



First Baptist Church West Columbia

Tie - Binder

Located at State Street and B Avenue

400 State Street– West Columbia, SC 29169 --- (Mailing: P O Box 4898, West Columbia, SC 29171)

Phone (803)-791-0700 First Family Line: (803) 791-1747 ext. 7 Fax: (803)791-1782 <http://www.fbcwc.com>

December 29, 2008

VOLUME 43, No. 50



*O God of new beginnings and wonderful surprises,
thank you for the gift of a new year.*

*May it be a time of grace for me,
a time to grow in faith and love,
a time to renew my commitment to following
Your Son, Jesus.*

*May it be a year of blessing for me,
a time to cherish my family and friends,
a time to renew my efforts at work,
a time to embrace my faith more fully.*

*Walk with me, please, in every day and
every hour of this new year,
that the light of Christ might shine through me,
in spite of my weaknesses and failings.*

*Above all, may I remember this year that
I am a pilgrim on the sacred path to You.*

Amen

Happy New Year!

DR. DON BISHOP
INTERIM PASTOR
dlbishop@alltel.net

CHARLTON BOZARD
MUSIC/ADULT ACTIVITIES
charlton@fbcwc.com

JODY RATCLIFFE
YOUTH/EDUCATION
jody@fbcwc.com

DR. LONNIE SHULL
PASTOR EMERITUS



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Sunday

- 9:30 am Library open
- 9:45 am Sunday School
- 11:00 am Morning Worship
- 5:30 pm Library open
- 6:00 pm Evening Worship
Discipleship Training

Wednesday

- 4:30 pm Piece Makers
- 5:30 pm Supper Line opens
- 6:00 pm Library open
LIGHTHOUSE
Children's Choirs
- 6:30 pm Prayer Meeting
- 6:45 pm RA's, GA's,
Mission Friends
- 7:30 pm Sanctuary Choir



Ready or not, 2009 is upon us with all the promises and possibilities of a blank check. Before the opportunity of 2009 begins, it may be wise to look over our shoulders for one last time and give thanks for the gifts of 2008. Like you, I lost some dear friends, but I sure am grateful that they shared their life and love with me. I am richer because of the laughter and the joys that memories afforded me through these friends. I found some new friends that have come into my life, not by chance, so I am standing on edge to reap the benefits of these new opportunities.

2008 gave me a fresh encounter with the goodness of God as He allowed me to enjoy my family, friends, churches, golf, and life. I am grateful for the opportunities that I had to share my faith and point a few folks towards the Love of God. The good times that I shared with Dale, as she continues to be my best friend and supporter, continues to be greatly valued. Wow, I am a blessed fellow.

Since retirement, I have had the opportunity to be Interim Pastor here for two sessions. I would never have thought this would happen and although I am thankful, I don't want to try to make it three times! Because I want the next pastor to stay forever and I have used up all my sermons!

2008 was a good year and I believe 2009 will be a better year. God doesn't give bad gifts so get ready for His wonderful New Year.

Don Bishop, Interim Pastor

Sunday, January 4

Sermon Titles Dr. Don Bishop

**A.M. "Dealing With Pride:
Proverbs 6: 16-19**

**P.M. "As We Pray"
Luke 18:9-14**

Pastor Search Team Report

"The Pastor Search Team is excited to report that we have narrowed our search to one candidate. We have had an initial interview with the candidate and his wife, and are awaiting the return of reference letters before scheduling a time to hear the prospect preach. We ask for your prayerful support during this strategic time of decision making. Please pray daily for God's will to be clear to both our Team and the candidate as we seek His guidance."



Thanks to all our musical groups for an excellent job in celebrating the Christmas story during this season. All ages were active in telling the story. They worked hard and used their talents in wonderful ways. Thanks to you all!

Children's Choirs and Activities will resume on Wednesday, January 7. Sanctuary Choir will resume then as well. Come join us in 2009!!

Two upcoming events to be SURE to place on your calendar are:

BAPTIST MEN'S DAY

Sunday, January 25

Men will be filling the choir and sharing testimonies in worship.

SERAPH SONG IN CONCERT

Saturday, January 24 5:30 p.m.

This group is the ladies' equivalent to the Singing Churchmen. It is made up of female ministers of music and church staff members.

You will definitely enjoy this group!

Singing His Praises into a New Year!

Charlton

MEMORIALS

FSATAT

In memory of Willard Neal

Given by Flornia Neal

In memory of Mrs. Jessamine Schafer

Given by Bob and Margie Hazel

In Memory of Gladys Chapman, Mattie B. Chapman,

and David Martin, Sr.

Given by John H. Chapman

FBCWC

In memory of Sarah C. Shealy

Given by Thompson Funeral Home,
and Inframed Plus

In memory of Mrs. Ray B. Young

Given by Jeannene Branham

LOTTIE MOON

In Memory of Reuben Dunlap

Given by Tom Brown

In memory of George Thompson

Given by Dorothy Thompson

In memory of Roy and Samuel Wellborn

Given by Iris Wellborn

Continued on page 3



HAPPY NEW YEAR!

I want to encourage you today. God has great plans for you and great plans for His kingdom this New Year. His word promises us

that He will refine our faith because it is of greater value than gold. This means hard times are ahead as well as good times, but the result is always a refined and vibrant, strong, and healthy faith. I look forward to walking this journey with you as we begin new classes for your spiritual growth, a Church 201 so to say.

What is coming up early this year? We will have a Sunday School Growth Emphasis in February so let's get some goals in mind. We also want to plan a Spring Revival as we all need refreshing, direction, and new vision for God's work in this part of His kingdom. Spiritually speaking, we have so much growth to accomplish and so much more work to do to get His name out there. We will need to work together and plan some more community outreach events as well.

