
The Baptist Bell



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Join us on Sunday, December 13 at 5:30 pm for “A Down Home Christmas Dinner Theatre.” The meal will be catered by Hamilton’s, and while you eat, you will be entertained by some of First Baptist’s finest talent! It’s a little bit country, a little bit gospel, a little bit silly and a whole lot of family fun!

Tickets are \$7 for adults and \$5 for children 6-12; kids under 5 eat free. This Sunday, December 6, is the last day to purchase tickets—so don’t miss out!

Prayer Chain

Juanita Eastin	245-7908	or 370-6632
Mary Anthony	245-6664	
Marie Baise	245-5629	
Barb Baker	245-1431	work #
Mary Ann Birdsell	245-7490	
Diane Darnell	245-5274	
Catherine DeFrates	245-8786	
Mary Dobbs	243-2809	
Betty Ford	245-7056	
Paitra Gibson	243-9729	
Kay Glossop	473-4818	
Sis Goben	245-6204	
Judy Godfrey	473-5030	
Carolyn Heaton	243-2633	
Betty Houston	243-3796	
Janet Hayes	243-2716	
Janice Hubbs	245-6426	
Gladys Huff	587-3301	
David Huff	473-1156	
Ruth Lemon	245-1177	
Konnie Trace	473-3595	
Bob & Pat Neff	243-2607	
Bob & Toi Nicolet	243-4435	
Jean & George Shafer	243-1125	
Roanna Ripple	243-3615	or 479-7024
Phoebe Wilkins	245-9395	
Betty Moore	245-5582	
Barbara Nicholson	243-6807	
Betty Still	243-6947	
Barbara Wood	245-8747	
Eldena Walls	245-7008	
Leona Werries	245-2078	
Juanita Eastin	245-7908	or 370-6632

Thank you for being part of the prayer chain. When making calls for prayer, give the name of the person to pray for and the reason prayer is needed. You will be calling the person whose name is below your name in your chain. If that person doesn't answer, leave a message, then call the next name on the list. The chain cannot be broken so continue to call until you reach someone in person.





November 29, 2009
The Hanging of the Greens
and Nativity Play



A Letter To My Family...

Dear Loved Ones,

As you well know, we are getting closer to my birthday. Every year there is a celebration in my honor and I think that this year the celebration will be repeated. During this time there are many people shopping for gifts, there are many radio announcements, TV commercials, and in every part of the world everyone is talking that my birthday is getting closer and closer.

It is really very nice to know, that at least once a year, some people think of me. As you know, the celebration of my birthday began many years ago. At first people seemed to understand and be thankful of all that I did for them, but in these times, no one seems to know the reason for the celebration. Family and friends get together and have a lot of fun, but they don't know the meaning of the celebration.

I remember that last year there was a great feast in my honor. The dinner table was full of delicious foods, pastries, fruits, assorted nuts and chocolates. The decorations were exquisite and there were many, many beautifully wrapped gifts. But, do you want to know something? I wasn't invited. I was the guest of honor and they didn't remember to send me an invitation. The party was for me, but when that great day came, I was left outside, they closed the door in my face...

and I wanted to be with them and share their table.

In truth, that didn't surprise me because in the last few years all close their doors to me. Since I wasn't invited, I decided to enter the party without making any noise. I went in and stood in a corner. They were all drinking; there were some who were drunk and telling jokes and laughing at everything. They were having a good time. To top it all, this big fat man all dressed in red wearing a long white beard entered the room yelling HO-HO-HO! He seemed drunk. He sat on the sofa and all the children ran to him, saying: "Santa Claus, Santa Claus"... as if the party were in his honor!

At 12 midnight all the people began to hug each other; I extended my arms waiting for someone to hug me and... do you know... no one hugged me. Suddenly they all began to share gifts. They opened them one by one with great expectation. When all had been opened, I looked to see if, maybe, there was one for me.

What would you feel if on your birthday everybody shared gifts and you did not get one? I then understood that I was unwanted at that party and quietly left.

Every year it gets worse. People

only remember to eat and drink, the gifts, the parties and nobody remembers me. I would like this Christmas that you allow me to enter into your life. I would like that you recognize the fact that over two thousand years ago I came to this world to give my life for you, on the cross, to save you. Today, I only want that you believe this with all your heart.

I want to share something with you. As many didn't invite me to their party, I will have my own celebration, a grandiose party that no one has ever imagined, a spectacular party. I'm still making the final arrangements. Today I am sending out many invitations and there is an invitation for you. I want to know if you wish to attend and I will make a reservation for you and write your name with golden letters in my great guest book. Only those on the guest list will be invited to the party. Those who don't answer the invite will be left outside. Be prepared because when all is ready you will be part of my great party.

