

# First connections

December 2011  
Vol. 48 No. 12

A loving people of worship, community and service

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

## Calendar Reminders

### Sunday, December 4

12:00 Noon: Banquet Hall  
1st @ 1st Luncheon

5:00 PM: Front Porch  
Christmas on Green Street

6:00 PM: Sanctuary  
Family Christmas Program

### Wednesday, December 7

6:00 PM: Chapel  
Preschool Choirs Program

### Living Christmas Tree

Thursday, December 8 7:30 PM

Friday, December 9 7:30 PM

Saturday, December 10 6:00 PM

Sunday, December 11 4:30 & 7:00 PM

### Monday, December 12

6:30 PM: Banquet Hall  
Deacon Banquet

### Wednesday, December 14

5:40 PM: Banquet Hall  
Church Conference

### Saturday, December 17

5:30 PM: HCCI  
Worship Service @ HCCI

### Sunday, December 18

5:00 PM: Family Life Center  
One Starry Night in Bethlehem

## Sunday Mornings

### Worship

8:30 AM Chapel

10:50 AM Sanctuary

Live Broadcast on WCON

99.3 FM & online

www.fbcgainesville.org -

broadcasts begin at 11:00 AM

### Sunday School

9:45 AM 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,

In the final month of this year we will, of course, be greeting hundreds and hundreds of people who will come for the Living Christmas Tree. We will see old friends and lots of new faces on Christmas Eve. And since Christmas is on Sunday this year (and we will have a 10:50 service only that morning – nothing else that day), I don't know exactly who we'll see that morning. I'm hoping lots of family members and other guests will be with us for a full house and a great celebration of God's coming to us remarkably through a child. All of this means that December will be one of our greatest opportunities of the year for others to see who we are. I want all of them to know you as I know you – as loving, welcoming, caring people profoundly affected by what God has done and is doing in our lives. Thank you for being a welcoming, generous-hearted people. Thank you for fulfilling the purpose of the church, to make God look good – because God is good.

This has been an eventful year for us. We've seen an effective enhancement of our children's ministry. We've had lots of new people join us. We've seen different people getting much more involved in our ministries, and we've had a record number of people going and doing missions. We've even seen an increase in the number of people engaged in Bible study and in being open to new approaches and materials in studying the Bible. I sense a greater desire to follow Christ personally and as a congregation. In addition, we have finished a number of construction projects and almost completely updated and refurbished most of our facilities. We began the year focusing on *Giving Like Jesus Gave*. We also gathered for prayer as never before, with many of us choosing prayer partners and being very intentional and focused in praying together. I do hope and pray that this will continue next year, for it has made an enormous difference in our giving and our spiritual climate throughout this year.

All of us on your church staff join Claire and me in wishing each of you a rewarding Christmas Season, a good ending of a good year and a beginning full of promise for the year to come. I'm hoping that we will be giving a little less in the way of *things* and *stuff* and a whole lot more to "the least of these" in places like Egypt, Lebanon, Dominican Republic, Haiti, Spain, Uganda and even right here – to those who enter our halls seeking help and who call on the Good News Clinic to be relieved of pain and suffering.

Your friend and pastor,

*Bill Coates*



## Christmas & New Year Schedule

Saturday, December 24	Christmas Eve Service	5:30 PM
	Family Life Center Closed	
Sunday, December 25	Christmas Day Service	10:50 AM only
Monday, December 26	Family Life Center Closed	
	Church Office Closed	
Sunday, January 1	Regular Worship and Bible Study Schedule	

## Discover God... Discipleship

### Wednesday Nights at First Baptist

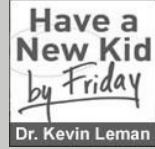
6:00PM Banquet Hall

A special Advent study led by Mark Todd and Elizabeth Burnette

"The Advent of Jesus According to John"

December 7 "The Name Game and a Promise to Nathaniel" John 1:51

December 14 "The Seventh Day Creation" John 2:11



### "Have A New Kid by Friday"

Series by Dr. Kevin Leman

Begins Wednesday, January 4 6:00-7:00PM Room 208

For all Young Parents

Led by Bruce & Nancy Fields



### Men's Morning Discipleship Group

**Mondays 7:30-8:30AM Banquet Hall Lobby**

Resumes Monday, January 9

All men are welcome to join us.



