

The Connection

Volume 15 Issue 4

December 2011



*“A church in the heart of Russellville
with Russellville on its heart”*

Published monthly by the Second Baptist Church of
Russellville, Kentucky
www.secondbaptistrussellville.org
Bro. Steve R. Smith, Pastor
Bro. Mike Duncan, Minister of Music & Youth
Randy Whitley, Outreach Minister



10:00 AM

Sunday

FOCUS: Christmas with Christ

What a great month of November! Some tremendous changes have occurred. The leaves on the trees went from green to beautiful fall colors, to no leaves at all on the trees. Did you think I was talking about something else? I really was! Christmas is upon us. Do you feel like Christmas has already been to SBC? Your answer I probably like mine. YES! Well, it's not here yet, and that means the best is yet to come.

Sunday school has really been growing most of the year. Teachers are working hard and being obedient to the will of God. We have been moving past status quo, and with the arrival of Bro. Steve and his being a big Sunday school supporter, even greater spiritual growth, as well as the number of folks attending, is on the increase. Now, to cap off this calendar year, we are promoting "Christmas with Christ Day" on December 18th. Every class is setting a class attendance goal for that day. But don't wait for Dec. 18th. If you and your family don't attend Sunday school, start this Sunday. What better Christmas gift can you get and give your family? Attending SBC Sunday school is a wonderful experience.

Make this Christmas the best ever. Make it with Christ!

Gaylen Baugh
SBC Sunday School Director

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Letter

Baptism

Bro. Steve Smith
Carolyn Smith
Tim Smith
Van Allen
Glenda Allen

REMINDER: Sunday School Teachers & Officers Fellowship,
Mon., Dec. 19th, 6pm, at the home of Gaylen & Shelia Baugh.

KIDS KORNER

Can you believe it's almost Christmas!! It always brings great memories of Christmas morning, with piles of wrapping on the floor (there were 8 children), dinner at my grandparents and snow. Lots and lots of snow. (we actually built an igloo one year) Growing up in Michigan, December generally looked like what you see on Christmas cards. May I share a particular time with you? Around the time I was 8 or 9, my Dad was out of work. My parents were troubled because there was no money for Christmas. Dad took some of my brothers' toys and repainted them. I can't remember what the rest of us received but there was something under the tree for all of us. Do you know that this is the Christmas that is most remembered by my brothers, especially Barry. He knew what Dad had done but it didn't matter! This year your generosity through Operation Christmas Child will have placed 44 boxes "under the tree." Think of the lives touched! Five GAs, a youth and three adults attended GA JAM in Bardstown 11/12. Over 500 girls were registered! The girls learned how talents, no matter what they are, can be used in missions. They're already talking about next year's event at St. Matthews Baptist Church in Louisville. There are special events throughout the year for RAs such as camps, race car (wooden) derby and other activities. December is also the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for International Missions. On Wednesday, December 21st, the children will participate in the international mission study: Kids Reaching Kids: London. This includes learning about missions, food-tasting (we also give them "our-kind" of food), games and crafts. We will also celebrate the birth of Jesus. All children are invited to attend...they do not have to be regular attenders on Wednesday to participate. From all of us in Children's Missions Education, "MERRY CHRISTMAS!"

Wedding Anniversaries



Ricky & Dana Stoker	05
Darrell & Vicky Bobbett	06
Neal & Tina Hamilton	08
Harold & Oma McIntyre	09
Eugene & Helen Ashby	12
Roy & Bettie Bond	12
Michael & Christy Wright	12
Rick & Lisa Browning	15
Marvin & Jackie Flatt	21
Scott & Casey Wright	22
Neal & Thelma Grayson	24
David & Sandra Kinser	27
Randy & Susie Rigsby	29
Dan & Faye Clark	31

Love in Christ,
Konnie





Having a Missions Mindset

When I first began talking with the Search Committee at our church back in August I asked them early on for a copy of the Church's Budget. I was not asking so that I could see what the Pastor was paid, but where you spent your money. You can know a lot about a church or an individual by looking at their checkbook. I was pleasantly surprised to see how much was geared towards outreach. I was especially pleased to see that Second Baptist gave 14% of undesignated receipts to the Cooperative Program. Obviously this church has a heart for outreach!

I was also interested in learning more about the Kentucky Baptist Convention and its priorities. Just last week, I had the opportunity to attend the KBC Meeting in Florence, Kentucky. There I learned how the KBC spends its Cooperative Program receipts with 49.8% going to the Southern Baptist Convention's Missions causes (funding for over 5,000 IMB Missionaries world-wide, 5,500 North American Missionaries, and the support of our six seminaries around the country training tomorrow's Christian Leaders). I saw where we had allocated 50.2% to instate missions programs (Sunrise Children's Services, Baptist Healthcare System, Oneida Baptist Institute, and various missions around the state including new church starts). When I see numbers and commitment along these lines, it excites this preacher! Even the theme for this year's meeting was 'More for Christ - He must increase, I must decrease, John 3:30' I found the entire meeting from the Pastor's Conference on Monday to the Convention Meeting on Tuesday to be spirit-filled and refreshing to all those who labor for our Lord. I met a host of Pastors who sincerely have a heart for missions in our Jerusalem, Judeas, Samarias, and the World. What a blessing it was for all. I thanked God again for allowing me to be a part of such a group of laborers for Christ!

