



Christmas Eve

Thursday, December 24

6:00 and 11:00 p.m.

Lighting of the CHRIST candle • Lessons & Carols • Homily by Dr. Hewett
Celebration of Holy Communion

Child care provided for the 6:00 p.m. service

Flower Calendar



The Flower Calendar for 2010 is now posted on the wall outside the church office. If you would like to have flowers placed in the sanctuary either in memory or honor of a loved one, please fill in the information on the Sunday you prefer. Cost is \$60. We ask that you please pay for the flowers prior to the Sunday you choose. Checks should be made payable to First Baptist Church. Unless specified otherwise, flower arrangements will be provided by Max Penegar.

This Week at FBC

Sunday, December 20

8:00 AM Chancel Ringers
 9:30 AM Bible Fellowship
 10:35 AM Preschool Extended Session
 10:45 AM Service of Worship

Monday, December 21

10:30 AM Song Service at Brian Center
 6:30 PM TOPS

Thursday, December 24

6:00 PM Candlelight Service
 11:00 PM Candlelight Service



Internationally renowned pipe organist and Monroe native Carlo Curley dropped by for a visit the afternoon of December 2



For the Fellowship Meal on Wednesday, January 6, we will have our third annual **Chili Cook-Off**. Prizes will be awarded in several different categories.

If you would like to prepare a pot of chili for the contest, sign up in Bible Fellowship or call the church office.

Bible Fellowship Lesson Sunday, December 20

"Look Forward"

Scripture: **Luke 3:7-18**

Additional Scriptures: Zephaniah 3:14-20
 Isaiah 12:2-6; Philippians 4:4-7

Pastoral Care Emergencies

Minister on Call December 18-25
Sara Spahr Stubbs – 704-219-2204

MissionsFirst

- The LOOSE CHANGE OFFERING for December will benefit Union County's **United Family Service's Tree House program**, a Child Advocacy Center that opened in 2005.
- An offering for **CBF Global Missions** will be received in December. The offering goes to support field personnel salaries, benefits and ministry programs. Your gift is an essential part of spreading the Gospel and meeting physical needs in the world. To date we have received \$813 for the offering.
- Interested in an on-going ministry that will provide **food-filled backpacks** to needy school kids? Contact Tom Coffey or Glenda Poindexter for more information.
- Posted on the Missions Board is the names of several children in need of **school uniforms**. We are asking individuals or groups to take one of the names and purchase the items listed.
- Interested in helping with a ministry of chopping and/or delivering firewood to needy families? Contact Tim McBride at 704-634-9985.

By the Numbers ...

Sunday, December 13, 2009:

Bible Study Attendance	150
Adults	114
College Students	12
Youth	9
Children	15
Worship Attendance	218
Weekly Budget Requirements.....	\$ 11,408
Budget Receipts	\$ 10,732
Budget Requirements to Date	\$171,120
Budget Receipts to Date	\$172,088



The Worship of God

December 20, 2009 - 10:45 a.m.

Fourth Sunday in Advent

Anthem by Chancel Choir

"Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence" by Gustav Holst

Handbells by Chancel Ringers

"Go, Tell It on the Mountain" by Cynthia Dobrinski

Sermon by John Hewett

"Christmas Is a Verb: Change"

Scripture: Zephaniah 3:14-20; Luke 3:7-18

Audio CDs of our worship services are available in the church office. Audio recordings of sermons are available at www.monroefirstbaptist.org

Faith in Fiction Book Club

meets Thursday, January 7
7:00 p.m. in the Church Parlor

You are invited to join them
as they review and discuss

The Lost Symbol

by Dan Brown

Thank you ...

to Mable Bivens for donating the Christmas wreaths on the outside of the church doors. She has given them in memory of her husband, J.W., and daughter, Kendra Gordon.

Dear Church Family:

Many thanks to our staff and fellow members for your many kindnesses during our recent health problems. We are blessed to be part of such a caring church.

Our love and God's blessings to each of you,
Faye and Ed Varney

Sunday, December 27

Morning Worship ONLY — 10:45 a.m.

No Bible Fellowship Classes

The Global Missions Post Office ...

is now open in the Gathering Area. Instead of putting a \$.44 stamp on a Christmas card to another FBC member, bring your FBC cards to the Gathering Area and place them in the Global Missions Post Office. We ask that you give \$.25 per card in the donation box, and all the money will be given by the youth as an offering to the Global Missions Offering for the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship. Cards will be sorted by family and may be picked up at the Post Office as well. We will also collect cards that go to our FBC members who are in nursing homes and deliver them before Christmas.

