



THE CALENDAR

Expressing the Mission and Ministry of First Baptist Church
Chippewa Square Savannah, Georgia

SUNDAY, MAY 11, 2008

PENTECOST SUNDAY

9:45 Sunday School

11:00 Morning Worship

*The dedication of a new audio system
given to the glory of God
and in memory of Ethel Battershall
by Ginger and George Pruden*

FIRST THOUGHTS

One of the terms to have emerged in recent years is that of the “missional church,” used to describe Christian congregations that are actively discerning God’s mission in the world and their participation in it. Of course, there are many missional congregations that are not Baptist just as there are many Baptist churches that are not missional. Recently, Dr. Daniel Vestal, Executive Coordinator for the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship, offered these thoughts on what a missional church that is Baptist looks like:

“In a missional church that is Baptist every person will be valued because each is a priest before the Lord and a minister of Christ. There are no “first-class” and “second-class” members. Distinction between “clergy” and “laity” is not that important or significant....

In a missional church that is Baptist there is no hierarchy of authority. Rather there is shared decision making and shared ministry. Baptists have varied in their history on the role of elders, pastors, deacons, and other leadership. But in a Baptist vision there is equality and an egalitarian spirit that permeates the... congregation.

In a missional church that is Baptist the Scriptures will be central to its life and ministry. Because Scripture is authoritative, Bible study is important... Bible truth will be sought and applied more than the opinions or interpretations of other people.

In a missional church that is Baptist differences of understanding and interpretation of Scripture will be respected. People will be valued even when they differ from one another... [W]e must expect differences and learn to love one another across those differences....

In a missional church that is Baptist there will be voluntary cooperation with other Christians to fulfill Christ’s continuing mission. Although we believe in the priesthood of every believer and the autonomy of every church, that doesn’t mean that we act in isolation from other churches. Rather we cooperate in a spirit of mutual trust and respect. We realize that the needs of the world require cooperation and collaboration.”

My prayer is that First Baptist will continue to become more of a “missional” church. Think on these things.

– John Finley

Hospitalizations

George Yonke - St. Joseph’s 510
Robbie Riddle - Memorial CVICU

Lay Reader for May 11

Lynn Hadwin

Children’s Time

John Finley

Greeters for May 11

Bridget Browne
Thelma Browne

Family Night Menu

May 14, 2008

chicken tetrazzini

steamed broccoli

tossed salad

rolls

sheet cake

iced tea, coffee, and milk

Hospitality Hosts

Will Hodges, Frances Mills

Sanctuary Flowers

Given to the glory of God
and in memory of
Marion and Victoria
Kennickell,
by the Kennickell family

Deacons Serving in May

Reed Creaser, captain

James Cubbedge

Steve Eady

Frances Mills

Wyc Rountree

Leslie Stull

Ashley Williams

Ushers Serving in May

Leslie Stull, captain

Jeb Bush

Don Dyches

Barbara Stull

Bootsie Swicord

BLOOD DRIVE

The next American Red Cross blood drive to be held at First Baptist Church is scheduled for Monday, May 12, from 3:00 till 8:00 p.m. If you are able to be a blood donor, you are encouraged to put this date on your calendar and be a part of our drive, again in memory of Dr. Fenwick Nichols. Posters are available in the office to help publicize the event. If you have a place you could display one, the Missions and Social Ministries Committee asks you to do so.

ORGAN RECITAL

The Savannah Chapter of the American Guild of Organists will present a members' recital on Friday, May 9, at 7:30 p.m. at the Cathedral of St. John the Baptist. James Richardson will be among those performing on the Cathedral's Noack organ. The program is free and open to the public.

THE CLASSICS

The Classics will soon celebrate their last program before taking a break for summer vacation. They invite you to join them on Tuesday, May 27, at 11:00 a.m. in Lewis Hall for "Back in the Day: Celebrating the 50's." Please call the church office or sign up at the communications desk in the narthex if you wish to make a luncheon reservation.

BOOKS, BOOKS, BOOKS – YOURS FOR THE TAKING

What's better than a book on a library shelf? Easy answer – a book that has been checked out and read. In conjunction with the redecoration of the library area by the young adult Sunday School class, we have been surveying the numerous books which are a part of our collection. Many of those books have not been checked out of the library in over 30 years. We have also found duplicate copies of some books. We want to make these books available to interested readers. If you would like to filter through these books, you may do so beginning on Sunday, May 11. If you find books that you would like to have, you may have them. All we ask is that you leave the card from the back of the book in the designated basket in the library. We will use those cards to update our list of acquisitions. Please note that not all books are up for grabs. The books that are available will be clearly marked. If you have any questions, please see Carolyn Hale Cubbedge.

Remaining in the library are numerous books that are worth your reading. These include commentaries and dictionaries of all kinds that are helpful in group and individual Bible study. You can read about Church and Baptist history. There are books about prayer and the work of the Holy Spirit. There are biographies of Christian leaders and mission work around the world. And there is much more. Find some time to visit the church library – you might learn something!

– Carolyn Hale Cubbedge

NEW AUDIO SYSTEM

A new sound system is being installed in the sanctuary as this issue of *The Calendar* is being prepared. If all goes well, installation should be complete by Sunday, May 11. This new equipment is a gift from Ginger and George Pruden in memory of Ginger's mother, Ethel Battershall. The system was designed specifically for our sanctuary by Stage Front Presentation Systems of Savannah. Please bear with the company as they tweak the system over the next few weeks, and with our operators as they adjust to a new set of controls.

CHAPERONE NEEDED

ATTENTION: All adult males of First Baptist Church – One of you may have the opportunity for a six day, all expense paid vacation from Sunday, June 15, through Friday, June 20. Enjoy the beautiful facilities of Wingate University including swimming pools, work-out rooms, library, and free internet service. Nightly parties, excellent food, and the chance to become better acquainted with three mature male middle school students in a well appointed four bedroom apartment. All interested may apply to First Baptist Church. None refused as long as you can pass police records check. Perfect job for retirees and college students. Position expires May 25 when arm-twisting and begging will commence.

– Janis Lewis



