

FIRST
BAPTIST
CHURCH

Let Us Share First
With You.

Together

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Memphis, TN

Energized to Wait

Mark
Wheeler
writes: "The
waiting
room, a land
where time
seemingly
stands still.
It is a place
where life is

put on hold. In my doctor's office, it feels like hours have passed, and yet when I look at my watch, it's been only 20 minutes. When we are in the waiting room, it seems as if progress has come to a screeching halt."

That's about right, now isn't it? Waiting can be an exhausting experience. Now there's no perfectly physiological reason to claim this. You don't expend many calories when you are waiting. Maybe jogging in place waiting to cross a street, but otherwise, it tends to be a rather sedentary affair.

But it is exhausting, draining, anything but energizing. Well, scripture presents waiting in a different light. Isaiah 40:31 is probably the most popular text, and it

states, "They that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength." Renew their strength? Be energized from waiting? Maybe herein lies a secret, an important discovery for us given the fact that Advent is, after all, a season of waiting.

The Biblical concept here is idea of anticipation, expectation. Ah, here are words that perk us up. Waiting, in the Biblical sense, is far more than a draining waste of time. It's a perspective on life that something significant is about to happen, is just around the corner.

Think of a surprise birthday party. You get there early and you discuss and take glee in your secrecy. Then it gets close to time and everyone gets stationed, but not quite hidden. Then you hear the car pull up in the driveway, and you hide in nervous anticipation. Then the moment arrives and you yell, "Surprise." But no time, in the entire experience, is more energized than that moment right before the guest of honor walks in.

That's what the Bible speaks

Rev. Dr. David Breckenridge, Pastor

of when it says to wait. Its not a passive activity, but an active one. Ever seeking, ever looking, because just around this corner, and every corner, God, the true guest of honor, is there.

The New English Bible has a great rendering of Luke 3:15. It says, "The people were on the tiptoe of expectation, all wondering about John, whether perhaps he was the Messiah..." Well, as we all know, they had it wrong. But that attitude is exactly what I think the Bible has in mind when it tells us to wait. Waiting is penultimate. True. But it's alert, ever seeking. For Jesus to come back. Yes, but also for Jesus to come to us even today—in friends, nature, books, service, the least of these.

So this Advent, engage in waiting, seeking, searching for not only the Jesus who came, and the Jesus who is coming, but the Jesus that is among us even now. Those who seek...find.

Grace,
David

2 Advent & Christmas Activities

River City Concert Band Christmas Concert *Sunday, December 4, 6:30 p.m.*

Join us for an evening of holiday music by sixty sensational Memphis musicians, directed by Dr. Sidney McKay, longtime Director of Bands at the University of Memphis. Selections include "Winter Wonderland" and "Calypso Christmas." Thrilling soloist Terri Theil will sing "Gesu Bambino" and "O Holy Night." The band will also present the crowd-pleasing show-stopper, Leroy Anderson's "Sleigh Ride."

Tickets are available at the church in advance, or at the door. Cost is \$8.00 for adults, \$6.00 for senior adults, and \$3.00 for students.

We always have many guests from the community for this event, and we need your help in baking cakes and cookies for the reception in Fellowship Hall after the concert. Please bring them that Sunday morning, if possible. Invite prospects, friends and neighbors to attend.



Graded Choir Christmas Concert and Lighting of the Nativity **Wednesday, December 14, 6 p.m.**

Our children will share their musical talents with us in the Chapel that night, and afterward, everyone is invited to go to the front lawn to countdown the annual lighting of the magnificent Starry Nights Nativity Lights.



Live Nativity
December 11 • 5:30-7 p.m.

Christmas Day Service

Christmas is on Sunday this year, and we will have our special service of celebration at 11:00 a.m. as usual. However, there will be no Sunday School that morning.

Poinsettias for Christmas



Beautiful poinsettias will again grace our Sanctuary and Welcome Center in December. You may order plants in memory of a loved one or in honor of someone special. Plants are \$20, and may be ordered by calling the church office, 454-1131, or by turning in this form. Last day to order is Wednesday,

December 14.

