

## GOD'S PEOPLE SERVING

Children's Church: Johnny & Shirley Waters Junior Church: Vince & Susan Vickery

### DECEMBER 4 & 7

Trustee of the Week: Tommy Taylor

First Impression Parking Lot Team: George Talley, Blake Waters, Johnny Waters

A.M. Nursery 1: Glenda Price Nursery 2: Patty Cox

Ushers: Max Anderson, Mack Glass, Tommie Johnson, George Talley

P.M. Nursery: Melissa Parrish

Ushers: Colby Root, Shelby Root, Zephan Vickery, Zane Vickery

### WEDNESDAY

Nursery: Shirley Waters

### DECEMBER 11 & 14

Trustee of the Week: Bobby Jackson

First Impression Parking Lot Team: Max Anderson, Charles Johnson, James McNeal

A.M. Nursery 1: Joy Herring Nursery 2: Evelyn Moore

Ushers: Mack Glass, Tommie Johnson, Paul Moore, George Talley

P.M. Nursery: Emily Green

Ushers: Tommie Johnson, Andy Moates, George Talley, Randell Woodham

### WEDNESDAY

Nursery: Judy Talley

### DECEMBER 18 & 21

Trustee of the Week: Mack Glass

First Impression Parking Lot Team: Carl Floyd, Don Jarrett, David Parrish

A.M. Nursery 1: Donna Hilson

Nursery 2: Diana Driskell

Ushers: Chad Hart, Tommie Johnson, George Talley, Johnny Waters

P.M. Nursery: Donna Windsor

Ushers: Colby Root, Shelby Root, Zephan Vickery, Zane Vickery

### WEDNESDAY

Nursery: Evelyn Moore

### DECEMBER 25 & 28

Trustee of the Week: Carl Floyd

First Impression Parking Lot Team: Charles Johnson, Max Anderson, James McNeal

A.M. Nursery 1: Barbara Taylor

Nursery 2: Patsy Paulk

Ushers: Brent Herring, Bobby Jackson, Paul Moore, Mark Wynn

### WEDNESDAY

Nursery: Geraldine Boyd

First Free Will Baptist Church  
1461 Timbers Drive  
Dothan, AL 36301  
"A Place You Can Call Home"  
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PERMIT NO. 28

# The Evangel

Volume IV, Issue 12

FIRST FREE WILL BAPTIST  
1461 Timbers Drive, Dothan, AL 36301

December 2011

First Free Will  
Baptist Church  
"A Place You Can Call Home"  
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## PASTORAL STAFF

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Minister of Music  
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Golden Agers Director  
Cell: 334-648-2730

Bro. Ronnie Brown  
Deacon Chairman  
Cell: 334-791-2800

Bro. Vince Vickery  
C.T.S. Director  
Cell: 798-0075



Dear Friends,

Just a few lines to let you know the results of our Heritage Day before I move on to other subjects. The attendance totals were 230 for Sunday School and 258 for worship with over 200 staying for lunch. All the comments were very positive and several new folks said that they would be back. I want to thank everyone for all the hard work and prayer that went into this event. We are already looking forward to next year (145 years).

One look at our sanctuary will tell you that Christmas is not very far off. Our decoration committee has done a superb job setting the tone for this year's Christmas activities. Our church choir and youth departments are busy in preparation for the programs they will be presenting on the evening of the 11th and Sunday morning the 18th. We'll cap off our Christmas celebration with a special Christmas Communion service at 10:30 on Christmas day. Our hope is that you and your family will experience a great blessing as you celebrate Christmas with our First Church family throughout the month of December!

Each year we have traditionally had a special Christmas offering and this month we will have the opportunity to give to our church scholarship fund. This scholarship provides grants for those who are seeking to further their education at Free Will Baptist Bible College. For the first time in many years we have one and maybe two young men who will be attending FWBBC in 2012. There will be a special Christmas offering envelope in the bulletin this week and in the foyer or you may use your regular offering envelope and designate it for the Christmas offering. Please prayerfully consider what God would have you do and join Sis. Judy and I in giving to this offering. What you give will be an investment that will pay eternal dividends!

