

First Baptist Church

1325 Chatburn Ave.

Harlan, IA 51537

The Extender

Mailed December 8, 2009

Non-Profit Organization

U.S. Postage - PAID

Harlan, IA 51537

Permit #95

Address Service Requested

From The Pastor's Desk

The doorbell rang tonight and it was the Federal Express delivery driver with a gift from Heaven. It was the complete works of the great reform teacher of the faith John Calvin.

I say, "a gift from Heaven" because contained within is God's Word exegeted by one of His most talented and gifted servants; and because my wife, Jodie, had ordered them as a gift for me (Jodie, if you read this, note the implication that you are an angel.)

My library grows constantly, and this particular teacher has been neglected far too long. It means one more source to consider each week, but my mouth waters at the wonderful fare of Godly inspired knowledge spread before me.

I love Shakespeare's line in Hamlet, "As if appetite had grown by what it was fed on." God's word expanded seems to grow it even more in my mind. Brain races to keep up with it's own quest generated by it's own thoughts.

Each week, as I prepare the next Sunday's message, I look back to our church fathers for their interpretation and translation of God's word. Some are reformers like Calvin; others are post modern and homespun like J. Vernon McGee; and, still others are modern day expositionalists like John MacArthur. I give each an opportunity to express his understanding of what the Holy Spirit inspired the writers to say for the Lord.

I carefully consider what each says and weigh it against my understanding of the passage. With regular pauses for prayer, contemplation and refreshment I ask God for direction and wisdom. My understanding changes, sometimes. Sometimes it remains the same, but with new proof and resignation.

Then I begin to write. Holy Spirit give me the message God has for His church this Sunday. What is the meat of the matter you would have us savor and digest? The thoughts come, the words follow, and the meaning is His.

I got a present from Heaven today. Written words from God, strained through His chosen and gifted servant; their delivery facilitated by His gift of a "Helpmate" to me; and, understanding guided by His Holy Spirit. On Sunday, He will give me another gift - the opportunity to tell others what I read.

SERVICE TIMES & HELPERS

December 13, 2009

8:00 - CONTEMPORARY WORSHIP

NFH Greeters: Tom and Lela Brown
East Doors: Howard and Tara Lansman
Nursery
Attendants: Joel and Karla Berndt
Next Week: Ken and Edie Shetler
Ushers: Gaige & Heather Knudson family

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
Attendants: Rowly & Deb Burton
Next Week: Kent and Deb Morgan
Ushers: Rowly Burton, Verl Arentson, Josh Weisenborn, Mike Weisenborn

FOR THE RECORD

December 6, 2009

Sunday School	102
Previous Sunday	77
Morning Worship -8:00... ???	10:30... 105
Previous Sunday - 8:00... 110	10:30... 74
Morning Worship A Year Ago	217

TITHES & OFFERINGS

December 6, 2009

2009 Budgeted Gen. Fund	\$5,875.25
General Fund Offering	\$5,750.00
Memorials	\$1,283.00
Missions	\$175.00
RMMO	\$778.11
Capital Improvement	\$10,210.91

THIS WEEK'S CALENDAR

Monday

6:00 am Promise Keepers Bible Study
5:00-6:30 pm Grief Share 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

Wednesday

6:45 - 8 pm - BYF

PRAYER CONCERNS:

- Phil Perkins
- Gary Wirtjes
- Eldora Peterson
- Geraldine Hansen
- Lori Fast (Lucille Paulsen's grand-daughter)
- 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

NEEDED ITEMS

The Christmas program still needs some white paint. Let Rita Vis know if you have some.

BYF CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

Wednesday, December 16th beginning with a soup supper at 5:30. All BYF kids and their families are invited to join us for the soup supper and program. The program will begin at 6:45. Please take time as you leave the program to visit our Live Nativity at the south end of the parking lot.

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.

BAPTISM

Next Sunday 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 make every effort to be in the second service, even if you attended the first service and business meeting. This is a family affair and we need to all be there.

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 REHEARSAL

Sunday there will be the last dress rehearsals in the NFH for the Sunday School Christmas play. Please make every effort to have your child there, in costume, 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.

POINSETTIAS AND THE NATIVITY

The legend speaks of a young child from a poor family who feels upset by not having anything to offer the baby Jesus. On the path to the Christmas Eve service the child picks some weeds and takes them into the church, placing them around the manger and praying. The weeds erupt into sparkling star-shaped blossoms, flor de la noche buena, "Flower of the Holy Night." You are invited to bring a Poinsettia to the church, for the Season. If you wish to honor someone, or have one in memory of a loved one, or just to help our Sanctuary look nice, please let us know so we can make note of it in the bulletin. Please mark it with your name, so it can get back to the correct family.

OFFERING ENVELOPES

Since such a small majority of the congregation is using the offering envelopes, we have decided to discontinue the use of them. Just write on your check in the lower left hand corner where you wish it to go. Any questions, call 755-7637, Assistant Financial Secretary, Darlene Arentson

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