

**Deacon of the Week:**

1st Sunday: Charles Gaffigan  
2nd Sunday: Rhonard MacRae  
3rd Sunday: Ron Arthur  
4th Sunday: Roger Harwood

**December Wedding Anniversaries**

Dickie & Anne Raines 6  
Rhonard & Jeanette MacRae 21  
Bob & Betsy Jones 22  
George & Joyce Ellis 24  
Harold & Jo Shuman 24  
Larry & Doris Grant 26  
Paul & Linda Brooks 31  
Ron & Jane Richardson 31

**December Birthdays**

Colin Campbell ..... 1  
Debbie McCartha ..... 1  
Judy Willis ..... 1  
Michael Freeman, Jr..... 4  
Lydia Lonon ..... 4  
Shannon Lowell ..... 4  
Shawna Lytle ..... 4  
Juanita Ramsey ..... 4  
Kathryn Hoyle ..... 9  
Lori Patton ..... 9  
Jean Davis ..... 10  
Jane Richardson ..... 10  
Robin Smith ..... 12  
Thurman Padgham ..... 13  
Noah Browne ..... 14  
Karis Stephenson ..... 14  
Chase Campbell ..... 16  
John Brooks ..... 22  
Mamie Elliott ..... 23  
Barbara Carswell ..... 24  
Britt Turner ..... 24  
Margie Swann ..... 26

**FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH**

Old Fort, NC

December 2011

Volume 45, Issue 12

# THE VOICE

## Pastor's Ponderings

### DECEMBER EVENTS

**SUNDAY:**

9:45 - Bible Study  
11 - Worship Service  
5 - Youth, Children's Choir  
6 - Evening Bible Study, TeamKIDS  
7 - Praise Team

**MONDAY:**

6:15 Handbell Practice

**WEDNESDAY:**

6 - Adult Bible Study, Youth, RA's, GA's, Acteens, Mission Friends  
7 - Adult Choir Practice

Dec 3 - Parade 4 pm  
Dec 4 - Deacon Meeting 7 pm  
Dec 11 - Christmas Cantata at FBC Old Fort 3 pm  
Dec 11 - Youth Council 7 pm  
Dec 14 - Youth Christmas Caroling at 6 pm  
Dec 16 - Youth Christmas Party at 6 pm  
Dec 18 - Baptist Men's Breakfast 8:30 am  
Dec 18 - Christmas Cantata at FBC Black Mountain 6 pm  
Dec 24 - Christmas Eve Candlelight Communion Service at 6 pm

As we wait for Christmas to come each year, we anticipate the celebration of the very first Christmas when Jesus was born. We know Jesus was born of a virgin, lived among men, and died on the cross for our sins, that believing in Him we might have eternal life. We all celebrate Christmas, but do we all believe with all our heart, soul, and mind in Jesus? Does our faith go beyond the faith our parents passed on to us and beyond intellectual faith? Do you have saving faith? We possess something the people before Jesus was born didn't have. We have eyewitness accounts of what happened in the Bible. Those who lived before Jesus was born had to believe in what was to come as told by the prophets. Even though they believed and they hoped, when it actually happened they were not ready. He didn't come as they expected. He didn't come when they expected. He wasn't what they expected. But Jesus has come. He was born in a manger in lowly circumstances. He died on a cross made for a criminal. He rose again and promised He would return for those who have a saving faith in Him. Do you believe? Are you ready for His return? I found a poem that hopefully will wake you up if you are not ready.

*Twass' the night Jesus came and all through the house, not a person was praying, not one in the house. The Bible was left on the shelf without care, for no one thought Jesus would come there. The children were dressing to crawl into bed, not once ever kneeling or bowing their head. And Mom in the rocking chair with babe on her lap, was watching the Late Show as I took a nap. When out of the east there rose such a clatter, I sprang to my feet to see what was the matter. Away to the window I flew like a flash, tore open the shutters and lifted the sash. When what to my wondering eyes should appear, but Angels proclaiming that Jesus was here. The light of His face made me cover my head. Was Jesus returning just like He'd said? And though I possessed worldly wisdom and wealth, I cried when I saw Him in spite of myself. In the Book of Life, which he held in his hand, was written the name of every saved man. He spoke not a word as he*

*searched for my name, when He said, "it's not here" My head hung in shame. The people whose names had been written with love, He gathered to take to his Father above. With those who were ready He rose without sound, while all of the others were left standing around. I fell to my knees but it was too late, I'd waited too long and thus sealed my fate. I stood and I cried as they rose out of sight, Oh, if only I'd known that this was the night. In the words of this poem the meaning is clear the coming of Jesus is now drawing near. There's only one life and when comes the last call, we'll find out that the Bible was true after all.*

The Bible is true. While we celebrate Jesus' first coming, are you ready for His second coming? Merry Christmas.