So let's raise our glasses of Pepsi high and toast each other to a great New Year of DISCOVERING God's new territory and work for us! We and the work are both unfinished.

Jody

MEMORIALS

In memory of Mildred Swindler

Given by The Gertrude Ross Bible Study Group

In memory of Jessamine Schafer

Given by Mildred Wood

HONORARIUM LOTTIE MOON

In honor of Betty Noell

Given by the Joy Sunday School Class

In honor of Charlton Bozard, Vivian Summer, Rubye Smith,

Mertie Lee and the Joy Sunday School Class

Given by Genevieve Shampy

In honor of Phyllis Johnson & Cheryl Simpson

Given by Naomi's Faithful SS Class

FBCWC

In honor of James H. Still, Sr.

Given by James H. Still, Jr. and Esther & Wayne Horne

CONNIE MAXWELL CHILDREN'S HOME

In honor of Clyde Blackburn

Given by Tom Brown

PURE LOVE/PURE WATER

In honor of Margaret Perry

Given by Hope Sunday School Class



Lighthouse Student Ministries Building Teens' Spiritual Foundation

Recap of 2008

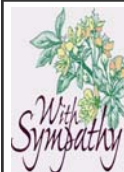
Our youth have been through a lot this past year. They had to say goodbye to one devoted youth leader and learn a new one mid-year. They were real solid troopers with the change-up. They have experienced the sting of disappointment and change but have risen to new heights. Their faith has been tested and put to the fire and they are more refined. They traveled all over the state, had fun at many places, but always met God wherever their journey took them. Our prayer is that 2009 will be a year of no turnover and no loss, but of steady growth and trusted leadership from adults as well as youth. The only change we want to see is teenagers changing for the sake of Christ.

Hurray: 2009!

What can I say is on the way for Lighthouse Ministries? First of all, the same promise as last year. Your teenager comes first here. Their spiritual, emotional, and physical health is our main concern. We want to see them better themselves week by week in the process of their spiritual journey. I promise parents a very pastoral youth program that values serious teaching and counseling as well as get-a-way fun and hang-time ("fellowship", for us in the old-school). We will focus on small group learning in 2009 and place a great importance on our "Summer Blockbusters" as we will call them: Mission Fuge Summer Camp, Myrtle Beach Discipleship Escape, and Youth VBS.

I consider serving you at FBC West Columbia a great gift and privilege. God has opened a great door in youth ministry here years ago and the solid tradition continues. We have had great youth ministers in our past and I desire to keep that alive. God bless you in 2009.

In Loving Memory
Frances Alban
April 3, 1927 - December 23, 2008



The First Baptist Church family and staff extend our Christian love and sympathy to...

...Rev. Harlan Alban in the loss of his wife, Frances

...Alice and Norman Williams and family in the death of their loved one, Walter "Bubba" Inabinet.

**OPPORTUNITIES FOR SERVICE
January 4-10, 2009**

Sunday, January 4

- 9:30 to 9:45 a.m. B P Screening
- 9:30 a.m. Library Open
- 9:45 a.m. Sunday School
- 11:00 a.m. Morning Worship
- 4:00 p.m. WMU Council
- 5:00 p.m. Church Council
- 6:00 p.m. Evening Worship
- 7:00 p.m. Youth S.N.A.C.

Monday, January 5

- 6:30 Pastor Search Team

Tuesday, January 6

- 8:00 a.m. Men's Prayer Time
- 9:00 a.m. Life Exercise

Wednesday, January 7

- 10:00 a.m. In Home Workers Meet
- 4:30 p.m. Piece Makers
- 5:00 p.m. Children's Handbells
- 5:30 p.m. Supper Line Opens
Library opens
- 6:00 p.m. Children's Choirs
LIGHTHOUSE
Youth Christmas Party
- 6:30 p.m. Prayer Meeting
- 6:45 p.m. RA's, GA's,
Mission Friends
- 7:30 p.m. Sanctuary Choir

Thursday, January 8

- 9:00 Life Exercise

**SPECIAL MINISTRIES
January 4, 2008**

HEALTH MINISTRY

Margie Hazel

EXT. TEACHING CARE

Coordinator: Sallie Bozard

11:00 a.m. Worship

Babies and Ones

Sara Frances Watson, Sallie Bozard

Twos and Threes

Dawn and Richard Kimura

SUNDAY SCHOOL GREETERS

Snyder Building


Marion Gunter

Burriss Building

Nan Bannister

Front Lower Level

Clyde & Jonnie Blackburn




Pray for These Hospitalized Members:
As of Tuesday, Dec. 30, 2008

No members known to be in the hospital.

Postmaster:
Send change of address to:
First Baptist Church
P O Box 4898
West Columbia, S.C. 29171
Pub. No. 617460
Published weekly except
one week July and one week
December. Periodicals Postage
paid at West Columbia, SC
29169

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First Baptist Church
P O Box 4898
West Columbia, SC 29171



DATED MATERIAL DO NOT DELAY!

WEDNESDAY NIGHT SUPPER
Served from 5:30-6:00 p.m. in Burriss Hall
Deadline for reservations and cancellations is noon Monday.



January 7
BBQ sandwich
Baked Beans, slaw,
rolls & dessert

Adults (10 & up) \$5.00 Children (5-9) \$3.00
Children 4 & under FREE



**Lottie Moon Christmas Offering
for International Missions**
First Baptist Church Goal: \$8,000
Total Received: \$ 10,345.50

TO GOD BE THE GLORY!
Thank you, First Family, for your generosity
and your commitment to the cause of
missions around the world.