

# First connections

Dec. 3-16, 2009  
Vol. 46 No. 24

A loving people of worship, community and service

First Baptist Gainesville, 751 Green St., Gainesville, GA 30501

## Calendar Reminders

### Sunday December 6th

5pm Christmas on Green St.  
6pm Family Christmas Program

### Monday, December 7th

7:30pm The Edge

### Thursday, December 10th-13th

Living Christmas Tree  
Performances

### Sunday, December 13th

Deadline for Angel Tree Gifts &  
Food

### Monday, December 14th

10:15am Estes-Dozier Mission

### Wednesday, December 16th

6pm Meeting for Parents of  
Children K-6th Grades, BH

### Friday, December 18th

5:30pm Youth Progressive Dinner

### Saturday, December 19th

5:30pm HCCI Ministry

## Sunday Mornings

### Worship

8:30am Chapel  
10:50am Sanctuary  
Live Broadcast on WCON  
99.3FM & online  
www.fbcgainesville.org -  
broadcasts begin at 11:00am

### Sunday School

9:45am for ALL ages

## Contact Us

Church Office 770-534-7354  
Fax ..... 770-532-8861  
Family Life Center 770-535-0478  
Prayer Call ..... 770-333-7445  
Weekday Preschool 770-535-2329  
www.fbcgainesville.org

## A Word from Our Pastor...

Dear Church,

There are many adjectives to describe our congregation, but this week I'd have to use "willing." Hordes of you are willing to roll up your sleeves and help with whatever is at hand, from decorating the church for the season to constructing and completing the Living Christmas Tree to being an angel for a family in need this time of year. And your willingness is not only a fact in December, it's a reality all year long. I want to take this moment to thank you now for your willing spirit that makes all the difference all the time.

We have a large group of men and women who have readily and willingly agreed to serve on our search committee for a new Minister to Children. On Wednesday, December 16, this team will meet with all the parents of our children in the Banquet Hall Lobby at 6:00. We will have full care for all children that evening, including a special play and fun time in the Family Life Center. I cannot overstate the importance of this meeting and its effect on the future of our children's ministry and our church as a whole. I am asking every parent of every child through sixth grade to be present. Join us for supper at 5:00. (This will be our last Wednesday evening dinner for the year.) I want our search committee to have your thoughtful input before they begin their work in earnest immediately after the new year begins. I am tremendously excited about our search and about what God has in store for us next year.

Some have asked me for the words to the song I mentioned in last Sunday's sermon. Since it is so appropriate for us in this search for the right person to lead our children, I include verse 1 here:

I don't know about tomorrow, I just live from day to day.  
I don't borrow from it's sunshine, for its skies may turn to gray.  
I don't worry o'er the future, for I know what Jesus said,  
And today I'll walk beside him, for he knows what is ahead.  
Many things about tomorrow I don't seem to understand,  
But I know who holds tomorrow, and I know who holds my hand.

I'll see you this Lord's Day, the second Sunday in Advent, with the focus on peace.

Your friend and pastor,

Bill Coates



CBF *Offering for*  
GLOBAL MISSIONS 

**Goal for First Baptist, Gainesville:  
\$25,000**

## Worship...

**Sunday, December 6th**  
**8:30 & 10:50am Services**  
**Second Sunday of Advent**

**Scripture:**

OT: Malachi 3:1-4  
NT: Luke 3:1-6

**Message:**

***When John Introduced Jesus***  
Dr. Bill Coates

**Music:**

*God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen*  
Sanctuary Ringers (10:50 AM)

*Come On, Ring Those Bells*  
Rejoice Choir (8:30 AM)  
Sanctuary Choir (10:50 AM)

*Jesus Came to Save Us All*  
Keith Finch, Solo (8:30 & 10:50)

**Sunday, December 13th**  
**8:30 & 10:50am Services**  
**Third Sunday of Advent**

**Scripture:**

OT: Zephaniah 3:14-20  
NT: Luke 3:7-18

**Message:**

***Politics in the Church***  
Dr. Bill Coates

**Music:**

*Christmas Lullaby*  
*(I Will Lead You Home)*  
Sarah & Brooke Morters  
(8:30 & 10:50)