### Young Men's (20-30's) Discipleship Group

**Tuesdays 7:15AM FLC game room**

If you are looking for a way to start your week with a focus on Christ and how Christ would have you live in the world, this study is for you. Scripture is read and discussed and prayers are offered to encourage men as they seek to be Christ-centered husbands, fathers, friends and employees. Contact John McGarvey for more information.

## Heart & Hands Women's Ministry...

### Save the Date!

### Women's Winter Retreat

January 27-28, 2012

Friday, January 27, 7:00-9:00PM

Saturday, January 28, 10:00AM-2:00PM



Tickets go on sale

December 1 for \$20

Join us for a weekend

"retreat" of worship and

inspiration from Jen

Hatmaker as she speaks

with us about "Sitting at

the Rabbi's Feet: The Mary and Martha Story."

### New Member Class

January 15, 22, 29

Led by Dr. Bill Coates

Room 209A

If you are new to the church or you would like to learn more about First Baptist please join us for our New Member Class.

## Check out these events...

### Christmas on Green Street

Sunday, December 4

Front Porch 5:00PM

Take a stroll down Historic Green St. to enjoy the beautiful Christmas decorations. Return to our front porch for hot cider, coffee and cookies.

### Family Christmas Program

Sunday, December 4

Sanctuary 6:00PM

After enjoying Christmas on Green St., warm drinks, and cookies, join us in the sanctuary for a grand kickoff to Christmas. Our Children's Choirs (grades 1-5) will sing and our Sonlight Youth Choir will sing from the Living Christmas Tree. Our student orchestra will play, and our middle school and high school handbell choirs will ring.

### Younger Children's Choirs' Christmas Program

Wednesday, December 7

Chapel 6:00PM

Three, four and five-year old choirs will worship through song. A reception will follow the program in the parlor for the children and their families.

### Angler's Christmas Party

Tuesday, December 13

6:30PM Banquet Hall

### Angel Tree

Every year our Christmas tree is set up in the Education foyer with names of children wishing to receive gifts. The child's name, age, and gift request is on an angel, which you will take with you to put on their wrapped gift. Also hanging on the tree with the angel is either a bear (indicating a toy), or a tree (indicating clothes), or a star (indicating a jacket). When you select your angel please print your name on the bear-tree-or star and hang it back on the tree taking the angel with you. We ask that you keep the cost of the angel gift you select to no more than \$35 so that families with multiple children will receive gifts of equal value.

**Important Angel Tree Dates:**

**Sunday, December 11—Deadline for gift drop off**

### Food Boxes

**Important Food Box Dates:**

**Thursday, December 15—Food Box assembly 1:00PM—3:00PM**

**Friday, December 16—Distribution Day 10:00AM—2:00PM**

### Christmas Worship at Hall County Correctional Institution

Every year our church celebrates Christmas with the HCCI inmates through a worship service, meal, and fellowship. This is for anyone 16 years old and older. You can help by supplying MEAT sandwiches for the meal or attending the service and celebration.

**Saturday, December 17**

**Sandwich drop off: 10:00AM—2:00PM Old Fellowship Hall**

**Bus leaves at 5:30PM and returns by 8:00PM**

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



**WORSHIP**  
WITH **US**  
at HCCI

## Healing through Caring...

### **Grief Support Group**

Wednesdays 6:00-7:00PM Room 209  
November 2-December 14  
"Surviving The Holidays"  
Contact Kurt Schuler for more information!  
[khschuler@bellsouth.net](mailto:khschuler@bellsouth.net)

### **Stephen Ministry**

We will be interviewing potential new Stephen Ministers during the month of January, with training beginning in February. If you are interested, contact one of our Stephen Leaders. Bruce Fields, Lynne Hanson, Wayne Nelson, Bob Page, Nancy Page, or Bill Wittel. Our Stephen Ministry provides funds for the Grief Share Support Group as well as the Divorce care Support Group.

## Faith through Fitness... Family Life Center

Please call 770-535-0478 to sign up for these programs. Visit [www.fbcgainesville.org/familylifecenter](http://www.fbcgainesville.org/familylifecenter) for more info and a schedule of group exercise classes. Contact Liz Isandoro with questions at [elizabethcts@yahoo.com](mailto:elizabethcts@yahoo.com) Friend us on Facebook!

### **Adult Volleyball**

Mondays  
6:00-8:00PM  
Free to play. All levels welcome.  
Childcare available.

