

FIRST
BAPTIST
CHURCH

Let Us Share First
With You.

Together

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God of All Time



When I lived in Fayetteville, my church there had the most wonderful arrangement with our Jewish Synagogue. They would provide adults to do childcare for us on Christmas Eve and Easter. We would provide adults to do childcare for them on Rosh Hoshanna and Yom Kippur. Since those two holidays seemingly always fell on weekdays, when few of my members could get off work, guess who ended up doing childcare? They must have had paid workers for the little guys, because I was always directed to the playground where I was to entertain and watch over about a dozen between the ages of 5 to 10 for about three hours. They were great kids and I grew to know them over my years there. I had to be the only Baptist pastor ever to be on a first name basis with all the Jewish kids in a community.

Most of the time we played soccer and kickball and built castles in the sand box, the usual. But I just couldn't help asking them what the significance of this day was for them. They were like our kids.

Some mentioned the food, the ceremony, but most of them really could talk about what was going on. Thinking of our cultural new year, I was reminded of what those children taught me about Rosh Hashana, the Jewish New Year. It's the day when the Book of Life is opened and all are assigned a place based on what has happened the year before—the righteous, the wicked, and those in between who have something to repent of before Yom Kippur, the day of atonement, 10 days later. Its virtually assumed that most everyone falls into this latter category, so most all good Jews spend those 10 days in confession. But what I remember most is what one bright 10 year old said about the theme of the Rosh Hashana--Today we remember that God is the God of all time, that God was with us in the past, that God took note of what we did and did not do, and that God will be with us in the year to come as well.

Now on the surface, that level of awareness of God's presence could make one a bit self conscious to say the least, maybe even fearful. But there was no note of that in the people of that congregation or their children. That God may have noticed even their less than good deeds, was no note of shame, but privilege. Instead what they

Rev. Dr. David Breckenridge, Pastor

emphasized was the fact that God noticed what they did. God valued them. God took interest in them. God had expectations for them. What they did mattered in the eyes of God. God sought to do things in and through them. Did such an idea provoke repentance and confession? Sure it did. But it was by no means a deflating concept. It was, to the contrary, empowering and encouraging. God is the God of all time: the past, the present, the future. God is with us in all of it, and God is interested and invested in what we do with that time.

How different might 2012 be if we enter it with that mind set, with that level of awareness of God's presence and interest in our lives? How might it change us and the resolutions we make? How might it change how we treat one another, our neighbor, our enemy? How might it change how we work and play and rest? How might it change how we give our time, our talents, our finances? How might it change our priorities as individuals, families, church? The God of all time is the God of 2012, and this God is interested in bringing about His kingdom and wants us to have a part in that. It's a powerful notion for all people of faith. And if we let it, it could just make our year. Kickball anyone?

2 January Activities

Committee Planning Night ***Wednesday, January 4, 6:30 p.m.,*** ***Caudill Chapel***

We are anxious to complete our renewed committee structure in time for our Church Conference at the end of January. In order to make sure all committees are fully staffed and rotations in place, all present committee chairs will meet on Wednesday night, January 4, 6:30 p.m. in Caudill Chapel. If there are committees currently without a chair, the past chair or a representative will be needed to determine how many slots remain to be filled. Matching the right people to each committee will be a priority. **Natalie Cathey** is coordinator of this project.

FBC Inclement Weather Policy

During the next couple of months, it is good to be reminded of our church's inclement weather policy. If the Memphis City Schools are closed, our office is closed. If the city schools close (or close early) on a Wednesday, there will be no activities at church that evening. Stay home and stay safe!

If bad weather occurs on Sundays, we will try our best to get here and conduct a morning worship service (regardless of the weather). We will try to be sure that the service is broadcast live on radio (ESPN 680 AM and ESPN 92.9 FM). If you can safely get here, do come, but please do not take any chances. And remember that if it is icy, the walk from your car to the church door can be hazardous. Your safety is the most important thing to us.

In the case of weather problems, we plan to list our church's status on the local TV stations and leave a message on the church answering machine.

Worship Leaders Needed

We enjoy having members of the church from all age groups lead in our worship services. It adds great life to our services and is a wonderful way to showcase our membership to members and guests alike. We would like to add your name to the roster of people who would be willing to help with worship. Please turn in one of the special forms, and indicate your preference for reading scripture, leading a responsive reading, or offering a prayer (any or all of these).

Emily Callahan and **Ray Hatton** will coordinate the roster, and when you are given a date to serve, you will receive a packet containing your assignment, the order of worship, and guidelines for being most effective as you lead in public worship.

We believe that this plan will involve more people, as well as helping us all get to know each other better. Turn in your form as soon as possible! Thank you!

NAME: _____

EMAIL: _____ PHONE: _____

Check all that you are willing to do:

SCRIPTURE READING _____ RESPONSIVE READING _____ PRAYER _____

(Turn in to Ray Hatton or the Church Office)

2012 Budget **Discussion** **Sunday, January 8,** **Noon, Fellowship Hall**

Please stay for a while after Morning Worship to hear the presentation of the proposed 2012 budget, and have a time of questions, answers, and discussion. This will not include a meal, so make your lunch plans accordingly. Preschool childcare provided.

Annual Church Conference ***Wednesday, January 25, 6 p.m.***

As set forth in the Church By-Laws, our annual Church Conference is to take place the last Wednesday in January. At this meeting, we will adopt the 2012 Church Budget, and elect members of all Church Committees. Please be present that night for this important meeting.

