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**DEACON OF THE WEEK SCHEDULE**

Dec 26–Jan 1 Tony Hopkins & Bobby Kestner  
 Jan 2–Jan 8 Lane Pritchard & Doris Blevins  
 Jan 9–Jan 15 Barry Reid & Donna Hatfield  
 Jan 16–Jan 22 Pam Breeden & Mattie Crockett  
 Jan 23–Jan 29 Mary Pritchard & Mark Hughes  
 Jan 30–Feb 5 Carol Starke & Charlie Hughes

**THE TIME HAS COME . . . for everyone in our church who loves Jesus to stand and be counted faithful.**

SUNDAYS	11/27	12/04	12/11	12/18
Sunday School	202	128	198	166
Evening			135	
Our Church Family				
at Worship	248	169	232	262
Preschool	28	17	23	17
Children's Church	6	11	9	6

**“Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house.” (Malachi 3:10 NIV)**

	Needed Dec	Rec'd Dec	Needed Yr-to-Date	Rec'd Yr-to-Date
Tithes/Offerings				
Unified	\$39,232	\$42,920	\$508,360	\$403,158
Focus 20/20	\$11,004	\$5,606	\$140,301	\$82,618



**At Home With Baptist Women**

AHWBW will meet in the church dining room at 10 am on Tuesday, January 10<sup>th</sup>. Linda Baxley will serve as hostess with coffee, etc., beginning at 10 am, with meeting to follow at 10:30. Ladies of FBC: start the year by joining the AHWBW for good fellowship, enlightening discussions, and great Bible study sessions.

**CHURCH STAFF**  
 Jeffrey H. Raymond, Pastor  
 Geoffrey H Fuller, Associate Pastor  
 Pattie Arwood, Administrative Assistant  
 Joyce McMichael, Church Secretary  
 Grace H. Chase, Music Director  
 Gloria C. Andris, Pianist  
 Karen Sheppard, Organist  
 Dorothy West, Sexton  
 Melissa Adams, WEE School Director

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 Pattie Arwood CPS, Editor

# The Fellowship

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FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

If you noticed the front of the bulletin for the fourth Sunday of Advent you read the following:

It is truly a humbling experience to read back through the Old Testament and see how frail and imperfect all the “heroes” actually are. Abraham, the coward who cannot believe the promise. Jacob, the cheat who struggles with everybody. Joseph, the immature and arrogant teen. Moses, the impatient murderer who cannot wait for God. Gideon, the cowardly Baal-worshipper. Samson, the womanizing drunk. David, the power abusing adulterer. Solomon, the unwise wise man. Hezekiah, the reforming king who could not quite go far enough. And finally, a very young Jewish girl from a small village in a remote corner of a great empire.

It never ceases to amaze me why God could not have chosen “better” people to do His work in the world. Yet if God can use them, and reveal Himself through them in such marvelous ways, it means that He might be able to use you and me. We, who, are inadequate and unwise, and often times lacking in faith.

As we stand at the brink of 2012, I believe it would do us well to pause a moment and consider how God is at

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work in our midst, and how God is calling you to join Him in His work in this community of faith. So, if God can use anybody to accomplish His work, and since God is calling you to partner with Him in the work of First Baptist Church in 2012, that means we need to be careful, in our own self-righteousness, not to put limits on what God can do through us—the most unlikely of people in the most unlikely of circumstances.

In the upcoming year there is much to be accomplished, and we need you to do your part. Think about what we are preparing to do next year:

- meet our adopted unified budget of \$587,121
- take care of those hurting in our community through our benevolence gifts
- minister to our children through Sunday School, Sports Camp, Summer retreats, Vacation Bible School, and other fellowship events
- minister to our youth through Summer & Winter retreats, Wednesday Bible Study, and other events
- care for our shut-ins and elderly members
- visit the sick and care for those who are hurting
- gather together for fellowship meals and Bible Study
- tackle mission projects like Walk Through Bethlehem, Operation Christmas Child, CCHASM's Thanksgiving meal, stocking the Hopewell Food Pantry, and other mission endeavors
- gather to celebrate the baptism of new believers
- celebrate the Lord's Supper together
- serve together on the various teams of our church so we can live out our mission
- prepare for worship events like the Easter Cantata, Patriotic Musical, and the Christmas program
- humble ourselves through repentance during the Lenten Season and celebrate with anticipation through the Advent Season
- and, many other opportunities as God illuminates our path.

