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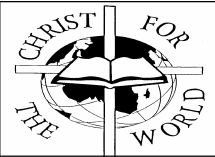
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 BUIES CREEK, NC  
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 PERMIT NO. 7

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# The Reminder



January 14, 2007

**Buies Creek First Baptist Church**

Volume 53 Issue 1

**The Bible As A Letter**

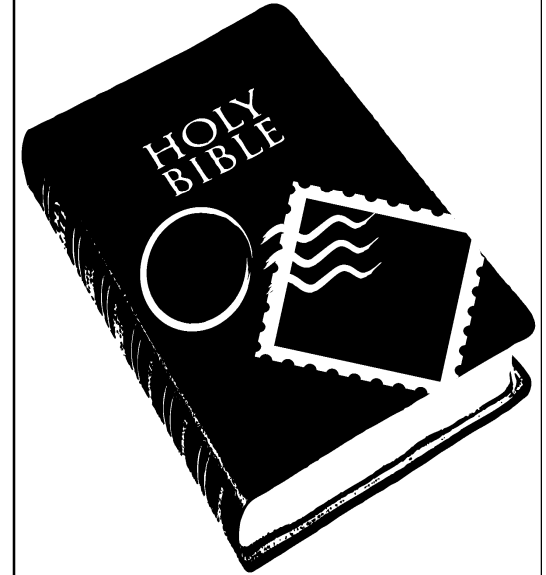
Søren Kierkegaard, a brilliant 19th-century philosopher, said this about the Bible: "The Bible should be read as a letter from God with our personal address on it."

How true! The Bible tells us who's behind our amazing lives. The Bible makes clear the source of our existence and explains how we're to live out our years on Earth. The Bible gives us the best rules for living with others and for living in our own skin.

Scripture tells us of the wisdom of saints and the foolishness of scoundrels. It explains how God tries to relate to us. It guides us and provides strength and courage through our daily lives.

The Bible tells how God walked among us on Earth in the person of Christ. Most importantly, it details how Christ revealed God's immeasurable love for all humankind.

Finally, the Bible assures us that God not only cares for us here and now but will care for us in the hereafter. Forever and forever!



**Lent Begins**

On Ash Wednesday, February 6, Lent begins. During this 40-day period, Christians reevaluate their spiritual lives.

It's a time for us to have a spiritual check-up and to strive to live the Christian life more faithfully and more intentionally.

One might go on a spiritual retreat, for example, spending time with a prayer warrior, Bible expert or theologian. During Lent, attending the various church services and study opportunities can help people grow spiritually and become more informed about the Christian faith.

Our pilgrimage through Lent should inspire us to serve God more faithfully in our daily lives.

## WEEKLY WORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Sunday	Monday	Wednesday
9:45 am Bible Study	7:00 am Men's Prayer Meeting	6:00 pm KISS (Keep It Simple Supper)
11:00 am Morning Worship	7:00 pm Boy Scouts	6:30 pm. Bible Studies and Prayer Meeting
5:15 pm Children's M&M (Music & Missions)	7:00 pm Cub Scouts	7:30 p.m. Hand Bells
6:00 pm Choir & Praise Team Youth Discipleship Training		<b>Thursday</b>
7:30 pm College Music & Message		7:00 am Men's Prayer Meeting





**FROM THE  
PASTOR**  
PASTOR'S PARAGRAPHS

First of all, I want to wish each of you a very Happy New Year. I hope 2008 has started off well and that you will have a blessed and exciting year. As a church, we ended 2007 with growth in both numbers and budget. God blessed us with a good year and we are very thankful. We had thirteen additions during the year, three of whom came as Watchcare members. Of the ten other new members, two came by baptism and eight by either letter or statement. Five of our members (Clara Brown-Page, Dr. Norman Wiggins, Peggy Stewart, Vivian Simpson, and Nick Gregory) went home to be with the Lord. We miss each of these but give thanks to God for allowing them to be part of our lives and church family for many years. As far as our finances were concerned, we finished up the year with 108% of our budget received. Since our mission budget is based on an overall 10% of undesignated gifts, this allowed us to give more to missions. With your help and the hard work of a special committee, new playground equipment was purchased for our children. In addition, a projector and screen system was installed in the sanctuary which allows us to record the services on DVD and take them to our homebound members. What a year we had! Perhaps the greatest accomplishments of 2007 were the monthly mission trips and the way we worked together to glorify our Lord.

