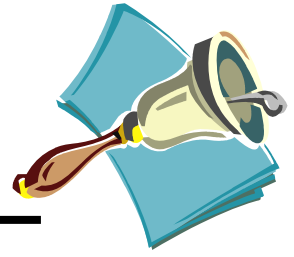

The
Baptist Bell



a d  wn · h  me

chr  stmas

Dinner Theatre

Dec 13, 5:30 pm

Tickets available soon; \$7 each

From My Heart to Yours.....

Pastor
Jim Harper



In the book of 1 Thessalonians 5:18 it tells us this, “make it a habit to thank God for everything.” That would be a great habit to have, to be thankful for everything, wouldn’t you agree? This is the month that we naturally think about the topics of gratitude and thanksgiving. Therefore, today I want to share with you many of the things that I am thankful for.

Today, I’m thankful for the **Rain**. Everyone is complaining and frustrated by weeks of rainy weather and yet without the annoying rain we usually receive in the Midwest we might look like the southwest, where drought and destruction are the theme. Yes, I’m thankful for the rain, even the water in my basement!

Today, I’m thankful for my **Church Family**. Everyday I feel your support, your love and prayers and it means the world to me.

God’s Grace – every day sin and failure are a part of my life. But God’s amazing grace gets me

through.

Our Military – Today I saw pictures of 18 of our brave soldiers, killed in action, being returned to America and their families. I am so grateful for their courage and dedication to duty.

My Big Headed Driver (golf club) – Let’s take a light-hearted break with this one. I’ve discovered that not only is God forgiving, but my big headed driver is also very forgiving. Therefore, on a tight fairway my heart is filled with gratitude as I hoist that bad boy out of my bag and get ready for a thunderous drive!

Pain – The Bible says to be thankful in all circumstances. Therefore, today I’m thankful for the shot I received at the health department. Sometimes a little pain can save us from the greater pains of life. I’m also thankful for the advances in modern medicine that save us from greater grief and misery.

Autumn Leaves – Outside my office window they are still bursting with color and I’m thankful for the joy they bring.

The USA – Yes, he have problems in America, but it’s still the greatest country on the earth and I’m proud to be a part of this great land.

My Family – Their pictures are all around and that reminds me that I love them all so much (even though I don’t tell them often enough). What an awesome nuclear family I have and as I daily pray for each one of them my heart fills with love and gratitude.

My God – Thank you Lord for your love, grace, hope and forgiveness. Your daily presence gives my life meaning and purpose.

May you have a Blessed Thanksgiving Season,

Pastor Jim

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

1701 MOUND ROAD

JACKSONVILLE, IL 62650

PHONE: (217) 245-6119

E-MAIL: FBC@FBCJAXIL.ORG OR

PASTORJIM@FBCJAXIL.ORG

WEEKLY SERVICES:

SUNDAY 9:00 AM AND 11:15 AM

SUNDAY SCHOOL 10:15 AM

FOR INFORMATION ON

BIBLE STUDY GROUPS, CHOIR, BELL CHOIR, AMERICAN BAPTIST YOUTH OR OTHER MINISTRIES, PLEASE CONTACT THE CHURCH OFFICE

OUR WEBSITE

WWW.FBCJAXIL.ORG

GREAT RIVERS REGION WEBSITE:

WWW.ABCGRR.ORG

AMERICAN BAPTIST WEBSITE:

WWW.ABC-USA.ORG

Thank you! Thank you! Thank you!

Yes, you really surprised me on Sunday morning, November 1, when you honored me for "Clergy Spouse Appreciation." Some of you are very sneaky. Thank you so much for the gift certificates. I will be able to enjoy two of my favorite activities—eating out and pampering myself at a spa. Also the Precious Moments statue is absolutely beautiful. It will be located in a place of honor in our home. And to top it off with a video greeting from our daughter Jennifer brought tears to my eyes. As I said Sunday morning, I consider you my extended family. Thanks again for your love. It is great to be part of the ministry team with Jim.

In His Service,
Lucy Harper

Thank you!

The beautiful cards, flowers, and all the love and support from my church family are most appreciated as I celebrate my 90th birthday. Thank you so much.

Betty Ford

Thank you!

