

THE COLUMNS

First Baptist Church, Omaha, NE
Forward in Faith...Empowered by the Spirit

Volume 36

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December, 2007

Just A Thought...

From Pastor Kip



*And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father=s only son, full of grace and truth.... From his fullness we have all received grace upon grace. The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.
John 1:14,16, 17*

I ran into a lady the other day at Hobby Lobby - literally! She was coming around the corner of an isle at break neck speed with a shopping cart filled with Christmas stuff. Wreaths, and garlands, silk poinsettias, and huge red Christmas bows were poking out of the cart in all directions which was also laden with candles, lights, tree ornaments, rolls of wrapping paper, and Christmas cards. There we stood facing each other at a standstill.

She looked a little irritated at the interruption and so I said AWow! Looks like you=re on a mission.≡ Her frown gave way to a forced smile and she replied, AYes, and I=ve just started. After this I have to buy a few Christmas presents, run to the grocery store, pick my daughter up from school, then go home, make dinner, put up the tree, and decorate the house.≡ AThat=s quite a schedule≡ I replied. AI hardly have time to breathe≡ she said. ABreathing is a good thing≡ I said, Abut I also hope you=re able to take some time for yourself to receive.≡ With that, she was on her way.

This time of year can get to be a bit hectic even doing the things we love to do. At the end of the day with all our dashing through the snow, running, buying, baking, wrapping, writing, etc., we can feel more exhausted than joyful, and if we=re not

careful we can begin to feel more empty than full.

In his gospel, John wrote about this idea of being full. He says that Jesus became flesh and as the son of the Father he was full of grace and truth. In other words he was full of God, he was full with God. It is hard for us to see that in the face of a baby lying in a manger. How could a baby in a manger hold for us all that our souls have ever yearned for? Yet, John goes on to say, from his fullness we have all received grace upon grace. Because God sent his only son, we have the opportunity to be filled with grace, to be filled with God=s love, and to be filled to overflowing.

I pray that with all of our Adoing≡ this Christmas that we will not forget to Abe.≡ I pray we may find those quiet moments to sit again with the Christmas story and be lost in the wonder of the fullness of God=s grace and to allow the Christ child to be Aborn in us today.≡

*Christ
is Born*

As it so happened I ended up behind the lady at the checkout counter. As the man told her that her total was close to \$200.00, she handed him a credit card, looked at me and said, AThanks for the advice. I=m going straight home to put my feet up and enjoy a little peace and quiet. Breathing is a good thing!≡

May your Christmas be filled with the fullness of God, may you experience grace upon grace, and may the Breath of Heaven fill you with peace. Merry Christmas!

Prayer Requests

- ✓ Lorraine Olson
- ✓ Ella Faulkner
- ✓ Pat Buie at Millard Manor
- ✓ Beverly Tompkins at St. Joseph Towers



Dear Church Family,

No words can express what you all have meant to us during this time of loss.

Ned was a result of your nurture and love as well as ours.

We understand that there are many hearts in pain.

We love you all. The crew who brought food, meals, snacks, etc. was just a reminder of what a family we all are at our church.

*Love,
Ned Sariscsany family*



"Merry Christmas and
a Blessed New Year !

From the staff of
First Baptist Church

Pastor Kip
Jim and Karla Musick
Phyllis Porter
Glen Grape

We love you!!!!

Happenings in December

December 2: Destination Midtown Churches Tour and Luminaria Lighting –from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

December 8: Christmas cookie baking and exchange in the dining room – at 8:00 a.m.

December 8: Cabinet Budget Planning Meeting – at 9:00 a.m.

December 14: Homebuilders Class Christmas Party in the Parlor – at 6:30 p.m.

December 16: Children's Christmas Program – during worship service.

December 18: Rebecca-Ruth Circle Christmas lunch at Piccolo Pete's, at 11:30 a.m.

December 23: Adult Choir Christmas presentation during the morning worship.

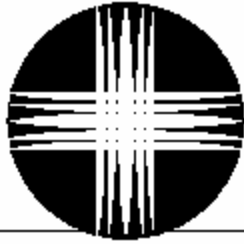


December 24

5:30 p.m. and
11:30 p.m.

There will be singing, reading passages of scripture and a brief message. We will light our candles at the very close of the service. The **5:30** service will held in the sanctuary and the **11:30** service will be in the parlor.

New members received into our fellowship recently are John and Jennifer Cleveland, 7022 S. 38th Street, Bellevue, NE 68147, PH: 932-4830. Two of the Cleveland children, Adam and Joshua, were baptized and joined the church in August of this year. John and Jennifer have two other children, Adriana and Jacob.



WORLD MISSION OFFERING

YOU DID IT !!!! Your giving to the World Mission Offering exceeded our goal. We set a goal of \$1,000 and our total at the end of November was \$1,209.95. Thanks for your generous giving.

RECEIVE. GIVE.

Be

transformed!!!!

The Operation Christmas Child project was awesome. We packed, wrapped and delivered 73 boxes to Benson Baptist Church (the regional drop off location for this project). Many young boys and girls around the world will receive these boxes and hear about God's love for them through our generosity. Heartfelt appreciation to everyone who contributed in some way to give more boxes than we could ever have anticipated.

Remember with Love
Give with Gratitude

Your gift to the RMMO is an expression of gratitude to retired American Baptist Ministers, Missionaries and their widowed spouses. This offering will be received starting the second week in December. Please give what you feel you can give. You will be truly blessed !!!!

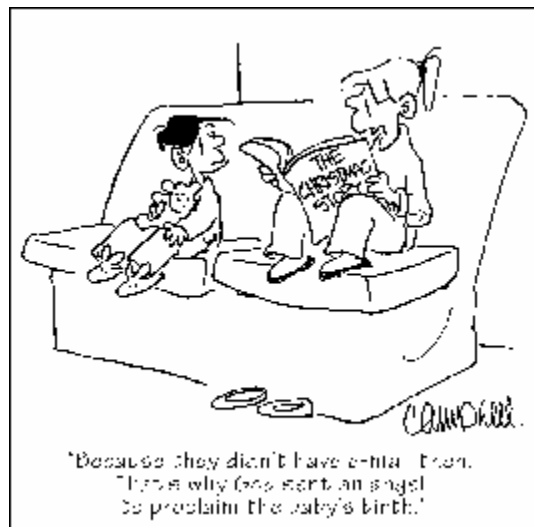
Youth and Young Adults

The youth and young adults have been creating new energy with their program the past several weeks. A Praise Band, yet to be named, has been meeting and rehearsing, on a regular basis. Special thanks to those who have donated funds to purchase new equipment.

New power outlets have been installed in the youth room and the room will soon have heat. The future computer lab room is almost done. The following item is still needed to complete the lab: an operating system (Windows only – no Mac). If you can contribute towards the purchase of an operating system, see Jeremy Stober.

Several young people were on hand to assist in the "Hanging of the Greens" on November 28. We even decorated our own room.

The young adults have an activity planned for December 2. Everyone is to meet at the home of Kate and Jeremy Stober's, 8919 Valley Street, at 5:00 p.m. and then the group will decide where to go from there.



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