There is so much for us to look forward to in the coming year. Now we can look at all these things in one of two ways. We can look at the year before us as a huge burden and say, "There is just too much to do, there's no way we can do all of this." And we can be defeated before we start. Or we can see the potential of the year

before us as an opportunity to grow spiritually and to enhance our fellowship.

You see, for all the negative things we have to say, God has a positive answer:

You say: "It's impossible."

God says: "All things are possible." (Luke 18:27)

You say: "I'm too tired."

God says: "I will give you rest." (Matthew 11:28-30)

You say: "Nobody really loves me."

God says: "I love you." (John 3:16; John 13:34)

You say: "I can't go on."

God says: "My grace is sufficient." (2 Corinthians 12:9, Psalm 91:15)

You say: "I can't figure things out."

God says: "I will direct your steps." (Proverbs 3:5-6)

You say: "I can't do it."

God says: "You can do all things." (Philippians 4:13)

You say: "I'm not able."

God says: "I am able." (2 Corinthians 9:8)

You say: "It's not worth it."

God says: "It will be worth it." (Romans 8:28)

You say: "I can't forgive myself."

God says: "I forgive you." (1 John 1:9; Romans 8:1)

You say: "I can't manage."

God says: "I will supply your needs." (Philippians 4:19)

You say: "I'm afraid."

God says: "I have not given you a spirit of fear." (2 Timothy 1:7)

You say: "I'm always worried and frustrated."

God says: "Cast all your worries on ME." (1 Peter 5:7)

You say: "I don't have enough faith."

God says: "I've given everyone a measure of faith." (Romans 12:3)

You say: "I feel all alone."

God says: "I will never leave you or forsake you." (Hebrews 13:5)

Let's heed God's answers and work toward a great New Year at First Baptist, I look forward to growing with you in the coming year.

## Jeff

### **Audio / Visual Team**

We have been blessed to have George Starke serving our worship needs for many years, as he makes sure that microphones are in place and working for the programs of this church. As our ministry continues to grow, the demand for the audio/visual team (George) continues to increase. George can no longer perform this vital ministry alone. We are grateful for Robert McKinley's willingness to help out on this team, but we are in need of more individuals who will be willing to learn to run the sound system.

There is no restriction of age or gender; if you can press buttons and stay awake during the service, you are a candidate for this important ministry. If you would be willing to help set up and take down the microphones in preparation for worship services, your help would be appreciated.

Please contact the church office, George Starke, or Jeff Raymond if you will join this team. If we cannot find people to help, then some services at the church will not be equipped with the appropriate sound.

## **Prayer Shawl Ministry News**

**Two months + fifteen women =  
60 lap robes and shawls**

Now, that's a God thing! The combined efforts of our First Baptist Church and Colonial Heights Baptist Church Prayer Shawl Ministries brought smiles to the patients at Riverview on the Appomattox this Christmas as each patient there received a hand-knitted or crocheted lap robe or shawl made by our ladies.

In addition to this project, our members made and donated well over 100 hats, scarves, and gloves to the Harding Street Project which is a special outreach ministry of Colonial Heights Baptist to the Harding Street Community Center in Petersburg.

The FBC Hopewell Prayer Shawl Ministry welcomes all who would like to join in this special group. They meet on Thursday afternoons, but you need not attend in order to participate. Any contributions will be welcomed . . . contact any member for more information on their latest project.

*May the favor of the Lord our God rest upon us, establish the work of our hands for us—yes, establish the work of our hands.*

Psalms 90:17

**Saturday, December 24<sup>th</sup>, 5:30 pm**  
**CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT SERVICE**



Come and join us for our annual Christmas Eve Candlelight Service. We will sing our favorite carols, hear the music of the season, be inspired by the Christmas Story, and leave ready to welcome the Christ Child in our worlds. There is no better way to celebrate Christmas than to gather with your family, and remember what Christmas is all about and be reminded of how much God loves you. We look forward to experiencing the joy of Christmas with you at 5:30 pm on Christmas Eve.

***Sharing Our Lives at FBC***

*Share each other's troubles and problems, and in this way obey the law of Christ.* —Galatians 6:2

**Congratulations** to Geoff & Ashley Fuller on the birth of their son Franklin Hugh on December 12<sup>th</sup>; big sister is Adelaide, big brother is Geoffrey; paternal grandparents are Hugh & Frankie Fuller.

**Sincere Sympathy** is extended to

- Betty Townes and family on the death of her brother-in-law Carlton Townes on December 2<sup>nd</sup>;
- Reed Hogue and Family on the death of his father Stuart Hogue on December 14<sup>th</sup>;
- Harold & Marie England and family on the death of his brother Roy Stanford "Stan" England on December 16<sup>th</sup>.

