



The Baptist Bell



The Chosen Ones in concert
January 11, 2009 ~ 9:00 am

*Plan to enjoy a morning filled with
uplifting Southern Gospel music!*

From My Heart to Yours.....

Pastor Jim Harper

Are any of you ready for 2008 to end? I bet most of you are. Last year was a very difficult time for most Americans. I won't write a litany of the dark and dreary events of the last twelve months because most of us know them by heart. Some people prospered in 2008 but many more people suffered. And now a new year is before us and we wonder what events will unfold in 2009. And we have fears and anxiety about our own future and that of our family in the uncharted waters of the new year.

To face a new year with strength and determination many people will make new years' resolutions. Many of these resolutions are good ideas like weight loss, improving our finances or taking up a new hobby. But are there other resolutions for the new year that can make a bigger impact in our lives and go deeper than calories or financial balance sheets? I believe the answer is "YES!"

In the book of Galatians in the New Testament, God has given us a list of character traits that would make a wonderful set of new year's resolutions. St. Paul calls them "fruits of the spirit" and a modern Christian author explains how each one could be used in the new year. He calls them "choices" that we must make in 2009:

"I CHOOSE LOVE... No occasion justifies hatred; no injustice warrants bitterness. I choose love. Today I will love God and what God loves.

I CHOOSE JOY... I will invite my God to be the God of circumstance. I will refuse the temptation to be cynical...

the tool of the lazy thinker. I will refuse to see people as anything less than human beings, created by God. I will refuse to see any problem as anything less than an opportunity to see God.

I CHOOSE PEACE... I will live forgiven. I will forgive so that I may live.

I CHOOSE PATIENCE... I will overlook the inconveniences of the world.

Instead of cursing the one who takes my place, I'll invite him to do so. Rather than complain that the wait is too long, I will thank God for a moment to pray. Instead of clenching my fist at new assignments, I will face them with joy and courage.

I CHOOSE KINDNESS...

I will be kind to the poor, for they are alone. I will be kind to the rich, for they are afraid. And kind to the unkind, for such is how God has treated me.

I CHOOSE GOODNESS...

I will go without a dollar before I take a dishonest one. I will be overlooked before I will boast. I will confess before I will accuse. I choose goodness.

I CHOOSE FAITHFULNESS...

Today I will keep my promises. My debtors will not regret their trust. My associates will not question my word. My wife will not question my love. And my children will never fear that their

father will not come home.

I CHOOSE GENTLENESS... Nothing is won by force. I choose to be gentle.

If I raise my voice, may it be only in praise. If I clench my fist, may it only be in prayer. If I make a demand, may it only be of myself.

I CHOOSE SELF-CONTROL... I am a spiritual being... After this body is dead, my spirit will soar. I refuse to let what will rot rule the eternal. I choose self-control. I will be drunk only by joy. I will be impassioned only by my faith. I will be influenced only by God. I will be taught only by Christ. I choose self-control.

Love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. To these I commit my day. If I succeed, I will give thanks. If I fail, I will seek His grace.

And then, when this day is done, I will place my head on my pillow and rest."

Someone once said that "good resolutions are like babies crying in church. They should be carried out immediately." In 2009 let's immediately choose to embody the "fruits of the spirit" in our walk with Christ.

Happy New Year,

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.ABC-GRR.ORG

AMERICAN BAPTIST WEBSITE:

WWW.ABC-USA.ORG

Vacancy at GRR Lake Springfield Baptist Camp

Friends,

I know you all have a lot of things going on at this time of year. And I sincerely pray that you and your congregation will experience the joy and hope that the coming of Christ brings -- that is the true message of Christmas. May you preach it and celebrate it with clarity and conviction!

At the same time I must ask for your help. As I reported to you in November, the manager at Lake Springfield Baptist Camp has resigned to move to another position. Aaron & Callie will be leaving in a few weeks. At this point we do not have any prospects to replace them. For security reasons, we must have someone as soon as possible. Also, I probably don't need to remind you that the 2009 camping season will be at risk if we cannot find a Manager soon. I know this is hard work and is not well-paid. But I also know that it is seasonal work and that for 8 months out of the year the manager has a great deal of freedom when it comes to their work schedule.

If you know of someone who should consider this position, please have them contact Sharon (sharon@abcgrr.org) as soon as possible to get an application. The job description follows:

Position Title: *Manager, Lake Springfield Baptist Camp*

Specific Duties and Expectations:

1. Report directly to the GRR Executive Minister (Dwight Stinnett), and will be ultimately responsible to the GRR Ministry of Staff Relations.
2. Operate the camp within the budget limitations, policies, and guidelines established by the GRR Regional Ministry Board as interpreted and applied by the Executive Minister.
3. Insure that GRR policies and relevant state or federal laws are observed.
4. Be responsible for the state of repair and the cleanliness of the facility.

5. Promptly make repairs or report deficiencies to the appropriate GRR staff minister.

6. Prepare and execute a maintenance schedule that accommodates the scheduled usages of the

facility and anticipates the planned maintenance of buildings and equipment.

