



The Lighthouse

Illuminating the mission and ministry of

First Baptist Church

Swainsboro, Georgia

Vol. 7, Issue 397

February 7, 2010

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Special Points of Interest

- Tune in to 97.1 FM, Radio, at 11 AM for "live" Morning Worship each Sunday!
- Watch Ch. 2, TV, each Sunday morning for a service of worship, 8:30 AM!
- A Tape Ministry of Morning Worship - - copies of sermons are

SPECIAL CALLED BUSINESS MEETING

February 7, 2010

Church to Approve
the
Purchase of a Used Portable
Building
**Totaling
\$32,950.00**
from the
Special Reserves-Facilities
Account

LADIES' NIGHT

February 8
6:30 PM

sponsored by

Baptist Men

"Steak and Potato"
(\$10.00)

Guest: Michael English
(Sign Up Sunday-Sunday School)

SUPER BOWL PARTY

**February 7
6 PM**

*Bring
Finger Foods*

**Pizza and Drinks
Provided**

ASSOCIATIONAL YOUTH RALLY

(Youth Are in Focus)

February 12-15

Meet at FBC
February 7, 6 PM
Fellowship Hall
with
Paul Leigh

THE PASTOR WRITES

February is the second month of the calendar year. The birthstone for February is Amethyst, and is the wedding stone for the fourth, seventh, and seventeenth anniversaries. Some of the basic holidays are Groundhog Day, Chinese New Year, President's Day, Black History Month, Valentine's Day, and Ash Wednesday. February has 28 days (2010), and Sunday will be the last day of the month. And of course, February is the shortest month of the year and gains an extra day in the leap years (every fourth year). Scientists tell us that February is the only month that can pass without a full moon. Your birthday may be in February!

One year, while in graduate studies at New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary, I was in New Orleans during the week of Mardi Gras. This is also known as Fat Tuesday, the last day of feasting before Lent begins on Wednesday. The streets of New Orleans, especially Bourbon Street, are filled with people, colorful dress, bands, and the traditional singing of "blues," "When the Saints God Marching In." It's a wild place! We parked many blocks away!

Ash Wednesday is a day of repentance in Christianity, February 17. Ashes were used in biblical times to express mourning. Dusting one's self with ashes was a sign of sorrow for sins, "repenting in sackclothes and ashes." (Job 42:3) And in a developing manner, Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of forty days prior to Jesus' death and resurrection, analogous to Jesus in the desert for forty days. Individual Baptist churches can and may practice the act of "ashes" on Ash Wednesday, signifying a repentant spirit and pathway leading to Easter! Self-analysis, in light of radical obedience and commitment to God, challenge Christians everyday, but pointedly at this season of the

Christian Year! Holy Week is the last week of Lent, beginning with Palm Sunday and concluding with Easter Sunday!

I remember the first Holy Week service I attended while in college. Though new to me, the depth of its meaning challenged my mind and heart as to why Baptists had never shared in such a portrayal of worship, soul searching, and commitment to obedience! My tradition taught me that only Roman Catholics and Episcopalians do that, and that such was not important to be a Baptist or Christian! Yes, one can be Christian and not follow every "tradition," but I have come to acclaim that if I am Christian I will celebrate the pathway of discipleship and focus mind and heart on the life and teachings of Jesus that celebrate Him as Christ Jesus the Lord in the power of Spirit!

Whether or not we receive the sign of the cross on our foreheads in ashes on Ash Wednesday, we should take seriously the opportunity of daily and seasonal introspection of our lives: "Search me, O God, and know my heart ... Woe is me! For I am lost ... Create in me a clean heart, O God ... Lord, be merciful to me a sinner ... Vengeance is Mine, I will repay saith the Lord ... Here am I send me ..., and, They shall see who have never been told of Him, and they shall understand who have never heard of Him."

As we share with other Christians in Swainsboro and around the world who will place "the sign of the cross" on their foreheads, may we strive to fulfill the Psalmistic outpouring of self before God Who ever abides: "Create in me a clean heart, O God, and put a new and right spirit within me. Cast me not away from Thy presence, and take not Thy Holy Spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of Thy salvation, and uphold me with a willing spirit."