Jon Kerrick, Violin (8:30 & 10:50)

## 10th Anniversary Living Christmas Tree!

The Living Christmas Tree choir  
& orchestra will present  
*Born for You and Me*  
Thursday, December 10 at 7:30 pm  
Friday, December 11 at 7:30 pm  
Saturday, December 12 at 6:00 pm  
Sunday, December 13 at 4:30 pm  
Sunday, December 13 at 7:00 pm  
All LCT performances will be  
available live for listening on-line.  
Go to [www.fbcgainesville.org](http://www.fbcgainesville.org) and  
click on "listen on-line"



*Tickets now available in the music  
office and in the Ed. Foyer on  
Sundays Nov. 22 & 29.*

## Special Announcements...

### Family Christmas Program

Sunday, December 6  
5pm: Christmas on Green St. &  
refreshments served on front porch

6pm Family Christmas Program in  
Sanctuary

- All Children's Choirs (Grades 1-5) will sing Christmas music
- The Student Orchestra will perform.
- The Middle School and High School Handbells Choirs will ring
- Approx. 70 singers from the Sonlight Choir will load the Christmas Tree and sing several Christmas songs with choreographed lighting.
- Sonlight's annual Christmas Dinner will follow the program at the home of Joe and Chris Cosper. We will ride the buses from FBC. Parents, plan to pick your student up at their home by 8:45 PM.

### Christmas HCCI Ministry

Every December our church members provide a worship service and serve food to the inmates at the Hall County Correctional Institute. Over 225 prisoners attend and participate in this worship experience during the Advent Season. This year, members of our church are invited to go to the HCCI on **Saturday, December 19**. The church bus leaves at 5:30pm. If you would like to participate in the worship service or preparing the food, please contact Bruce in the church office ([brucefields@fbcgainesville.org](mailto:brucefields@fbcgainesville.org)).

If you are unable to go with us, you can help by preparing sandwiches for the inmates. Please make two dozed or more sandwiches (please, meat only) and bring them to the Old Fellowship Hall on Saturday morning (Dec. 19) between 11am and 3pm. Please cut the sandwiches in half and place them on a non-returnable plate.

Note to young families: While making the sandwiches with your children, take the opportunity to discuss prison and those incarcerated. And don't forget to pray for the inmates. This ministry tradition continues after over 25 years as we are led by Jesus when he commanded that we visit and encourage prisoners. Thank you, FBC members, for providing this witness & ministry!

### Advent Celebration

You are invited to celebrate the Season of Advent with a service of  
**Evensong:** Sunday, December 6 at 5:00 PM  
Grace Episcopal Church  
Reception will follow the service.

## Community...



## Children's Ministry

### Children's Christmas Bash

All Kindergarteners through 5<sup>th</sup> Graders will meet for a fun evening of Christmas games, crafts, and a movie in the Family Life Center during the Parent's Meeting on Wednesday, December 16<sup>th</sup>, at 6:00 p.m.

Childcare will be provided for children birth through Pre-K on the nursery wing.

Please call Lisa Johnson with any questions 770-535-2329.

### Family Life Center

#### Christmas Time Day Camp

Mon., Dec. 21-Wed., Dec. 23

9am-12pm daily

For children ages 2-6 years

Cost \$45/child

This camp is designed to give kids an opportunity to play together, create Christmas crafts, and learn the Christmas story. It's also a great opportunity to give parents some last-minute Christmas preparation time.

Call 770-535-0478 to register your child by December 18th.

#### Post-Holiday Boot Camp

January 5-February 13

Tuesdays @ 6:30pm & Saturdays @ 10am

Cost: \$125 for 6 weeks ( 2 sessions/week)

Cardiovascular, resistance & weight training with individual attention from personal trainer, Kelli Pirkle. A great way to burn off those extra holiday calories! Please call to register. 770-535-0478

#### Fit Over 50

January 12-February 18

Tuesdays & Thursdays 8:15am-9:15am

Cost: \$65 for 6 week session

This class is designed for those fifty and older. It incorporates stretching and balance and resistance training using weights, bands and chairs.

