

First Baptist Church

1325 Chatburn Ave.

Harlan, IA 51537

The Extender

Mailed December 15, 2009

Non-Profit Organization

U.S. Postage - PAID

Harlan, IA 51537

Permit #95

Address Service Requested

From The Pastor's Desk

Next Sunday will be the 20th and we will be celebrating the birth of our Savior, Jesus with one, combined service.

We will have a message from God's Word because it is Sunday and that is our Sabbath, and it would be remiss of us to not honor, glorify and worship Him.

That is not to say that watching our children present music and theatre as worship to the Lord is not true worship. Quite the contrary, it is worship on so many levels, otherwise we would not do it in a worship service at all. It is just that we must never forget that the central theme of our worship must always be God and His Word, both written and personified in His Son Jesus. We must never let our emotions take us to the point where we are worshipping the things God has given us.

He gives some of us the ability to make beautiful sounds with our voices and our instruments. With the proper state of mind we use them to "Make a joyous noise unto the Lord." The key word there is "Unto." Especially in church, when we are come together to worship, we should never sing or play to show our family and friends what we can do. We should only use that talent, at that time, to express our love and honor for God.

In church this last Sunday, one of our most talented and gifted vocalist began to sing a song and something was terribly wrong. I don't know if it was the wrong track and she had not rehearsed it, or it was a track in the wrong key for her, but it was obvious she was struggling. She kept her composure and completed the piece, actually doing a marvelous job. I whispered in her ear, "We can do all things with God."

Someone who had been up there to perform for the church, their family, or themselves would have stopped and protested, trying to save face. This God-honoring, God-loving woman touched my heart as she continued to sing to the Lord. And after church, in the hall, I thanked her for her service. She didn't make one excuse. She raised her eyebrows a little and said, "Thank you." It's funny she said thank you and not you're welcome. I think, somehow she knew that I was not thanking her for a great performance. I was thanking her for the blessing she was to me and the whole church family; for the witness that she was to all of us of a humble, selfless worship of and to God, not herself.

SERVICE TIMES & HELPERS

December 20, 2009

10:00 - COMBINED CHRISTMAS WORSHIP

NFH Greeters: Ron & Jennifer French, Keith & Bonnie Fiscus
East Doors: Vera Stewart
Nursery: Ken and Edie Shetler, Kent & Deb
Attendants: Morgan
Next Week: 1st—Dan & Melanie Lucas
2nd - Dan & Heidi Lotenschtein
Gauge & Heather Knudson family,
Ushers: Rowly Burton, Verl Arentson, Josh Weisenborn, Mike Weisenborn

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE

Join us for a special music worship service on Christmas Eve. There will be just one service this year from 6 to 6:30 p.m. to allow families to come with children, worship the Lord as a church family, and still have time to go home for supper and whatever family traditions you have for the night before the birthday of our Savior.

FOR THE RECORD

December 13, 2009

Sunday School	133
Previous Sunday	102
Morning Worship -8:00... 115	10:30... 95
Previous Sunday - 8:00... 110	10:30... 74
Morning Worship A Year Ago	216

TITHES & OFFERINGS

December 13, 2009

2009 Budgeted Gen. Fund	\$5,875.25
General Fund Offering	3,534.35
Memorials	282.10
Missions	4,340.00
RMMO	280.00
Capital Improvement	7,000.00

THIS WEEK'S CALENDAR

Monday

6:00 am Promise Keepers Bible Study
6:30-8:00 pm Griefshare, none on Dec. 21, 28
7:00-9:00 pm Fresh Start, none on Dec. 21, 28

Tuesday

2:00 pm - Serendipity Adult Bible Study in Seeker's classroom, none on Dec. 22, 29

Wednesday

5:30 - 8 pm - BYF Soup Supper & Christmas Program, none on Dec. 23, 30«AddressBlock»

Thursday

12 Noon - ABW potluck at the home of Joan Martens.

2009 CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

Adventures in Odyssey

The Sunday School Christmas Program is next 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!!)

PRAYER CONCERNS:

- Will Perkins
- 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

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. For more information please contact person is Cherie Eckhoff.

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.

ATTENTION DIACONATE!

2009 Annual Reports need to be completed and turned in to the church office as soon as possible. The sooner reports are received, the sooner we can start preparing the Annual Report.

The Diaconate will meet Monday, December 21st at 8 pm.

CHRISTMAS PROGRAM PRACTICES

Sunday school students who are characters with speaking parts in the Adventures in Odyssey portion of the program will have practice on Saturday Dec. 19th from 10:30-11:30 and also on Sunday morning at 8:30. All other Sunday school students participating in the Christmas program should be at the church by 9:30 Sunday morning. The program will begin at 10:00 followed by a soup & sandwich lunch. Please remember to bring a canned food item as your ticket.

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 Arntson

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