My Name: _____ Number of Plants _____

In Memory of: _____

In Honor of: _____

World AIDS Day Names Ceremony on Thursday, December 1, 10 a.m.

Our ministers will be joining with many others on our church's front porch to read out the names of the 2,911 people who have died of AIDS in Shelby County since 1985. They are represented by all the markers on our lawn. Come for any or all of this touching event, which will last until all the names have been read. Our own **Skip Howard** is helping Friends for Life, one of our partner ministries, as 2011 World AIDS Day Chair.

Celtic Christmas Eve Service December 24

Mark your calendars now for our fourth Celtic Christmas Eve service at 6 p.m. The creative design of the service, the hushed beauty of candlelight, and the uplifting sounds of Celtic Christmas music will give you, your family, and your friends an experience to remember. The Chapel Chorale will be joined by Celtic instrumentalists on bagpipes, guitar, flute, violin, fiddle, hammered dulcimer, and

Christmas Eve Worship
b o d h r a n .
Make your plans to be present and invite others.



Holiday Office Schedule

- Church Office will be closed Friday, December 23 and Monday, December 26 for Christmas Holidays.
- Church Office will be closed Monday, January 2, 2012.

Letters

Dear Church Family,

On behalf of the Mission Committee, I want to thank you all for your participation in and support of our 2011 Missions Week at Thanksgiving. Sarah Jobe mentioned in her sermon that First Baptist taught her that "missions is something to be taken seriously." I hope you felt a swell of pride, as I did, when she said that. You all proved by your efforts and enthusiasm that we are still a church with a heart for missions. My deepest thanks for all that you taught me about service and for all that you are still teaching me about loving each other, our neighbors, and God. May God bless you and our family of faith.

Holly Hatton

Chair, Missions Committee

End of Year Gifts Deadline

In order to have your gifts to our church credited on your 2011 statement for income tax purposes, we must receive your gifts at the church by Friday, December 30, or mail them with a postmark by Saturday, December 31.

Thank you for your support all year long, and for remembering your church once again during this season of giving.

Baptist Women Christmas Program

Baptist Women are having their Christmas Luncheon December 8. Group meetings at 10:30 a.m. and lunch will follow (\$6.00).

Our mission project is giving money for the white Bibles for mothers at Baptist Hospital. Christmas music will be provided by **Michelle Cronk** and her daughters, **Lydia Michelle** and **Margot Weslee Cronk**.



LLL Christmas Party

LLL will have their Christmas program and luncheon on Friday, December 18 at 11 a.m. **Lydia Michelle** and **Margot Weslee Cronk** will perform Christmas music on their violins with piano accompaniment by their mother, **Michelle Cronk**.

Visitors are welcome. Lunch will follow at a cost of \$5.00 Please make your reservations by Wednesday, December 14 to **Jean Breedlove**.

End of Year

One month to go in 2011! Time to make sure our financial house is in order. Here are answers to frequently-asked questions:

- Is there still time for me to complete my 2011 church pledge? **YES**
- Can I contact Lisa Butts to get a copy of my giving report? **YES**
- Does the 2011 church budget still need my tithes and offerings? **YES**
- Can I help light the baptistry candles by making a gift to missions? **YES**
- When is the deadline for 2011 contributions to the church office? **Friday, 12/30/11**

Work in Clay Day



Join us Saturday, December 3 from 9 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. for a 'Work in the Clay Day' in the craft room at the Family Life Center. For more information contact **Terri Weaver** or **Betty Winter**.

Volunteer Receptionists Needed

Many hours of our work week at the receptionist's desk are covered by volunteers, and they have saved the church a great deal of money in our budget this year. We appreciate them so much, but because of recent illnesses, *we do need more volunteers* for this roster if we are to efficiently handle the phone calls and the people who come to our office for appointments with staff members, vendors and repair visits, deliveries, service with CrossLink and The Samaritan Counseling Center, etc.