This year will also bring new challenges and opportunities for the church. Already, we have received one new member by letter, put down new flooring on the first floor of the educational wing and our fellowship hall, and will soon be in the process of preparing a prayer garden on the back of our property. Our Missions Committee is busy planning some exciting mission opportunities for us throughout the year. I am very excited about what God is doing. I want to challenge you to pray for the church, give generously, and invite those you know and those you meet to come with you to church. This can be the best year yet if we allow God to use us and work together for his glory with excitement and expectation. When this year ends, I want us to look back and say: "Wow! What a joy it was to be a part of the great things God has done in 2008."

By the time you receive this newsletter, it will be nearly February. This is Leap Year and we have an extra day in the month. What will you do with your extra day? It comes on Friday so most of us will be working. But still, it is an extra day. Will you consider taking an extra day, whichever day you choose, and doing something special for someone to say God loves them and you do too?

Before I close, on behalf of all of us on the church staff, I want to say "thank you" for the Christmas gift we each received. We are all very appreciative.

I leave you with this thought; part of a prayer by Robert Louis Stevenson. "Give us grace and strength to forbear and to persevere. Give us courage and gaiety and the quiet mind, spare to us our friends, soften to us our enemies." Amen. Bits & Pieces, March 2007.

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

*Pastor Michael*



**FEBRUARY  
BIRTHDAYS**

- 4 Mark Quankenbush
- 6 Bonnie Larche
- 7 Christopher Rhodes
- 7 Frank White
- 10 Rufus Turner
- 10 Nancy Bales
- 10 Christopher Penny
- 11 June Simmons
- 11 Don Annis
- 14 Mary Ramer
- 16 Ashley Stewart
- 18 PJ Melvin
- 19 Dorothy Mullins
- 20 T.H. McLeod
- 22 Michael Simmons
- 28 Jim Edwards

**ANNIVERSARIES  
IN  
FEBRUARY**



- 9 Oscar & June Simmons

**Youth News**

I hope everyone had a wonderful Christmas and a great New Year. Our youth group rang in the New Year with an all-nighter including bowling and more pizza than we could consume. Though we had a small number, it was a great time of fellowship. An important note: before special youth events I hand out details and permissions slips to a parent of each youth. I encourage both parents and youth to be on the lookout for these so we can make sure all youth know about scheduled youth events.

I am also looking for another church member who is interested in working with our youth. Due to my school and work schedule, I am finding it hard to effectively minister to the youth on both Sunday and Wednesday nights. Anyone interested in working with our youth on Sunday nights would be a great blessing! Feel free to e-mail me (e-mail included below) for more details.

Don't forget: the Youth Ski Trip will take place February 1-3 at Winterplace Resort in Ghent, WV. If you have not signed up, please do so immediately. This will be an exciting time of worship, fellowship, and of course, skiing. Our retreat speakers will be from the ministry organization *Touching Miami with Love*. I look forward to all that is in store for us during this trip.

As always, the youth are here to help. Please let me know if there is any around-the-house projects you could use some help with and we'll pull together a group to serve.

I look forward to the many blessings God has for our youth and our church in 2008.

