

## *Christmas Service for the Bereaved*

Sunday, December 13, 3:00 p.m. in our Sanctuary

Co-sponsored by Gordon Funeral Home

This community-wide service will include lessons and carols and a homily by Dr. Hewett. A coffee hour will be held in the Multipurpose Room immediately following the service. Help us spread the word by extending an invitation to those outside our church that could benefit from the service.



*and Mary sang . . .*

*Magnificat and Nunc Dimittis* in G  
by Charles Villiers Stanford

**The Chancel Choir**

Sarah Poindexter, soprano Seth Joyner, baritone  
Timothy Bellflowers, organ

*Gospel Magnificat*

by Robert Ray

**The Chancel Choir**

Jessica Bachelder, soprano  
Timothy Bellflowers, piano  
Lindsay Harris, drums  
Taylor Vancil, bass

Sunday morning, December 13  
Ten forty-five O'clock

Join us on Wednesday, December 16  
at 6:30 p.m. in the  
Multipurpose Room  
as we gather around the piano  
to sing  
Christmas Carols



Old-Fashioned Carol Sing

## This Week at FBC

### Sunday, December 13

- 9:30 AM Bible Fellowship
- 10:35 AM Preschool Extended Session
- 10:45 AM Service of Worship
- 12:00 PM College Lunch/Bible Study
- 3:00 PM Service for the Bereaved
- 5:00 PM Youth Christmas Party  
Home of Susan Echols
- 7:00 PM Chancel Ringers

### Monday, December 14

- 2:00 PM Poovey/Denmark Group
- 6:30 PM TOPS

### Wednesday, December 16

- 5:30 PM Fellowship Meal  
*Buffet: spaghetti, tossed salad, garlic bread, dessert*  
*Kid's: same as buffet*
- 6:15 PM Music Times  
Music Makers  
Children's Choir  
Youth Discussion
- 6:20 PM Prayer Meeting  
Wednesday Night Handbell Group
- 6:30 PM Old-Fashioned Carol Sing
- 6:45 PM Mission Friends  
Girls' Mission Group  
Boys' Mission Group
- 7:30 PM Chancel Choir

## FREE BREAKFAST

for all Senior Adults  
(this is a full breakfast!)

Wednesday, December 15 at 8:30  
Parkwood High School

Admission is a can of food, which  
will help feed the hungry

## Bible Fellowship Lesson

### Sunday, December 13

"Moving with Mary's Song"

Scripture: **Luke 1:39-55**

Additional Scriptures: Micah 5:2-5a  
Luke 1:47-55; Hebrews 10:5-10

## Pastoral Care Emergencies

Minister on Call December 11-18  
**Sara Spahr Stubbs – 704-219-2204**



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 on Wednesday evenings.

## 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.
- 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.

## Congratulations ...

To **Carol Tyson** for being named "Business Woman of the Year" at the Union County Chamber of Commerce Annual Meeting.

To **Karla Davis** for winning the Southeast Regional Colgate Country Showdown competition this past weekend. She now advances to the national competition in Nashville in January.

## By the Numbers ...

### Sunday, December 6, 2009:

Bible Study Attendance .....	163
Adults .....	120
College Students.....	12
Youth .....	9
Children .....	22
Worship Attendance .....	186
Weekly Budget Requirements.....	\$ 11,408
Budget Receipts .....	\$ 13,044
Budget Requirements to Date .....	\$159,712
Budget Receipts to Date .....	\$161,356

### September-November:

Year-to-Date Actual Budget Receipts .....	\$148,312
Year-to-Date Actual Budget Expenses .....	\$158,810



## The Worship of God

December 13, 2009 - 10:45 a.m.

