

*First Baptist Church*  
 1325 Chatburn Ave.  
 Harlan, IA 51537  
**The Extender**  
**Mailed January 5, 2010**

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**From The Pastor's Desk**

Why do we persist in our efforts to fool God? It is a question which is heavy on my mind, and to which I can find no simple answer.

I have an acquaintance who has asked me to be his accountability partner. He visits with me regularly and we talk about what is going on in our lives and how we are handling those things.

It has become clear that this man is not telling me the truth about what is going on in his life. He is in a difficult situation, but he is not being honest with me when he asks me to help him find an answer in God's Word.

I have to admit I am not schooled as a counselor, nor would I be the best even if I was. I have total and complete confidence in God. If I need an answer, I go to God. If I need repentance, I go to God. If I don't get an answer that I understand, I go back to God. That is my answer to all situations, no matter what.

I believe there is nothing He doesn't see and understand, because I believe He allows or makes all things to happen.

"Believe" is the key word here. I don't understand (I am praying to God to help me understand) how someone can purport to believe in God; the God of the Bible, and not get it - not believe that He is always there; knows all things; and, is always in control.

Does this man believe that he gets some kind of points for not being truthful with me, that God doesn't know he's lying, because I don't know.

He knows that my advise to him is based solely on God's Word, so how can I give him straight answers when I have been given crooked questions?

My dear brothers and sisters in Christ, it is time to get a clue about who God is. If you are playing a game with Him; pretending to believe and follow Him, that is all it is - a game. And, it is a game you are playing alone. God is not playing games. He has too much invested, namely the body and blood of His Son, Jesus, to fool around with you.

If you can fool yourself into believing that God is just kidding about knowing all and seeing all, and really isn't going to hold you accountable for things you do wrong, because you think you can hide them from him, you will suffer the consequences of eternal damnation. Get a clue. BELIEVE!

Pastor

**SERVICE TIMES & HELPERS**

January 10, 2010

**8:00 - CONTEMPORARY WORSHIP**

**NFH Greeters:** David & Patricia Stremmer  
**East Doors:** Harold Edrington  
**Nursery :** Jeff & Shelli Larson  
**Next Week:** Jeff & Emily Hundt  
**Ushers:** Mike & Lori Weisenborn family

**9:15 - SUNDAY SCHOOL FOR YOUTH**

**ADULT PRAYER TIME IN NFH**

**9:30 - SUNDAY SCHOOL FOR ADULTS**

**10:30—TRADITIONAL WORSHIP**

**Greeters:** Rowly & Deb Burton  
**Nursery :**  
**Next Week:** Les & Deb Outhouse  
**Ushers:** Keith Fiscus, Kent Morgan, Dean Bartelson, and Dave Outhouse

**UPDATE YOUR INFORMATION**

As we begin the new year, this is the perfect time to check over your personal contact information and make sure it is up-to-date. Do we have your correct address, phone number (including cell), email address, etc...

**FOR THE RECORD**

January 3, 2010

<b>Sunday School</b>	43
<b>Previous Sunday</b>	77
<b>Morning Worship -8:00... 112</b>	<b>10:30... 110</b>
<b>Previous Sunday - 8:00... 66</b>	<b>10:30... 66</b>
<b>Morning Worship A Year Ago</b>	218
<b>Sunday School</b>	71

**TITHES & OFFERINGS**

January 3, 2010

<b>2009 Budgeted Gen. Fund</b>	\$5,875.25
<b>General Fund Offering</b>	\$4,486.00
<b>Missions</b>	\$170.00
<b>RMMO</b>	\$50.00
<b>Memorials</b>	\$700.00
<b>Window Treatments</b>	\$64.64

### PRAYER CONCERNS:

- Bob Burton
- Eldora Peterson
- Geraldine Hansen
- Lori Fast (Lucille Paulsen's granddaughter)
- Pastoral Search
- BYF Ministry
- Our sister churches in Latvia
- Crystal Pash
- Viola Waddell
- Darlene Blakely
- June Schleimer's Aunt Bonnie
- New Deacons
- Our troops
- SCCO

### THANK YOU FOR THE POINSETTIAS

- Dan & Heidi Lotenschtein & Family, and Helen Warren, in memory of Pastor Jim Warren.
- Vera Stewart & Family, in memory of Dave Stewart.
- Phil & Jennifer Perkins, in memory of Harry & Connie Perkins.
- Steve & Michelle Mores, in memory of Irene Mores.
- Steve & Michelle Mores, in memory of Bernadine White.
- Mike & Lori Weisenborn & Family, in memory of Greg Weisenborn.

