



## Missions Spotlight

### Operation Christmas Child

For our 18th year, we are preparing to share in the ministry of Samaritan's Purse . . . Better known as Operation Christmas Child.

For members of our church and our entire community, this is the time of year that we fill up a shoe box with a variety of inexpensive gifts, and donate them to a child someplace in the world that has almost nothing! We encourage people to pack the shoe box with school supplies, health aid items, (no liquids please) and toys.

On our display table in the church Narthex, there are very colorful T-Shirts available for you to put in a shoe box. We have many sizes and colors that are appropriate for the age of child you wish to send your gift . . . These T-shirts are made available by Steve Ross and Carla Earl and they are FREE if you are packing a shoe box. Steve and Carla rely on donations from individuals and Sunday School classes to purchase this special

gift and they offer them to us at no cost.

The more involved we have become with Operation Christmas Child, the more we have learned about this mission opportunity. The box that you may fill is just the beginning of a spiritual journey for millions of boys and girls. Samaritan's Purse offers a book in their own language that shares the Good News of Christ. Each child is invited to come back to the school or church and take part in a 12 week discipleship study . . . As the children come, so do their parents!!! May decisions for Christ have been made because of a shoebox filled with love.

We invite you to take an empty shoebox from our display. Take a t-shirt too!!! Follow the easy directions on the proper items for the child, and return your shoe box anytime before November 21st.

If you would like to help the Mission Board during the collection

week, please sign up on the display table. We will collect hundreds of boxes during the week of November 14-21 and we need people to receive boxes from our community.

Operation Christmas Child is a fun missionary project, and it's an important ministry for millions of children. Please join us in this Evangelistic effort.

#### Collection Week:

November 14th—21st

Volunteer and drop off hours:

Monday—Friday, November 14th—18th 12 p.m. – 6 p.m.

Saturday, November 19th 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Sunday, November 20th 8 a.m. – 12 p.m.

Monday, November 21st 8 a.m. – 10 a.m.

## Thank You Note —Pastor Isaac

---

In the Spring of 2000, while the rest of the world was still reeling from the apocalyptic impact of Y2K, I decided I would have to go to Southern Seminary. Every time we drove from Bloomington (home) down to Knoxville (school) we would cross over the Ohio river and swing around on the I69 exit until we were headed east. I remember passing exit #8 with two seminary signs. I always read the signs, one for Southern and the other some Presbyterian school, and thought about how much I did not want to go to one of them. I would also look at the trees and try to see through them to catch a glimpse of the seminary. You cannot see it from the highway, but I always looked and wondered if I would ever really go. I was planning to graduate from a Restoration Movement Bible College (for those of you who are not Campbell/Stoneites that means Christian Church/Churches of Christ) and did

so, with my Baptist Theology solidly intact. This basically made me useless to everyone and generally un-hirable.

In 2002 we left Knoxville and went back to Bloomington to allow the family to spend time with their grandchild to try to make it in the cut-throat world of Social Services. It took about 38 minutes to realize I should probably start looking for a job in a church and so in 2003 (again in the spring) I started sending out applications. I knew I would not get hired with my denominationally checkered past and was planning to apply to Southern that summer after the churches all said no. I still remember sitting in the corner class-room (formerly the Sisters class, before they painted it green) looking at nine people from a Search Committee and a video camera. One month later I moved into Autumn Woods Apartments with 2 tiny kids, a wonderful wife who was just barely not-pregnant, and no clue what I was doing. One member of the Search

Committee came up to me after I was hired officially and said, "I was not allowed to ask before, but I just can't stop wondering . . . How old are you?" Even after 8 years some things have not changed a bit.

I still hoped to continue learning and did, but not at Southern. I learned how to be a dad and a husband and a youth pastor simultaneously, which took some getting used to. After four years the church hired me again, to make sure I never suffered from the false impression that I knew what I was doing. I remember sitting in another classroom (Jesus Seekers) looking at some of the same people I had looked at the last time, but this time without the video camera. As we talked the subject of school came up again. I told them that, while my intention was to continue preaching and teaching in the church, I had always wanted to continue my education. My hope was that someday I could do both. When the committee made their recom-

mendation to the church they included an allowance for seminary classes. I was very excited at the prospect of finally enrolling in that school just off of I69, exit #8.

Two years later I was still trying to figure out how to be a dad (whose children were growing exponentially) a husband and a pastor. The thought of taking on a class on top of everything else was very daunting and one that still seemed beyond reach. It was then that the opportunity to use my education money in a different way arose. The trip to Israel was a completely unexpected blessing, one that would not have been possible without the allowance provided by the church. I knew that I would learn a lot but I had no idea how much. I can picture and describe the places that I am preaching about better than ever before. I am confident that this experience will continue to impact me as a pastor for my entire life, as it has impacted the others who were able to go.