-RJB

Sanctuary Flowers

Flowers will be placed in the church this Sunday in loving memory of Joe and Lena Johnson by their children.

LADIES' NIGHT PROGRAM

February 8 is "Ladies' Night," sponsored by Baptist Men. The cost is \$10.00. The fulfillment of joy will be experienced by all who attend! Reservation sheets will be in Sunday School classes!

Michael English will speak about the Historic Midway Church. The Church has been attended by four governors and many prominent individuals. Michael is the son of Bill and Lynn English.

PEOPLE COME TO PEOPLE

BE

- Inviting to others!
- Accepting of others!
- Centered on one other!
- Inclusive of differences by others!
- Initiating to others!
- Embracing among others!
- Celebrative with others!

READ THROUGH THE BIBLE 2010

Pennies for Missions Update - We have collected 50,700 pennies so far. We need 34,170 to make a mile, but I believe we can do two miles of pennies. So, let's do it and bring those pennies or you can give cash that will be converted to pennies. Thank you so much for your support for Student Ministries here at First Baptist.

Music Notes



ADULT CHOIR

- Thank you, choir, for your great singing Sunday morning. Thanks, Joy, for the “extras” that made the congregational singing so good. Each of you makes such a significant contribution to our worship. I am grateful!
- We are in the process of preparing Easter seasonal music that will focus mainly on Easter Sunday morning. I will be using a portion of each regular Wednesday rehearsal for learning this music. Please make your regular rehearsal attendance a priority!

YOUTH MUSIC

- ◆ Choir rehearsal is this Sunday at 5:00. (If you are participating in the Madden Challenge, you will be finished in time for choir.) I'm hoping that our attendance will be back up.
- ◆ Girls, **now is the time** for you to get involved. We still need more of you to join us. In fact, with the great job that the guys are doing, it's going to take 15 to 20 of you to balance them. **Please help!**
- ◆ We need everyone as we're working on new music, several extra pieces for youth Sunday in March and one piece that we will sing with the adults.

AS A MEMBER

Where were you last Sunday?
Where should you be this Sunday?
Where will you be next Sunday?

Tamara Blair Johnson and Lance Atwood Williamson, together with their parents, request the honor of your presence as they join together in marriage on Saturday, February 6, 5:00 p.m., at Hawhammock Baptist Church -- Reception immediately following at the National Guard Armory

FIRST FAMILY NEWS

Anniversaries: February 8-Mr. & Mrs. Frank Rich.
Birthdays: February 7-Tommy Bellamy, Morgan Sammons.
February 9-Gary Meeks, Jodi Reynolds, Bryan Rountree, Garland Thompson. February 10-Elizabeth Lawson, Judy L. Moore, Gail Thompson. February 13-Jean Marie Cadle, Libby Carr, Kathy McKenzie.
Congratulations: To Jonathan & Monica Woodward on the birth of a daughter, Jonna Hope Woodward. Jonna was born February 2 at Emanuel Medical Center. She weighed 6 lbs.-14 oz.

MENU

Wednesday, February 10: Spaghetti, Toss Salad, Garlic Bread and Dessert.

THIS SUNDAY AT WORSHIP

February 7, 2010

Morning Worship, 11:00 AM

First One Called

Luke 5:1-11; I Corinthians 15:1-11

Super Bowl Fellowship, 6:00 PM

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS - Week of February 7

Ushers: Nick Herrington, Chm., John D. Scott, PM Chm., Greg Barwick, Marcelle Brannon, Barry Burrell, John Claxton, Bill English, Rebecca Harrison, Glenn Hendrix, David Kent, Jerry Lawson, Jr., Freddie McVey, Bessie Neele Rich, Johnny Roberts, Bobby Sasser, Don Wilkes, Doug Wilkinson.

Greeters: Wayne Cannady, Chm., Barry Burrell, Gene Fields, David Kent, Jerry Lawson, Jr., Don Wilkes.

Tape, Audio, TV: Carroll Gambrell, David Morgan, Julian Sconyers, Garland Thompson.

