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 the click of a button!*

**“The Glory of Christmas”
 Choir Concert @ Campbell
 Univ. Scott Concert Hall
 Dec. 1st & 2nd @ 7 p.m.**

The Reminder



November 27, 2006 **Buies Creek First Baptist Church** Volume 51 Issue 11



Eternal Light

Christmas occurred when God invaded Earth in a strange and marvelous way. A special child was born to improbable parents in an unlikely place at an inconvenient time and in an unwelcoming world. Yet heaven’s light pierced the darkness and shone through the life of that unique baby. That light was and is an eternal light. God’s light in Christ is a saving light that can keep the world from total destruction, from the ultimate darkness. The message is always true: “The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it” (John 1:5, NRSV). And it never will.

—Charles Ferrell

Advent is Here

December 3 is the First Sunday of Advent. It is the day when the church officially begins to prepare for Christmas. Advent means “coming,” therefore, we make ready for the coming of the Lord.

Where should we begin? With ourselves, of course. We should prepare our hearts for Christ to live in them fully. Get rid of the clutter within — the odds and ends of foolish thoughts and familiar sins we find difficult to “let go and let God handle.” Advent is heart-cleaning time, so call in the Holy Spirit Cleaning Service, and make room for the best Guest anyone ever had. Start now! Let the Spirit “Cast out our sin and enter in. Be born in us today” (from “O Little Town of Bethlehem”). The cleaning service has a guarantee: “When our ‘Worker’ finishes with your heart, you’ll have the best Christmas ever!”



WEEKLY WORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Sunday	Monday	Wednesday
9:30 am Sunday School	7:00 pm Boy Scouts	6:00 pm KISS
11:00 am Morning Worship	7:00 pm Cub Scouts	(Keep It Simple Supper)
5:15 pm Children’s M&M (Music & Missions)		6:30 pm. Bible Studies and Prayer Meeting
6:00 pm Choir & Praise Team Youth Discipleship Training		7:30 p.m. Hand Bells
7:00 pm College Music & Message		



Pastor's Paragraphs

Have you heard the story of the Sunday School teacher who was describing how Lot's wife looked back and turned into a pillar of salt? As she was telling the story, little Jason interrupted and announced triumphantly, "My Mummy looked back once while she was driving and turned into a telephone pole!" Art Linkletter was right; kids really do say the strangest things. It surely would have been better for Lot's wife if she had kept her eyes aimed in the direction she was traveling. I guess the same is true for little Jason's Mom. The truth of the matter is that it is better for all of us to move forward and claim the future than to look backward and try to recapture the past.

We are quickly approaching two very wonderful holidays, Thanksgiving and Christmas. At Thanksgiving, we take a quick glance backward and remember the stories we were all taught in school about Pilgrims and Indians and a big meal of wild game and vegetables. It was a great time of giving thanks for God's provisions. After all, the Pilgrims were thankful for just being alive, for many of the settlers died during that first winter. Like the Pilgrims, we too, have a deal for which to be thankful. Take a quick look back. In this case, you won't turn into a pillar of salt or a telephone pole. Give thanks for all God has done and is doing in your life. Once you have done this, then look ahead and move forward. Don't wish for the past, the best is yet ahead. Look toward the rest of this year and imagine the exciting opportunities of the New Year just ahead.

In the same way, look back at Christmas, the time Jesus was born. As you do, remember that this is a story of God's love and God's provision for you. Jesus never looked back and tried to recapture the event in the manger, or for that matter, his days of childhood. Instead, he remained focused on what he had come to do. When he set his face toward Jerusalem, he never looked back. He had a goal to reach, a mission to fulfill. So do we. We look at the past to remind us of who we are and to whom we belong. Now having been reminded of what we are to be about, we set our face toward the future. The rest of this year is ahead and will serve as a stepping off point for the exciting adventures of 2007. As we approach the New Year, let us do so with excitement and a new determination to move forward with the Lord in growing spiritually and in building the church. Let us never forget, "We can do all things through Christ who strengthens us." (Phil. 4:13) If we stay focused on what is ahead, we will never be in any danger of telephones poles of the past.

Have a blessed week. I am looking forward to seeing you Sunday.

Michael.

Dear Church Family,
For all your expressions of sympathy at my mom's passing I am very grateful. The calls, cards and kind words lifted me up during this time.

-Vicki Kendrick

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT

The Baptist Student Union at Campbell University is working to develop ways to minister to the international students on campus. We have about 150 international students from 43 different countries. These students are thousands of miles away from their home countries and do not have the luxury of going home on the weekends to enjoy fellowship and a home cooked meal.