Committees

Sunday School Greeters:

Joy/Agape Class

Church Office Volunteer:

Richard Poindexter

Security:

Narthex - Jane Hawkins

Gathering Area - Ray Sowder

Ushers:

Jane Hawkins, Frances Knight, Ron Sumrow, Derrick Lowery, Lauren Lowery

Offertory:

Buddy Lyon, Babs Simpson, Doris Ramsey, Nancy Sumrow

Preschool Extended Session:

Nursery-Christina Kale, Diane Whitley

Preschool I-Robin Haas, Mary Nash

Money Counters

Martha Nance, Pat Turner

First Baptist Family

Please remember the following in prayer:

Russ, Teri and Matt Sharp

Annie Bragg in Presbyterian, Matthews

Clayton Daniel

Karen Marossy

Ed Varney

Bob Turner at home

Paul and Jeanette Helms

Lisa Poovey Berwyn

John Kilby, father of Alvin Kilby

Bill Melton, brother of Max Melton and

Carol Tyson

Lillian and Elmo Sims, parents of Paul Sims

Marilyn LeGrange, mother of Brenda Lowery

James Mackay/Chris Harris, serving in Iraq

Jordon Wilkerson, serving in Afghanistan

Our facilities are protected by
Piedmont Security Systems, Inc.
800-959-8108

Farther Along ...

On July 30, 1941, a prisoner escaped from Auschwitz, the notorious Nazi concentration camp in Poland. In retaliation, the commandant of the camp lined up the inmates of cellblock 14 and ordered that ten of them be consigned to an underground bunker and starved to death. Ten men were selected. One of them, Francis Gajowniczek, cried out in tears, "My poor wife and children! I will never see them again." At this point another prisoner stepped forward and volunteered to take his place. The commandant asked who he was. He replied, "I am a Catholic priest." The commandant accepted Fr. Maximilian Kolbe's offer, and so he assumed his place among the condemned.

Born in 1894, Kolbe had joined the Franciscans at the age of sixteen. He was arrested when the Nazis invaded Poland and soon was on his way to Auschwitz. Ragged and hungry, suffering from tubercular attacks, subject to beatings and other abuse, he remained a beacon of faith to his fellow prisoners, encouraging them to pray and counseling them against despair.

His final passion began when he entered the death bunker in July, 1941. There was nothing for the inmates to consume but their own urine. He passed the days leading his companions in prayer, preparing them for death, and keeping vigil with them as they gradually succumbed. By August 14 he and three others were still alive, at which point the Nazis grew tired of waiting any longer. The four were dispatched by injections of carbolic acid, their bodies cremated in the camp ovens.

In 1982 Pope John Paul II presided over Kolbe's canonization in Rome. Present for the ceremony was Francis Gajowniczek, the man in whose place he had died. The pope called Kolbe a true martyr and saint of our times whose heroic charity proved victorious over the architects of death. He cited these words from the Gospel of John: "Greater love hath no man than this, that he lay down his life for his friends."

Next week we'll mark the birth of the One who showed us that love with a human face. And we remember, in more words from John, that "the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it."

— John Hewett

Steeple Views First Baptist Church • 109 Morrow Avenue • Monroe • NC 28112 • 704.283.8534

"Free and faithful Baptists ministering in the heart of Union County since 1852"

Web-site.....	www.monroefirstbaptist.org
John H. Hewett, Senior Minister	john.hewett@monroefirstbaptist.org
Paul M. Sims, Minister	paul.sims@monroefirstbaptist.org
Sara Spahr Stubbs, Minister	sara.stubbs@monroefirstbaptist.org
Timothy D. Belflowers, Organist.....	belflowers@aol.com
David Mosely, Ministry Intern	david.mosely@monroefirstbaptist.org
Sarah Poindexter, Ministry Intern	sarah.poindexter@monroefirstbaptist.org
Taylor Vancil, Ministry Intern	taylor.vancil@monroefirstbaptist.org
Marsha Sexton, Business Manager	marsha.sexton@monroefirstbaptist.org
Kathy Cole, Ministry Coordinator	kathy.cole@monroefirstbaptist.org
Elizabeth Mshar, Weekday Preschool Director.....	liz.mshar@monroefirstbaptist.org

Presorted
Non-Profit
U.S. Postage Paid
Monroe, NC
Permit No. 34

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED