

Merry Christmas from the FBC Staff!



L-R: Joe Marchetti, Rev. Nathan Lyon, Dr. Jim Cooley, Cyndy James, Dr. Rich Hutchens, Nancy Chesser, Dr. Joe Hopkins, Kellie Kema, Ron Farms, Melvin Robertson

DECEMBER SPECIAL EVENTS CALENDAR

December 4	Senior Adult Luncheon	Fellowship Hall	11:30am
December 4	Hanging of the Green	Sanctuary	5:00pm
December 6	WMU General Meeting	Fellowship Hall	10:30am
December 11	Missions Speaker John Brady	Sanctuary	10:15am
December 11	<i>Messiah</i>	Sanctuary	5:00pm
December 11	Reception	Fellowship Hall	6:00pm
December 12	Finance Committee Meeting	Room 152	6:00pm
December 18	Community Caroling		5:00pm
December 23	Church Office Closed		
December 24	Christmas Eve Candlelight Service	Sanctuary	5:00pm
December 25	Christmas Morning Service	Sanctuary	10:15am
December 26	Church Office Closed		

2209 Lakeshore Drive
Birmingham, AL 35209



MENU

December 7
TACO BAR!

December 14
Classic Beef Lasagna with
Green Beans, Garlic Bread,
Salad Bar, & Desserts

*There will be no Wednesday
meals, services, or activities
on December 21 & December
28. There will be no evening
service on Christmas Day.*

WEEKLY CALENDAR

Sunday

8:45am Library Open
9:00am Sunday School
10:15am Morning Worship Service
4:00pm Handbell Choir - 164
4:45pm Library Open
5:00pm The Gathering - 168
5:00pm Children's Bible Drill - G02

Wednesday

10:30am Library Open
11:00am Prayer Service & Lunch - FH
5:00pm Family Supper - FH
5:30pm Library Open
6:00pm Prayer Service - FH
6:00pm Choir Rehearsal - 168
6:00pm Children's Activities - G02
6:00pm Youth Ministry - 271

OUR STAFF

Dr. Jim Cooley
Pastor
205-901-3218

Dr. Rich Hutchens
Associate Pastor
205-401-0605

Dr. Joe Hopkins
Minister of Music

Rev. Nathan Lyon
Youth Minister & Music
Ministry Associate
334-301-8607

Cyndy James
Pastoral Administrative
Assistant

Nancy Chesser
Financial Assistant

Kellie Kema
Ministry Assistant

**Melvin Robertson
& Ron Farms**
Custodians

Like our page at facebook.com/firstbaptistbirmingham

Live stream our sermons: fbcirmingham.org/live
Archives: www.ustream.tv/channel/fbc-birmingham-worship

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY GLORIA WHITLOCK

This has been a blessed two months. We enjoyed visiting our Sunday School towns in Eat and Treat. Thanks to all of you who worked so hard to make this such a fun activity for our children. Somehow it seemed that the adults had more fun than the children!

In October, Emily Owen trusted Christ as her Lord and Savior, and on November 20, we all witnessed her baptism. This was a special day in her life.

As a church family, we filled 91 Samaritan's Purse boxes. Somewhere a child will be thrilled as they open your box at Christmas. We appreciate Jana Flint for checking and delivering the boxes.



The Baptist Children's Home ministers to many foster families. Be sure and pick up the name of a child so your gifts will make them have a Merry Christmas. If you have any questions, call Amy Snow or the church office. This is just another way we can show our love.

In all of these activities, it shows the love that this sweet fellowship has for each other and others. Aren't we grateful to be a part of God's incredible work through FBC?

WMU

General Meeting

Tuesday, December 6, 10:30am - FH

This is the Lottie Moon season when we emphasize and recognize International Missions and missionaries. Dr. Hutchens brings to our final meeting of 2016 International Mission Board missionary Hannah Hughes. We are very pleased to have Hannah as our speaker this December. She was born and raised in Albany, Georgia, and went on to Shorter University in Rome, Georgia. There she got a degree in Early Childhood Education. After graduating, the Lord called her to overseas missions. She served as a Journeyman through the International Mission Board in Ethiopia for two years. During her time in Ethiopia she had two main roles: women's ministry and home school teaching. Now that Hannah is back in the States, she is substitute teaching and waiting for a full-time teaching position to become available.