See you soon. I Love You!

JESUS

PS: Please share this message with all your friends and family before Christmas.

Stewardship & Attendance Report

	General Fund Offering	Missions Fund Offering	Special Offerings	9:00 AM Attendance	11:15 AM Attendance	Sunday School Attendance
1-Nov	\$3,186.25	\$305.00	Communion \$109.00	104	34	75
8-Nov	\$3,725.05	\$363.50		98	34	59
15-Nov	\$3,419.40	\$715.50		102	43	73
22-Nov	\$3,046.93	\$202.50		97	44	58
29-Nov	\$4,232.10	\$320.50	Thanksgiving \$353.00	98	32	58

YTD Rcpts \$	155,578.90	\$	16,820.00
YTD Need \$	163,776.00	\$	18,480.00
Difference \$	(4,232.10)	\$	(1,660.00)

Lay Leaders Schedule

	Worship Leader	Children's Church	Ushers			
6-Dec	Barb Baker	Janice Hubbs	Kay Kafer	Nita Raye Gondek	Carroll Houston	Jeff Campbell
13-Dec	Bob Nicolet	Jennifer Gaus	Roger McKinney	LaChelle Griffin	Joe Goben	Geof Griffin
20-Dec	Mike Hubbs	Melissa Walker	Chris Valentine	Greg Huckabay	Jeremy Walker	Bill Sims
27-Dec	Melanie Floyd	Janice Hubbs	Jim Hayes	Bud Birdsell	Tom Holliday	Brad Walker
4-Jan	Barb Baker	Janice Hubbs	Kay Kafer	Nita Raye Gondek	Carroll Houston	Jeff Campbell
11-Jan	Bob Nicolet	Jennifer Gaus	Roger McKinney	LaChelle Griffin	Joe Goben	Geof Griffin
18-Jan	Mike Hubbs	Melissa Walker	Chris Valentine	Greg Huckabay	Jeremy Walker	Bill Sims
25-Jan	Melanie Floyd	Janice Hubbs	Jim Hayes	Bud Birdsell	Tom Holliday	Brad Walker

DECEMBER EVENTS CALENDAR

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3 <i>Choir Practice 6:30p</i>	4	5 <i>Keenagers Trip</i>
6 <i>AWANA 5:30p ABY Sr. High 7p</i>	7 <i>Ladies' Bible Study 6:30 p</i>	8 <i>Bell Prctice 5:30p Choir Practice 6:30p Commissions 6:45p Diaconate 7:30p</i>	9	10	11 <i>Dress Rehearsal 6:30p</i>	12 <i>Dress Rehearsal 2p</i>
13 <i>A Down Home Christmas 5:30p</i>	14 <i>Ladies' Bible Study 6:30 p</i>	15 <i>Bell Practice 5:30p</i>	16	17 <i>Choir Practice 6:30p</i>	18	19
20 <i>AWANA 5:30p ABY Sr. High 7p</i>	21 <i>Ladies' Bible Study 6:30 p</i>	22 <i>Bell Practice 5:30p</i>	23	24 <i>Candlelight Service 7:30 p</i>	25 <i>OFFICE CLOSED</i>	26
27 <i>ABY Jr. High 3p ABY Sr. High 7p</i>	28 <i>Ladies' Bible Study 6:30 p</i>	29 <i>Bell Practice 5:30p</i>	30	31	<i>JAN 1 OFFICE CLOSED</i>	<i>JAN 2</i>

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
1701 MOUND ROAD
JACKSONVILLE, IL 62650

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December 2009



Shop N Share

Shop N Share is a new, on-going ministry of the Mission and Service Commission.

When you shop, buy an extra can of soup or other non-perishable item. Then bring it to church to share with those less fortunate.

All donations will be taken to the Jacksonville Food Center.

On September 9, the Free Spirits class delivered 8 bags of food and a donation of \$21 to the Food Center. Included was some fresh garden produce grown by one of our church members. We encourage our church family to continue to give generously by placing items into the shopping cart in the Narthex. Donation of money are also welcome; a donation jar is located in the cart for your convenience.



The Giving Tree

The Giving Tree has been placed in the Narthex. The ornaments/tags on the tree represent needs of families in our congregation and community. Please take a tag and incorporate these needs into your Christmas shopping trips, taking time to bless a family at this most precious time of year.