Resolutions for a New Year

1. Develop and maintain good eating habits.
2. Get the proper amount of rest.
3. Develop and maintain an exercise routine.
4. Pray – consistently.
5. Develop and maintain a daily devotional habit.
6. Offer a minimum of a tithe (10%) of all my income through my church's budget.
7. Develop and maintain the habit of contributing my church tithe BEFORE paying other bills.
8. Decide where I can volunteer my time to help my church - then DO IT.
9. Be active in my support of mission efforts in my community.
10. Write out my Will and include First Baptist Church

Letters

Dear Friends at First Baptist Memphis,

This year's annual food shower at Tennessee Baptist Children's Home was a great success! We wanted to personally send you a note to let you know that we received approximately 4,300 bags of food/supplies from 63 churches in the Mid-South area.

Your church's faithfulness and generosity is greatly depended upon when it comes to this event. We received 137 bags from your church and wanted to say Thank you for making it a priority among your congregation.

Again, thanks for partnering with us this year to provide for the children in our care. Jesus says that if you do this for the least of these you have done it unto me. Thanks for being a blessing!

Dr. Darren A. Andrus
Program Director-Bartlett Campus
FBC,

Words cannot adequately express our appreciation and gratefulness to you and the First Baptist Church of Memphis for the generous mission brunch offering of \$578 to CrossLink International-Memphis. That is such a boost for us!

Thank you for helping enable CrossLink to serve. We praise the Lord for you! Truly, you make a "world" of difference!

Jan Lewis
Resource Manager, CrossLink

Ways to Give Memorials and Honoraria

FLOWERS:

The wonderful flower arrangements which grace our worship services add so much to the beauty of our Sanctuary and our television broadcast. Have you ever wondered about giving flowers some Sunday? It is a simple procedure. Just call **Gloria Hodges**, the chair of our Flower Committee. She will help you select a date, take down any preferences you may have for color, flower choice, etc., and take down your wording for printing in the order of worship. Then, she will place the order with our church florist, who delivers the arrangements. After worship, you are free to take your flowers, or donate them for use in church events or to be distributed to shut-ins.

CHURCH LIBRARY:

Your special gifts to the Church Library will add new books and videos on many subjects for adults, youth, and children. From novels to biographies to spiritual growth and much more, our library has many wonderful resources. In addition, a popular DVD section contains films for the family. Stop by on the ground floor of the North Building and let our librarians give you details.

MUSIC LIBRARY:

Imagine giving a lasting gift of music to your church, which can be used over and over through the years! By donating an anthem to the Music Library, you can do just that! Each copy of the anthem will have a label with the name of the donor and any memorial or honorary designation. In addition, whenever that anthem is sung in worship, a notice will be printed in the order of worship, just like for the gift of flowers or television service. The cost is \$95. For more information, contact our Minister of Music, **Rev. Ray Hatton** at 454-1131.

Arkings Honored by Memphis Mayor

The Arkings Foundation and Retreat Center was recognized by Mayor A.C. Wharton in addition to eleven other nonprofits in a reception December 12th at Rhodes College for their work in the community. In addition, each agency was promoted by Channel 5 News and on the Mayor's Facebook during the first twelve days of December.

Arkings is an out-growth ministry of FBC and is supported by the church's annual mission campaign. Members are encouraged to get involved and use the Arkings' 17-acre conference & retreat center near mid-town for personal and church group activities. (See www.arkings.com or www.fbcmemphis.org for more information.)



Arkings' full-time manager, Rev. James Butler and two Arkings youth being greeted by Memphis Mayor, A.C. Wharton, during the December 12 reception recognition.

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Memorials

Given in Memory of:

Given by:

Gladys Thornton	Anonymous
Myrtle Spearman.....	Anonymous
LaVerne Moore	Anonymous
	Mr. & Mrs. Milton Ray
	Mr. Austin Jeter & Ms. Melinda Grable
Dan Pendley	Anonymous
Gene Dinahl	Anonymous
	Ms. Mary Walters
	Mr. & Mrs. John McCall, III
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Lila Trout.....	Joy SS Class
Margaret Whitot.....	Elizabeth Under
Nan Gravel.....	Anonymous
Eula Cheatham.....	Anonymous
Troy & Dorothy Scott.....	Ms. Gail Scott Poole

Honorarias

Given in Honor of:

Given by:

Holly Hatton.....	Dr. & Mrs. John McCall, III
Al & Carol Henderson.....	Library Staff
Howard Lee.....	TN Society Dames Court of Honor
Ann Layman.....	Mr. & Mrs. Jim Hankins
Ray Hatton.....	Ms. Doris Green
Betty Headley.....	Ms. Doris Green
Lamar King.....	Ms. Martha Virginia Kitchens
Sally Smith & Lois Sandusky.....	Joy SS Class



Prayer Room

Partners: SS Leadership

For the month of:
January: Coed Class

**Prayer Room Partners:
During morning worship**

Jan. 1	Margaret Jordan
8	Frances Marks
15	Lois Sandusky
22	Austin Jeter
29	Jan Lewis

MJMRC Library Corner

Children Books

Needing Attention by Joy Berry
Little Lost Bat by Sandra Markle
The Big Elephant in the Room by Lane Smith
Daddy Loves His Little Girl by John Cash
George and Martha-One Fine Day by Marshall James

Adult Books

Longing by Karen Kingsbury
Call Me Mrs. Miracle by Debbie Macomber
Solid Answers by James Dobson
Dying For Change by Leith Anderson

Holiday Office Schedule

- The Church Office will be closed Monday, January 2, 2012.
- Wednesday Evening Activities resume January 4, 2012.