



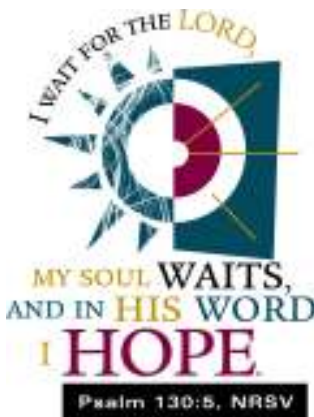
# The Courier

## *A Message from our Pastor...*

January 2011

### *Points of Interest*

- Senior Events
- Youth News
- Missions Stewardship Report



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### *MOVING FORWARD IN FAITH*

**God is calling us to be a church that is *compassionate, serving, and accepting*. God is calling us to minister in ways that are *honest, loving, respectful, and faithful*.**

One of my favorite passages of Scripture has always been Philippians 3:13-14: “Forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus.”

When I look at those words again, I realize that Paul says that God’s call is the prize to strain for. We talk about prizes and rewards when it comes to God, and often our focus moves to the “treasures in heaven” that Paul talks about in another letter or the “streets of gold” in Revelation. And certainly I think that Paul is thinking of those treasures and bounties here in Philippians. Still, I can’t help but notice that Paul says that the prize he is thinking of is not just Heaven but “the heavenly call”. In other words, the prize is to hear God say, “This is where I want you to go. This is how I want you to get there.”

I wonder: can we see the prize as the race to which God is asking us to run, or can we only conceive of the prize as what awaits us when we cross the finish line?

Very soon, you will be receiving a letter from the Stewardship Team and the Deacons. This letter is being sent in response to one of the Vision Team recommendations that our church adopted in June of 2010. In this letter, you will be introduced to a new stewardship initiative, *Moving Forward in Faith*. You will hear more information about this initiative during the morning worship service on Sunday, January 9. This initiative has a very clear goal: to throw off financial burdens so that we can move forward to accomplish the purposes of God’s kingdom by being the church God is calling us to be. This initiative sets forward some very clear goals, and it is an invitation for everyone in our church family to join our time, talents, and resources together for a larger purpose.

Accomplishing these financial goals will certainly be a great reason to celebrate. Still, I would remind us that the prize is not just a positive checking account balance or a burned bank note. The prize is the journey getting there. When we had our congregational conversations, one of the highlights of our church’s history that many people mentioned was the “Together We Build” campaign. When people explained why they considered it a highlight, again and again people talked about how the campaign was an opportunity for the church to come together and work together for a common purpose. In other words, the journey was as enjoyable as the finish line.

I keep thinking: what will our journey, our race, look like? There are some things that I know. As we press on toward the goal, there will be an opportunity to come together in small groups to discuss God’s call on our individual lives (*Klesis*) and on our church (*It’s Time!*). There will be an opportunity to join with other believers to discuss the shifting missional paradigm (February 1 at First Baptist Graham). These are just a few opportunities that will help us reach the goal of God’s call on our church. Our journey will be about our values and how they bring us into contact with a world that needs to know the love of Christ. Our journey will be about coming together, working together, giving together, breaking bread together, learning together, worshipping together. What a great race we have to run!

“Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight and the sin that clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus the pioneer and perfecter of our faith ...” (Hebrews 12:1-2a).

# Ministry Team News

## Family Team



**Fellowship Suppers:** 9th: Vegetable Beef Soup, 23rd: Grilled Chicken Salad; 30th: Beefaroni

## Formations Team

**Discover How to Lead in an Unleaded World** presented by **Rev. Steve Zimmerman**

**February 15, 2011 6:30-8:30 in the fellowship hall**

Being provided for all church leaders, teachers, and anyone who is interested in church leadership!

## Missions Team

**Homeless Shelter** – Responsible for the meal for the Homeless Shelter for Wednesday, January 5: Celestial Class/Disciples-Fellowship Class

**CBF Global Missions Offering:** \$700.50

## Senior Adult Team

The Senior Adult team met during the month of December to reflect on our ministry goals set at the beginning of the year and to vision ahead into 2011. We already have a couple of speakers eager to come and share during our quarterly luncheon and are setting our sights on an overnight retreat weekend coming up in the spring or fall of 2011. Please feel free to share ideas and passions with our team - Allene Atwood, Nancy Bowling, Doris Kelly, Faye Naylor, Nancy Wyrick or David Durham.

## SENIOR ADULT MINISTRIES

**Tuesday, January 4**

**Senior Adult Breakfast at Ramada 8:30 am**

**Wednesday, January 5**

**"Circle of Friends"**

**9:30 am - Meet at FBC Elon for Prayer**

**Friday, January 14**

**Senior Adult Team Meeting 10:30 am**

**Wednesday, January 19**

**Birthday Luncheon at Ramada 12:30 pm**

**Saturday, January 29**

**Bingo Ministry at Blakey Hall 2:00 pm  
(Faith SS Class Helpers)**



## Worship Team

**Additional Ushers & Greeters Needed!** People with warm smiles who aren't afraid to say "Hello, glad you are here today." Note: Need to be available prior to Sunday School and Worship to serve on this team. If you have been waiting for an opportunity to serve this is it! Please contact a member of the Worship Team or Margaret for more information.