Floyd Paris, this year's President of the KBC, challenged all of us to give three dollars more this year than last. Only three dollars more per person would have a tremendous impact on the amount we have to reach our world. He shared an experience he had this year with a group of students who went with him to the Dominican Republic on a mission trip. They were in Mucha Agua and as they were preparing to leave they discovered that the church needed a new roof. When they inquired as to the cost, they learned it was going to run around \$3,000 to replace the roof. The young people told Brother Floyd that they could not leave without doing something to provide a new roof for the church. He asked what they wanted to do. To make the story short they collected all the monies their parents had given them to buy souvenirs and gave the money for the roof. The total they collected? \$3,200! Brother Floyd then challenged us to give and people began to bring money and deposit it on the altar at the front of the church. The total given? \$7,430! You will see pictures of the pile of money in the upcoming Western Recorder Newspaper. There were few dry eyes in the place as God burdened the hearts of His people to give. After all, being mission minded is having a heart after God's own heart! Don't forget your pastor loves you!

Bro. Steve

Mike's Minutes



Merry Christmas!!! I may be the first to say this to you, but I hope I'm not the last! Yeah, I know! Where did the year go? Yes, my friend, the Christmas season is here!

Friday evening, Dec. 2nd, our choir members will be going to Rich Pond Baptist Church to see the Christmas play entitled *Two From Galilee*. This is a Broadway-style musical built on the love story of Mary & Joseph and how God encounters people in their lives. A sign-up sheet is in the choir room. Tickets are free and already reserved. The bus will leave at 5:45 P.M.

Sunday evening, Dec. 4th, is our annual "Hanging of the Greens" service. If you'd like to help with this service, please let me know as soon as possible. I love volunteers!!!

I also want to tell you about an event that will take place on Sunday evening, Dec. 11th, at 6:00 P.M. The Worship Choir will be presenting their Christmas musical entitled *Mary, Did You Know*. This arrangement of Christmas music is arranged and written by Russell Mauldin, Sue C. Smith, and Johnathan Crumpton. Once again we, in our mind's eye, will be transported to the hills near Bethlehem where the angel appeared to announce the birth of a Savior. He is the Messiah! Christ the Lord!

As the musical progresses, you'll hear such Christmas favorites as *Hark! The Herald Angels Sing*, *Angels from the Realms of Glory*, *O Come Let Us Adore Him*, and the all-time favorite, *Away in a Manger*. You'll also hear some new songs like *Born to Save Us*, *Who Would Imagine a King*, and my favorite, *Jesus, Messiah!* The musical centers around one of the most dramatic and inspired songs written for the Christmas season, *Mary, Did You Know*. The song was made popular and written by Mark Lowery. It's in this song that you will be taken back to the prophecies of the prophets of old as they told about the coming One. As Mary held the baby Jesus that night, she couldn't have imagined what was about to take place in the life of her newborn child.

Because the scripture of this event is so brief and so few, over the centuries we've envisioned and guessed at what we don't know, but wish we could. If we could only go back to that night, oh, the questions we could ask the angels, shepherds, the inn keeper and others, if given the chance. I know we can't go back in time and ask those questions, but one thing that I'm certain of is there's grace, hope and forgiveness because of the wonder and love of God with us.

Come and experience this special evening filled with the classic carols, hymns, and joyous message of hope!

Yes, there are songs in the air—songs of celebration, songs of worship, songs of proclamation! After all, it's Christmas, and we have so much to sing about. This season, we pray that each of you will hear the joyful songs and story of the beautiful Nativity story. But most of all, I pray that you will tell the good news of Jesus Christ to anyone who will listen. God's Son is born! It's the greatest story ever told!

May the Lord bless us as we minister the songs and story of Jesus this Christmas season!

Merry Christmas!!!

Bro. Mike


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FROM YOUR LIBRARY
 If you are into mysteries, there's lots to choose from in the library. Some are really intense and scary, and some are more lighthearted. Come by and check out these mystery books at your library soon. See you at your library.
 Librarian, Suzann Coles




December Birthdays

Suzann Coles	01	Melvin Henderson	19
Lori Dunlap	01	Faye Page	20
Nikki Clinard	01	Shell Peters	20
Ethan Spencer	02	Jon Blick	21
Meagan Cherry	03	Tanner Kash	21
Eliot Wheat	03	Virginia Wood	22
Donald Ballard	04	Cindy Offutt	22
Joe Laird	04	Christy Hooper	22
Taylor Bibb	04	RaShawn Jones	22
David Hopper	05	Jeweral Hughes	23
Kim Bird	06	Patsy Poore	24
Joey Young	06	Ryan Davenport	24
Lindsey Gipson	07	Sandy Taylor	25
Lisa Watkins	09	Venita Hall	26
Billie Simpson	09	Lynette Baker	26
Charles Tinch	10	Crystal Arnold	26
Nancy Kinkade	10	Eleanor Tinch	27
Pat Henderson	11	Alex Dodson	27
Paige Gilliam	11	Casey Wright	28
Taylor Wilson	11	Noble Clark	28
Ruth Ethridge	13	Harold McIntyre	29
Mike Dorris	14	Brenda Barton	30
Ashley Hankins	15	Carl Sandage	30
Bill Owens	18	Lee Duncan	31