Pastor Duane

**Church Staff**

Duane Caldwell, Pastor  
David Workman, Pianist  
Lori Patton, Minister of Music  
Melissa Parry, Secretary  
Wanda Parker, Custodian

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**Offertory Prayer:**

1st Sunday: Bob Smith  
2nd Sunday: Ron Arthur  
3rd Sunday: Susan Hoyle  
4th Sunday: Dena Caldwell

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**The Voice**  
First Baptist Church  
P.O. Box 10  
Old Fort, NC 28762



**D**on't forget about Katherine's Closet which is a Prom Dress Ministry begun by Hayley Duncan. If you have an old prom dress hanging in your closet that you will probably never wear again, contact Hayley and donate your dress to Katherine's Closet so a girl in our county who can't afford a prom dress can have one to go to her prom.

National Collection Week for Operation Christmas Child (OCC) was November 14-21. We are extending the Old Fort First Baptist Church drive through Sunday, December 18. **OUR GOAL IS 108 PACKED SHOE BOXES**

**On November 13, we had 2 returned packed Shoe Boxes.**

**By November 27, that number had grown to 47. Thank you and keep up the good work!**

Your Boxes are in the foyer,

Operation Christmas Child Brochures are on the white podium behind the boxes. The labels for the boxes are in the brochure, indicating whether it is for a boy or girl and the child's age category (2-4, 5-9, or 10-14). The brochure provides information on how to pack your shoe box, including gift suggestions.

Gift Suggestions:

Always include soap (in a Ziploc bag), washcloth, toothbrush(s), toothpaste and a comb or brush.

Toys: beanie babies (we heard you can get these at Morganton trade lot for 50 cents), yo-yos, balls, small cars, other stuffed animals, dolls, kazoos, harmonicas, jump rope, Slinky, Etch-a-Sketch or toys that light up or make noise.

School Supplies: pens, pencils and sharpeners, crayons or markers, stamps and ink pad sets, writing pads or paper, solar calculator, coloring and picture books.

Other: hard candy (tootsie rolls are ok, but no other form of chocolate), lollipops, mints, gum (all candy in Ziploc bag), T-shirts, socks, ball caps, sunglasses, hair clips, toy jewelry, watches, flashlights.

If you include anything that requires batteries, add extras.

We have been told that Mighty Dollar (in Forest City & Hendersonville) and Dollar Tree are good places to shop for these items.

**Don't forget:**

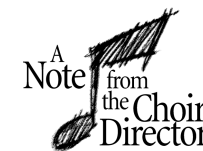
1. Include \$7 donation for each shoe box to help with shipping and other costs. You can pay online (see website, [www.samaritainspurse.org](http://www.samaritainspurse.org) or brochure for details) or by check payable to Samaritan's Purse. If you are doing more than one box, write one check and place it in any one of your boxes
2. Use a rubber band to secure the box

If you have any questions, have extra items to share after filling your shoe boxes or would like to help in some other way, please give us a call. Sherry Burnette 668-4301 or Catherine (Cathy) Moore 668-4419



It was a Silent Night, so very long ago...  
It Came Upon a midnight clear...O Holy Night...  
No room for the King of Kings...no room to let him in...no room for Jesus  
Hallelujah, how the angels sang.....  
Shepherds, why this jubilee? Wise men from afar...following a star  
Star of Wonder... Westward leading, STILL proceeding...

Look who just checked in -into the barn, into the world  
Into the hearts of the boys and girls.  
Never been a baby quite like Him...Look who just checked in!  
He knew us in the garden. He brought us through the flood,  
Saw the sacrifice of the fire and the blood.  
Everybody thought he'd been away for a while  
But he came on down in the form of a child  
He's the Prince of Peace, the King of Kings  
Lord of the universe and every little thing.  
Emmanuel since time began...God is with us once again.