Call to register by January 7.

### Women's Ministry

Women's Advent Study: While We Wait

Leaders: Carol Snelling, Beth Dayton, Jenny Burns

Mondays, 10:30am, Room 233, Books \$10

While We Wait will help people who don't want to gloss over their own questions about the Christmas story. It looks at Advent as a journey in which God seeks us at many levels of our understanding and spiritual willingness.

#### Parents' Night Out

Saturday, December 19th

5-9pm at the FLC

\$12/first child

\$7/each sibling

Pizza and drinks provided!

Call to sign your child up!

Ages 2 and older



### Student Ministry

#### Wednesday Night Schedule

6:15 Middle School Bible Study

7:00 Big Group Worship

7:30 High School Bible Study

#### Seniors: The Edge

The Edge is for High School Seniors. We will meet at Chris Burns' house on December 7 at 7:30pm. Supper will be provided. Topic is Christmas Joy.

#### Youth Progressive Dinner

December 18

We will leave the FLC at

5:30pm and will return at 9:30.

We will go to different homes in the community for appetizers, main course, and dessert. Sign up in the alley and be prepared for a fun time of food, songs, and fellowship.



### Estes-Dozier Missions

ESTES-DOZIER MISSION

GROUP will meet Monday, December 14th at 10:15 a.m. in the Church Parlor. We will celebrate the Birthday of Jesus. Our Missions emphasis for December is: Support of the Church sponsored Global Missions Offering.

### NEW: College Sunday School Class

Sundays

9:45 am

Room 209B

Led by Lee and Leigh Wiley

## Community ...

# EMBRACE THE WORLD

In China's Sichuan province, Elder Zhang reminds us why we're called to give and go. As the leader of the city church in Bazhong, China, 71 year-old Elder Zhang remembers when the gospel was not allowed in China. For years this land has been prayed for and dreamed of by a congregation thousands strong and growing everyday. And one day, despite the poverty of this region, this hillside will be home to a new building for Bazhong Church, a thriving congregation that just 20 years ago was only a handful of believers.

Now, there are more than 20,000 throughout the region, plus 16 registered churches and even more "meeting points" that will eventually become official churches. In this small, isolated region, God has moved and, if you ask Elder Zhang, shows no sign of stopping. As we give to the CBF Global Mission offering, we partner with this good work, years in the making and work with disadvantaged people around the globe. Through CBF field personnel we are bringing God's hope and love in areas where many have lived without knowledge of Christ. We can join in the fine work that God has already begun throughout the world. Lead your family to be part of our church's goal of \$25,000.

## Memorials and Honorariums ...

### Ministry of Caring

In memory of Jeannine Fortner by:  
Sharon Underwood  
The Bob Adams Family  
The Koinonia SS Class

In memory of Thelma Nicholson by:  
Winsome SS Class  
Edna Strickland

In memory of Peggy Cathey by:  
Nell Weigand

### Third Century

In memory of Thelma Nicholson by:  
Dr. & Mrs. Sam Dayton  
Clovie Lawson  
Bob & Nancy Page

In honor of Jenna Kate Stephens by:  
Bob & Nancy Page

In honor of the Our Faith, Our Future Committees, especially Abit Massey by: Bob & Nancy Page

### Music Ministry

In honor of Mary Louise Hulsey by:  
The 20th Century Study Club

### Our Faith Our Future

In memory of Jack House by:  
Sylvia Mayfield

In memory of Peggy Cathey by:

Sylvia Mayfield  
Charles & Jane Bradley  
Paul & Mickie Brinson  
Martin & Elizabeth Ellard  
Mr. & Mrs. Joe White  
Marge Miller  
N.A. & Carolyn Jacobs  
Dr. & Mrs. Clark Ferrell

In memory of Jimmy Cutrell by:  
Sylvia Mayfield

In memory of Thelma Nicholson by:  
Judy, Meg, & John DeLong  
Sylvia Mayfield  
Linda Orenstein