We wish to thank the people of First Baptist Church for the food that was sent home with us after Carol's funeral service and also for being there for us in every way.

May God bless you,
The Loper family

*Ecumenical
Thanksgiving Eve
Service*

Wed, Nov 25, 7pm

**Central Christian
Church**

Message by: Rev. Patsy Kelly
Special Offering to benefit the
Salvation Army

Sponsored by Jacksonville Area
Conference of Churches

Thank you!

Dear Congregation, Thank you so much for cleaning out the gutters and washing windows of the Crisis Center Foundation. Volunteers from the community are vital for us to continue our efforts to help victims of domestic violence. Sincerely, Dona Leonard, Executive Director

Thank you for all the items you collected for the soldiers. We mail packages every month alternating between food and toiletries. With seventy names on our mailing list we will put all the items to good use. Your generosity is greatly appreciated. Sincerely, Celia Edwards, Franklin/Waverly Military Support Group

Thank you and all the volunteers who came to wash windows and pull weeds. It was very much appreciated. Martha Tippen

Thank you so much!

It was such a wonderful feeling on that Sunday morning. It is your group that I am thankful for—they were amazing! It was neat to see all of them helping The Club and working so hard for our local children. I hope that everyone enjoyed themselves and found that their time spent with us was rewarding. It was nice for them to see the inside of The Club as well.

Please share this list of jobs that were completed that day: deep cleaning in the cafeteria (including the refrigerator and scrubbing of the floors), deep cleaning in the kindergarten through 2nd grade classroom, deep cleaning in the 3-rd-4th grade classroom, prepped and painted south and east hallways of the building, cut and removed brush and dead tree limbs, cleaned and organized our large storage closet, children painted a bookshelf and cleaned windows and lockers, repaired edging on playground (numbers bricks were donated), hauled in dirt and filled in holes where a fence was removed, donated 30+ floor mats and table cloths, cleaned and winterized the garden, picked up the yard.

Thank you again for thinking of and selecting The Club as one of your sites for the Faith in Action program. Absolutely amazing!

Jennifer Relf, Director of Operations, Boys and Girls Clubs of Central Illinois

Health Notes

Sis Goben, RN, Parish Nurse



Office Hours: Mon 10am-3pm

Blood pressure clinics:
2nd & 4th Sunday each month

Home, nursing home and hospital visits: upon request

Contact: First Baptist 245-6119 or
Sis Goben, RN 245-6204

The Meaning of Aging

Why, you may ask, do some persons age/mature with deep patience and grace, and with wholeness and peace, while others protest, resist, or simply resign?

We live in a culture that inadvertently holds many prejudices against aging. It's not that we don't like older persons.; on an individual level we may have sustaining respect and great admiration for a particular older person. On a societal level, however, we tend to fear aging, mistrust it, and think of aging as a "thief in the night."

Our culture has yet to discover the true growth, purpose, and meaning in aging. We seem to carry around some strange, irrational notions that aging should be avoided, resisted, or pushed away... at all costs, our cultural media say, "Don't let aging happen to you!" Because we

suffer this age prejudice, we may unconsciously run from our own aging and in so doing deny ourselves the rich, living water that God offers us in our maturing years.

There's no escaping the fact that aging brings losses, it seems that we are given things only to have them taken away. Our once strong, healthy bodies will eventually let us down. Our achievements, our reasons for pride, will fade and may even lose their former luster. We will change, we will be different, and we may not like the process. I don't know too many people who can't wait to be 95! Yet loss can bring its own riches. As Sr. Joan Chittister says in her new book **The Breath of the Soul...**

"It is the pain of loss that teaches us that nothing is every lost; it is only to be found in

other ways."

I have faith that God designed aging for our greater good. In some strange and certainly paradoxical way when we experience the losses that aging brings, something is miraculously added to us. I believe that aging is a blooming, buzzing, wonderful time of renewal, growth, and personal development that rests on a foundation of ongoing faith formation.

No stage of life is more important than another; each has its unique contribution to the overall personal and spiritual health and development of us all. Yet, to capture the growth that is inherent in aging we must look at aging with new eyes, with the eyes of Christ, and see therein the truth, beauty, and goodness that await us. And then, give aging our total "yes!"