Thanks!  
Rebecca  
rebeccalee782@yahoo.com

Dear friends at First Baptist,  
 On behalf of Jim and Sylvia, I want to express our deepest gratitude for all the wonderful acts of kindness shown to us during the death of our mom, Vivian Simpson. The cards, phone calls, e-mails, visits, food, and most importantly your prayers gave us the assurance to put one foot in front of the other on days that we thought were unbearable. The love Mom and Dad had for First Baptist Church, Buies Creek was immeasurable. They loved you all and their love was reciprocated. Jim, Sylvia and I say *"We thank our God upon all our remembrance of you."*

To the Members of Buies Creek First Baptist,  
 We acknowledge with grateful appreciation the love and concern that you as a church family and your Pastor, Dr. Simmons showed to our loved one Waylon (Nick) Gregory. Your prayers, cards, visits, food, flowers, the video which he was so proud of and all acts of kindness shown to him and Gerry during their illness and Nick's passing will always be remembered. Gerry needs your love and continued prayers. May God richly bless all of you.  
 In Christian love,  
 The Brown Family

Buies Creek First Baptist Church,  
 During this time of sadness I appreciate all the kindness shown to my family. The beautiful peace lily, the many visits, choir members singing at the funeral and your many cards have helped us all. Thank you for your love.  
 Joan Lanier

**PLEASE REMEMBER IN PRAYER:** Our Nation and its Leaders, our missionaries, all Service Men and Women, Andrew Upshaw (Iraq, Al's nephew), Donna Turlington, Gerry Gregory, Hazel Weaver, Valeria Lanier, Phil Melvin, Iva Newton, Doris Morgan, Beulah Stewart, Betty M. Stewart, Winifred Stewart, Coy Lanier (Coyt & Gladys Lanier's son), Charles Stewart (Susan Rhodes' father), Ernie Steinmeyer (A.G. Hare's son-in-law), George Yates (Donnie Yates' brother), and Angela Buchholz (Pamela Yates' sister), and our homebound.

## KidShine

*"Let your light shine before men...and  
 praise your Father in heaven."*

Greetings and Happy New Year! On behalf of all our children and their families I want to thank you as a church family for your prayers, love and support during the month of December. It was a very busy month as everyone was preparing for the holidays and our special Christmas programs here at BCFBC. I was so proud of our kids for the amazing effort put forth to make *Mystery of the Manger* the best that it could be. There were many wonderful lessons and truths revealed in this presentation and my prayer continues to be that the seeds sowed will continue to blossom in the hearts of the participants and those that came out to worship with us. Again, I say thank you!

As we head into the new year we continue to be busy about sharing God's word. The weekend of January 19th-21st we will be heading to Myrtle Beach for our annual winter retreat. Let me share with you those who will be attending so that you may be praying more specifically for us ~ Doug, Debbie, Jonathan, Anna, Bianey, Nicole, Houston, Rebekah, Celeste, Nathanael, Tyson and Kate. This year our study will be centered about the book, **"Kids' Travel Guide to the Armor of God."** The reality of good and evil is ever present in this day and time. The world can be a scary place, but God is greater than any situation that we may encounter. During this study we will be challenged to stand firm in uncertain and frightening situations. When we choose to "put on" God's armor, it can provide comfort and protection from the worries and fears that occur in our lives, and give us freedom! We are looking forward to a great time of study, fellowship and fun.

*Debbie*

## WMU 2008 Welcomes YOU to the Excitement!

We are gearing up for one of the most exciting & growth-filled times in our church's history. Following the lead of our National WMU Vision Statement, we are striving to "challenge Christian believers to understand and be radically involved in the mission of God." Our "watch-word" or "theme verse" for 2008 is "Walk worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing Him, being fruitful in every good work & increasing in the knowledge of God." Colossians 1:10

As our new year opens the WMU Leadership Team has given careful thought to both our mission & the needs of our members & those we strive to reach. We have begun development of a yearlong plan to "put our faith into action" in 2008.

*NEW WMU "CIRCLE" BEGINNING JAN. 14 - 10 am*

The excitement starts with a **new WMU Circle**. This ladies group will meet during the day. The first meeting will be January 14, 2008, at 10 am. Frances Lewis will be hosting it at her house – 25 Howard Lane, Buies Creek. It will be a time to focus on missions, learn about & pray for missionaries and spend time in fellowship. Mark your calendars & plan on getting a taste of the excitement that missions has to offer. Look for more information on future meetings in the church bulletin.

