

First Baptist Church

1325 Chatburn Ave.

Harlan, IA 51537

The Extender

Mailed December 1, 2009

Non-Profit Organization

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Harlan, IA 51537

Permit #95

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From The Pastor's Desk

It is the season for remembering. We spent last week in thanksgiving for all the people and things in our lives which bless us everyday.

Now we head into a season set aside for remembering and thanksgiving for the greatest blessing of all, the birth of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

Our children and some of our most dedicated and devoted adults are preparing a special celebration in honor of our redeemer for a combined service on December 20th.

When I think of the birth of Christ, it always reminds me that we too had a birth - many of us had a second one, and we will all have another.

You see, we are born into this world just like Christ. And we have the opportunity to be born again when we accept the Holy Son of God as our Savior. That is our second birth.

When my younger sister died of cancer at the age of 52 it occurred to me that she had then been born into another, totally different life; an eternal life with the Father in Heaven. Each year, at this time, I celebrate birth of Jesus and the re-birth of Marcy who went to live with God just two days before Christmas. They are celebrating their birthdays together in Heaven next month while I celebrate them down here. Is that cool or what?

Something else that is extremely cool is that First Baptist Church of Harlan will be celebrating those birthdays along with at least two others in our own church family. On December 13th, in the second service, we will celebrate the baptism of two young people who have given their lives to the Lord. One has been baptized by sprinkling and the other never baptized at all. Both are now saved and want to share their faith in the saving grace of our Father with their family and friends in this symbolic ceremony of new birth.

I hope others who would like to do so will contact us as soon as possible so they may be included as well. And I hope those who normally are in the first service will at least come to the first few moments of the second service just to share this wonderful, once-in-a-life-time moment with us. What a great time for the whole church body to be together in brotherly love and celebration.



SERVICE TIMES & HELPERS

December 6, 2009

8:00 - CONTEMPORARY WORSHIP

NFH Greeters: Dr. Don & Laurel Klitgaard
East Doors: Cherie Eckhoff
Nursery: Rich & Mary Freml
Attendants: Joel & Karla Berndt
Next Week: Gaige & Heather Knudson family
Ushers: *Harold Edrington, *Dave Pedersen,
Communion: Joel Berndt, Ken Shetler
Servers:

9:15 - SUNDAY SCHOOL FOR YOUTH

ADULT PRAYER TIME IN NFH

9:30 - SUNDAY SCHOOL FOR ADULTS

10:30—TRADITIONAL WORSHIP

Greeters: Bob and Bonnie Burton
Nursery: Dan and Heidi Lotenschtein
Attendants: Rowly & Deb Burton
Next Week: Rowly Burton, Verl Arentson, Josh Weisenborn, Mike Weisenborn
Ushers: *John Gilliland, *Verl Arentson, Stan Martens, Keith Fiscus
Communion:
Servers:

FOR THE RECORD

November 29, 2009

Sunday School	77
Previous Sunday	94
Morning Worship -8:00... 110	10:30... 74
Previous Sunday - 8:00... 97	10:30... 79
Morning Worship A Year Ago	201

TITHES & OFFERINGS

November 29, 2009

2009 Budgeted Gen. Fund	\$5,875.25
General Fund Offering	\$8005.70
Missions	\$176.00
RMMO	\$100.00
Capital Improvement	\$18,435.00

THIS WEEK'S CALENDAR

Monday

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

Tuesday

2:00 pm - Serendipity Adult Bible Study in Seeker's classroom
7:15 pm - Pastoral Search Committee

Wednesday

6:45-8 pm - BYF

PRAYER CONCERNS:

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

PASTORAL SEARCH COMMITTEE

If you are getting the Extender by email you still have time, and if you are getting it by mail and just now reading it we hoped you joined in the church-wide prayer at 7:15 on Tuesday evening as the Pastoral Search committee met to consider candidates.

God does answer prayer, and this body of dedicated men and women are asking for your prayers to petition the Holy Spirit to lead them in their search for the person God wants to be the next spiritual leader of First Baptist Church.

Please continue to pray for guidance.

THANKSGIVING OFFERING

Last Sunday was the last Sunday of December, but, as Joel said, many of us "...might have forgotten our check books." Since we know you will not want to miss out on the blessings of contributing to the capital improvements already completed, but not yet paid for on the parsonage and the church, we will continue to accept your generous giving this coming Sunday.

Please designate Thanksgiving Offering or Improvement Project on your offering check.

BAPTISM

Sunday, December 13th, is Baptism Sunday. If you have given your life to Lord and know Jesus Christ as your personal Savior we invite you to make the outward sign to your brothers and sisters in Christ. Please contact Pastor Manning no later than December 7th to make arrangements.

2009 CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

Adventures in Odyssey

The Sunday School Christmas Program this year is on Sunday, December 20th with one combined service at 10 a.m.

In keeping with Pastor Roger's "Feed the Sheep," please remember to bring a canned good or supply. (This item will also be used in our program, so don't forget!!)

CHRISTMAS PROGRAM REHEARSAL

Sundays, December 6th, and Dec 13th there will be dress rehearsals in the NFH for the Sunday School Christmas play. Please make every effort to have your child there, in costume, with songs/lines practiced. Sunday School teachers please plan to stay late.

POTLUCK LUNCH

Sunday, December 20th, after the Christmas Program, we will have an all-church potluck lunch. Soup will be provided. A-L bring desserts and M-Z bring sandwiches. Contact person is Cherie Eckhoff.

ON-LINE CHURCH DIRECTORY

The McDermotts will be taking pictures again this Sunday between services for the on-line church directory. Please make an effort to get your picture taken, or re-taken if desired, this week.

If you have a non-copyrighted picture you would like us to use, email it as an jpg file to fbaptist@fbcharlan.org. If you can't make it to church to have your picture taken, please notify Dallas and Lois at macscan@harlannet.com and they will try to come to you.

The Directory is now up and available on the church website at www.fbcharlan.org. Click on Members Only. Enter the username: **harlan** and password: **baptist**. Then click on **submit**.

IMPORTANT

Sunday, December 13th, we will hold the required annual Church Business Meeting starting at 9:15 am in the Sanctuary. It is extremely important that all members of the church make it a point to try and be there. We will review the 2010 budget and elect new Deacons to replace those going off the Diaconate at the end of their terms.

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