You may pick up your Poinsettia at your convenience.

### TO MY CHURCH FAMILY

I wish to thank you all very much for your kindness extended to me during my recent hospital stay. I so appreciated the cards and food that were sent but most of all your prayers and your caring. Crystal Pash

### SUPER BOWL XLIV

Super Bowl XLIV is on Sunday, February 7, 2010 and you're invited to the game on the big screen in the New Fellowship Hall. Pastor Manning and Jodie (Jodie says she is not coming unless Dallas is playing) will provide the hot-dogs, popcorn and other goodies and it's all free. Mark your calendar now and bring the whole

### ANNUAL REPORT DUE

The 2010 Annual Report will be compiled this month. The deadline for reports is January 15. Reports are due from all Diaconate division leaders including Moderator, Church Clerk, as well as BYF and Sunday School leaders and teachers. Reports do not need to be long, just a summary of what has gone on in your area of the ministry in 2009 of interest to the church family. What a neat way to share the excellent ministry going on in this church! Reports can be emailed to the church office at [baptist@fbcharlan.org](mailto:baptist@fbcharlan.org).

### THIS WEEK'S CALENDAR

#### **Monday**

- 6:00 am - Promise Keepers Bible Study
- 6:30-8:00 pm - No Griefshare
- 7:00-9:00 pm - No Fresh Start

#### **Tuesday**

- 2:00 pm - Serendipity Adult Bible Study in Seeker's classroom

#### **Wednesday**

- 5:30 - 8 pm - BYF

#### **Thursday**

- 6:00 - Worship Team in NFH

### MINISTRY INVOLVEMENT

Are you involved in a ministry at FBC Harlan? It's not so much that we need your help (although) we do, it is that God wants you involved. Don't be an "Arm Chair Christian." Here are some of the ministries in which you might serve:

- Music - Vocal and Instrument
- Technical - Web, Video, Audio, Service Prep
- Children's Education - Sunday School, BYF, Children's Church, VBS
- Adult Education - Sunday School, small groups, special classes and events.
- Visitation - Home, Hospital, Nursing homes
- Hospitality - Kitchen, Greeting
- Library -

### JANUARY ANNIVERSARIES

- 1-9-76 Jim & Cindy Heilesen
- 1-22-50 Stanley & Joan Martens

### JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

- 1-2-51 Mary McCumber
- 1-2-54 Michael Cain
- 1-2-96 Taylor Fah
- 1-4-57 Bryan Greve
- 1-4-91 Matthew Nanninga
- 1-5-73 Leasa Brouillard
- 1-7-93 Kathleen Sorensen
- 1-8-60 Susan Sorensen
- 1-8-75 Bethany Hester
- 1-10-54 Nancy Sorensen
- 1-10-63 Howard Lansman
- 1-12-83 Jeremy Walker
- 1-14-61 Tara Knudsen
- 1-15-58 Karla Berndt
- 1-15-86 Matt McDermott
- 1-15-02 Samuel Andersen
- 1-16-55 Janet Swensen
- 1-17-43 Luetta Moore
- 1-17-03 Griffin Schleimer
- 1-17-71 Tony Vis
- 1-18-44 Judy Zea
- 1-19-60 Mike Weisenborn
- 1-20-59 Lori Svendsen
- 1-24-47 Cindy Heilesen
- 1-24-91 Austin Kolbe
- 1-26-06 Lincoln Clays
- 1-27-61 Ron French

**The purpose of the First Baptist Church is to bring people to Jesus and to develop them to Christ-like maturity.**