**Expressions of Gratitude** from

- Betty Rose Hughes for the prayers, food, cards, calls, and visits during her knee surgery and recuperation.

**Merry Christmas & Happy New Year  
 from the Staff at FBC!!!**

*Jeff Raymond*                      *Geoff Fuller*  
*Grace Chase*                      *Gloria Andrs*  
*Melissa Adams*                   *Karen Sheppard*  
*Pattie Arwood*                   *Joyce McMichael*  
*Dorothy West*

**MISSIONS AT FBC**



We have received \$1,061 of our \$4,500 goal through the first three Sundays in December. The CBF Offering for Global Missions is an annual campaign to support CBF's life-changing missions efforts around the world. Both church and individuals can give to the Offering, which is collected year-round.

The CBF Offering financially supports field personnel around the world by providing their ministry expenses, salaries and benefits. These field personnel spread the gospel among those who haven't heard it, meet the physical needs among the most neglected, and serve the local church by providing ways church members can participate in life-changing ministry.

Without gifts to the Offering, many CBF field personnel could not serve, and many life-changing ministries could not exist. This year's national goal, \$4.8 million, is the amount needed to support these ministries. The offering is not "over and above" the CBF Global Missions budget; it is the primary way field personnel are funded.

Our focus this year is Refuge and Hope in Sub-Saharan Africa. CBF Field personnel Jade and Shelah Acker live in Uganda, where they minister to refugees who have fled war zones and other violence. Often, these refugees have lost everything, and they come to Uganda to begin a better life. Through a community center, the Ackers share the hope of Jesus Christ as they teach English, lead Bible studies, and help meet physical needs. This year our church goal is \$4,500. Let's do what we can to support this mission project.

**CCHASM Thanksgiving Meal**

CCHASM's Thanksgiving meal program was a huge success! Thank you for your support! Collectively, in the areas of Prince George, Dinwiddie, and Chesterfield Counties along with Hopewell and Colonial Heights, CCHASM assisted 4,260 adults and 3,137 children for a total assistance of 7,397 individuals. In Hopewell alone, CCHASM assisted 350 families.

*In Memoriam . . .*

**Sandra Cheek Lassiter**  
 26 February 1938 – 18 November 2011  
 Member of FBC since 2010



***GUARDIAN ANGELS for JANUARY***

<b>January 1<sup>st</sup></b>	<b>8:45 am</b>	<b>11:00 am</b>
Infants-3 yrs 4-5 yrs	Jim & Sheryl Downs NO Misson Friends	Peggy Henderson/Rose McKean Mac & Diane Eubank
<b>January 8<sup>th</sup></b>	Raymond & Patti Powell Mission Friends	Bill & Myra Thompson Laura & Mike Slusser
<b>January 15<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>8:45 am</b> Sheila & David Minor Misson Friends	<b>11:00 am</b> Mattie Crockett/Robert Pelter Beth & Bobby Johnson
<b>January 22<sup>nd</sup></b>	<b>8:45 am</b> Mary Volk/ LeJeanna Raymond Misson Friends	<b>11:00 am</b> Kim Saunders/Brittani McKinley Robert & Donna McKinley
<b>January 29<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>8:45 am</b> Betty Townes/ Eunice Blevins Misson Friends	<b>11:00 am</b> Claudine Creamer/Brenda Reid Janice & Herb Denton

*If you cannot stay on the assigned date and cannot find anyone with whom to trade, please contact Nancy Pelter.*



Have you tried E-Giving? Some of our members are enjoying the convenience of contributing weekly or monthly. For more information, go to the FBC website [www.fbchopewell.org](http://www.fbchopewell.org) and click on "online giving" on the home page.

FH = Fellowship Hall C = Choir Room Conf = Conf Room  
 FHK - FH Kitchen FLC = Family Life Center C = Choir Room  
 L = Library G = Gym K - Gym Kitchen  
 P = Parlor DR = Dining Room S = Sanctuary