A WORD FROM OUR ASSOCIATE PASTOR DR. RICH HUTCHENS

November was an exciting time of working our way through Handel's *Messiah*, looking deeply into many of the Old Testament texts prophesying the coming of the King. We are all anticipating the combined choir performance on December 11th as music and text are wedded in what is, perhaps, the most celebrated oratorio of the Christmas season.

Added to this focus on Messiah's coming is another December 11th event, the receiving of our Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for 2016. This year we are privileged to have John Brady, Vice President for Engagement for the International Mission Board as our morning speaker. John and Jenny have been with the board since the early 90's, and John himself is a "missionary kid" having grown up in Guyana, South America. John began his mission work in North Africa, eventually becoming the Strategy Leader for all of North Africa and the Middle East (NAME). Under his leadership several seminal projects have taken off, such as Operation Northern Lights (massive distribution in the port city of Marseilles, France) and the Guttenberg II project, culminating in the production of *The Savior*. We are pleased to welcome John to our pulpit and want to encourage everyone to be praying for him as he brings God's message and for ourselves as we give to our Lottie Moon goal of \$60,000.



FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK DR. JIM COOLEY

December...

...is one of the best and busiest seasons of the year. It is a month filled with shopping for perfect gifts, spending time with family and people you love, and making time for those special traditions that are unique to your family. It is the season of Christmas music and decorations of all kinds wherever you look.

That is the holiday season. Most of all Christmas is a holy-day season. It is the time to remind ourselves of the greatest gift the world has ever been given. "Behold! I bring you good news of great joy that will be to all people. Born to you this day in the city of David a Savior Who is Christ the Lord."

This year we have special opportunities to worship Christ the Lord:

- Through our participation in all of the worship services of the season. There is no better time to invite people you love to join you for worship.
- The Hanging of the Green service that will take place on December 4 during the evening service.
- The presentation of the majestic *Messiah* on December 11.
- Christmas Eve Communion, one of our most reverent worship opportunities
- Christmas Day Celebration on Sunday, December 25. This will be a 10:15 service only – no Sunday School. Children are welcome to come in their pajamas.

Remember that Christmas is also the season of the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering. We look forward to bringing our offerings on December 11, when John Brady will bring our Missions Message. Our goal this year is \$60,000. Be sure you are ready to participate sacrificially that the world may know that Jesus is Lord.



NOTES ON MINISTRY DR. JOE HOPKINS



This season is a great time for music ministry at FBC. We invite you and encourage you to invite friends and family to several upcoming opportunities in worship.

December 4, 5:00pm - The Hanging of the Green

Featuring choirs (all ages), instrumental ensembles, and soloists along with readers from our church family.

December 11, 5:00pm - Messiah

Presented by the combined choirs and orchestra of Raleigh Avenue Baptist, Homewood Cumberland Presbyterian, and First Baptist Church. The service will be followed by a reception in the Fellowship Hall.

December 18, 5:00pm - Community Caroling

Join us as we spread Christmas cheer to those who cannot meet us at the church.

December 24, 5:00pm - Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

YOUTH NATHAN LYON

Thank you for your support of the young people during the Thanksgiving Dinner on November 20. Your generous "tips" will serve to support them in upcoming mission opportunities this summer. That reminds me of the words of Paul in Ephesians 4 when he refers to the church as "one body." On Wednesday nights, we have recently discussed the role of the youth group in the church. We learned it should not be a group separated from the rest of the body, but should be a group that is fully engaged in the church, its ministries, and its mission. We have seen musical evidence of this with the recent participation of the youth in choir, handbells, and orchestra. The youth have been challenged to actively seek to meet and learn from the life experiences of you. This month, I challenge you to find ways to get to know the youth, find opportunities to begin mentoring, and to share your life lessons of faith with them. Merry Christmas and God bless.