In memory of Peggy Cathey,  
Virginia Davis, Bill Dill, Jeannine Fortner, John Burl Hulsey, Althea Lacey, Susan Law, James Mathis, Sr., Thelma Nicholson, Jane Sayre, James Sosebee, and Shirley Strong by:  
Frances L. Brown

In loving memory of Sharon Parks,  
our daughter, on her birthday,  
December 7 by:  
Curtis & Helen Parks

### Piano

In honor of Mark Green and in memory of Mr. & Mrs. P.F. Brown, Sr. and Dr. P.F. Brown, Jr. by:  
Frances L. Brown

### CBF Global Missions

In memory of Thelma Nicholson by:  
Juanita Adams

In honor of Dr. Coates & Staff by:  
Peggy Hall

### Living Christmas Tree

In honor of Carlee Cosper, Caitlin Cosper, Rebecca Lawrence & Mike Fowler by:  
Jo Cosper

### Budget

In honor of Mark Green, Steve Coldiron, Cathy McKinney, Della Ruth Johnson & Amy Hulsey by:  
Jo Cosper

### Gainesville Action Ministry

In loving memory of Martha Painter by:  
John & Cathy Moore

## Community ...

### Angel Tree/Food Box 2009: Dates

Sunday, December 13:

**Deadline for returning gifts & food**

Thursday, December 17

Food and Gift Assembly in Old Fellowship Hall

10am - 2pm

Friday, December 18

Distribution Day, 10am - 2pm

Saturday, December 19 HCCI Day

Ministry to the inmates at Hall Co. Correctional Institution

*10am - 2pm Sandwiches brought to Old Fellowship Hall!*

*5:30pm Bus departs for Hall Co. Correctional Facility for Christmas Worship and Party Return by 8:00 p.m.*

*Call C.J. Wehmiller at the church office to volunteer to help or to get more information!*

## Food Box Ministry

Sunday School Classes are asked to bring the following designated items:

### Staff

General Officers Chickens 20

### Preschool

Birth-2s Cereal 50

### Sontown

Children-Pre K-5th Peanut Butter (plastic jars) 50

### Students

Youth 6th-12th Cookies 50

### Young Adults

Young Professionals Instant Potatoes 20

Blessings Instant Potatoes 20

Genesis Instant Potatoes 20

Celebration Spaghetti Noodles 25

Encouragers Spaghetti Noodles 25

### Median Adults

Covenant Sugar 25

Oasis Chickens 30

Seekers Spaghetti Sauce 50

Kindred Spirits Jelly (plastic containers) 50

Chapel Class Sugar 25

### Senior Adults

Friendship Cooking oil 50

T. Richard Davis Flour 20

Koinonia Sugar 25

Joy Flour 30

Gleaners Mac & cheese 50

Winsome Instant Potatoes 35

Anglers Hams 50

Merritt Instant Potatoes 15

## Sympathy

The First Baptist Church family would like to express its deepest sympathy to the following:

The family & friends of Thelma Nicholson.

Deloris Smith in the death of her friend, George Winstead.

Paul Gilbert in the death of his step-father, Jack Peppers.

Sharon Underwood in the death of her sister-in-law, Pauline King.

Betty Wolfe in the death of her mother, Mildred Westray.

Keith & Vicki Truett in the death of their daughter, Veronica Brooke Truett.

Mary Jane Ables in the death of her aunt, Marion Porter.

Shannon DeWitt in the death of his grandmother, Nita Stewart.

Kate Zoercher in the death of her sister, Paula Heck.

The family & friends of Clara Bryant Chandler.

## Among Our Members

## Births

Congratulations to John & Jennifer Davis on the birth of their baby girl, Caitlin Ann, born November 6, 2009. She weighs 7 lbs., 8 oz., and is 20 ½ inches long. Maternal great-grandmother is Ann B. McLeod.

## Flowers

The flowers in the sanctuary and chapel on Sunday, November 29 were given in loving memory of Lois Hope from Everett, Walter & David Hope, Jeb & Rosemary Bates and Cindy Clark.

The flowers in the sanctuary vestibule on Sunday, November 29 were given in loving honor of Eli Blaine Nichols Williams on the day of his dedication.

