

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Foundations for Life on Sunday Night
Beginning January 8, 2012

Pastor’s Class - “Hebrews for Everyone” • Begins January 8, 5:00-6:00 PM • Fellowship Hall
Led by Dr. David Hull
The letter to the Hebrews is a thoughtful, challenging, and magnificent presentation of the gospel. It is not easy to understand because the writer moves us into the deep waters of faith. However, it is a book for everyone to explore and learn. Take time over several months to immerse yourself in Hebrews and experience the richness of this great book.

January 8 we will hear from Missionaries Jack and C.J. Wehmiller who will be working with our youth in the Dominican Republic this summer. Dr. Hull will also give a brief introduction to his series.

Financial Peace University • Begins January 8, 4:00-6:00 PM • Parlor
Facilitated by Hunter and Alison Hoskins
This course teaches families and individuals how to handle their money through biblical, common sense principles and small group accountability. As people walk through FPU together, marriages are healed as couples get on the same page about money, parents learn how to teach their children about money, singles are kept accountable to responsible money management, and relationships within the church grow. Register by January 8- contact alison@fbchsv.org or contact her at 256-428-9417. Childcare is available upon request.

“Let’s Talk About Marriage!” • Begins January 15, 4:00-6:00 PM • Room 108F
Facilitated by Pam McDaniel and other couples as special guests
A 7-week class for couples who are seriously dating, engaged, or married less than 3 years. Each session will include enjoying a meal together and lively conversation on topics such as: The Marriage Covenant; Love Languages; Communication; Conflict Resolution; Likenesses & Differences; Roles & Responsibilities; Handling Finances. Cost: $10/couple. Register by January 2- contact Adult Ministry Office 256-428-9403; pam@fbchsv.org. Childcare is available upon request.

Five Conversations You Must Have With Your Daughter (Vicki Courtney, author)
• Begins January 8, 5:00-6:00 PM • Room 114
Facilitated by Susan Gravlee
A 6-week class for mothers of preschool through high school age daughters. This is a woman’s Bible Study for moms who desire to help their daughters build foundations of faith that will equip them throughout their lives. This study helps prepare us to talk with our daughters about the tough topics- life, love, and faith. Join us as we learn invaluable tips on having these conversations across the various stages of development: ages five and under, six to eleven, twelve and up: $10/book. Register by January 8- contact Adult Ministry Office 256-428-9403; adultministries@fbchsv.org. Childcare is available upon request.

Five Conversations You Must Have With Your Son (Vicki Courtney, author)
• Begins February 19, 5:00-6:00 PM • Room 114
Facilitated by Elaine Dickson
A 6-week class for mothers of preschool through high school age sons. This is a woman’s Bible Study for moms who desire to help their sons build foundations of faith that will equip them throughout their lives. This study helps prepare us to talk with our sons about the tough topics- life, love, and faith. Join us as we learn invaluable tips on having these conversations across the various stages of development: ages five and under, six to eleven, twelve and up: $10/book. Register by February 5- contact Adult Ministry Office 256-428-9403; adultministries@fbchsv.org. Childcare is available upon request.
**Vintage Jesus** (Mark Driscoll, author) • Begins January 8, 5:00-6:00 PM • Room 107  
*Facilitated by Kristin Wilkerson*  
A 10 week class for all adults, men and women. We will examine timeless questions concerning Jesus. There is no preparation or homework, but rather a weekly discussion as we seek answers to 10 different questions about Jesus. No Cost. Register by January 8• contact Adult Ministry Office 256-428-9403; adultministries@fbchsv.org. Childcare is available upon request.

**Women’s Bible Study** • Begins January 8, 5:00-6:00 PM • Room 111  
*11 week study facilitated by Beth Hoffman and Nannette O'Dell*  
Register by January 8• contact Adult Ministry Office 256-428-9403; adultministries@fbchsv.org. Childcare is available upon request.

**Engaging Culture: Men of Truth in a World of Lies** • Men’s Bible Study • Begins January 8  
5:00-6:00 PM • Room 140  
*Facilitated by Joseph Hicks*  
Register by January 4• contact Adult Ministry Office 256-428-9403; adultministries@fbchsv.org. Childcare is available upon request.

**Youth Choir** • Sundays at 5:00 PM • Choir Room

**Children’s Bible Drill** • Begins January 8 • Grades 4 - 6 • Rooms 225 & 226  
*Led by Debbie Howard*  
Helps children explore God’s Word and prepare for Bible Drill by learning Bible books, verses and key passages. They will study the history and people of the Bible, discover how God’s Word applies to their lives, and prepare for an exciting Bible Drill!

**Classes for Grades 1-3** • Begins January 8 • Rooms 227

**Preschool Foundations** • Begins January 8 • Age 3- Kindergarten • Room 212  
Live B.I.G. - It’s B.I.G. because: God is a great BIG God. God love us with a great BIG love. We are part of God’s great BIG world.

**Babies - 2’s** • Childcare • Room 202  
For special events, childcare is always available for Babies - 3’s.

**Lakewood Elementary Tutor Training** • January 8 and 15, 4:00-5:00PM • Room 141  
*Led by Mike Pearce*  
If you are interested in being a tutor at Lakewood Elementary and did not go through training last fall, this two week class will prepare you to tutor children in reading and math. Join in this great outreach to young children at Lakewood Elementary.
A Generosity Letter

As I write this message, the news is focused on Europe and their possible, or not, solutions to an unbelievable debt load. Will Europe solve its debt problem, escaping default by whole countries and thereby leave the USA unaffected and muddling along in a weak recovery with not enough jobs? What can Christians and congregations do to share Good News in this context?

As simple and predictable as it may sound, we can be generous. We can continue to witness to our God whose mercy, love and grace are abundantly available. We can resist the fear response of grasping what we have and practice an open-handed sharing of what we steward for the real Owner. We can respond early and often to people asking for aid. Having enough “stuff”, we can invest more through our churches and charities. We can keep doing our jobs with purpose and passion. We can ask for help when we need it and thereby give others an opportunity to be generous.

Europe’s debt may be contained or it may end in default. There is only one debt that matters...the debt of love. It is a debt we owe because of God’s great love for us in the person of Jesus the Christ. It is a debt we gratefully pay with every act of generosity.

Submitted by
Ruben Swint