Sis. Judy and I would like to wish you and your family a very merry Christmas and a happy New Year. May the Lord bless and keep you.

I'll BCNU,  
Pastor Steve

## Up-Coming Christmas Programs

Invite your Family and Friends as We Worship through Message and Song



Youth Program  
 Sunday, December 11  
 6:00 P.M.  
**The  
 Christmas Story**

*Celebration Choir*

*Christmas Cantata*

Sunday, December 18  
 10:30 A. M.

I'LL BE HOME FOR  
 CHRISTMAS



# DECEMBER 2011

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4 Finance Committee Meeting	5	6 "Boiler Room" Bible Study 10:00 am	7	8	9	10 Adult 3 Christmas Party
11 CEB Meeting  Children's Christmas program 6:00 pm	12	13 "Boiler Room" Bible Study 10:00 am Ladies Night Out @ Linda Edwards' home Master's Men Meeting	14 Business Meeting	15	16 Christmas parties: Young Adult 2 Adult 4 & Sr. Adult 1	17 Baby Shower for Karrie Waters 2—4pm  Celebration Choir dress rehearsal
18 Trustees Meeting  Celebration Choir Cantata 10:30 am	19	20 "Boiler Room" Bible Study 10:00 am	21	22	23	24
25 SS: dismissed MW: 10:30 am Communion EW: dismissed  Christmas Day	26  Church office closed	27  "Boiler Room" Bible Study 10:00 am	28	29	30	31

# December Birthdays and Anniversaries

**December 4**  
Diana Driskell  
Landon Jones  
Eric Thomas

**December 7**  
Clyde Hagler  
Bobby Stone  
Brenda Wynn

**December 9**  
James & Loyce Kirkland  
Logan McCardle  
Angelyn Pickett

**December 12**  
John & Louise Hughes

**December 13**  
George Talley  
Joy Tuttle

**December 17**  
Peggy Johnson

**December 18**  
Barbara Taylor  
Ronnie & Mary Yance

**December 19**  
Marie Cheshire  
Jimmy Taylor  
Lee Worley

**December 20**  
Mary Glazier

**December 23**  
Tim Jordan

**December 26**  
Tommie Johnson

**December 27**  
Loyce Kirkland  
Margie Smith

**December 28**  
Linda Love  
James McNeal

**December 29**  
Max Anderson  
Dennis Sallas

**December 31**  
Louise Hughes

*\* We want to include everyone's birthday and wedding anniversary. If yours was left off, please contact the church office so this error can be corrected.*

## This Week's Worship Schedule

### SUNDAY

8:45 A.M. Prayer Time in Pastor's Office  
9:15 A.M. Adult Choir Rehearsal  
9:30 A.M. Sunday School  
10:30 A.M. Morning Worship  
10:30 A.M. Children's Church  
(Ages 3– Preschool)  
10:30 A.M. Junior Church (Grades 1-4)  
4:30 P.M. Adult Choir Rehearsal  
6:00 P.M. Evening Worship

### TUESDAY

10:00 A.M. "The Boiler Room"  
A co-ed Bible study

### WEDNESDAY

5:30 P.M. Supper  
6:30 P.M. Classes for all ages  
6:30 P.M. K—5th Grade Choir  
7:00 P.M. 6th—12th Grade Choir  
7:30 P.M. Celebration Choir Rehearsal

## Birthday Offering for Christ

Annually, during the month of December we receive a designated offering, "Birthday Offering for Christ". This year the offering will go to the Free Will Baptist Bible College Scholarship Fund. This scholarship fund financially helps our church family college students who attend the Free Will Baptist Bible College in Tennessee. Envelopes designated for this offering will be provided throughout the remainder of December.