Would you prayerfully consider serving in this way, for a half day shift. We would give you the necessary training before you begin serving. The work is not difficult, and if you are interested in a personal testimony, you can call one of the volunteers who have served this year. Once again, we say thank you to all of them. They are: **Ann Burgess, Debbie Desrochers, Patsy Donnell, Nita Ferguson, Barbara Ginn, Carolyn Harvey, Trudy Hatton, Olivia Lewis, Frances Marks, Kathryn McCommon, Rosemary Rader, Frances Ray, Sammy Rich, Andy Simmons, Robin Stein, Bill Wilson, and Betty Winter**. Please call Ray Hatton at 454-1131 for questions or to volunteer.

4 FBDS News, Library Corner

Memorials

Given in Memory of:

Given by:

Carol Meadors.....Ms. Jean Breedlove
 Ms. Helen Ruth Bourgoyne
 Gene DinstuhlMr. & Mrs. Al Hansard
 Ms. Genevieve Adams
 Mr. & Mrs. Milton Ray
 Mr. & Mrs. Marc Pendley
 Janis & Allen Boyd
 Dr. & Mrs. W. C. Sandusky
 Mr. & Mrs. Al Henderson
 Ms. Nancy Burch
 Ms. Katrina Flowers
 Ken & Billie Bryant
 Ms. Genevieve Peterson
 Ms. Kathleene Sims
 Ms. Norma Marrs
 Mr. & Mrs. Mike Hartsfield
 Ms. Betty Headley
 Ms. Juanita Bristow
 The Hannah SS Class
 Mr. & Mrs. Ed Myrick
 Anonymous
 Dr. & Mrs. David Cunningham
 Mr. & Mrs. Jim Donnell
 Ms. Sandy Chandler

Earl Ray Holloway.....Ms. Martha Virginia Kitchens
 Ms. Genevieve Adams
 Ms. Helen Ruth Bourgoyne
 Rachel Everett.....Ms. Nancy Scott
 Warren Jordan, Sr.....Dr. & Mrs. John McCall, III
 John McCall, Jr.....Dr. & Mrs. John McCall, III
 Laverne Moore.. Mr. & Mrs. Mike & Andrew Hartsfield
 Mr. & Mrs. Milton Ray
 Bob Bracey.....Dr. & Mrs. David Cunningham
 Dewey Middleton.....Dr. & Mrs. David Cunningham
 Mr. & Mrs. Jim Donnell
 Ms. Sandy Chandler
 Dan PendleyMr. & Mrs. Jim Donnell
 Ms. Sandy Chandler
 Margaret Wilmont.....Ms. Jean Breedlove
 Eula Cheatham.....Mr. & Mrs. Ernie Elder

Honoraries

Given in Honor of:

Given by:

LLL Club.....Mr. Dwight Spearman
 Frances Marks.....Dr. & Mrs. John McCall, III
 Earl & Jennie Holloway.....Dr. Frances Walker

FBDS Christmas Program

Christmas season is now upon us, and it is time to celebrate this joyous time. The twos, threes and fours classrooms will be participating in a Christmas Program on December 16th at 10 a.m. for their peers and parents. The children will be performing classic Christmas carols and a few new ones. This will give the children a chance to participate in the great story of Christmas.

The staff at First Baptist Day School wishes everyone a safe and happy holidays.

MJMRC Library Corner

Children Books

The Very Snowy Christmas by Diana Hendry
Living Color by Steve Jenkins
The Children's Hour by H. W. Longfellow
In 1776 by Jean Marzollo
The Knight at Dawn by Mary Pope Osborne
The Biggest Snowman Ever by Stevens Knoll

The Christmas Miracle of Jonathan Toomey by Susan Wojciechowski

Adult Books

Finding Grace by Donna Van Liere
One Simple Act by Debbie Macomber
Statue of the Arts by Gene E. Veith
Know Why You Believe by Victoria Osteen
Love Your Life by Victoria Osteen