The flowers in the sanctuary and chapel for Sunday, December 6 are given in loving memory of Naomi Skaggs on the occasion of her birthday (November 29), with love from the four L's.

## FBC Lord's Day Report

### November 22, 2009

#### Offering

Weekly Budget Required.....	\$49,423.08
Weekly Budget Received.....	\$55,886.96
Year-to-date Budget Required.....	\$2,322,884.76
Year-to-date Budget Received.....	\$2,109,081.98
Ministry of Caring.....	\$1,770.00
Vietnamese Offering.....	\$1,134.00
Hispanic Offering.....	\$70.00
Third Century.....	\$2,721.00
OFOF Cash Received.....	\$20,714.00
Other Designated.....	\$2,406.00
<b>TOTAL WEEKLY GIFTS.....</b>	<b>\$84,701.96</b>

### November 29, 2009

#### Offering

Weekly Budget Required.....	\$49,423.08
Weekly Budget Received.....	\$59,715.90
Year-to-date Budget Required.....	\$2,372,307.84
Year-to-date Budget Received.....	\$2,168,797.88
Ministry of Caring.....	\$1,988.01
Hispanic Offering.....	\$300.00
Vietnamese Offering.....	\$979.00
Third Century.....	\$6,729.00
OFOF Cash Received.....	\$32,199.00
CBF Global Missions.....	\$1,275.35
Lottie Moon.....	\$75.00
Other Designated.....	\$1,836.00
<b>TOTAL WEEKLY GIFTS.....</b>	<b>\$105,097.26</b>

## First Baptist Church Staff Directory

### Dr. William (Bill) Coates, Jr.

Pastor  
billcoates@mindspring.com

### Dr. Kent Murphey

Associate Pastor: Administration  
kentmurphey@gmail.com

### Rev. Bruce Fields

Associate Pastor: Pastoral Care / Sr. Adults  
brucefields@fbcgainesville.org

### Rev. Mark Green

Associate Pastor: Music  
revmarkgreen@gmail.com

### Rev. Jenny Burns

Associate Pastor: Communications &  
Special Ministries  
jennyburns1@gmail.com

### Rev. Chris Burns

Associate Pastor: Students  
chrisburns@fbcgainesville.org

### Rev. Ruth Demby

Associate Pastor: Missions & Family Min.  
ruthdemby@fbcgainesville.org

### Steve Coldiron

Associate Minister of Music  
stevecoldiron@fbcgainesville.org

### Rev. Elizabeth Burnette

Pastoral Resident/Associate Pastor:  
Discipleship & Outreach  
ebburnette@gmail.com

### Lisa Johnson

Weekday Preschool Director/Interim  
Children's Director  
lisajohnson@fbcgainesville.org

### Kristine Davis-Wright

Assistant to the Pastor  
kristwright@mindspring.com

### Bethany Fansler

Financial Secretary  
bethfansler@fbcgainesville.org

### Angie Cole

Administrative Secretary / Receptionist  
angcole@gmail.com

### C.J. Wehmiller

Ministry of Caring / Pastoral Care Secretary  
cjwehmiller@gmail.com

### Cathy McKinney

Administrative Secretary / Music  
cathymckinney@fbcgainesville.org

### Dr. Andrea Cook

Pastoral Counselor  
andreacook80@yahoo.com

### Elizabeth Coates Isandoro

FLC Manager / Student Secretary  
elizabethct@yahoo.com

### Philly Ard

Associate Minister to Students  
philadelphia.ard@gmail.com

### Elsie Maniscalco

Nursery Coordinator  
Polly Hood - Church Hostess

### Bo Rodgers

Director of Maintenance

### Della Ruth Johnson

Organist

### Amy Hulsey

Pianist

### Rachel Phillips

Sound

### Rev. Alexi Barrera

Pastor: Hispanic Ministry

### Vietnamese Baptist Ministry Gainesville, GA

#### Rev. Joe Phuoc Tu

Pastor: Vietnamese Mission  
joetu@fbcgainesville.org

#### Yen O. Bui

Assistant to Vietnamese Pastor