

Half Notes and Whole Rests

This same Good News that came to you is going out all over the world. It is bearing fruit everywhere by changing lives, just as it changed your lives from the day you first heard and understood the truth about God's wonderful grace.

Colossians 1:6 (NLT)

Christmas comes and goes so quickly it almost takes your breath away. We gathered together, families and extended families, Sunday School classes, friends, and co-workers. For a short time, we got together and celebrated the coming of hope, the promise of peace on earth. But even in the peace and hope, there were little skirmishes and squabbles: does saying Happy Holidays mean you've taken Christ out of Christmas (as if we could!)? If a store doesn't wish everyone a Merry Christmas should we boycott them (even though it means causing hardship to the employees who have no say over policy!)? We can't force the world to be something it is not – holy and righteous.

But if you paid attention, there was a blanket of music over all the commotion and shopping. Loudspeakers and radios declared the Good News of Jesus' birth. The story was repeated over and over: God came to earth to make a way for us to be reconciled with Him. There was Mary and Joseph, shepherds, wisemen, and everywhere the sounds of angels singing Gloria in Excelsis Deo! Joy to the World, the LORD is come! Christ the Savior is born! The message was proclaimed, knowingly or unknowingly, and seeds were planted in hearts. Even in chaos, God's plan and glory are revealed; His Word does not return empty (Is. 55:11).

Music is a big part of December, providing numerous opportunities and open doors. Our Christmas musical – Journey of Faith – was well attended and featured some new drama people and wonderful music. Our Silver Saints sang a number of times at the area nursing homes, and the Joybells played at two nursing homes and for the Tour of Homes. Adults and youth joined together to go caroling at shut-ins, nursing homes, and fire stations, and it wasn't difficult at all. We carried the joy of the season to others, proclaiming from personal experience that the Baby Jesus, who became the Man Jesus, would become the Savior Jesus.

The first half of the new year brings us Easter in early April, the Community Holy Week choir, and the statewide Georgia Baptist Handbell festival. I am looking forward to many new opportunities this year for our musical groups to get out in the public. Each musical group we have is a mission team and should always be ready to go and tell the same Good News. As Paul wrote in Colossians, that Good News bears fruit everywhere by changing lives, just as it changed yours. If you would like to plug in to our music ministries, talk with me or someone who is already involved, or simply contact the church office.

Bro. Mike Z.

Vital Signs

BUDGET	DECEMBER	YR TO DATE	
Requirements	\$37,166.68	\$446,000.16	
Budget Offering	\$43,840.43	\$411,943.92	(- \$34,056.24)
Kingdom Building	\$ 722.00	\$ 90,794.57	
Lottie Moon Offering	\$ 7,266.00	\$ 7,286.00	

WELCOME NEW MEMBER

By Letter - Sheryl Brown

NON-PROFIT
ORGANIZATION
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
ST. MARYS,
GEORGIA 31558
Permit No. 11

First Baptist Church
102 W. Weed Street
St. Marys, GA 31558
(912) 882-4250
www.fbcstmarys.com

Steve W. Kegley, Pastor
Roland Norris, Associate Pastor
Mike Zimmerli, Music Director
David J. Lundin, Pastor Emeritus
Mike & Becky Stonecypher, Missionaries to Nigeria

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

To worship Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior, by sharing His Word with the lost, training disciples to minister to others, while maintaining fellowship within the body of Christ.

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Activities for January

SUNDAY - January 8
Regular Sunday Schedule
4:30 pm AWANA Resumes

MONDAY - January 9
9:00 am Prayer Group
10:00 am Silver Saints Choir
6:00 pm Handbells/Middle School Praise Band
7:30 pm TWB Rehearsal

TUESDAY - January 10
9:30 am Ladies' Bible Study Resumes
7:00 pm Finance Committee

WEDNESDAY - January 11
Regular Wednesday Schedule

THURSDAY - January 12
Family Camp-Out Jan. 12-14
9:30 am Women on Mission Meeting
7:00 pm Deacons' Meeting

SUNDAY - January 15
8:30 am Men's Prayer Group/Chapel
8:45 am Praise Team/Soloist
9:15 am Sunday School
10:30 am Worship Service/Lil'K
11:00 am Children's Church/KIDMO
5:30 pm Pastor's Pizza Pig Out
6:30 pm Worship Service

MONDAY - January 16
9:00 am Ladies' Prayer Group
10:00 am Silver Saints Choir
6:00 pm Handbells/Middle School Praise Band
7:30 pm TWB Rehearsal