### **Yoga Meets Dance**

Tuesdays at 6:00PM  
Led by Joanne Hamilton and Vicki Sims  
Cost: Free to FLC members, guest pay \$7 to drop in (all fees collected are donated to local charitable organizations)  
This is a creative, fun workout that combines two beautiful arts. Anyone of any level can enjoy this class!

### **Body Stewards Competition**

6 weeks: January 9-February 23, 2012  
Kick-Off January 9<sup>th</sup> at 6:00PM at the FLC  
Childcare is provided for several exercise classes/week  
Cost: \$75/FLC member, \$95/non-FLC member (payment due at kick-off)  
Register by visiting our website at [www.fbcgainesville.org/familylifecenter](http://www.fbcgainesville.org/familylifecenter) or by dropping by the FLC  
Start thinking about joining this program now! Spaces will fill up quickly!  
In short this program includes:

- accountability
- nutrition coaching
- exercise coaching & classes
- a before & after evaluation
- weekly check-ins
- constant access to your trainers
- your personal log book



## Prayer, Praise, Thanksgiving... Among Our Members

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

John Hill in the death of his grandmother:  
Ina Frazier

Nancy Fields in the death of her aunt:  
Carolyn Bailey

Leon Barrett in the death of his sister-in-law:  
Kay Barrett

Kent Tench in the death of his aunt:  
Gert Lane

Mary Lila in the death of her husband;  
Betty Woodliff in the death of her brother:  
Bill Phillips

Bernice Moon in the death of his brother:  
Carl Jordan

### **The First Baptist Church family would like to celebrate the arrival of:**

Judson Kevin Smith  
Son of Kevin and Shelly Smith  
Grandson of Vickie Mitchum  
Great Niece of Cathy & Doug Bowers

Miller Evans Lathem  
Son of Evan and Kelly Lathem  
Great-grandson of Bob and Abbie Lathem

### **Dear Church Friends,**

Thank you for your prayers on my behalf during my recent surgery. I cherish each and everyone. Your concern and love to me is really overwhelming! I appreciate every phone call, card and the food those of you so generously prepared. With thanksgiving. I love you. Ella Brooks

### **Dear Church Family,**

I wish to express my deep appreciation for your support during my hospitalization and recovery from my back injury. Your prayers, visits, cards, calls, and emails were so encouraging. You are a loving church. Sincerely, Janice Ludwig

### **Dear Church Friends,**

Thank you for all the calls, visits, and words of encouragement regarding our recent health issues. We were very aware that many prayers were being said on our behalf. What a blessed assurance to know that our church family is there whenever our time of need arises—May God continue to bless you as you serve.  
Love in Him, David & Pam Black

### **Dear Church Family,**

Nancy, Daniel, Lydia, Andrew and I want to thank you all for the recognition of our 20th year here at First Baptist as your Associate Pastor/Pastoral Care. We are so grateful for the cash gift that was presented in both worship services on November 6. Your overwhelming generosity is another expression of the many thoughtful ways in which you care for us. We haven't completely decided on the wisest ways to spend the money, but whatever we choose to do, it will serve as a constant reminder of your friendship and love. How grateful we are that God led us to serve alongside all of you 20 years ago! We anticipate even more fulfilling years together!  
Fondly, Bruce Fields

### **Dear Church Family,**

How blessed we are to have such a loving and caring church family. We thank the Lord each day for you. Thanks you for your prayers, cards, telephone calls and the beautiful red rose bud that greeted us when we got to the room. We sure felt the presence of the Lord with us each step of the way because of your prayers. We are so grateful for each one of you.  
John & Frankie Davis

## Let the Little Ones Come Unto Me... Children's Ministry



December 18  
5:00 - 7:00PM

"One Starry Night in Bethlehem" is an interactive experience for families on December 18th from 5:00 to 7:00 pm at First Baptist Church Gainesville. Families will travel back to ancient Bethlehem and "report" to be counted in the census! They

will taste, see and smell what daily life was like when Jesus was born. Our shopkeepers, craftsmen and food merchants will be planning for their arrival. The marketplace has shops and activities for children of all ages, including the perfumery, storytelling, bakery, dye shop, toy making, instrument making and the Jewish family home where guests can enjoy refreshments (hot chocolate, apple cider, cookies, etc). Be wary of the Roman guards who may ask for identification! Also the Tax Collector, Villagers and Shepherds will be roaming about interacting with guests. This evening also includes a live nativity where families can see (and touch) live animals, hear the nativity story and experience heavenly music from our "Angel Choir"! Admission is free but donations are welcome and appreciated. For more information, contact Kellie Denton at [kellie.denton1@gmail.com](mailto:kellie.denton1@gmail.com)

### Aquarium Adventure Day Trip

Be on the lookout for more information.