7. Submit invoices for payment and work times for compensation as required by the Executive Minister.

8. Actively promote camping among GRR churches and the rental use of the facility.

9. Actively seek funding from GRR churches for the camping program and facility maintenance, consistent with regional policies and procedures, subject to the approval of the Executive Minister.

10. Be responsible for effective and responsive on-site service.

11. Recruit and orient camp program directors for LSBC.

12. Greet program directors or rental group leaders as they arrive and review their needs and expectations.

13. Respond to the needs of program directors or rental group leaders, within the bounds of budget, GRR policies, and the law.

14. Cooperate with, but will not be responsible for, nor interfere with the programs of clients.

15. Recruit, supervise and manage all part-time or seasonal staff.

16. Supervise volunteer work crews, assuring safety and providing resources.

17. Serve as a staff member to the GRR Camp Advisory Council.

18. Maintain certification as a food handler by the State of Illinois.

19. These duties may be clarified, modified, or expanded by the Executive Minister.

Compensation and Terms:

1. This is a renewable 12-month contract, with no benefits not specifically mentioned here.

2. Employment is subject to applicable sections of the current *GRR Employment Practices and Policies*.

3. Either party may cancel this contract, with 4 weeks notice.

4. This is not considered a full-time position. However, time commitment will vary depending on the season. During the regular camping season the Manager (or designated staff) must be present on site and available. As a general rule, mid-April through mid-October is considered full-time. For the remainder of the year, approximately 10 hours of work each week is expected. During mid-October thru mid-April other employment is possible, but the schedule must be cleared by the Executive Minister.

5. Compensation will be \$14,000 for the year, which will be distributed twice a month. The Region will withhold appropriate Federal and State taxes and issue a W-2 form at the end of the year.

6. Full-time residence at Lake Springfield Baptist Camp is a condition of employment. Housing and utilities are provided as part of the contract.

7. Two weeks of vacation time may be scheduled, subject to the approval of the Executive Minister. Vacation will not be taken when camp is in session.

8. The Region will reimburse for travel, room & board, and long distance telephone calls with the submission of appropriate documentation and within the guidelines of established regional policy.

9. At the discretion of the Executive Minister, the Region will provide access to equipment, administrative support, and other resources necessary for the task.

Thank you for the cookies and the beautiful poinsettia. I appreciate your prayers and your cards and visits.

Thanks again,
Robertine Erixon

Dear Friends,

Jack and I would like to thank you for your kind gifts and prayers. The food and gift cards Janet Hayes and Sean brought to our house before Christmas have allowed us to pay some bills and provide a Christmas celebration for our family that we would not have been able to do without your help. Reaching out to us in Christian love—although many of you don't know us—shows what Christmas is all about. Please continue to keep us in your prayer, and also know that all of you are in our prayers. Thank you again from the bottom of our hearts. God bless you all.

With love,

Jack & Patty Clinton & family

Dear FBC family—

Thank you so much for your generosity throughout the year and during the Christmas season. We were overwhelmed by all the gifts, household items and food we received from the Giving Tree. Our FBC family is a blessing to us.

The Gaus family—
Joyce, Jennifer & Doug

First Baptist Church family—

Thank you so much for giving from your hearts in more ways than one. It was a joy to see the love of God for this community come alive in this season. May He return the love on you and your family. Thank you, Jacquie and Lori, for all you've done that made our 11th Annual Thanksgiving Dinner a great success. With the help of your donation we were able to serve over 100 people. Thanks again!

*LaTosha Caldwell, Director,
Spirit of Faith Soup Kitchen*

Dear First Baptist family,

I am overwhelmed with the immense love and generosity you have shown the kids and I this holiday season. From the moment I was led to First Baptist, I have felt so welcome and loved. You have helped lift my spirits and have been a tremendous source of encouragement during some very trying times. I feel so thankful to be a part of such a nurturing, accepting, loving congregation. Please accept my very deepest appreciation and gratitude for the very gracious gifts you have given to us.

Love, Renee, Olivia, Amelia and Eli Pine

Health Notes

Sis Goben, RN,
Parish Nurse



Office Hours: Mondays 10am-3pm

Blood pressure clinics: 2nd & 4th Sundays of each month in the Narthex

Home, nursing home and hospital visits: upon request

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

2009 Basic

Parish Nursing Course

A new class for Parish Nurse Training will begin March 6, 2009, at St. John's in Springfield.

If any registered nurses are interested I have the info and sign up sheets available. Please let me know if you want to attend.

Thank you,
Sis Goben, RN, Parish Nurse

Attitude is Everything

There once was a woman who woke up one morning, looked in the mirror, and noticed she had only three hairs on her head. "Well," she said, "I think I'll braid my hair today." So she did and she had a wonderful day.

The next day she woke up, looked in the mirror, and saw that she had only two hairs on her head. "H-M-M," she said, "I think I'll part my hair down the middle today." So she did and she had a grand day.

The next day she woke up, looked in the mirror and noticed that she had only

one hair on her head. "Well," she said, "today I'm going to wear my hair in a ponytail." So she did, and she had a fun, fun day.