Operation Christmas Child

A PROJECT of SAMARITAN'S PURSE

Dear Friend,

Yes, it's true, a simple shoe box can make a world of difference, especially when it is an Operation Christmas Child gift-filled shoe box! For the past 15 years, the Samaritan's Purse project has brought the joy of Christmas and the Good News of Jesus Christ to millions of hurting boys and girls in over 100 countries. We would like to invite your church or group to be a part of this exciting children's outreach.

Thousands of caring people across the United States fill shoe boxes with school supplies and toys for children who have endured poverty, disease, and disaster. Many boys and girls have never celebrated Christmas and do not know that they have a Savior who loves them. During distributions, the children are offered Gospel booklets and later, local churches provide a Bible study course through a discipleship program.

There are millions of children who still have not heard about God's greatest gift. We would like to encourage you to get your family, congregation or group involved in Operation Christmas Child by packing boxes this year.

Your participation in Operation Christmas Child truly does impact lives for eternity. If you would like more information to get your church or small group started please check out the Samaritan's Purse Web site at www.samaritanspurse.org.

Last year we sent over 1200 boxes from our area churches combined. Wouldn't it be great to send even more this year? It is really easy to participate. Wrap a shoe box, fill it up with approved goodies (see list on following page) for the kids, add \$7 for shipping and drop them off at First Christian Church in Jacksonville, IL. We will take care of the rest.

The deadline for the shoe boxes to be dropped off is November 22nd. Drop off dates and times are:

Monday, 11/16/09 through Friday, 11/20/09..... 5-7pm each day

Saturday & Sunday, 11/21/09-11/22/09.....1-3pm each day

Drop off location: First Christian Church, 508 West Vandalia Road, Jacksonville, IL.

If you have any questions, please contact Julie Evans, Operation Christmas Child Coordinator at 370-1546.

How to Pack a Shoe Box Gift

1

SHOE BOX

Use an empty shoe box (standard size, please) or a small plastic container. You can wrap the box (lid separately), but wrapping is not required.

PRAY for the child who will receive your special gift.

2

BOY OR GIRL?

Determine whether your gift will be for a boy or a girl, and the child's age category: 2-4, 5-9, or 10-14. Print out the appropriate boy/girl label shown below. Mark the correct age category on the label, and tape the label to the top of your box.

3

FILL WITH GIFTS

Fill the box with a variety of gifts that will bring delight to a child.

Use the Gift Ideas List

4

INCLUDE YOUR DONATION

Please donate **\$7** or more for each shoe box you prepare to help cover shipping and other project costs.* You can give online, or you can write a check to Samaritan's Purse (note "OCC" on memo line) and place it in an envelope on top of the gift items inside your box. If you or your family are preparing more than one shoe box, please make one combined donation.

It's easy and convenient to give online.
Go to www.samaritanaspurse.org/occ.

5

DROP OFF

Place a rubber band around each shoe box and lid and drop off at the Collection Center nearest you in mid-November.

For locations and dates, call 1-800-353-5949, or visit www.samaritanaspurse.org/occ.

You can also send your shoe box gift to: Samaritan's Purse/Operation Christmas Child, 801 Bamboo Road, Boone, NC 28607



Gift Ideas:

TOYS

small cars, balls, dolls, stuffed animals, kazoo's, harmonicas, yo-yos, jump ropes, small Etch A Sketch®, toys that light up or make noise (with extra batteries), Slinky®, etc.

SCHOOL SUPPLIES

pens, pencils and sharpener, crayons or markers, stamps and ink pad sets, writing pads or paper, solar calculators, coloring and picture books, etc.

HYGIENE ITEMS

toothbrush, toothpaste, mild bar soap (in a plastic bag), comb, washcloth, etc.

OTHER

Hard candy and lollipops (please double bag all candy), mints, gum, T-shirts, socks, ball caps; sunglasses, hair clips, toy jewelry, watches, flashlights (with extra batteries)

A PERSONAL NOTE

In a separate envelope, you may enclose a note to the child and a photo of yourself or your family. (If you include your name and address, the child may write back.)