Kindergarten - 2nd grades

Cost \$25.00

Kindergarten through 2nd grade will take a field trip to the Georgia Aquarium where we will experience Deepo's Undersea 3D Wondershow and the Dolphin Tales theater spectacular show. Children will discover how animals meet their basic needs including how and what they eat and how they thrive in their habitat. Cost will include tickets to the aquarium, Deepos 3 D Show, Dolphin show, transportation, lunch and snack.



### Hey Students, don't miss out....

#### Open Gym & Caroling

Wednesday, December 14 6:00-8:00PM



#### Tacky Sweater Christmas Party

Friday, December 16 5:30PM

Youth Area

Join us for a night of fun, fellowship and food. Sign up in the youth area.

#### Save the Date: Disciple Now 2010

January 20-22nd

6th-12th grade

Cost: \$45

Deadline to sign up is January 15

This is a weekend of worship and fellowship. Students stay in local homes. Don't miss this life changing event!!



Sunday Night of Fun at Kiku's.

### Birthday Party For Jesus

For Preschoolers

December 11

10:00 am

during Sunday School, nursery area

There will be refreshments and a special telling of the Angel's story and birth of Jesus.

Parents are welcome to attend.



### Christmas Morning!

Join us Christmas morning at 10:50 am for a special time of Worship as we celebrate the birth of our Savior! Special children's sermon and hot chocolate will be served. Kids can wear their Christmas pajamas!

### Save the Date

March Mission Family Event...

a "Chain Reaction"

Build a Bike March 24th

Dinner, Trivia and Games

Banquet Hall

### Book Club...

"Bonhoeffer: Pastor, Martyr, Prophet, Spy"

By Eric Metazas

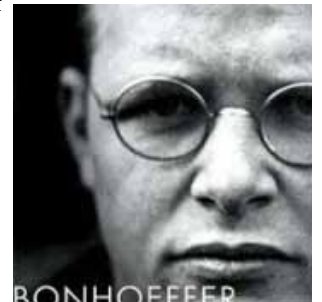
February 23 6:00PM

Discussion led by Hammon Law

A definitive, deeply moving narrative, Bonhoeffer is a story of moral courage in the face of the monstrous evil that was Nazism.

After discovering the fire of true faith in a Harlem church, Bonhoeffer returned to Germany and became one of the first to speak out against Hitler. As a double-agent, he joined the plot to assassinate the Fuhrer, and was hanged in Flossenberg concentration camp at age 39. Since his death, Bonhoeffer has grown to be one of the most fascinating, complex figures of the 20th century.

*Bonhoeffer* presents a profoundly orthodox Christian theologian whose faith led him to boldly confront the greatest evil of the 20th century, and uncovers never-before-revealed facts, including the story of his passionate romance.



## Growth through Worship... Music Ministry



### Living Christmas Tree

2011 Theme: "Mercy Lights the Darkness"

December 8-11, 2011

Thursday, December 8	7:30PM
Friday, December 9	7:30PM
Saturday, December 10	6:00PM
Sunday, December 11	4:30 & 7:00PM

## Worship through Missions

### *This Christmas ...*

Conspire with us to focus on Christ.  
Give gifts that honor these significant ministries.  
Send cards to let someone know you have given in their honor.  
They are available at the Welcome Desk.



Advent & Christmas  
2011  
Offering

Ministry of Caring \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Advent Conspiracy \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Cooperative Baptist Fellowship  
Global Missions \$ \_\_\_\_\_

First Baptist Church  
Gainesville, Georgia

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

## Adults with Seniority...

### Lunch Bunch

Friday, January 13

Cracker Barrel in Braselton

Friday, January 27

Appalachian Grill

Booth Western Museum

\*\*Contact C.J. to reserve your place on the bus!

## Important Announcement...

### Church Conference

Wednesday, December 14

5:40PM

Budget discussion.

Sunday, December 18

Both Services

Budget vote.

