



# The Baptist Builder

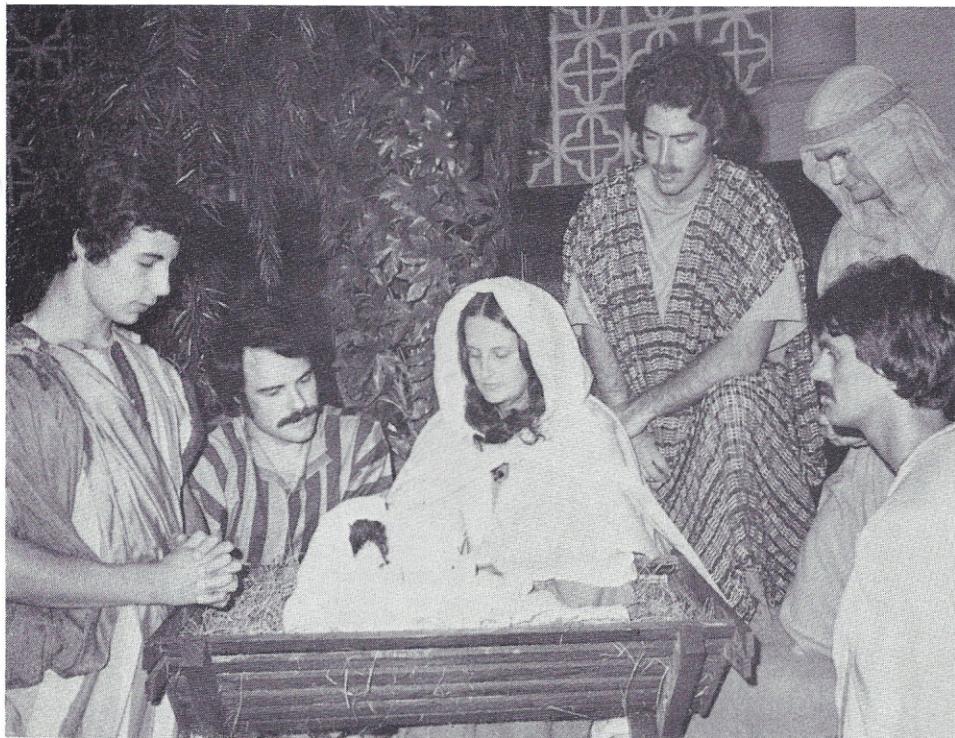
FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH  
PALAFOX and LARUA STS.  
PENSACOLA, FLORIDA

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. Pleitz*

### 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

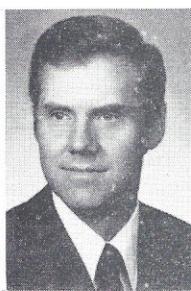
Mr. and Mrs. Andy Gunnells  
born December 1, 1976

\* \* \*

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

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## 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.

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## 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

Published Weekly by the

## FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

500 North Palafox Street

Pensacola, Florida 32501

Second Class Postage Paid at

Pensacola, Florida

CHURCH OFFICE .....	433-5631
CHRISTIAN ACTIVITIES	
CENTER .....	433-6700

### 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 Andress, 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. Bizzell, 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 writing,  
not later than 9:00 a.m. Mondays.

## LOOKING AT LAST WEEK

The Church in Study .....	1450
Main Sunday School .....	1432
Crippled Children's Home .....	18
The Church in Training .....	170
Christian Training Hour .....	190
Other Training Activities .....	480
Coming for Membership .....	4
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  
    "Sounds and Sights of Christmas"

### Thursday, December 16

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

### Friday, December 17

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

\*Nursery Provided

## COMING FOR MEMBERSHIP DECEMBER 5, 1976

### BY LETTER:

- 45. Rick Newman, 2217 W. LaRue 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