Do Not Include:

Used or damaged items; war-related items such as toy guns, knives or military figures; chocolate or food; liquids or lotions; medications or vitamins; breakable items such as snowglobes or glass containers; aerosol cans

*The suggested donation has increased due to higher shipping costs and expanded evangelistic outreach. This is the first increase since the project began 13 years ago.

Shoe Box Labels

Mark the correct age category:			BOY	
<input type="checkbox"/>	2-4 Years Old			
<input type="checkbox"/>	5-9 Years Old			
<input type="checkbox"/>	10-14 Years Old			
Mark the correct age category:			GIRL	
<input type="checkbox"/>	2-4 Years Old			
<input type="checkbox"/>	5-9 Years Old			
<input type="checkbox"/>	10-14 Years Old			

Stewardship & Attendance Report

	General Fund Offering	Missions Fund Offering	Special Offerings	9:00 AM Attendance	11:15 AM Attendance	Sunday School Attendance
20-Sep	\$ 3211.10	\$ 321.50		105	36	64
27-Sep	\$ 3296.00	\$ 1369.00		83	33	63
4-Oct	\$ 4170.61	\$ 487.50	Communion \$353_	104	40	68
11-Oct	\$ 2992.25	\$ 205.50	WMO \$1,019.62	99	43	57
18-Oct	\$ 1795.13	\$ 88.00		130 (Faith in Action)		
25-Oct	\$ 3380.11	\$ 289.00		84	51	58

YTD Rcpts \$	140,768.17	\$	14,913.00
YTD Need \$	146,716.00	\$	16,555.00
Difference \$	(5,947.83)	\$	(1,642.00)

Lay Leaders Schedule

	Worship Leader	Children's Church	Ushers			
1-Nov	Melanie Floyd	Jennifer Gaus	Kay Kafer	Nita Raye Gondek	Carroll Houston	Jeff Campbell
8-Nov	Barb Baker	Melissa Walker	Roger McKinney	Bob Neff	Joe Goben	Geof Griffin
15-Nov	Bob Nicolet	Janice Hubbs	Chris Valentine	Greg Huckabay	Jeremy Walker	Bill Sims
22-Nov	Mike Hubbs	Jennifer Gaus	Jim Hayes	Bud Birdsell	Tom Holliday	Brad Walker
29-Nov	Melanie Floyd	Melissa Walker	Bill Nichols	Jeff Jacobs	Jim Hayes	Tim Runkle
6-Dec	Barb Baker	Janice Hubbs	Kay Kafer	Nita Raye Gondek	Carroll Houston	Jeff Campbell
13-Dec	Bob Nicolet	Jennifer Gaus	Roger McKinney	Bob Neff	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

NOVEMBER EVENTS CALENDAR

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 ABY Sr. High 7p	2 Ladies' Bible Study 6:30 p	3 Bell Practice 5:30p	4	5 Choir Practice 6:30p	6	7
8 AWANA 5:30p ABY Sr. High 7p	9 Ladies' Bible Study 6:30 p	10 Bell Practice 5:30p Commissions 6:45p Diaconate 7:30p	11	12 Choir Practice 6:30p	13	14 ABY SECRET PAL DINNER
15 AWANA 5:30p ABY Sr. High 7p	16 Ladies' Bible Study 6:30 p	17 Bell Practice 5:30p	18	19 Choir Practice 6:30p	20	21
22 AWANA 5:30p ABY Sr. High 7p	23 Ladies' Bible Study 6:30 p	24 Bell Practice 5:30p	25 COMMUNITY THANKS-GIVING SVC	26 THANKS-GIVING	27 OFFICE CLOSED	28
29 ABY Sr. High 7p	30 Ladies' Bible Study 6:30 p					

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
1701 MOUND ROAD
JACKSONVILLE, IL 62650

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



The Baptist Bell

November 2009

Keenagers Will Visit Springfield Dana –Thomas House

The Keenagers will be traveling to Springfield to visit the Dana Thomas House Saturday, December 5, 2009.

We will meet at the Church parking lot at 10:00 am. Reservations are for 11:00am. There will be a \$5.00 donation taken at the door. Hopefully The House will be decorated

for Christmas. Following our visit, we will have lunch at "The Feed Store" in downtown Springfield. They specialize in Soup and Sandwiches.

Please sign up in the Narthex. We have willing drivers, don't worry about a ride.



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.