



First Baptist Herald

From the heart of the pastor...

What a wonderful Christmas season we all enjoyed here at First Baptist Church! Our youth led out with an incredible effort associated with Operation Christmas Child. This year we more than doubled the number of shoeboxes that we sent out to children all over the world in the name of Christ. To date, we have received \$22,596.00 toward our Lottie Moon Offering goal of \$28,000. I am excited to see our people still generously giving toward missions, even as they plan their own family holiday observances. All through November and early December, the excitement associated with the *Living Christmas Tree* continued to swell. A total of 3,480 people attended the times of worship. Over and over again I heard a common sentiment expressed in the aftermath of a performance. The program lifted spirits and reminded us of the joy of Christmas, but the thing that struck so many was the high level of worship and the emphasis upon the sacred dimension of Christmas. In all too many cases, the secular has crowded out the sacred in other venues. It was so very refreshing to people to see the sacred elements of Christmas celebrated to the extent that they were. All of you who helped were a vital component in making this year such a success. In addition, our youth choir did an outstanding job in launching the *Student Family Christmas*. I know that many of you have invested countless hours in preparation, rehearsal, performance, promotion, and set-up for these events, but our whole city has been blessed by the wonderful expressions of faith throughout the Christmas season. May God use our gifts of resources, time and energy for the glory of His kingdom. It may be weeks and months before we see the fruit from the seeds which were sown, but the Holy Spirit can do awesome things with our responses of obedience.

Now as 2007 comes rapidly to a conclusion and we anticipate the opportunities of 2008, I hope you will prayerfully consider how to continue in this pattern of devotion and service. In light of all the ways which God blesses us, it behooves us to ponder ways to bless Him all year long. Maybe you need to have a more consistent personal time of interaction with the Lord. If so, consider making Tuesday *Encounter* a regular time for you to come and meet the Living Lord. More and more, this is becoming the house of prayer that God craves. Maybe God has placed on your heart a burden for those who need a relationship with Him and with His body the church. Consider getting involved in our G.R.O.W. outreach ministry on Sunday afternoons. There is something there for everyone. You can write letters, make calls or go out on visits. I know how very busy your schedules can be, but the Great Commission of Christ applies to all. I truly need all of you to make the impact on this community that God would have. Maybe you have never before been involved in missions. The ministers and I are fervently investigating many more local, regional and international options for service. Pray that God will guide us. Also, pray about your personal involvement in missions. Historically, we have been a giving church, but the excitement about going continues to escalate.

I am so honored to be your pastor. May God bless each of you as you finish your Christmas traditions. May His Spirit guide you as you contemplate what faith and service will mean for you in 2008. Finally, I want to thank you all for your prayers and support in 2007. Together, we serve a glorious Lord and Savior.

Bro. Maurice

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January 2008

Educationally Speaking



Schedule

Sundays at 4:30pm in

Fellowship Hall

January 6- W. Team January 13 - G. Team
January 20 - R. Team January 27 - O. Team

Have you heard about KIDZONE?

Starting in February, children's Bible study will take on a new look and provide Bible study designed to learn it, link it and live it as kids apply God's Word in their everyday world. Using a multi-media curriculum with large and small groups, praise and worship, scripture memorization in a fun way; children will grow in their understanding and application of God's Word. Be watching for more information and the launch date.

Attention Children's Bible Study Workers at 9:30 and 11am

We will meet on Sunday evening, January 6 and 20 from 6 to 7:30pm for KIDMO training and preparation for launching the new children's Sunday school. We need everyone on board during this training time to see how you will be a part of KIDZONE and how the Bible study session will go.

Security Response Meeting

Sunday, January 13 at 3pm in the Conference Room

If you are an active law enforcement officer or retired, please make a note and join us as we begin drafting a security response plan for our church. Your input is needed.

Bible Study Leadership Meeting

Thursday, January 17 at 6:30pm

Bi-monthly meeting for all Bible study leadership as we begin a new year.

Single's Bible Study - Book of Revelation

6 -7pm the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of each month at the home of Clarence & Marlene Martin, 4002 Azalea Dr (526.1531)

Love and Respect: Growing in Your Relationship With Your Spouse

Led by David & Kristy McPherson

Beginning Sunday, February 10 at 8am (if there is enough interest)

Q: What Do All Healthy Marriages Have In Common?

A: A Lot Of Hard Work!

