



The Baptist Builder

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
PALAFOX and LaRUA STS.
PENSACOLA, FLORIDA

JAMES L. PLEITZ, D.D.
PASTOR

VOLUME XXVII

DECEMBER 9, 1976

No. 50

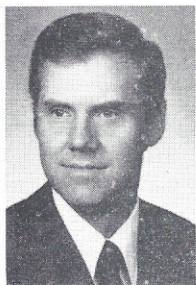


"The Magnificent Gift" is a beautiful Christmas presentation that features the music of Bill Gaither, Ron Huff and Randall Thompson. Drama, special lighting and costuming, multi-media, and other special effects help depict the real meaning of Christmas. Pictured at Monday night's rehearsal are: Jimmy Magaha, Charles Bourne, Dianne Goeller, Tim Lutrick, Frank Hamilton, John Hodges. Come and bring a friend. Sunday, December 12 and Monday, December 13, 7:15 P.M.

Pastor's Paragraphs

A MESSAGE FROM OUTER SPACE

In about two years NASA scientists will start listening for possible messages from other worlds. The announcement was made



by Bob Edelson in a recent speech to the National Telecommunications Conference, NTC. Mr. Edelson is one of several engineers and deep space scientists who will begin listening for extra-terrestrial communications in the Fall of 1978. Modern technology is already capable of sending messages deep into

space, but any reply would take up to 24,000 years. For this reason, NASA has decided to keep quiet and listen.

Two thousand years ago mankind was breathlessly awaiting some word from Heaven. For hundreds of years anxious hearts had waited for the announcement that God's promised Messiah had arrived. And then He came. The announcement was made by the angels to the startled shepherds as they tended their flocks on the hillside outside of Bethlehem. It was a message of hope and assurance. "Fear not for behold I bring you good tidings of great joy which shall be to all people, for unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour which is Christ the Lord." (Luke 2:10-11).

In his song, "O Little Town of Bethlehem" Phillips Brooks penned these words, "How silently, how silently The Wondrous Gift is given. So God imparts to human hearts the blessing of His Heaven. No ear may hear His coming, but in this world of sin where meek souls will receive Him still, the dear Christ enters in."

The most important preparation for Christmas is the preparation of the heart. The Good Lord willing, I'd like for us to think about this all important preparation on the Lord's Day.

May God bless you and yours at this wonderful Christmas season.

Faithfully your pastor,

James L. Plitz

SERMON TOPICS

11:00 A.M.

"GETTING READY FOR CHRISTMAS"

(John 1:6-18, 29)

7:15 P.M.

"THE MAGNIFICENT GIFT"

presented by

The Music Ministry of
First Baptist Church

BUS MINISTRY REPORT

No.	Captain	Riders	Workers	Total
1.	Pope	38	4	42
2.	Nelson	51	2	53
3.	Kilpatrick	34	6	40
4.	McNeill	38	3	41
5.	Holley	28	4	32
6.	Johnson	34	4	38
	Van	10	3	13
		233	26	259
	Show Bus Results			
	Attendance		24	
	New riders enrolled		7	

OUR CHURCH FAMILY

IN THE HOSPITALS:

Baptist

Mr. W. B. Hearon, Mrs. Roy (Jan) Shannon, Mrs. W. T. (Myrtice) Osborn, Mrs. Beulah Bradford

Sacred Heart

Mr. Clyde Gimlin, Mrs. Bennie (Miriam) Swain, Matthew Craig Gunnells, Mrs. Claude (Ethel) Adkison, Mr. George Hughes

Medicenter, Mobile

Mrs. Sybil Riddell

HOME FROM THE HOSPITAL:

Mr. Herbert Highsmith, David C. Allen, Mrs. Curtis (Kittie) Morris, Miss Margaret Nelson, Mr. Warren Ackerman, Mr. Ed Carp, Mr. Horace Lowery, Mrs. Robert (Brenda) Thorson

SYMPATHY TO:

Mrs. Emil Anderson in the death of her husband.

CONGRATULATIONS TO:

Verna Willis and Robert Jackson on their marriage December 4, 1976.

THE VERY NEWEST

The rosebuds on the pulpit Sunday were placed there in honor of

MASTER

MATTHEW CRAIG GUNNELLS

son of

Mr. and Mrs. Andy Gunnells
born December 1, 1976

* * *

MISS CELINA CLAIRE THORSON

daughter of

Mr. and Mrs. Robert Thorson
born December 4, 1976

RECEIVED INTO MEMBERSHIP LAST WEEK



Mr. and Mrs. Rich Anders



Mrs. Kate Connors



*Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Gunnels
Also shown: Mark Gunnels*

SANCTUARY FLOWERS

The flowers in the Sanctuary this Sunday are in honor of Mr. Ed Gregory's birthday and are given with love by his daughter Faith.