# JANUARY 2012

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<b>1</b> NEW YEAR'S DAY COMMUNION	<b>2</b> Office Closed/Staff Holiday	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b> 7 pm WMU (conf)	<b>6</b> 5-10:pm RA B'ball	<b>7</b> 8-4 pm RA B'ball
<b>8</b> Mission Friends Resumes 6 pm Council Mtg	<b>9</b> 5-10 pm RA B'ball	<b>10</b> 6:30 pm Children's Mniistry (conf) 5-10 pm RA B'ball	<b>11</b> 5-10 pm RA B'ball RAs/GAs Resume 6:15 pm Business Mtg (FH)	<b>12</b> 5-10 pm RA B'ball	<b>13</b> Youth Winter Retreat - Eagle Eyrie > 5-10 pm RA B'ball	<b>14</b> 8-4 pm RA B'ball
<b>15</b> Youth Winter Retreat 2-4 pm Webster Private Party (DR)	<b>16</b> 5-10 pm RA B'ball	<b>17</b> 5-10 pm RA B'ball	<b>18</b> 5-10 pm RA B'ball <b>9:00 pm Newsletter Dead-</b> <b>line</b>	<b>19</b> 5-10 pm RA B'ball	<b>20</b> 5-10 pm RA B'ball	<b>21</b> 8-4 pm RA B'ball
<b>22</b>	<b>23</b> 7:30 pm Jr Women (FH) 7:00 pm Finance (123) 5-10 pm RA B'ball	<b>24</b> Fellowship Hall & Kitchen Reserved----- -> 5-10 pm RA B'ball	<b>25</b> WEE Grandparents' Porridge Breakfast (FH, FHK) 5-10 pm RA B'ball 3:00 pm Newsletter Mailed	<b>26</b> 5-10 pm RA B'ball	<b>27</b> 5-10 pm RA B'ball	<b>28</b> 8-4 pm RA B'ball
<b>29</b>	<b>30</b> 5-10 pm RA B'ball	<b>31</b> 5-10 pm RA B'ball				<i>20 December 2011</i>

## "And Pray Ye One for Another"

River View on the Appomattox--  
 Anna Sue Thomas  
 HealthSouth, Petersburg  
 Mary Lee Hogan

### At Home—

Pat Carnesi  
 Mattie Crockett  
 Marie England  
 Allen Flannagan  
 Cherie Gettings  
 Jackie & Andy Gibbs  
 Evelyn Harrison  
 Betty Rose Hughes  
 Mark Hughes  
 Bob Kestner  
 Bonnie Lawton  
 Ron Miller  
 Robert Pelter  
 Jean Putnam  
 Bonnie Sacra  
 Michael Sisson  
 Valerie Pelter  
 Winters

### Friends in the Community—

Marshall Aldridge  
 Carey Ammons  
 Greg Barlett  
 Keith Blevins  
 Wendy Broughton  
 Eugene Coe  
 Virginia Dale  
 Alyssa Divers  
 Janet Evans  
 Delana Johnson  
 Agnes Keyes  
 Tom Lewis  
 Peggy Logan  
 Tammy Pelter  
 Sarah Frances  
 Pennington  
 Dorothy O'Shields  
 Gerry Schmoker  
 Dennis Starke  
 Ed Thorn  
 Jill Tromba  
 Richard Weinz  
 Jonathan Weston  
 Frank Wiley  
 Mary Willis

### In the Military—

Todd Harkrader  
 Phil Johnson  
 Logan Jones  
 Brian Kestner  
 Christopher Sharp  
 Andrew Webb  
 Joshua Brown  
 Victoria Starks  
 Gary Stanford

### Sunday Activities

8:45 am First Praise/Mission Friends  
 9:45 am Sunday School  
 11:00 am Worship Service

### Monday Activities

10:00 am Prayer Team (111)  
 5:30 pm RA B'ball Lads Red  
 6 pm RA B'ball Crusaders Red  
 7:00 pm Praise Team Rehearsal (S)  
 Adult Handbells (C)

### Tuesday Activities

6 pm RA B'ball Lads Blue  
 6:30 pm RA B'ball Challenger White  
 7:30 pm RA B'ball Challenger Red  
 Boy Scout Pack/Troop 924 (B4, B5, FH)  
 6:30 pm Jr Girl Scouts Trp 102 (201-203)

### Wednesday Activities

6:30 pm FBC Cafe (G)  
 6:00 pm Library Open  
 6:00 pm GAs (203), RAs (210)  
 6:00 pm Youth Bible Study (Y)  
 6:15 pm Adult Bible Study (115)  
 Small Group (111)  
 Beginning Musicians (206)

### Thursday Activities

6:45 pm Music Makers & Young  
 Musicians (C)  
 7:00 pm Pre-schoolers Crafts (207)  
 7:30 pm Sanctuary Choir (C)  
 7:30 pm 7:30 pm RA B'ball Challenger 2  
 11:30 am Singing Saints (C0)  
 1 pm Prayer Shawl Ministry (P)  
 5 pm RA B'ball Crusaders Blue  
 6 pm RA B'ball Lads White  
 6:30 pm RA B'ball Challenger 1