### WOMEN'S CONFERENCE WITH JOANI TABOR

**SATURDAY, FEB. 16 – 9am to 2 pm**

Get a **RED** marker & **CIRCLE** February 16 & 17th on your calendar. On the 16th, from 9 am to 2 pm, we will be hosting our 1st ever Women's Conference. God has blessed us with the opportunity to host Joani Tabor, national award winning vocalist & conference leader. The theme for the event is "Nothing is Going to Steal My Joy" – a practical look at how to approach life as it comes with the JOY. Joani is no stranger to "curve balls". She lost her father at 11, is a pastor's wife & has lost a child. Her life verse is 1 Peter 5:7, 'Let Him have all your worries and cares, for He is always thinking about you and watching everything that concerns you.' She sings it, teaches it & lives it in front of her world. For more information please contact the church office or Gina Smith. Invite your friends & neighbors. It's going to be an event to remember. (Joani will also be our guest speaker on the **17th for Baptist Women's Day** in the 11 am service.)

And that it just the beginning! 2008 holds all kinds of missions' opportunities for Men, Women & Children. Keep your eyes open as you see bulletin boards, bulletins & newsletters over the next couple of months. Be praying for God to prepare you heart for where He want you to serve.

Serving an Amazing God Together~  
WMU Leadership Team

## Classified CiA Report: AUTHORIZED EYES ONLY

Recent Developments:

1. 12 Junior Agents have completed basic training – 3 more trainees are on track to finish in January
2. 12 Agents attended specialized training - Little River Baptist Association Children's International Missions Study on Moldova. Our Agents represented the largest group participating!
3. 15 Agents/Trainees have participated in two Special Assignments. These are activities above & beyond regular curriculum that focus on the 4 areas of CiA mission emphasis – learning about, praying for, giving to & doing missions.
  - A. *Special Assignment 1:* Agents made "hug" cards to send to Victorya Rogers, our September focus Missionary. These cards offered her words of encouragement & told her of our prayers for her & her ministry in Hollywood, CA.
  - B. *Special Assignment 2:* With the aid of a "Special Training Agent", Patricia Harmon-Lewis, the Agents gathered stuffed animals to send to Ronnie Adams, missionary to Hell's Kitchen, NY. (Ronnie spoke to our church during last Spring's Associational Mission Emphasis. He works with children & families in a slum called Hell's Kitchen near the wharf. One of the needs he mentioned was that the children he works with have nothing. He uses toys as an attraction to get the kids to participate in after-school & day "care" programs.) Together they gathered over 180 stuffed animals to send to Mr. Adams. The Agents prayed for the children who would receive these animals, that they would feel God's love for them & come to know Jesus.
4. To date, the 15 active participants have earned a total of 57 badges. Each badge has specific requirements to fulfill.
5. Spotlight Badge of the Month: Lottie Moon Christmas Offering Badge - Earned when an Agent completes the "Lottie Project" where he/she learns who Lottie Moon was, discovers at least three ways Lottie Moon Christmas Offering money is used to help missionaries do their work, contributes to the offering & is part of the group presentation to the church. Our agents build a "log cabin" for Lottie out of "log banks". The campaign was called "Lincolns for Lottie" – Lincoln log banks filled with pennies for the missions offering. As a group they raised \$11.06 & built Lottie a nice cabin.

As always, our mission is to equip the Agents for a "life of service" in the "Agency" (the church) and a desire to follow the "Commander & Chief's" (God's) directive - *Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen. Matthew 28:19-20.*

Your Mission, should you decide to accept it, is threefold – 1) Pray for our Agents, 2) Watch for information regarding what they are doing, & 3) Work with them any chance you get!

Your Contact is either a Senior Agent (Harold/Gina Smith, Alicia Turner or Michelle Daggett) or any of the Junior Agents (children grades 1-6).

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