No matter where you're at in your marriage, it's easy to misunderstand the heart of your spouse. Would you like to better interpret what your spouse really means, not just what they say? Join us for *Love and Respect* and discover your spouse's deepest need.

To sign up, call the McPherson's (642.7200) or the education office (524.3691). Child care will be provided if needed.

Cooking For Babies And Toddlers

Saturday, January 26 at 10am in Fellowship Hall

The New Parent Ministry is offering a class on how to make homemade food for your baby and toddler. This class will show you how to prepare nutritious meals, no matter how busy you are.

Child care will be provided by reservation. To sign up for the class, contact Lacey Murphy (Tylacey@aol.com or 649.8690) by January 19.

What Does God Think About Our Stuff?

Join us on a journey to discover the guidance God has given us regarding our possessions and our money. We will cover the following topics and more: Saving and Investing, Earning Money, Training Children and Getting Out of Debt

The orientation class for the upcoming *Crown Biblical Financial Study* will be held in mid-January with classes beginning the first week of February.

For information or to reserve your spot in the orientation class, please email (losjurados@msn.com) or call (526.2217) Lori Jurado.

After Hours Emergency Number

526.9321 - Follow the instructions.



Holiday Schedule

Sunday, December 23

8 and 9:30am Worship is Dismissed
All Bible Study Classes Are Dismissed
Worship at 11am
All Other Activities Are Dismissed

Monday, December 24

Christmas Eve Service with Lord's Supper at 6pm

Tuesday, December 25

All Activities Are Dismissed

Sunday, December 30

8am Worship is Dismissed
Worship at 9:30 and 11am
Bible Study at 9:30 and 11am
All Other Activities Are Dismissed

Monday, December 31

Youth New Years Eve Bash at 7pm

Tuesday, January 1

All Activities Are Dismissed

Church Office Hours for the Holidays

Monday, December 24	Closed
Tuesday, December 25	Closed
Wednesday, December 26	10am to 1pm
Thursday, December 27	10am to 1pm
Friday, December 28	10am to 1pm
Monday, December 31	10am to 1pm
Tuesday, January 1	Closed

Precept Winter Bible Study—1 Corinthians

Starts Friday, January 25 at 9:30 in Room 219

Looking for a way to dig deep into the Word of God and saturate yourself in His Word? You are invited, men and women, to join this nine-week study. To sign up or for further information call Annelle Neeley (532.8186).

Women's Bible Study Group

Resumes Tuesday, January 15 from 9:30 to 11am in Room 219

Mormonism: Seals, Secrets and Ceremonies

Contributions for 2007

Just a reminder! If you have contributions you would like to be included on your 2007 giving record for FBC, please make sure they are post marked by December 31, 2007 or brought into the church office by Monday, December 31. Thank you for your generous gifts for the year 2007.

Monthly Mission Project, Sponsored by Women on Mission

January - Weed & Seed Safe Haven. A collection box is located outside the Media Library.

books (children & youth)
math workbooks (K-5th grade)
basketballs footballs kick balls

Media Library



Library Hours

Sunday	9 to 10:45am 5 to 6pm
Tuesday	6 to 6:15pm
Thursday	9:30 to 11am

Twelve Extraordinary Women by John MacArthur.
How God shaped women of the Bible and what He wants to do with you.

I Am With You Always by Chip Ingram.
Experiencing God in times of need.

Herald Deadline

Submissions for the February edition of the *Herald* are due in the church office by **Tuesday, January 15.**



HAPPY *New Year!*

First Baptist Church of Las Cruces Staff

Senior Pastor..... Dr. Maurice Hollingsworth
 Minister of EducationRichard King
 Minister of Music and Worship.....Mike Edwards
 Minister to Senior Adults.....Larry Henson
 Minister to Students..... Brian Clayburgh
 Student Intern.....Dawson Hunt
 Student Intern.....Samantha Holmes
 Ministers of Prayer & Spiritual RenewalJim & Sharon McPherson
 Director of BCDC & Kid's World.....Sharyn Brown
 Administrative Assistant to the Pastor/Financial Sec... Sharon McCardle
 Business Administrator..... Cheryl DeMille
 Receptionist/Senior Adult Ministry Assistant Gloria Palacios
 Education Ministry Assistant..... Tammy Coleman
 Music and Student Ministry Assistant..... Melody Harrison
 Building Superintendent..... Keith Whiteley
 Webmaster..... James Harrison

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