## Worship Scripture and Music

### December 4

OT: Isaiah 40:1-11

NT: Mark 1:1-8

Sermon: *The God Who Comforts*

Dr. Bill Coates

Choral Anthem:

*Christ is Here*

Sanctuary Choir

Hope Choir (8:30)

Music Meditation:

*Mary, Did You Know?*

David Abee, Solo

Offertory:

*Carol of the Bells*

Sanctuary Ringers

### December 11

OT: Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11

NT: 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24

Sermon: *Meantime Living*

Dr. Bill Coates

*O Beautiful Star of Bethlehem*

Jack Hale, Gary Lacey & Paul Nelson

Offertory: Mike Mitchell, Tuba

### December 18

OT: 2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16

NT: Luke 1:26-38

Sermon: *The First Disciple*

Dr. Bill Coates

Choral Anthems:

*Our Joy and Heart's Delight*

*Born Where the Shadows Lie*

Sanctuary Choir, Brooke Burt, Soloist

Rejoice Choir (8:30) Brooke Burt, Soloist

Offertory: *The Bells of Christmas*

Exaltation! Orchestra

Music Meditation:

*It's a Boy*

Jerry Johnson, Solo

### December 24

Titus 2:11-14

Sermon: *The Kindness of God*

Dr. Bill Coates

### December 25

OT: Isaiah 9:2-7

NT: Luke 2

Sermon: *Great Joy for All People*

Dr. Bill Coates

Music Meditation:

*God, Rest Ye Merry, Gentlemen*

Bruce, Lydia, & Andrew Fields

Music Meditation: *Come Now Our King*

John, Carl & Jeff Williams

Offertory:

Al Maniscalco, Tenor Saxophone

(Al is the son of Elsie & Charlie Maniscalco. He will also play gathering music starting at 10:40AM.)



## FBC Lord's Day Report

### October 23, 2011 Offering

Weekly Budget Required ..... \$49,423.08  
Weekly Budget Received..... \$29,784.45  
Year-to-date Budget Required.....\$2,125,192.36  
Year-to-date Budget Received .....\$2,003,804.04  
**Deficit: ..... \$121,388.32**

### October 30, 2011 Offering

Weekly Budget Required ..... \$49,423.08  
Weekly Budget Received..... \$34,498.07  
Year-to-date Budget Required.....\$2,174,615.44  
Year-to-date Budget Received .....\$2,038,302.11  
**Deficit: ..... \$136,313.33**

### November 6, 2011 Offering

Weekly Budget Required ..... \$49,423.08  
Weekly Budget Received..... \$70,908.55  
Year-to-date Budget Required.....\$2,224,038.52  
Year-to-date Budget Received .....\$2,109,210.66  
**Deficit: ..... \$114,827.86**

### November 13, 2011 Offering

Weekly Budget Required ..... \$49,423.08  
Weekly Budget Received..... \$45,039.20  
Year-to-date Budget Required.....\$2,273,461.60  
Year-to-date Budget Received .....\$2,154,249.86  
**Deficit: ..... \$119,211.74**

## 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  
*chriscburns@fbcgainesville.org*

**Rev. Ruth Demby**

Associate Pastor: Missions & Outreach  
*ruthdemby@fbcgainesville.org*

**Rev. Kellie Denton**

Associate Pastor: Children & Families  
*kelliedenton@fbcgainesville.org*

**Steve Coldiron**

Associate Minister of Music  
*stevecoldiron@fbcgainesville.org*

**Rev. Elizabeth Burnette**

Associate Pastor: Discipleship  
*ebburnette@gmail.com*

**Lisa Johnson**

Weekday Preschool Director  
*lisajohnson@fbcgainesville.org*

**Lydia Fields**

Associate Minister to Students  
*lfields15@gmail.com*

**Kristine Davis-Wright**

Assistant to the Pastor  
*kristiwright@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  
*mcKinney.cathy@gmail.com*

**Dr. Andrea Cook**

Pastoral Counselor  
*andreacook80@yahoo.com*

**Elizabeth Coates Isandoro**

FLC Manager / Student Secretary  
*elizabethct@yahoo.com*

**Elsie Miscalco** - Nursery Coordinator

**Polly Hood** - Church Hostess

**Bo Rodgers** - Director of Maintenance

**Della Ruth Johnson** - Organist

**Amy Hulsey** - Pianist

**Meredith Kurtzahn** - Director of Sound

**Dr. Roberto Gama & Carlos Lopez**

Co-Pastors: Hispanic Ministry

**Vietnamese Baptist Ministry Gainesville, GA**

**Rev. Joe Phuoc Tu**  
Pastor: Vietnamese Mission  
*joetu@fbcgainesville.org*

**Yen O. Bui**  
Assistant to Vietnamese Pastor