## The Cradle and The Cross

You cannot separate the cradle in the manger from the Cross. Someone has well said that, "Jesus was born to die!" and this



is true. He came to this old sin soaked, sin stained world to die for us. I am reminded of what Charles Dickens wrote in his novel "The Tale of Two Cities." In it a man by the name of Charles Darnay has been arrested and condemned to the guillotine during

the French Revolution. Another man by the name of Sydney Carton who bears a striking resemblance to Darnay goes to the prison and trades places with him and goes to his death in Darnay's stead. F. W. Borham writes this concerning Carton's sacrifice; "It is a very great things to be able to save those you love by dying for them." There is also a companion truth. "It is a

great thing, a very great thing, to have been died for!" My friends are you thankful to God through Christ that you have been died for? On the last page Dickens tells us what Sydney Carton would have seen if he could have looked into the future. Speaking of the family of Charles Darnay he said, "I see that I hold a sanctuary in all their hearts!" Dear friends let each of us who has been "...died for..." build a sanctuary in our hearts to Him who, for our salvation, has laid down His life!

## Where Is Your Bethlehem?

by [Marilyn Ehle](#)

Joseph  
went up  
from the  
town of  
Nazareth  
in  
Galilee



to Judea, to Bethlehem... He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child. Luke 2:4, 5

As the crow flies, it was a journey of approximately 100 kilometers but traveling over hills, through villages and around rivers would likely have made the trip even longer. Christmas pictures always show Mary riding a donkey but we really have no idea of their mode of travel. In any case, whether on foot or on the back of a swaying brown animal, it wasn't an easy journey, especially for a woman nearing the end of her pregnancy.

Why did she go? True, government officialdom decreed a census and that everyone must go to one's "own city," the place their families called home, for this official registration and counting. Perhaps Mary was also quite ready to leave the village of Nazareth where tongues were wagging about her pregnancy and unmarried status.

But Mary and Joseph knew they were going far from family and into a city whose streets would be clogged with traveling strangers. They were assured of no warm welcome, no cozy place to birth the expected child. Perhaps they *hoped* for a small house or a distant relative or a way for Joseph to earn money for their keep, but in almost every way, they were traveling into the unknown. The journey was long and hard, the destination uncertain.

Nearly nine months before their arrival in Bethlehem, Mary spoke life-changing words to God, words that were to comfort her in the many uncertain years ahead. "I am the Lord's servant. May it be to me as you have said." With those simple words of faith, she could endure the long journey on the back of a donkey, the cold streets of Bethlehem, the staring faces of strangers, and even the crude stable with its straw-lined manger.

Where is your Bethlehem? Has the path been long, the people uncaring, the circumstances burdensome? When we submit ourselves as servants to a loving God, we can—in quietness and confidence—add "May it be to me as you have said" no matter the place or position in which we find ourselves.

## Why Jesus Is Better Than Santa Claus

Santa lives at the North Pole...

**JESUS is everywhere.**

Santa rides in a sleigh...

**JESUS rides on the wind and walks on the water.**

Santa comes but once a year...

**JESUS is an ever present help.**

Santa fills your stockings with goodies...

**JESUS supplies all your needs.**

Santa comes down your chimney uninvited...

**JESUS stands at your door and knocks, and then enters**

**your heart when invited.**

You have to wait in line to see Santa...

**JESUS is as close as the mention of His name.**

Santa lets you sit on his lap...

**JESUS lets you rest in His arms.**

Santa doesn't know your name, all he can say is "Hi little boy or girl, what's your name?"...

**JESUS knew our name before we were born. Not only does**

**He know our name, He knows our address too.**

**He knows our history and future and He even knows how many hairs are on our heads.**

Santa has a belly like a bowl full of jelly...

**JESUS has a heart full of love**

All Santa can offer is HO HO HO...

**JESUS offers health, help and hope.**

Santa says "You better not cry"...

**JESUS says "Cast all your cares on me for I care for you."**

Santa's little helpers make

toys...

**JESUS makes new life, mends wounded hearts, repairs broken homes and builds mansions.**

Santa may make you chuckle but...

**JESUS gives you joy that is your strength.**

While Santa puts gifts under your tree...

**JESUS became our gift and died on a tree...the cross.**

**We need to put Christ back in CHRISTmas,** Jesus is still the reason for the season.

*"For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life" (John 3:16).*