Third Sunday in Advent

### Anthems by Chancel Choir

*"Magnificat in G" by Charles Villiers Stanford*

*"Gospel Magnificat" by Robert Ray*

*"What Child" by Paul Lohman*

*"Nunc Dimittis in G" by Charles Villiers Stanford*

### Sermon by John Hewett

*"Christmas Is a Verb: Believe"*

Scripture: Luke 1:39-46a;

Audio CDs of our worship services are available in the church office. Audio recordings of sermons are available at [www.monroefirstbaptist.org](http://www.monroefirstbaptist.org)

### *and Mary sang . . .*

This Sunday morning our Chancel Choir, soloists and instrumentalists will present two settings of the *Magnificat* (Song of Mary), a canticle taken directly from the first chapter of Luke's gospel, where it is spoken by the pregnant Mary on the occasion of her visit to her cousin Elizabeth. In the narrative, after Mary greets Elizabeth, the child (who will become John the Baptist) moves within Elizabeth's womb. When Elizabeth praises Mary for her faith, Mary sings the wonderful *Magnificat*.

Charles Villiers Stanford's *Magnificat* in G, from the English church music tradition, written for choir, soprano and organ, is often sung at Anglican Evensong services.

*Gospel Magnificat*, by Robert Ray, set for choir, soloist, piano, drums and bass, is from the African American tradition.

Additionally, the choir will sing the *Nunc Dimittis* (Song of Simeon) in G by Stanford and a setting of "What Child Is This" by Paul Lohman.

### 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 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.

### Poinsettias ...

This coming Sunday, December 13, is the last day to purchase poinsettias in memory or honor of a loved one. Order forms are available in the Gathering Area and your Bible Fellowship class. Fill out the form, attach a check (\$8.00 for each poinsettia), and turn it in to the church office or in Sunday's offering Plate.

### Committees

#### Sunday School Greeters:

Joy/Agape Class

#### Church Office Volunteer:

Frances Knight

#### Security:

Narthex - Tim McBride

Gathering Area - Carol Baker

#### Ushers:

Tim McBride, Eleanor O'Neill, Mark Eagle  
Sylvia Baker, Julia Wall

#### Offertory:

Joe Litaker, Nathan Hopper, Max Melton,  
Nancy Thomas

#### Preschool Extended Session:

Nursery-Christina Kale

Preschool I-Robin Haas

#### Money Counters

Frances Vaughan, Harvey Whitley

#### Wednesday Night Helpers:

Annette Kilby, Jane Hawkins, Joel Myers

### First Baptist Family

*Please remember the following in prayer:*

Russ, Teri and Matt Sharp

Annie Bragg at Lake Park

Graham Hopper

Arnold Mills

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

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## Farther Along ...

Sunday our Bible Fellowship hour and our worship will be centered on the canticle of Mary known as the *Magnificat*, found in Luke 1:39-56. We will do well to read it again carefully before we gather together.

Though Mary offers one of our best ways in to the Christmas story, we Baptists tend to be wary of her. We tend to leave her in Bethlehem, by the manger. We're put off by her excessive veneration by Roman Catholics. We denounce the dogmas which elevate the Mother to co-equal status with the Son, making her the "Queen of Queens" on the throne next to the King of Kings and Lord of Lords.

But in our recoil from the theological excesses of fellow believers, we must be careful not to minimize the person of Mary, the Lord's handmaid, lest we ignore the woman whom all generations would call blessed.

For Mary is an example and model for our faith. She knew what it was to stand at the center of scandal, dissonance and contradiction. She did not flee from the Cross. She also knew the thrust of the sword in the heart. She stayed until the end and watched him die. She stayed until the beginning and saw him live again. She is, like each of us, full of grace. The Lord is with her.

Her faith was not unique. She did not offer any special insight into the mysteries of God. She grew in faith, just like the others, until, at the end, she could call her own first-born son, "Lord," and mean it. Her faith had a history others could follow. Little wonder, then, that the earliest Christians, who had called Abraham their father in the faith, would know Mary as their mother. It was as though they had all heard Jesus say from the Cross, "Mother, behold your children."

As a human being and as a mother, Mary is a witness of her son's true humanity, and also of his origin from God. She is the "Christ bearer." We will not offend her son by loving his mother too much.

So we do not worship Mary this holy Advent season, but we do love her, and thank God for her, this woman-child whose son, the Messiah, was born in a grave. Sunday we'll say with the angels, and with all who call Jesus "Lord": "Hail, O favored One! The Lord is with you!" Or, as the ancients once whispered in Latin, "Ave Maria."

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"*

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