



Evangelist

NEWSLETTER OF FIRST BAPTIST JACKSON



LIVING A LIFE FILLED WITH THANKFULNESS

SO THEN, JUST AS YOU RECEIVED CHRIST JESUS AS LORD, CONTINUE TO LIVE IN HIM, ROOTED AND BUILT UP IN HIM, STRENGTHENED IN THE FAITH AS YOU WERE TAUGHT, AND OVERFLOWING WITH THANKFULNESS. - COLOSSIANS 2:6-7

Erma Bombeck was an American humorist, who achieved great popularity for her newspaper column that described suburban home life. She once wrote about the subject of thankfulness. She was on record saying that when she forgot to be thankful among cancer survivors, she would hear the voice of a particular eight-year-old named Christina, who had cancer of the nervous system. She interviewed Christina and asked what she wanted for her birthday, she thought for a moment and then responded, "I don't know. I have two sticker books and a Cabbage Patch doll. I have everything!" Sometimes a momentary thought about someone other than ourselves is all it takes

to remind us to be thankful for what we have and who we are. In the same way, when we turn our attention away from ourselves and toward the Giver of all life, the many blessings He has poured out on us come rushing back and overwhelm us with thanksgiving. If we find ourselves complaining about our situation or longing for a better life, we need to take a few moments to worship God for what He has given us and brought us through. It's then that we will truly be overwhelmed with gratitude. During this holiday season, look to God and His never-ending love and faithfulness. And find peace in knowing that He is in control.

THE OPTIMIST SAYS, THE CUP IS HALF FULL. THE PESSIMIST SAYS, THE CUP IS HALF EMPTY.
THE CHILD OF GOD SAYS, MY CUP RUNNETH OVER.
-ANONYMOUS-

IN THIS ISSUE

LETTER FROM THE PASTOR
PAGE 2

MISSIONS REPORT
PAGE 3

GIVING & ATTENDANCE REPORT
PAGE 4

UPCOMING EVENTS
PAGE 5

THE ISSACS

SEE PAGE 5



LETTER FROM THE PASTOR

Merry Christmas,

I love the Christmas season. From driving through town to looking at homes decorated with beautiful lights, to watching family holiday television specials, to waking up early in the morning to enjoy little kids with beaming smiles rip through decorated boxes and wrapped gifts, the Christmas season is such a wonderful time of the year. Truly, even with all the holiday hustle, Christmas is a time of peace.

Isaiah 9:6 reads, "For unto us a child is born, a son is given. And the government will rest upon his shoulders. These will be his royal titles: Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace." The fourth title mentioned is "Prince of Peace." When the angels announced Christ's birth, they said, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth, peace, goodwill toward men!" (Luke 2:28)

Christmas is the season to bring relational peace. This is the season for some of us to forgive a decade old grudge. Christmas time usually reminds us of unhealed wounds from bad relationships. Knit your family closer together during the season.

Christmas is the season to bring personal peace. Philippians 4:6-7 states, "Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus." Considering that Christmas is a time to share the joy of God's peace, allow me to offer three thoughts:

First, each Sunday, for the month of December we are studying Philippians 4 during the morning worship service, as we learn God's peace. I am hopeful this fall the Lord has spoken to you through our study of the entire book of Philippians. During the month of December, the message series from Philippians 4 has been titled "A Season of Peace." The themes we continue to discuss are:

- Peace with Others
- Peace with God
- Peace of Mind
- Peace for all Circumstances

Second, Christmas is a time of blessing those who have impacted your life. So, I would encourage our church family to extend the blessings of God's peace to those who have impacted your life. Immediately I think of our wonderful ministerial, office, and custodial staff that I

am blessed to serve alongside. Make sure this Christmas you let each of our staff members know your love and appreciation of their service. Beyond the staff, also consider how you may encourage a Sunday School teacher, Deacon, children's ministry worker, media team member, kitchen helper, or one of the many other people who make the church ministries possible.

Third, Christmas is a time of giving. Typically, during the month of December, the tithes and offerings increase based on year-end giving, among other reasons. The church leadership encourages you to support the general budget of First Baptist Jackson so you can support the ministries and mission God has called us to accomplish. To function as a church of excellence and to focus on God's mission for us, it is essential to support the general budget of First Baptist Jackson. Acts 20:35 states, "it is better to give than to receive."

Fourth, I want to take a moment to say how thankful I am to call you my church family and to serve alongside the amazing people that make First Baptist Jackson. Each Sunday I feel blessed to teach God's Word but also to meet each and every one of you in the hallways, to hear how God is working in your life, and to see how excited everyone is about what God is doing at His church. Personally, this year, I count your prayers, words of affirmation, faithful service, and love for Jesus Christ, as the greatest Christmas gift. I am very joyful to serve a congregation of such loving and caring members.

LUCAS CLABOUGH
Senior Pastor

IMB.ORG/OFFERING

imb connecting

ONE SACRED EFFORT

FIND YOUR PLACE IN GOD'S STORY MATTHEW 28:19-20

2014 LOTTIE MOON CHRISTMAS OFFERING® SUPPORTING INTERNATIONAL MISSIONS NOV. 30 - DEC. 28

CHURCH GOAL \$20,000

RECEIVED TO DATE (December 14th): \$10,118

A SEASON OF GIVING

As Christmas nears, we find ourselves in the middle of a season of giving. When I think about giving, I think about the gifts God has given to us. He has given us life itself. He has given us the bounty of His creation. He has made possible eternal life by grace through faith in his Son, whose birth we celebrate at this time of the year. He has also given to us a "Great Commission." That commission is to evangelize the world and build up His Faith and His Kingdom and His Church on earth. He also has given us the method and plan we need to support that work. God speaks plainly to us from His Word. Out of the Word of God there are many principles of giving.

GIVE OF OURSELVES

2 Corinthians 8:5. . But they gave themselves first to the Lord and then by the will of God to us.

GIVE OUT OF DEVOTION, NOT COMMANDMENT

2 Corinthians 9:7 Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.

GIVE SYSTEMATICALLY

1 Corinthians 16:2 On the first day of every week, each of you is to put something aside and store it up, as he may prosper, that there will be no collecting when I come.

I'm sure by now you are saying, "Everybody knows that." I'm sure they do. However, the question is not do you *know*, but do you *do* what you know? Knowing what we should about Christian stewardship is one thing. Doing what we know about

Christian stewardship is an entirely different matter. During this coming year, let us be "doers of the word and not hearers only." God has richly blessed us. Let us be faithful in our giving back to Him.

There is much needed in order to fulfill the commission God has given to us as a "local" church. I want to issue a Malachi 3:10 challenge. You know the verse:

¹⁰Bring the full tenth into the storehouse so that there may be food in my house. And thereby put me to the test, says the Lord of hosts, if I will not open the windows of heaven for you and pour down for you a blessing until there is no more need. (ESV)

What we need is an experience with God. That experience will come with our faithfulness. Let us be faithful in our stewardship and see what experience God has in store for us. Rise to the challenge!

TIM MILLER

Minister of Administration and Operations

To date, the contributions for 2014 are 15% below that of 2013. Please prayerfully consider how the Lord would lead you to help end this ministry year well.

NOVEMBER FINANCIAL & ATTENDANCE UPDATE

NEEDED WEEKLY 12,868

November 2nd	\$14,331.85	Blended Worship- 170	Modern Worship- 126
November 9th	\$8,594.50	Blended Worship- 155	Modern Worship- 171
November 16th	\$7,518.00	Blended Worship- 140	Modern Worship- 143
November 23rd	\$6,609.81	Blended Worship- 146	Modern Worship- 113
November 30th	\$16,352.46	Blended Worship- 137	Modern Worship- 140

The 2015 Budget of \$598,466 was approved at the December 14th Business Meeting. Pray that the Lord finds us faithfully giving to the mission He has set before us.



OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

During the Operation Christmas Child season, First Baptist Jackson collected over 200 boxes to send to countries in which children don't have the opportunity to receive presents. Thank you to all that donated boxes and contributed to the postage for those boxes. Pray that God blesses each box and each child.

500 LB CHALLENGE

During the month of November, Pastor John Chidester challenged the church to raise 500 lbs of food for hungry and under-privileged people and families. In a matter of 3 weeks we not only raised 500 lbs, but tripled that challenge. We collected 1570 lbs of food and gave it to Pastor Barnicio and The Light of Christ Church in East St. Louis to further spread the gospel to their community. Thanks to Tim and Donna Miller for transporting the goods. Pastor Barnicio was extremely thankful for the generosity of the church and assured that there will be legitimately hungry people who have a full belly because of this donation.



INTERNATIONAL MISSIONS BANQUET

November 16th, Pastor Barnicio of Light of Christ Church in East ST. Louis, and Pastor Rayden Hollis of Red Hill Church in Edwardsville, IL, came and spoke of what God was doing in the lives of their churches. First Baptist Jackson and these two men and their churches are partnering together to see the gospel spread further than any of us could do alone. We are looking forward to the years to come and as to how God is going to bless our efforts and partnerships together. Pastor John will be scheduling frequent trips to see these men and their churches in the future. If you would like to be a part of one of those trips, talk to Pastor John.



MISSION OPPORTUNITY

After applying for a \$4000 grant through the office of Evangelism and Discipleship of the Missouri Baptist Convention I am excited to announce that we have received a check for \$2000 that must be used by December 31st for Evangelism and Outreach. In applying for the grant we proposed an idea of giving out God's Word and a Box of Food to members of our community. Our area of focus will be the apartment units that held our block parties earlier in the year. With this money we will be able to provide 75-80 homes with a \$30.00 food basket.

HERE IS WHERE YOU COME IN!

On December 21st we will need a group of people packing the boxes beginning at 2 pm. This group will pack and pray for all the boxes. We will fill the boxes in the hallway in the front of the church for quick access to the trailer without having to navigate any steps.

Next we will need a group (which you are more than welcome to do both) to hand out the food and directly share the Gospel with those in the various apartments. We are praying that as we go out we will not only accomplish a social justice type of ministry because, if we are honest, non-Christian organizations do a great job of that this time of the year, but we will give people the hands and feet of the Gospel first, followed by the spoken Gospel. We expect to see people come to know Jesus through these direct witnessing opportunities. Let us join together to allow the light of Jesus to be shown in the community. Will you take part in this practical, missional opportunity?

PASTOR JOHN

Minister of Students and Missions

UPCOMING EVENTS

Christmas Eve
CANDLELIGHT

— SERVICE —

Wednesday, December 24th @ 5pm



-Start the New Year with-

THE ISAACS

GAITHER GOSPEL SERIES™

Where: First Baptist Jackson

When: Thursday, January 1st, 2015

Time: 7:00 pm

If you would like to help with hosting
The Isaacs, please contact Ron Andrews
In person or by phone: (573)837-5812



Please spread the word about the events so that we can minister to as many people as we can. If you have any questions about either of these events, contact the church office at office@firstbaptistjackson.tv or at (573) 243-8415.

We look forward to seeing you there!

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Merry Christmas
FROM YOUR STAFF AT



FIRST BAPTIST
JACKSON



Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage Paid
JACKSON, MO
Permit No. 21

*And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of heavenly hosts praising God and saying,
“Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, goodwill toward men!”
Luke 2:13-14*