BAPTIST WOMEN (DAY) GROUP MEETINGS

Tuesday, December 14

9:30 A.M.—BAPTIST YOUNG WOMEN in the Cellar. (Nursery will be provided).

—ROSIE BEDSOLE in the Prayer Room.

10:00 A.M.—RALPH BETHEA with Mrs. Claude Hawkins, 4120 Piedmont Road.

—VIRGINIA COBB with Mrs. S. G. Kennedy, 2100 East Mallory Street.

—STANLEY DAVIS with Mrs. Troy Booker, 11400 Clear Creek Dr. Co-hostess Mrs. T. H. Blackmon.

—LAURA FRANCES SNOW at the church in the Lydia Sunday School class room.

11:00 A.M.—DALE TERRY with Mrs. Glenn Brantley, 4139 Lyric Lane.

2:00 P.M.—HARVEY HEADRICK with Mrs. M. A. Farmer, 730 W. Jordan St.

BAPTIST WOMEN (NIGHT) GROUP MEETINGS

Monday, December 13

7:00 P.M.—MARTHA HAYLOCK in the Church Library.

Tuesday, December 14

7:00 P.M.—DORA HARBIN with Miss Lois Williams, 1405 E. Jordan St.

IN MEMORIAM

Emil Anderson

P.O. Box 116, Lillian, Alabama

Joined our church by Letter

January 6, 1946

Deceased December 2, 1976

WHITE CHRISTMAS SERVICE

On Sunday night, December 19, members will have the opportunity to donate food and clothing for needy families in the Pensacola area. Each person wishing to contribute should bring canned foods, dry staple foods, and clothes wrapped in white paper. Canned vegetables and meats, soups, juices and other non-refrigerant canned items, staple foods (such as flour, meal, sugar, rice, etc.), and clothing (particularly for children, but not excluding adults and teens) will be acceptable.

Approximately 30 minutes prior to the evening service December 19, every person having a donation will bring the gift to the front of the Sanctuary and place it on the white tier. All gifts will be distributed before Christmas to families who have need for these gifts. Your involvement in this ministry will cause many people to have a happier Christmas, including you.

LIBRARY NOTES

Look through your book shelves and closets and return any overdue books. NO FINES will be charged on overdue books returned from December 19, 1976 through January 2, 1977. If the library is not open, you may deposit books through the slot in the library door.

Mr. and Mrs. Julian L. Wilson
and
Chaplain and Mrs. Bryant R. Nobles
invite you to share in the joy
of the marriage of their children
Deborah Elizabeth
and
Paul Reginald
on Saturday, the eighteenth of December
nineteen hundred and seventy-six
at six o'clock in the afternoon
First Baptist Church
Pensacola, Florida
and afterwards at the reception
Fellowship Hall

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

- Sunday, Dec. 12 — John 20:24-29
Ezekiel 48; John 20, 21
- Monday, Dec. 13 — 1 John 1:1-10
Daniel 1-2; 1 John 1
- Tuesday, Dec. 14 — 1 John 2:7-11
Daniel 3-4; 1 John 2
- Wednesday, Dec. 15 — I John 3:11-18
Daniel 5-6; 1 John 3
- Thursday, Dec. 16 — 1 John 5:1-10
Daniel 7-8; 1 John 4-5
- Friday, Dec. 17 — 2 John 6-11
Daniel 9-10; 2 John
- Saturday, Dec. 18 — 3 John 4-11
Daniel 11-12; 3 John.
-

MENU

December 15, 1976
Stuffed Baked Pork Roll
with Gravy
Mashed Potatoes
Steamed Cabbage or
Cole Slaw
Roll and Butter
Dessert

Tea Coffee



"THANK YOU"

The quality of one's years must be measured in terms of his experiences and the people with whom he has shared these experiences. Thank you for ten of the most meaningful, exciting, fruitful, happy years of my ministry.

The Royals count it a tremendous blessing to be a part of the family here at First Baptist Church. I thank God for Jim Pleitz and Clyde Bizzell and for their anointed ministries in this New Testament church. To worship, fellowship and serve with the staff and members of this great church is a joy that is simply indescribable.

Bonnie, Darrell, Barry, Paula and I thank you for the beautiful surprise Sunday night. The expressions of love and friendship. The extravagantly generous gifts, the elegant reception — all overwhelmed us. We love you all.

The Royals

WHAT IS A MISSIONARY DOLLAR?

A missionary dollar is *concentrated compassion*. When diluted with the consecrated talents of God's messengers, it is a *potent tonic* for the healing of sin-sick souls.

A missionary dollar is the *word on the wing* to jungle by-paths, and villages presided over by Fugi, and traffic-jammed cities noisy with perishing people.