The next day she woke up, looked in the mirror and noticed that there wasn't a single hair on her head. "YAY!" she exclaimed. "I don't have to fix my hair today!"

Attitude is everything.

~author unknown

Stewardship Report

December 2008

	General	Missions
Year-to-Date Budget Needs	\$ 190,893.00	\$ 19,635.00
Year-to-Date Receipts	\$ 176,107.17	\$ 21,987.88
Difference	\$ (14,785.83)	\$ 2,352.88

Offering:

December 7	\$4,856.25	\$1,298.50
December 14	\$3,074.59	\$294.20
December 21	\$2,019.40	\$221.50
December 28	\$9,110.95	\$436.00

Attendance:	Sunday School	9:00 AM	11:15 AM
December 7	57	113	27
December 14	69	86	30
December 21	64	136	n/a
December 28	55	98	64

JANUARY AT FIRST BAPTIST

Every Week:

Sunday—AWANA 5:30 pm

ABY Sr. High 6:00 pm

Monday—Ladies' Bible Study 6:30 pm

Tuesday—Bell Choir Practice 5:30 pm

Wednesday—Choir Practice 6:30 pm

This Month:

January 11—The Chosen Ones in concert

9:00 am only

January 13—Commission & Diaconate meetings 6:45pm and 7:30 pm

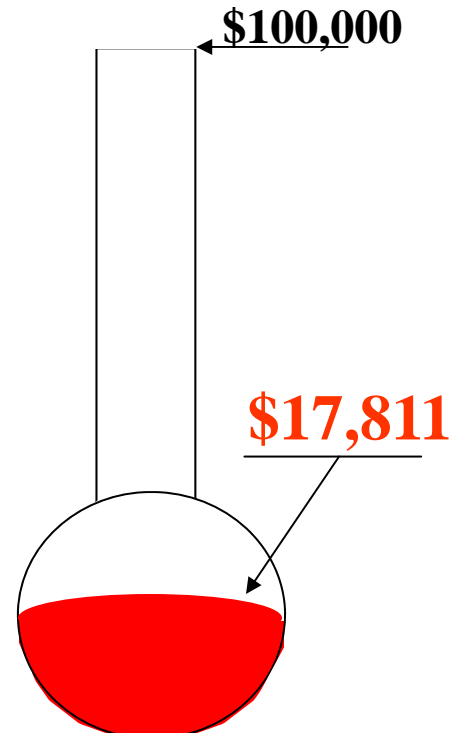
January 25—Annual Meeting of the Church
Time TBA

Lay Leaders Schedule ~ Jan & Feb 2009

Date	Ushers			
Jan 4	Kay Kafer	Nita Raye Gondek	Carroll Houston	Jeff Campbell
Jan 11	Roger McKinney	Bob Neff	Joe Goben	Geoff Griffin
Jan 18	Chris Valentine	Greg Huckabay	Jeremy Walker	Bill Sims
Jan 25	Jim Hayes	Bud Birdsell	Tom Holliday	Brad Walker
Feb 1	Kay Kafer	Nita Raye Gondek	Carroll Houston	Jeff Campbell
Feb 8	Roger McKinney	Bob Neff	Joe Goben	Geoff Griffin
Feb 15	Chris Valentine	Greg Huckabay	Jeremy Walker	Bill Sims
Feb 22	Jim Hayes	Bud Birdsell	Tom Holliday	Brad Walker

Date	Worship Leader	Children's Church	Acolyte
Jan 4	Barb Baker	Melissa Walker	Wade Berger
Jan 11	Bob Nicolet	No children's church	Brock Ripple
Jan 18	Mike Hubbs	Jennifer Gaus	Chris Barringer
Jan 25	Melanie Floyd	TBD	Wade Berger
Feb 1	Barb Baker	Janice Hubbs	Brock Ripple
Feb 8	Bob Nicolet	Melissa Walker	Chris Barringer
Feb 15	Mike Hubbs	Jennifer Gaus	Wade Berger
Feb 22	Melanie Floyd	TBD	Brock Ripple

Raise the Roof II Update



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1701 MOUND ROAD
JACKSONVILLE, IL 62650

Non-Profit Organization
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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



The Baptist Bell

Volume 16

January 2009

T I G A T E F O R S H E E P L
S D R O L F O D R O L B A I I
A A E T E R N A L J R J G J O
L U H E W H A Y A E E H E O N
D T T I N D S L A H T H M M O
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A O F N I I A V F V P M D I J
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S I I H D H H H L H O I A R D
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H L I Y A W Y L N O R N A T R
D T N E I C S I N M O T K S T

Word Search

- | | | | |
|-----------------|----------------|--------------------|----------|
| Adonai | First and Last | Light of the World | Only Way |
| Almighty | Gate for Sheep | Lion of Judah | Provider |
| Alpha and Omega | Holy Spirit | Lord of Lords | Truth |
| Authority | Jehovah Jireh | Loving | Vine |
| Bread and Wine | Jehovah Nissi | Omnipotent | Yahweh |
| Eternal | Jehovah Shalom | Omnipresent | |
| Father | Life | Omniscient | |

(After you find all the words,
use the remaining letters to spell
another word.)