## MUSIC NOTES

Today I want to say thank you to everyone who has helped to make our Advent Season so blessed. The decorations, music, worship times, dinner theater were excellently done.

Our church family is blessed to have wonderful Christian musicians to lead in worship on a consistent basis. I am very grateful for the talents of so many and their willingness to share them. It is certainly a joy to be a part of our Music Ministry.

The New Year is always a perfect time to join a choir or participate in a group. We always start anew in all of our music groups from the youngest Praizkids to our most "seasoned" singers- the Happy Hearts.



## Stewardship Team

### Our Church's Missions Ministry

The Church's Vision team report in June stated in that "this congregation's history is dominated by the very constructive theme of active mission." At the last Roundtable meeting, a request was made to the Stewardship Committee to identify all of the support given by our church for missions during the 2010 year. This list illustrates our church's continuing commitment to mission activities and to making a difference in our community and world. Thank you for sharing your blessings with others.

Benevolence Fund (assisting 15 families with bills) from Angel Food Funds	\$733
Donation to Allied Churches from Angel Food Funds	\$174
CBF of NC from regular budget	\$4,000
Mt. Zion Association from regular budget	\$3,500
Habitat for Humanity from regular budget	\$996
Allied Churches from regular budget	\$1,500
Community Outreach from regular budget	\$230
Hispanic Mission from regular budget	\$4,000
Special Missions Funds	
Buckets of Hope	\$1,097
Eastlawn Elementary School	\$363
Faith Comes by Hearing	\$879
Brady Swing Mission Trip	\$1,500
Prison Birthday Ministry	\$109
Church Family Assistance Fund	\$1,183
Baptist Retirement Home Donations	\$85
Baptist Hospital Donations	\$132
State Missions	\$87
Thanksgiving Offering – Children's Home	\$70
CBF Global Missions	\$700
Career Net	\$175
Loaves and Fishes Donation	\$250
Christmas Cheer Donation	\$250
Total	\$22,013

Some of the additional mission opportunities that members participate in include Operation Christmas Child, monthly Homeless Shelter meals, canned food collections on Communion Sundays, bingo at Blakey Hall, RA Souper Bowl food collection, and the Prison Ministry Toy Collection for Christmas.

# Youth News

## Just a Thought...

I sit here this Friday afternoon on the week after the youth did a TREMENDOUS job on "Uncle Phil's Diner" - The Christmas Edition. It continues to amaze me how hard the youth worked and still able to pull off a wonderful, fund-raising event that raised over \$1,800 for our 2011 mission trip to Louisville, Kentucky. Thank you youth for all of your hard work. Thank you parents who gave up your youth for months to make this event a huge success. Thank you parents and other adults who added special touches to the decor and to the show. Thank you Anna and the sisters for making a wonderful meal and dedicating your time and effort.

Last but not least, thank you church family for your support of the youth group and specifically this mission trip coming up. You are going to hear a lot more from our team in the coming months about our preparation and further opportunities to support us prayerfully and financially. But sitting here this afternoon, all I can think about is the 165 people that showed up to purchase tickets and place bids for our silent auction. Your love continues to astound me.

Please be in prayer as our mission team is being finalized and as youth and adults step forward to say that "I believe God is calling me to Louisville". Our team is answering that call, primarily learning from the sacrifice and love that you have shown towards our group. God bless you and Happy New Year!

In Christ, David

## Upcoming Youth Ministries...

**Important Upcoming Meeting...**

**Youth and Youth Parent Luncheon**

**Sunday, January 9  
12:00 pm**

**FBC Elon Fellowship Hall**

Two items on the docket...  
(1) Parental Consent Forms for 2011

(2) 2011 Youth Ministry Team Sign Ups

**January Youth Ministries**

**Sunday, January 9**  
Emerge - 9:45 am  
Worship - 10:55 am  
Youth and Parents Luncheon - Consent Forms and 2011 Ministry Team - 12:00 pm  
Consuming Fire - 5:30 pm  
2011 Louisville Mission Team Meeting - 7:00 pm

**Sunday, January 16**  
Emerge - 9:45 am  
Worship - 10:55 am  
\*\*Family Trip to Asheville Sign-Up Deadline\*\*  
(No Sunday Night Ministries)

**Wednesday, January 19**  
"The Breakfast Club" - 6:45 am

**Sunday, January 23**  
Administration Team Meeting - 9:00 am  
Emerge - 9:45 am  
Worship - 10:55 am  
Consuming Fire - 5:30 pm

