

First Baptist Church

1325 Chatburn Ave.

Harlan, IA 51537

**The Extender**

Mailed November 24, 2009

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Harlan, IA 51537

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### From The Pastor's Desk

I started to list the things I was thankful for this year and to share them with you in the hopes that it would spur you on to consider the things for which you are thankful. I actually wrote a couple of things down before realizing that my list was so superficial and Worldly. I thought, "If I share this list with the Church it will not only show how carnal I am, but lead them to think it is alright to be carnal themselves."

I will not share that list with you, but I do confess my carnal heart. The things I started to write down were all gifts *from* God, but not *of* God. What I mean is, all things come from God, so He deserves the gratitude for them, no matter what they are. But the things that are *of* God are those which are necessities or in some way help us to grow in our love for Him and His people.

And they are not always things I would consider good or even pleasant. Do I ever fall on my knees and say to our Heavenly Father, thank you for trouble meeting this month's electric bill? Or, thank you Lord, that my heart feels as if it is breaking because my younger sister had cancer most of her life and finally succumbed to it at only 50 years old? Have I ever prostrated myself before the God of the Universe and said how thankful I was for the learning and growth I experienced when my 4 year old godchild, Danielle, died when her house burned down?

I know the Lord puts these things before us, or allows them to happen, for a glorious purpose. It is not something I just preach on Sunday morning, but I don't often *thank Him for them*. I have, however, broken down in tears and offered up prayers of thanksgiving to Him when I got a great job I had wanted and been asking for. I have been struck speechless and truly humbled myself before Him when He allowed me to be cast in a movie or a play that I wanted for the wrong reason in the first place.

Lord, thank you for not giving me what I deserve. Help me to be truly thankful for everything you give me, the good and the bad, the pleasant and the hurtful, but most of all the sublime - Your Son Jesus, my Christ.

### SERVICE TIMES & HELPERS

November 29, 2009

#### 8:00 - CONTEMPORARY WORSHIP

**NFH Greeters:** Adam & Anne Chipman  
**East Doors:** Olie Pash  
**Nursery**  
**Attendants:** Brad & Kathleen Sorensen  
**Next Week:** Rich & Mary Freml  
**Ushers:** Jeff & Karla Hundt

#### 9:15 - SUNDAY SCHOOL FOR YOUTH ADULT PRAYER TIME IN NFH

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

#### 10:30—TRADITIONAL WORSHIP

**Greeters:** Bryan & Janice Greve  
**Nursery**  
**Attendants:** Jim and Jane Jensen  
**Next Week:** Cherie Eckhoff  
**Ushers:** Myron Sorensen, James Nelson,  
Norm Mathiasen and Fred Nelson

### CHURCH DIRECTORY

Go to [www.fbcharlan.org](http://www.fbcharlan.org)  
Click on "Members Only"  
The username is: **harlan**  
The password is: **baptist**  
Click on "Submit"

### FOR THE RECORD

November 22, 2009

<b>Sunday School</b>		94
<b>Previous Sunday</b>		100
<b>Morning Worship -8:00...</b>	97	<b>10:30...</b> 79
<b>Previous Sunday - 8:00...</b>	100	<b>10:30...</b> 97
<b>Morning Worship A Year Ago</b>		229

### TITHES & OFFERINGS

November 22, 2009

<b>2009 Budgeted Gen. Fund</b>	\$5,875.25
<b>General Fund Offering</b>	\$2,738.39
<b>Missions</b>	0
<b>Capital Improvement</b>	\$6,247.00

## THIS WEEK'S CALENDAR

### **Monday**

6:00 am Promise Keepers Bible Study  
6:30-8:00 pm Grief Share in the Library  
7:00-9:00 pm Fresh Start - Sr.High Rm.

### **Tuesday**

2:00 pm - No Serendipity Adult Bible Study

### **Wednesday**

No BYF (Thanksgiving)

### **Wednesday, Thursday & Friday**

Office will be closed Wednesday, Thursday and Friday for Thanksgiving.

## OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

Collection for the Operation Christmas Child shoeboxes ended Sunday and it was a wonderful sight to see all those boxes being loaded out of the office and into a car to be mailed to deserving youngsters all over the world in time for Christmas. Well done Church!

### THANKSGIVING OFFERING

As we heard in church Sunday, you have given over \$20,000 dollars above and beyond your normal tithe to pay for the improvement projects on the church and parsonage. We anticipated borrowing about \$75,000 to do the project, but due to your faithfulness have borrowed nothing so far against our line of credit.

There are just a few more days left in November to prayerfully consider your participation. It is possible, if we continue to give during this Thanksgiving season, that we will not have to borrow anything. For that to happen we will all have to examine our hearts and our pocketbooks closely, but it is possible.

Please designate Thanksgiving offering or Improvement Project on your offering check. If you have any questions contact Corey Sorensen or Joel Berndt.

### PRAYER CONCERNS:

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

### **2009 CHRISTMAS PROGRAM**

Adventures in Odyssey

The Sunday School Christmas Program this year is based on an episode of Adventures in Odyssey and includes all of our SS children (age 2-HS) in some wonderful way. We certainly hope that you will join us on Sunday, December 20th when there will be one combined service at 10 a.m. with the theme "Peace On Earth".

In keeping with Pastor Roger's "Feed the Sheep", since December 20th is the third Sunday, please remember to bring a canned good or supply as your "ticket" to get in. (This item will also be used in our program so don't forget!!)

In the meantime, here are some items we are in need of for the play, if you could PLEASE bring 1-2 empty boxes already wrapped (in Christmas paper) to the church by December 6th. (We will take the food and/or wrapped boxes early). Also we are looking for big HUGE round black glasses for "Eugene" and a fake white mustache for "Whit".

Details on the luncheon to follow the Christmas program will be coming soon.....keep watching.

For more details please contact June Schleimer at 712-764-3527 or [celebr8@metc.net](mailto:celebr8@metc.net).

### THANK YOU CHURCH

A big thank you to the members of First Baptist Church for all of the cards, notes, pictures, and visits in remembrance of Darlene Blakely's 93rd birthday! You all lifted her spirits! God bless you !!

Sincerely,

Darlene Blakely and Family

### WHITE CROSS

Thank you so much to everyone for helping to fulfill our White Cross quota by furnishing all the items that were requested for the Christian center in Billings, Montana. I appreciate the congregation of First Baptist so much for all you have helped with in accomplishing our missions projects for the American Baptist Women. I am very grateful for your generous response to each request that we make for the mission work. Thanks much. Marie Arentson, White Cross chairman

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