



Don't forget to sign up for the Tournament to be held
Saturday, February 27 from 8:00-noon
in the Multipurpose Room

Proceeds to benefit Loaves & Fishes of Union County

Cost: \$5.00 for participants
\$2.00 for spectators (or a food donation)

For those interested, there will be volleyball practice on
Saturday, February 6 from 8:00-10:00 a.m. and again
Thursday, February 18 from 6:30-9:00 p.m. in the gym

Registration forms with complete details are available in the
Gathering Area, the Church Office, and on the website at
www.monroefirstbaptist.org

Pick up extra copies to give to your friends, co-workers, etc.
Registration forms are due by Friday, February 19
Volunteers will be needed to help with the event

Upcoming Wednesday Nights at First

January 27 • February 3 • February 10

Midweek Worship in the Sanctuary
6:30 - 7:15 p.m.

Featuring
Hymns, Prayers, and a Devotion by Dr. Hewett

Faith in Fiction Book Club

meets Thursday, February 4, 7:00 p.m.
in the Church Parlor

You are invited to join them
as they review and discuss

The Help

by Kathryn Stockett

UPCOMING BOOKS FOR DISCUSSION/REVIEW:

March — Eye of the Needle by Ken Follett
April — Have a Little Faith by Mitch Albom

The First Baptist Pulpit

The Season of Epiphany

"Who Are You, Really?"

Sermons by Dr. John Hewett

January 24	"You Are God's People"	Nehemiah 8:1-10
January 31	"You Are God's Voice"	Jeremiah 1:4-10
February 7	"You Are God's Apostles"	Isaiah 6:1-13



An offering is being
received to aid
the victims of the
earthquake that recently
hit Haiti

The offering, which will be
distributed through the
Cooperative Baptist Fellowship
Disaster Relief Fund,
will be received through the
end of January

This Week at FBC

Sunday, January 24

- 9:30 AM Bible Fellowship
- 10:35 AM Preschool Extended Session
- 10:45 AM Service of Worship
- 5:00 PM Youth Group
- 5:45 PM Youth Choir
- 6:30 PM Snack Supper
- 7:00 PM Chancel Ringers

Monday, January 25

- 6:00 PM TOPS
- 6:30 PM Weekday Preschool Board

Wednesday, January 27

- 5:30 PM Fellowship Meal
Buffet: lasagna, tossed salad, garlic bread, dessert
Kid's meal: same as buffet
- 6:15 PM Music Time
Music Makers
Children's Choir
- 6:20 PM Prayer Meeting
- 6:30 PM Bible Study
Youth Discussion
Wednesday Night Handbell Group
- 6:45 PM Missions Rotation —
Mission Friends
Girls' Missions
Boys' Missions
- 7:30 PM Chancel Choir

Friday-Saturday, January 29-30

Adult Choir Festival-by-the-Sea, Charleston

Bible Fellowship Lessons

Sunday, January 24

"Good News, Good Ways"

Scripture: Luke 4:14-21

Additional Scriptures: Psalm 19

Nehemiah 8:1-3, 4-5, 8-10; I Cor. 12:12-31a

Pastoral Care Emergencies

Minister on Call January 22-29

Sara Spahr Stubbs — 704-219-2204

Flower Calendar ...

Sign up this week to place flowers in the sanctuary either in memory or honor of someone you love. The Flower Calendar is located on the wall outside of the church office. Cost: \$60.00.



Children in Grades 1-5 are invited to join us for pizza, a movie, and preparing Valentine's presents on Friday, February 5 from 5:30-9:30 p.m.

No cost

Friends are welcome!

For reservations, call or email the church office by Wednesday, February 3

MissionsFirst

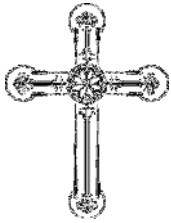
- The LOOSE CHANGE OFFERING for January will benefit our Weekday Preschool's Scholarship program — providing assistance for parents who have recently become unemployed.
- Interested in an on-going ministry that will provide **food-filled backpacks** to needy school kids? Contact Carol Tyson for more 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, January 17, 2010:

Bible Study Attendance	151
Adults	112
College	13
Youth	6
Children	20

Worship Attendance	198
Weekly Budget Requirements.....	\$ 11,408
Budget Receipts	\$ 10,654
Budget Requirements to Date	\$228,160
Budget Receipts to Date	\$244,798



The Worship of God

January 24, 2010 - 10:45 a.m.

Third Sunday after Epiphany

Anthem by the Chancel Choir

"Come Dwell in Soloman's Walls" by Z. Randall Stroope

Sermon by John Hewett

"Who Are You Really? ... You Are God's People"

Scripture: Nehemiah 8:1-10; I Corinthians 12:12-31a

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

Loaves & Fishes ...