Now, in October of 2011, I am about half way through my first seminary class (FINALLY!). I am taking Intro to Church History I, from the distance learning center at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary. This is certainly not how I expected to get my education, but I am so very grateful. God has worked in my life already through the course and I am sure he will use the coming years to continue to change and grow me. I am so grateful for the encouragement and support of the church making this class and the ones to come possible. I am also thankful for the church allowing me to use this gift for other educational opportunities, like the trip to Israel. I am also thankful for a wonderful wife who encourages and supports me, even in doing things that take me away from the family (to the other side of the world, or a few extra hours every week) which she knows are very important. This is really just a long thank-you note for one

specific way that the church has blessed me. I could go on to list the many ways that I am thankful for all of you, but this is one that really stands out to me right now (probably because I have to go write a paper about Augustine in a few minutes). I thank God for his work in my life through you. I am thankful to be your pastor, thankful to be my wife's husband, thankful to be my kid's dad, and thankful to be a child of God. O how He loves us! (I want to apologize to my mom for departing from her thank-you-note format which she ingrained to all of us as kids. "Dear So and So, Thank them for what they gave you. Tell them how you used it. Thank them again. Sincerely, your name." I hope this still counts even though I did not follow the rules.)

## Passion Groups—November 21st

### Reminder: Beef & Boards

“It’s a  
Wonderful  
Life”

Tuesday,  
November  
15th

We will  
leave the  
church at  
5:30 pm

We will re-  
turn around  
11:00 pm

10:00 am at Marge  
Hughes’ Home  
1473 W Deer Cliff Drive  
362-1394

7:00 pm at Pat Snow’s  
home 152 East 150 South  
362-6919

These study groups meet  
on the third Monday of  
the month in a home to  
share fellowship and to  
encourage each other.  
Marge Hughes is teaching  
on a Max Lucado book, **A  
Love Worth Giving.**

**Please feel free to come  
any time that works for  
you, you will be blessed!**



## Edna Martin Circle—November 8th

The American Baptist Women’s Edna Martin Circle will meet Tuesday, November 8th, at 9:00 am in Fellowship Hall with Linda Graham hosting. Marilyn Peterman will present our study on Leah; study scriptures are Genesis 29-35 and Ruth 4:11. Linda Graham will also present a film on our local Meals on Wheels program which is under the umbrella of Christian Nursing Service – a local mission outreach of First Baptist Church.

Our Community Outreach Opportunity for the month of November is food items for the FISH Food Pantry. The Pantry is very low at this time.

We hope to supply some items for Thanksgiving dinner as well other needed items: canned yams or sweet potatoes, brown sugar, white sugar, flour, canned pumpkin, canned pumpkin pie filling, chicken broth, noodles, canned chicken, pudding, cereal, soups, crackers, peanut butter, canned meats, pasta, and canned fruits and vegetables – especially green beans. Our church family is invited to join us in this outreach opportunity. Please leave your donations in the grocery cart in the church narthex.

We will also be receiving a monetary donation for our December

Outreach Opportunity at the November meeting. This will be used to provide Christmas gifts for some children in our community.

Please join with us - our Circle is open to any woman in our church who has a heart for missions, wishes to participate in learning more about the ministry of American Baptist Women, and desires to share in Christian fellowship with other women. You may phone Mary Jane Porter, 362-6687, for further information



*Looking  
Ahead  
December  
6th  
Christmas  
Aglow*

## Library

---

### Help

We are missing "The Screw Tape Letters" on CD. If you borrowed it and forgot to leave the card, please return it to the Library. There are others waiting to check it out and listen to it.

### Coming Soon

Books for Pastor Jeff's reading club will soon be added to the library to be checked out.

#### **FBC Book Club 2012**

*Desiring God*  
*Gilead*  
*The Unquenchable Flame*  
*The Valley of Vision*  
*Basic Christianity*

*Here I Stand: A Life of Martin Luther*

*The Sword*

*Calvin's Institutes: Abridged Edition*

*Total Church*

*The Confessions of Saint Augustine*

*A Praying Life*

*The Great Divorce*

## Guiding Light—October

---

The month of October, we are studying the ten commandments. The children are learning to base their lives on these commandments.

I still have openings in the Four Year Old class if you know of anyone looking for childcare. I also have one opening in the infant room. We are offering a new computer class to the Five Year Old class. Every other Tuesday a company called Compuchild comes to the daycare and teaches the children

computer skills. We are asking anyone in the church to sponsor a child. The cost is \$8 per child and this will help compensate the cost to the parents. If you could help us in this way please let me know.