Check out this link <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1nMmUd7Cry0&feature=related>

All these words above are song lyrics that I love. The song "Look Who Just Checked In" is part of a musical called "His Name... Jesus" that we considered singing this season but the one you will hear is just as good if not better. Just as long as we are singing about our Savior and lifting his name, telling His story, that's what matters...His Name is Jesus, Emmanuel, Mighty God, Prince of Peace, Redeemer, Yahweh, the reason for life. Spread the word - he is ALIVE. My first year with you has FLOWN by and we've grown in spirit and friendship. Looking forward to more leading from the Master of ceremonies, the leader of the pack and my best friend, Jesus.

**Merry Christmas To All My Church Family. I Am Truly Blessed To Be Among You. Lori**



**T**he youth have returned from the Hearts on Fire Conference with fire in their hearts. Out of the fourteen youth who went from our church, four made public decisions. We will be baptizing two of our youth on Sunday morning, December 4. They are Alonzo Bingham and Destiny Penley. We are so proud of them for taking a stand for Jesus Christ. Other activities the youth have been involved in were going to the see the movie "Courageous" and handing out treat bags with Gospel tracts and church information through a Reverse Trick or Treat Event. They handed out approximately 100 bags on October 31. Upcoming events for the youth are the Christmas Parade on December 3, Christmas Caroling on December 14, Youth Christmas Party on December 16, a lock-in sometime after the first of the year, and a snow-tubing excursion sometime this winter. Our youth would like to thank everyone who has made contributions to the youth fund to enable them to continue to be involved in activities for which they can invite their friends in order to introduce them to our youth group and our church. Our youth are the best, and we can be very proud of them. The future of the church looks very bright. Thank you Old Fort First Baptist Youth.

The 2011 theme is "His heart, His voice, His hands - I am Southern Baptist missions." It reminds us that as followers of Jesus, we - the Church - are called to be the body of Christ. We are His heart, His hands and His voice in the midst of a world filled with unreached peoples. We are part of the task to fulfill the Great Commission. And although we Southern Baptists have been praying, giving and going for 160 years, the task is far from finished.

Paul says, "All of you together are Christ's body, and each of you is a part of it" (1 Corinthians 12:27). Southern Baptist missionaries can't carry the Gospel to the ends of the earth without our support. How much will you give to reach the remaining lost? Think about what you are spending on Christmas gifts. Then consider giving your biggest gift to God - through the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering.® The 2011 goal is \$175 million. Our church's goal is \$2011.



**Thank you for the prayers, calls, cards and everything you did for us during my husband and brother-in-law's sickness and death. We appreciate everything. Doris Woods & Margie Swann**



The quarterly Baptist Men's Breakfast will be held Sunday, December 19th. at 8:30 am. You need bring nothing but an appetite and a desire for fellowship.



Be sure to mark your calendar for the Christmas Eve Candlelight Communion Service for 6 PM on Saturday, December 24.



We have already begun the 2012 January Bible Study, which takes place on Sunday evenings at 6 PM. The January Bible Study for 2012 is based on the Book of Ecclesiastes which will raise the most challenging questions we face in life in a very realistic way; remind us what life is really like when we choose the pattern of this world rather than what God has to give; help us develop an everyday theology, showing us how to shape a Christian worldview in light of the challenges of secularism; serve as a guide for us as we seek to learn how to engage culture in an effective way; and enable us to see afresh our need for the gospel of Jesus Christ.

The combined choirs of the First Baptist Churches of Old Fort and Black Mountain will present a Christmas Cantata at each church this Christmas season. The cantata will be presented at FBC of Old Fort at 3 PM on December 11 and at FBC of Black Mountain at 6 PM on December 18. The cantata is entitled "Night of the Father's Love." Be sure to make plans to attend.



**HERE WE GROW...NOVEMBER\***

Avg. Worship Attendance... Avg. 79 General Fund....\$2827  
Avg. SS Attendance... Avg. 69 Maint/Bldg Fund.....\$392

\* Includes Oct. 30



**Homebound:** Marjorie McEntire, Hugh Guffey, Mary McEntire, Exam Haney, George Early, Grady & Mildred McCauley, Bob Bishop, Charles & Betty Marston  
**Nursing Home:** Carolyn Miller, Francis Morris, Marvin McEntire, Bernice McAfee, Ronnie Harmon