A missionary dollar is a *third hand* for busy missionaries set down in the midst of a million lost souls.

A missionary dollar is a *key to unlock* the devil's dungeons and liberate the helpless and the hopeless.

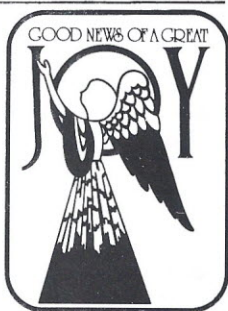
The missionary dollar is a *sword stroke* against the evil powers that do battle against God and the godly.

The missionary dollar is *oil for God's lamp lighters* who brighten the corners of the world.

The missionary dollar is the *essence of "me"* going with the gospel where the bodily "me" cannot go.

My missionary dollar is *tongues telling, hand healing, lives living* for Jesus wherever the missionaries serve.

—Vernon Elmore, Texas



LOTTIE MOON CHRISTMAS OFFERING

OUR GOAL\$18,000.00
GIVEN TO DATE\$ 5,462.03

THE BAPTIST BUILDER

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CHURCH OFFICE433-5631
CHRISTIAN ACTIVITIES
CENTER433-6700

CHURCH OFFICERS

Max Dickson, Chairman of Deacons.....456-4746
 Hiram Smith, Jr., S.S. Director.....432-4697
 William M. Hetrick, Dir. of Church Training.....476-9266
 Miss Sarah Address, W.M.U. Director.....432-5594
 Mrs. Joseph F. Boykin, Sr.
 Director of Library Services.....455-7925
 Robert D. Hinson, Treasurer

CHURCH STAFF — Residence Phones

Dr. James L. Pleitz, Pastor.....433-1502
 Clyde K. Blizell, Asst. to Pastor.....432-7237
 Paul Royal, Minister of Music.....432-8573
 John G. McInnis, Jr., Minister of
 Outreach and Middle School Youth.....433-8605
 Joe Palmer, Minister of
 Activities and High School Youth.....477-5885
 Mrs. Raymond Taylor,
 Director of Children's Work.....476-0822
 Miss Elaine Kerley,
 Organist and Music Assistant.....433-8152
 Mrs. Nelma Camp, Pastor's Secretary
 Mrs. Charlotte Martin, Financial Secretary
 Mrs. Georgia Sees, Educational Secretary
 Mrs. Nancy Beuris, Membership Secretary
 Mrs. Marsha Cetti, Receptionist
 Mrs. Lorraine Pulley, Dietician

All material to be included in the Builder
 should be in the office, preferably in writ-
 ing, not later than 9:00 a.m. Mondays.

LOOKING AT LAST WEEK

The Church in Study1450
 Main Sunday School1432
 Crippled Children's Home 18
 The Church in Training170
 Christian Training Hour190
 Other Training Activities 480
 Coming for Membership4
 Tithes and Offerings:
 Budget\$20,165.05
 Specials 8,961.19
TOTAL OFFERING\$29,126.24

ONLY 3

Sundays left to give your
 tithes and offerings in 1976

OPPORTUNITIES of the WEEK

Sunday, December 12

- * 9:30 A.M.—Sunday School
- * 11:00 A.M.—Morning Worship
- 2:00 P.M.—Lydia Class S.S. Christmas
 Party (Cellar)
- 4:45 P.M.—Youth Choir Rehearsal
- 6:00 P.M.—Explorer's Bible Drill —
 Children 5 Dept.
- * 6:00 P.M.—Christian Training Hour
- * 7:15 P.M.—Christmas Music, Adult
 Choir — "The Magnificent
 Gift"

Monday, December 13

- 10:00 A.M.—Intercessory Prayer Group
- * 7:15 P.M.—Christmas Music, Adult
 Choir — "The Magnificent
 Gift"

Tuesday, December 14

- 6:00 P.M.—Noami S.S. Class Dinner —
 Dining Room
- 7:30 P.M.—Boy Scouts — Cellar

Wednesday, December 15

- * 4:45 P.M.—Choirs
- * 5:45 P.M.—Fellowship Dinner
- * 6:30 P.M.—Children's Choir Program
 "Sights and Sounds of
 Christmas"

Thursday, December 16

- 7:00 P.M.—Mary Martha S.S. Class Din-
 ner — Dining Room

Friday, December 17

- 6:30 P.M.—Adult 3 Department Christ-
 mas Party — Dining Room

*Nursery Provided

COMING FOR MEMBERSHIP DECEMBER 5, 1976

BY LETTER:

- 45. Rick Newman, 2217 W. LaRua St.
 From: First Baptist, Bunkie La.

ON PROFESSION OF FAITH:

- 13. Mark Godwin, 2110 Bovary Ct.
- 14. Keith Owens, 1237 Ramblewood
- 15. Jerry Owens, 1237 Ramblewood