TUESDAY - January 17
9:30 am Ladies' Bible Study

WEDNESDAY - January 18
Regular Wednesday Schedule

THURSDAY - January 19
6:00 pm Sr. Adult Covered Dish Diner

SATURDAY - January 21
2:00 pm Retirement Reception for Bro. John & Nancy Carr/ FBC Brunswick

SUNDAY - January 22
Regular Sunday Schedule
3:30 pm Magnolia Manor

MONDAY - January 23
9:00 am Ladies' Prayer Group
10:00 am Silver Saints Choir
6:00 pm Handbells/Middle School Praise Band
7:30 pm TWB Rehearsal

TUESDAY - January 24
9:30 am Ladies' Bible Study
6:00 pm Ladies' Bible Study Resumes

BUILDING the KINGDOM of GOD TOGETHER

January 2012

THE MESSENGER

A monthly publication of
First Baptist Church St. Marys

CREATION OUR FOUNDATION

Dr. Grady S. McMurtry

Biblical Scientific Creationist

January 29-February 1, 2012



Sunday, January 29th

9:15 AM Foundations (Youth & Adults)
10:30 AM Foundations
4:30 PM Noah's Ark to the Cross
6:30 PM The Water's Cleaved

Monday, January 30th

6:30 PM Why I Believe in A Young Creation

Tuesday, January 31st

6:30 PM "The Road to Man" ???

Wednesday, February 1st

6:30 PM Dino Mania

Practical Answers for
Tough Bible/Science Questions

Sanctify Christ as Lord in your hearts, always being ready to Make a defense to everyone who asks you to give an account for the hope that is in you, yet with gentleness and reverence.

1 Peter 3:15

FROM THE HEART OF THE PASTOR:

CHURCH THEME 2012

"Saved by grace...Go make a difference!"

Mark 16:15-18

CHURCH THEME FOR 2012

It is a miraculous thing to be born again. For God to take an ungodly, unholy sinner and make him/her a new creation in Christ is nothing less than a supernatural event. My point in saying this to you is simple. Because God did that wonderful, life-changing transformation for you then you in turn must go make a difference in the lives of others.

It is one of the greatest fears a pastor can have...to fear that his flock is not winning souls and making a difference in the lives of the lost, because some in his flock have not surrendered to Jesus as Lord and Savior themselves. If you are absolutely sure that Jesus is your Lord, then there is no excuse acceptable to your Lord—**Go make a difference!**

As we enter into **2012**, may each one of us resolve that we will be a **difference maker** for Christ and allow Him to use us any way He chooses. If every member of First Baptist,—St. Marys will make that resolution then Camden County will be turned upside down for Christ. If **12 disciples** could make a difference, then **several hundred Baptists** should make a **BIG** difference. Let's give Jesus our all in **2012** and **Go make a difference!**

CREATION CONFERENCE AT FIRST BAPTIST

You are going to be given the opportunity of a lifetime at the end of January. First Baptist will be hosting a Creation Foundations Conference with Dr. Grady McMurtry out of Orlando, Florida. The dates for this amazing conference are January 29th thru February 1st.

We will follow the following schedule:

(Childcare each service babies thru 4 yr. olds)

- January 29 - 9:15 a.m.—Youth and Adults in Sunday School w/ Dr. McMurtry
- 10:30 a.m. — Adults, Youth and Older children (K-Gr.5)
- 4:30 p.m. — Adults, Youth and Older Children
- 5:30 p.m. — Supper (Regular Cost)
- 6:30 p.m. — Adults, Youth and Older Children
- 1/30-2/1 - 6:30 p.m. — Adults, Youth and Older Children

The children and youth will find Dr. McMurtry's presentation entertaining, but also very interesting as he talks about creation in the forming of the earth and even dinosaurs. Each session he leads to the ultimate point of how God's creation pointed to the cross of Jesus Christ. Powerful presentation you will not want to miss! See the front of The Messenger for details.

BAPTISTS 4 HAITI

Please pray that **One Hundred Georgia Baptist** churches will step forward and join First Baptist in **pledging \$1,000 next year** to support this work. Without this cooperation, the work in Haiti will not succeed as I believe God desires for it to succeed. **Pray! Pray! Pray!**

STUDENT MINISTRY YARD SALE

Please help the Student Ministry of First Baptist as they seek to earn money for their Winter Ski Retreat and other activities. We are collecting items to be placed in the January 28th Community Yard Sale. We ask that you bring donations and place them in the Hippo Container behind the bus. Your help is very valuable to the students.