**Sunday, January 30**  
Emerge - 9:45 am  
Worship - 10:55 am  
Consuming Fire - 5:30 pm

**Youth FAMILY Trip to Asheville!**

**February 25 - 27**

**Cost: Only \$150 per family!**

2 Nights at Ridgecrest Retreat Center

1 Day in Asheville - Options of Biltmore, Skiing, or Shopping

**Wishing You a Happy Birthday!**

**Abygail Allred - January 2**



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	No Bells or "Happy Hearts" this Month					1 
2 Children's Church No PM Ministries	3 <i>Church Office Closed</i>	4 8:30 AM Sr. Adult Breakfast at Ramada Inn	5 8:30-10 AM Career Net 9:30 AM Circle of Friends 6:45 PM Prayer & Praise 7:30 PM Choir Reh	6	7	8
9 Children's Church 12 PM Youth & Parents Luncheon 4 PM Church Council 4 PM Deacons Mtg. 7 PM Youth Mission Team Mtg.	10	11	12 8:30-10 AM Career Net 6:45 PM Prayer & Praise 7:30 PM Choir Reh	13	14 10:30 PM Senior Adult Team Mtg. 12 PM Angel Food Order Deadline	15 Fellowship Hall reserved 8:30am-1:30 pm
16 Children's Church 2:30 PM Choir Rehearsal at FBC, Graham No PM Ministries	17 <i>Martin Luther King Day</i>	18	19 8:30-10 AM Career Net 12:30 PM Sr. Adult Birthday Lunch 6:45 PM Prayer & Praise 7:30 PM Choir Reh	20 Newsletter Due	21	22 7:30-9 AM Angel Food Pickup
23 9 AM Youth Adm. Team Mtg.	24	25	26 8:30-10 AM Career Net 6:45 PM Prayer & Praise 7:30 PM Choir Reh	27	28	29 Fellowship Hall reserved 12-5 pm 2 PM Bingo at Blakey Hall
30 Children's Church	31 Fellowship Hall reserved 5-7:30pm		<b>Sunday Worship Opportunities:</b> 9:30 AM Deacons' Prayer 9:45 AM Sunday school 10:55 AM Morning Worship 5:00 PM Fellowship Meal 5:30 PM Consuming Fire (Youth) Children's Music 5:45 PM Adults 6:15 PM RA's, GA's, Mission Friends			

2<sup>nd</sup> Abygail Allred  
 3<sup>rd</sup> Jo Gattis  
 Vivian Stowe  
 Carnell Summers  
 Sandy Coble  
 5<sup>th</sup> Linda Barefoot  
 6<sup>th</sup> John Moody

7<sup>th</sup> Doris Kelly  
 10<sup>th</sup> Tyler Johnson  
 15<sup>th</sup> Sharon Brenner  
 20<sup>th</sup> Mary Roach  
 22<sup>nd</sup> LaVonne Wyrick  
 23<sup>rd</sup> Jane Crabbe  
 Dave Harris

23<sup>rd</sup> Noah Mofield  
 25<sup>th</sup> Janet Lanphear  
 Chip Ferguson  
 26<sup>th</sup> Jonathan Spivey  
 28<sup>th</sup> Eules Wyrick  
 Marissa Olson  
 31<sup>st</sup> Suzanne Roof



## First Baptist Church of Elon

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Janice Somers, Adm. Assistant  
secretary@fbc-elon.org

We're on the Web!  
[www.fbc-elon.org](http://www.fbc-elon.org)

### ***Gifts and Memorials***

*The church appreciates the following gifts.*

#### ***Building Fund:***

Anne Uzzell In honor of our Church Families, January Birthdays & Anniversaries. In memory of Emily Lambert, Sharon Brenner's grandmother, Nancy Bowling's granddaughter, Nina Harrison's sister.

#### ***CBF Offering:***

Faye Naylor In memory of Katherine Naylor & Nancy Bowling's granddaughter.

#### ***Regular Fund:***

FBC, Elon In memory of Sharon Brenner's grandmother, in lieu of flowers.

M/M John Dawson In memory of Emily Lambert & Jennifer Benware.

M/M Bill Mann In memory of Nancy Bowling's granddaughter.

Nina Harrison In memory of Nancy Bowling's granddaughter.

#### ***Youth Fund:***

Darryl Jones In memory of Wayne Hughes.

#### ***To the Emily B. Lambert Endowment Fund -***

In memory of Emily Lambert.

M/M David Lambert In honor of the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ & in memory of Dewey & Emily Lambert.

FBC, Elon - in lieu of flowers

Shirley Holland

Geraldine Hanks

Nancy Bartlett

Amy Nix

Epsie Somers Sunday school class

M/M William Akin

Eastman Co.

M/M Tom Ward

Charles Elfert

M/M Robert Teter

M/M Lyle Campbell

Dollie Hunnell

Robert Driver

## **A prayer for the new year**

Eternal God, thank you for bringing us once again to the threshold of a new year. Help us dedicate each day of 2011 to following your will for our lives. Guide us, Lord, in all our decisions and actions, day by day and hour by hour. Help us accomplish all that you desire for us to do, until our mission on earth is finished. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.