Children's Church: Angela and Marty Ray (Grades 1-3).

Nursery: Holly Page. Feb. 14-Glinda Sasser and Norma Sconyers.

Offering Counting: William Johnson, Chm., Ed Bolton, Freddie McVey, John D. Scott. Feb. 14-Barry Burrell, Chm., Larry Bouchillon, Gary Meeks, Donny Wilson.

MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES

2010: A Year of the Good Book

Sunday, February 7

8:30 AM-TV Cable 2, Northland

9:45 AM-Sunday School

11:00 AM-Worship (Radio, 97.1 FM)

5:00 PM-Youth Choir

6:00 PM-Super Bowl Fellowship

Monday, February 8

8:15 AM-Fit for Life I

6:30 PM-Ladies' Night

Tuesday, February 9

3:00 PM-Fit for Life II

6:30 PM-Father/Daughter Banquet

Wednesday, February 10

8:15 AM-Fit for Life I

4:30 PM-Student Handbells

5:30 PM-Family Night Supper

6:00-6:45 PM-Acteens

6:00-6:45 PM-Children's Choirs

6:30 PM-Prayer & Devotions

WMU Council meets after Prayer & Devotions

6:45 PM-Adult Handbells

6:45-7:30 PM-G.A.'s, Mission Friends, R.A.'s

6:45-8:00 PM-FOCUS

7:30 PM-Adult Choir

Thursday, February 11

3:00 PM-Fit for Life II

7:00 PM-Church-wide Visitation

Youth - Winter Jam

Friday, February 12

Lincoln's Birthday

8:15 AM-Fit for Life I

PAUL'S PORCH

God's Love is Rest

Breathe in...Breathe out...Breathe in...Breathe out! It's another busy season and I don't know about you, but I am tired! Life has been going non-stop for quite some time and it's hard to find any time to relax!

But listen, what does God have to say? Sometimes we are so busy that we think we don't have time for God. But God and His LOVE is our REST! We can sleep in on Saturday or take a night off from work, but through Him first will we find the rest we need! The devil and our sin keeps us from God and REST, but Christ came and died so that we could have ETERNAL REST!

Look to God when you are weary, lay everything at the cross of Christ! Through Him we will find everything we

need for this body and soul! As you go, know that God's love is all that you need and He will renew you to continue the work of His kingdom!

"Come to Me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest." Matthew 11:28

Prayer

Dear God, thank You for giving us rest. It is in You alone that we may find peace and eternal rest! Help us to come to You first when we are in need and overwhelmed and to rely fully on You to take care of us. May the rest that You give us keep us going to do Your will!

(The Source Devotion)

In His Grip,
Paul

Hey Hey FBC YOUTH!

Super Bowl Sunday

February 7th

Madden Challenge at 3 PM

Come out and play in the Madden 10 Challenge.

Disciple Now Weekend

March 5-7

Sign-up Now

Cost \$20

FOCUS

Every Wednesday Night

6:45-7:30 PM

Winter JAM

Thursday, February 11th

Cost \$10

Sign-up for Summer Camp

OFFERING ENVELOPES

Individuals who gave to the church in 2009 should find a box of offering envelopes with their name on them. Envelopes are located on a table in the hallway behind the Sanctuary. If you do not see a box with your name on it and would like to have one, please contact the Church Office.

WHAT DOES WINNING/LOSING MEAN?

MISSION STATEMENT: *To be a Christ-centered community, guiding people to a life-changing relationship with God in Christ through Worship, Discipleship, Ministry, Missions and Fellowship.*

OUR STEWARDSHIP JANUARY 31, 2010

Sunday School	213
Worship	248
This Week	\$7,626.79
Rcvd. T/D	\$227,467.47
Needs T/D	\$262,275.10
New Bldg. Acct. T/D (Pledges & Cash Rcvd.)	\$1,063,575.34

MINISTERIAL STAFF

PASTOR: Dr. Robert J. Blankenship
MIN. OF MUSIC: Rev. Gilbert Westberry
MIN. OF YOUTH: Rev. Paul Leigh

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