In order to meet the physical and emotional needs of our international students, we would like to start a host family program in which local church families can volunteer their time and their homes to reach out to them. Being a host family would involve having international students over to your home for dinner, weekends and/or holidays. This is not a time to force our beliefs on these students, but rather a way to live out the Christian life by serving and loving them. It is our goal that you would develop a strong friendship with these students and that they would feel more comfortable in America because of your hospitality.

If you are interested in receiving more information about being a host family please contact Meredith Brunson BSU Internationals Coordinator at [Campbell University @meredith.brunson@gmail.com](mailto:meredith.brunson@gmail.com).

ANNIVERSARIES IN DECEMBER



11 David & Angela Ezzell



DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Lauren Penny
- 1 Linda Kuhn
- 4 Gilda Blackmon
- 5 Kenneth Stewart
- 6 Jim Bales
- 8 Ed Johnson
- 9 Tom Baker
- 10 Crystal Johnson
- 10 A.G. Hare
- 18 Justin Ellis
- 19 Joanne Penny
- 22 Celia Melvin
- 22 Beulah Stewart
- 26 Frances Austin
- 26 Beth Kerr
- 26 Angie Stewart
- 27 Gina Smith
- 29 Gene Stewart
- 29 Anne Oxford
- 29 Juyeon Kang
- 30 Jon Stewart
- 30 Betty Sue Stewart
- 31 Joan Lanier

Choir Christmas Concert December 1st & 2nd 7:00 p.m.

Come and enjoy a festive musical event Friday and Saturday evenings at 7:00 p.m. at the Scott Concert Hall on the campus of Campbell University, as the Buies Creek First Baptist Church and Memorial Baptist Church Choirs bring you "The Glory of Christmas". This exciting Christmas Musical has a little bit of everything including, singing, drama and dancing. Bring the whole family out to celebrate the real meaning of Christmas, the birth of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Hope to see you there!

Outreach Opportunity!

The Nominating Committee is in need of 3-4 people interested in serving on the Fellowship Committee. If this important outreach opportunity is something you would like to be a part of, or if you'd like more information please contact J.D. Johnson at 893-9706. Thank you.

PLEASE REMEMBER IN PRAYER: Our Nation and its Leaders, our missionaries, all Service Men and Women, Tommy Lechinger, Lyn Sander, Donna Turlington, Louise Adams, Clara Brown-Page, Nick & Gerry Gregory, Iva Newton, Elton & Faye Perry (Gina Smith's aunt & uncle), Peggy Stewart, and Carter Shamburger (Skip & Anne Oxford's grandson); our shut-ins and homebound.

Yard Sale Room News!

The Yard Sale room is open! Feel free to come and drop off what you would like to donate for the youth yard sale next year. More information to follow in the months ahead as to when the next yard sale will be held.

KidShine

"Let your light shine before men...and praise your Father in heaven."
Matthew 5:16

As we approach this joyous season let us be filled with a spirit of gratitude and praise. In keeping with this thought, let me share these words from Robert Louis Stevenson:

*Loving Father, Help us to remember
the birth of Jesus, that we may share
in the song of the angel,
the gladness of the shepherds,
and the worship of the wise men.*

I do praise God for Jesus and the opportunity to share His love with those around us. My heart is filled with gladness as I think about my church family and their commitment to reaching out and sharing the love of Jesus. Recently, we held our annual Trunk or Treat ~ *Heroes of our Faith*. We had over 100 children, teens, college students and adults participating in all the activities of the evening. It was a wonderful time of fun and fellowship, which would not have been possible had so many of you not helped. As I said earlier, the church family known as Buies Creek First Baptist is the BEST!! I can not even begin to list all those that assisted in this time of celebration. We had 11 trunks this year. Thanks to all those who opened their trunks to the children. This year's trunk finalists were: *Bronze—Hannah Hood, Silver—Gina Smith and family, and Gold—the College students*. Our judges this year were Lucy Baker, Jessica Hatcher and Jim Edwards. We had 6 stations inside and out, with games and fun for all to enjoy. Each station told a story of one of the heroes of the Bible. Thanks to all who brought those stories to life. We had a ton of candy, sweets, soups and sandwiches to complete our festivities. I appreciate all those who helped in this way...everything was delicious! Thank you Michael and Sandra for your help and participation. Our pastor dressed as our greatest hero, Jesus. Much gratitude and love to all who took part and helped!

News Flash — Congratulations to the girls 10 and under Buies Creek Rec soccer team for winning the Championship. *Anna Bain, Rebekah Jones, and Lily Zhang* were on that winning team ~ way to go, girls!!

May this upcoming Christmas season be filled with love, joy and peace as we celebrate Jesus, our Savior and Lord.

To God be the Glory,
Debbie