We had many fun activities this month. We went to the pumpkin patch. We also had a fireman come in his fire truck and talk to us about it. BIG THANKS to Ken Barclay for coming and giving us a hayride! All the kids loved it!

### Financial information:

We are currently helping staff children and families in the community with assistance from the scholarship fund.

Continuing to serve,

Julie and the Guiding Light Staff



**GLCCM  
Christmas  
Program  
December  
12th**



---

## Notes from the Congregation

---

FBC Church Family,  
We would like to take this opportunity to thank all of our First Baptist Church family for your concern, support, prayers, phone calls, cards and planter before dad's surgery (Floyd Lee) and after his passing. Dad has a huge influence on his family members and an impact on those who knew him. He had a passion for people and loved to share the Gospel with his other Gideon brothers. We had a great celebration of life at his funeral and we appreciate the Christian example he set for us all. He was truly one of a kind.  
In Christian Love,  
Jim & Rhonda Lee

**Dear First Baptist Church,  
Thank you for your support following the death of our daughter, Ashley Pool Scott. Though many of you may never have know her, your Lafayette, Indiana Baptist brothers and sisters provided years of loving comfort to Ashley. She came to understand faith because she was accepted and loved in spite of her physical and emotional challenges.  
We thank you for your kindness.  
Dan & Maria Pool**

Dear Church Family,  
Thank you for the flowers and support during these trying times. God bless all of you.  
June Holt and family

**Dear Friends,  
Thanks so much for your monetary gift. What a blessing. Our students have so many needs and you gift is so special.**

**Sincerely, Rita Stull, RN  
Southmont High School**

AB Women's Day

Thank you Georgia and all of the many ladies who helped to make this a great day. There were so many positive comments throughout the day. It is a privilege to serve the Lord with this great Family of God!

Pat Snow

**First Baptist Family,  
What a blessing you have been to us. Your love, support, gifts and cards through the month of October have been so kind. We appreciate the opportunity to serve such a supportive congregation. May you have a blessed holiday season.**

**Isaac, Jeff, Linda, Marge, Julie, and Cathleen**

## November Calendar

**1 Hands & Hearts 5:30**  
**6 Church Pitch—in noon**  
**Budget proposal—Elections 6:00**  
**8 Edna Martin Circle 9:00**  
**GLCCM Meeting 5:00**  
**Board of CE 6:30**  
**13 Cabinet Meeting 6:00**  
**14 Choir Rehearsal 6:00**  
**16 Last Wednesday Bible Study for 2011**  
**20 Budget Approval 6:00**  
**21 Passion Groups**  
**24 Thanksgiving—Office & GLCCM Closed**  
**25 Office & GLCCM Closed**  
**27 Deacon Meeting 6:00**  
**28 Assemble Newsletter**  
**30 Choir Rehearsal 6:00**  
Weekly  
**Tuesdays: Staff Meeting 10; Vision of Praise 6:30**  
**Thursdays: Exercise Class 5:30 & Grapevine**  
**Dancers 7:00**

## Sympathies & Prayer Requests

Christopher Blickenstaff— recovering from surgery	Anna Templton— fractured neck
Jean Keys—recovering from surgery	Tony—internal bleeding
Fred Earl—heart cath	Don Avery—brain surgery
Betty Craft—broken hip	Marge Hughes—back and leg pain
Helen Shull—brain surgery	Mary Bray—health
Morris Davis—liver cancer	Ralph Anderson— recovering from surgery
Jim Lee—gallbladder surgery	<b>Our deepest sympathy to the families of:</b>
Tom Gourley—spinal injections	Fred Whitaker
Charlene Arola—wrist surgery	Richard Bennett

## November Birthdays & Anniversaries

1 Mary Bray	13 Rachel Sands	26 Kristi Strickland
2 Kendra Lee	15 John Sands	Maddie Utterback
Brian Veach	16 Ann Brewer	Ally Strickland
3 Nina Gable	Wanda Smith	27 Wayne Tate
Abigail Veach	17 Joan Brooks	Pat Seale
4 Carolina Salter	Curtis Calder	28 Marilyn Meese
5 Denise Cochren	Jeanette Miles	<u>ANNIVERSARIES</u>
McKenzie Thornburg	20 Cheryl Cox	14 Dave & Lesa Henderson
7 John Strickland	Roger Kenny	17 Jim & Rhonda Lee
8 Toni McKinney	21 Ed Furr	18 Malcolm & Julie Mitchell
10 Bill Carpenter	Sandi Hutson	19 David & Carolyn Christensen
Gary Duncan	Paul Salter	29 Vern & JoAnn Taylor
Jeffrey Fry	24 Wayne Smith	30 Clarence & Phyllis Radcliff
12 Jeff Strickland	Clarence Radcliff	
Sarah Zull	25 Evelyn White	