

First Baptist Church

1325 Chatburn Ave.

Harlan, IA 51537

**The Extender**

Mailed December 22, 2009

Non-Profit Organization

U.S. Postage - PAID

Harlan, IA 51537

Permit #95

Address Service Requested

**From The Pastor's Desk**

**The Man and the Birds by Paul Harvey**

The man to whom I'm going to introduce you was not a scrooge, he was a kind, decent, mostly good man. Generous to his family, upright in his dealings with other men. But he just didn't believe all that incarnation stuff which the churches proclaim at Christmas Time. It just didn't make sense and he was too honest to pretend otherwise. He just couldn't swallow the Jesus Story, about God coming to Earth as a man.

"I'm truly sorry to distress you," he told his wife, "but I'm not going with you to church this Christmas Eve." He said he'd feel like a hypocrite, that he'd much rather just stay at home, but that he would wait up for them. And so he stayed and they went to the midnight service.

Shortly after the family drove away in the car, snow began to fall. He went to the window to watch the flurries getting heavier and heavier and then went back to his fireside chair and began to read his newspaper. Minutes later he was startled by a thudding sound...Then another, and then another. Sort of a thump or a thud...At first he thought someone must be throwing snowballs against his living room window. But when he went to the front door to investigate he found a flock of birds huddled miserably in the snow. They'd been caught in the storm and, in a desperate search for shelter, had tried to fly through his large landscape window.

Well, he couldn't let the poor creatures lie there and freeze, so he remembered the barn where his children stabled their pony. That would provide a warm shelter, if he could direct the birds to it. Quickly he put on a coat, galoshes, tramped through the deepening snow to the barn. He opened the doors wide and turned on a light, but the birds did not come in. He figured food would entice them in. So he hurried back to the house, fetched bread crumbs, sprinkled them on the snow, making a trail to the yellow-lighted wide open doorway of the stable. But to his dismay, the birds ignored the bread crumbs, and continued to flap around helplessly in the snow. He tried catching them...

(Continued on Page 2)

**SERVICE TIMES & HELPERS**

December 27, 2009

**8:00 - CONTEMPORARY WORSHIP**

**NFH Greeters:** Delany & Austin Knudson  
**East Doors:** Jake Priester  
**Nursery:** Dan & Melanie Lucas  
**Attendants:** Dan & Melanie Lucas  
**Next Week:** Tony & Rita Vis  
**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:** Marna Weisenborn and Dave Out-house  
**Nursery:** Dan & Heidi Lotenschtein  
**Attendants:** Dan & Heidi Lotenschtein  
**Next Week:** Bryan & Janice Greve  
**Ushers:** Rowly Burton, Verl Arentson, Josh Weisenborn, Mike Weisenborn

**FOR THE RECORD**

December 27, 2009

**Sunday School**

<b>Previous Sunday</b>	153
<b>Merged Morning Worship</b>	250
<b>Previous Sunday - 8:00...</b>	<b>10:30...</b> 95
<b>Morning Worship A Year Ago</b>	216

**TITHES & OFFERINGS**

December 20, 2009

<b>2009 Budgeted Gen. Fund</b>	\$5,875.25
<b>General Fund Offering</b>	\$2828.04
<b>Missions</b>	\$85.00
<b>RMMO</b>	\$145.20
<b>Capital Improvement</b>	\$395.00

## THIS WEEK'S CALENDAR

There will be no Extender next week on 29th

### **Monday**

6:00 am - Promise Keepers Bible Study  
No Griefshare or Fresh Start Dec. 21, 28

### **Tuesday**

No Bible Study Dec. 22, 29

### **Wednesday**

No BYF Dec. 23, 30

### **Thursday**

**6:00 Christmas Eve Service**

## PRAYER CONCERNS:

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

Cont'd...He tried shooping them into the barn by walking around them waving his arms...Instead, they scattered in every direction, except into the warm, lighted barn.

And then, he realized that they were afraid of him. To them, he reasoned, I am a strange and terrifying creature. If only I could think of some way to let them know that they can trust me...That I am not trying to hurt them, but to help them. But how? Because any move he made tended to frighten them, confuse them. They just would not follow. They would not be led or shooped because they feared him.

"If only I could be a bird," he thought to himself, "and mingle with them and speak their language. Then I could tell them not to be afraid. Then I could show them the way to safe, warm...to the safe warm barn. But I would have to be one of them so they could see, and hear and understand." At that moment the church bells began to ring. The sound reached his ears above the sounds of the wind. And he stood there listening to the bells - Adeste Fidelis - listening to the bells pealing the glad tidings of Christmas. And he sank to his knees in the snow.

## 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.

## Christmas Eve Service

**Come join us for a short service on Christmas Eve in the sanctuary. We will start at 6:00 and pray, sing, read some scripture all about the birth of the Emmanuel - God With Us.**

**This is just a short time for the church family to get together and wish our Savior a Happy Birthday; to thank Him for the gift of eternal life He gave us; and, to praise Him in Heaven above.**

## A GREAT JOB

THANK YOU doesn't really seem to convey my deep gratitude to EVERYone involved in this year's Christmas Program. What a blessing it was to be a part of something that brought such glory to God. I have been told by many that the message came through "loud and clear" and I sure hope that it did. JESUS is the best gift that any of us can give or receive anytime of year, but especially as we set aside this time to celebrate His birth. I listed Special Thanks in the program, so I won't do it again here, but please know I tried to list everyone...I do know that Rachel needs special recognition for all her work with the cast and to the men (and women) who helped set up and tear down tables...THANK YOU. This was a team project and could not have been done without the work of each and every individual involved, including those in the kitchen and nursery. If I have forgotten to mention you it was not on purpose. May you all be richly blessed for helping and being a part of this Message.

Merry CHRIST-mas!

June Schleimer

## 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.**