Loaves and Fishes is requesting contributions of all types of canned vegetables for January. Please place donations in the Gathering Area.

Committees

Sunday School Greeters:

Then-n-Now Class

Security:

Narthex - Don Haver

Gathering Area - J. T. Nance

Ushers:

Mary Lou Gamble, Don Haver, John Whitley, Nathan and Denise Hopper

Offertory:

Sandra Whitley, Jane Hawkins, Harvey Whitley, Gerhard Ungerer

Preschool Extended Session:

Nursery-Christina Kale, Judy Edwards

Preschool I-Robin Haas, Robin Pittman

Money Counters

Mary Ellen Hopper, Aileen Sowder

Wednesday Night Helpers:

Jean Duck, Mary Nash, Dean & Angie Baskins

Congratulations ...

to Karla Davis, daughter of Jim and Lisa Davis, who won the Colgate Country Showdown competition in Nashville this past Thursday evening. The competition, held at the Ryman Auditorium, will be televised in our area on Sunday, February 21 at 5:00 p.m. on Station WJZY.

Found ...

A Canon SD Memory Card was found in the narthex. If you recently lost one, please drop by the church office to claim.

Thank You ...

Dear Fellow Members of FBC:

We would like to express our sincere appreciation for all you have done for one family.

Your support and prayers have encouraged us so much during this difficult time.

The Lance Dunn Family

New Class to start ...

First Baptist is starting a new Bible Fellowship class for single "twenty-something" adults on Sunday, January 31. The teacher will be Don Haver — place to soon be announced.

If you know of a prospect for this class, please share this information with the church office.

First Baptist Family

Please remember the following in prayer:

Russ, Teri and Matt Sharp

Annie Bragg in Lake Park

Jane Hawkins

Larry Tuggle

Katherine Cox

Glennie McGuirt in CMC-Union

Bob Thompson in VA Hospital, Salisbury

Harold Funderburk

Karen Marossy

Lola Lee in Autumn Care

Bob Turner at home

Paul and Jeanette Helms

Doug Knight, son of Mike Knight, in

Presbyterian, Charlotte

Bill Melton, brother of Max Melton and

Carol Tyson

The Lance Dunn family

Lillian and Elmo Sims, parents of Paul Sims

Jamie Turner, son of Jim Turner

Ruth Mackay, aunt of Jon Mackay

Marilyn LeGrange, mother of Brenda Lowery

James Mackay/Chris Harris, serving in Iraq

Jordon Wilkerson, serving in Afghanistan

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Farther Along ...

It's not often that I find myself agreeing with atheists, but in the wake of last week's earthquake in Haiti, Christopher Hitchens provides some of the more sensible commentary. At least more sensible than that eminent theologian Pat Robertson, who declared, without two seconds of apparent reflection, that the earthquake happened because God had cursed Haiti over a pact its slave founders made with Satan 200 years ago to overthrow their French rulers and become the world's first black republic. And more sensible than the man standing in front of the collapsed National Palace in Port-au-Prince shouting, "Redeem yourselves! The end of the world is near!" I'm sure the survivors found that really helpful.

Hitchens had this to say:

We live on a cooling planet with a volcanic interior that is insecurely coated with a thin crust of grinding tectonic plates. Earthquakes and tsunamis are to be expected and can even to some degree be anticipated. It's idiotic to ask whose fault it is. The Earth's thin shell was quaking and cracking millions of years before human sinners evolved, and it will still be wrenched and convulsed long after we are gone. These geological dislocations have no human-behavioral cause.

Part of our rush to ask "Why?" is an expression of how little we still know. Once people saw the hand of God in childhood fevers and bacterial infections and rampant plagues. Then we figured out vaccines and clean water and penicillin. Droughts were once thought to be God's direct and severe punishment on a people. Then we learned that climate change has a rhythm to it, full of ebbs and flows. Before weather radar a violent storm seemed personal. Now the Doppler shows it coming while it is yet miles away, giving us time to evacuate.

Jesus told his disciples, "God causes the sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous" (Mt. 5:45). His point was, we'd better love everybody, because we're not that great at knowing who our friends and enemies are, and all of them are our "neighbors." Most of the churches in Port-au-Prince were destroyed by the earthquake; anybody want to claim it's because God is unhappy with them?

I do not believe Jesus calls his followers to stand around looking for a way to fix blame for an earthquake. We've had quite enough "pronouncements." I think he wants us to do what we can to care for all those hurting, damaged people. According to the Lord Jesus, they are our neighbors.

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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