See you Sunday with your **Bible** in hand as I continue the **Series: The 5 Smooth Stones of Commitment**. This Sunday's message is **"Kingdom Generosity."**

*In His Service,
Bro. Steve*



RETIREMENT RECEPTION FOR BRO. JOHN & NANCY CARR
Saturday, January 21st
2:00 p.m.

First Baptist Church Brunswick
There will be a sign in table and book available to write well wishes in. If you are unable to attend, cards and letters may be sent to Bro. John in care of the association office. Please feel free to bring cards, letters, pictures, newspaper clippings, or any other items you care to share with John and Nancy pertaining to their work for the association.

"A.N.D.Y." Club

(Ain't Nearly Done Yet)

Calendar (55 and Better!)

"Silver Saints" Choir

Mondays at 10:00 AM

Followed by lunch at Sonny's.

Thursday, Jan. 19th at 6 PM

Sr. Adult Covered Dish Dinner

If you are over 55, and like to sing and fellowship, come join us!



Senior Adult Mission Trip

SENIOR ADULT MISSION TRIP TO NORTH GEORGIA...OCTOBER 2012

Cost \$215/person

\$25/person deposit due now and \$25/person due the first Monday of each month through August, with remaining balance due September 2012.



Women On

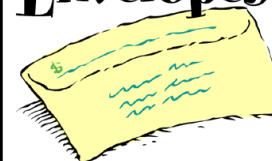
Mission Meeting
WOM Meeting will be held Thursday, January 12th at 9:30 a.m. During

this meeting ministry plans for 2012, mission projects and fund raisers will be discussed, as well as, praying for our missionaries. If you need child-care for this meeting, please contact the church office by Jan. 9th. **The WOM Meetings are open to all ladies of the church.**

GUESS WHO IS COMING TO DINNER?

Each week First Baptist invites military families visiting for the first time out to lunch. Deb Hase, our coordinator, will not be available after December 11th. We need a coordinator and 6 new families, if we are going to continue this ministry. Please see Pastor Steve if you would help with this ministry.

Offering Envelopes



If you have extra offering envelopes that you do not use, please drop them off by the church office. We will mark out personal information and use them for offerings not placed in an envelope. Also, please try to use your offering envelopes when possible. This really helps our financial secretary be sure the right individual/family received credit. Thank You!

RE M I N D E R

Finance Committee
Tuesday, Jan. 10th at 7:00 pm
Deacons' Meeting
Thursday, Jan. 12th at 7:00 pm



Yard Sale Donations Needed

YOUTH YARD SALE

Saturday, January 28th

Kings Bay Village Shopping Center

We have secured a Hippo Storage Unit for donated items. Please bring your donations to the church before Friday, January 27th.

All proceeds will go to help Youth Ministry & Activities.



NEW MESSENGER FORMAT

Beginning March 2012, we will send the monthly Messenger out via email. If you are not receiving the FBC Buzz, we probably do not have your email address. If you would like to receive the Messenger, please send an email to (marie@fbcstmarys.com) so we can ensure we have your correct email address and add you to our address book. Hard copies of the Messenger and Calendar will be placed around the church for those who do not have an email account.

YOUTH TO ATTEND



Friday, January 13th

Veterans Memorial Arena Jacksonville

Depart from Church at 4:00 PM

Cost: \$15/person (includes ticket, fuel and pizza on the way)

Youth attending Winter Jam will have transportation provided from the church to the campsite.



FAMILY CAMPING TRIP

January 12-14, 2012

J.R. Jones' Farm, Folkston

WHY: Christian families coming together to enjoy a weekend of camping and fun while spending time in God's Word.

Cost: \$5/person, due by 1/8/12

Planning Meeting: Sunday, January 8th following 10:30 Worship



OPEN DATES ON THE 2012 FLOWER CALENDAR

January 22, 29; March 4; April 15, 22, 29; July 1, 15, 22; November 18; and December 3. If you would like to place flowers in honor or memory of a loved one on one of the above dates, please call (882-4250) or email the church office —marie@fbcstmarys.com.

HISHEART HISHANDS HISVOICE

Season of Prayer for International Missions & Lottie Moon Christmas Offering
National Goal: \$175 Million ... Our Goal: \$8,500
Received to Date: \$7,286.00