

Year-to-Date Financial Report

(As of July 26, 2011)

Year-To-Date Budget: \$821,852.17

Year-To-Date Receipts: \$797,572.10

Deficit: \$24,280.07

Building Fund YTD: \$482,943.77

Letters to the Church

Dear Church Family,

God has been such a gracious Father to have blessed Howard and me with such a loving and caring church family. After visiting many churches in the area, we knew we had found our church home in First Baptist!

Thank you so very much for the calls, visits, food and especially prayers to help us through this difficult time. I know that someday we will all have a wonderful reunion with him in Heaven.

Love,
Peggy Gouge

During a time like our recent tragedy with the death of our granddaughter's husband in Afghanistan, we realize just how much our friends mean to us. Thank you, First Baptist friends, for all of your expressions of sympathy, your cards, your calls and your prayers. They are more deeply appreciated than any words can express.

Nathan and Janet Pulliam

Dear Church Family,

It was an honor to be chosen as this year's Croom Scholarship recipient. I have been going to this church since I was five years old, and I'm so thankful for all the prayers and wisdom you all have given me, making me the person I am today.

Also, thank you to all of the friends, ministers, Sunday School teachers and other mentors for providing me with the proper tools in growing in my faith. As I go off to college, I ask that you continue to pray that God will guide me in the decisions and choices I make about my future.

Love in Christ,
Laura Nolan

Many thanks to you at First Baptist for remembering our family with your love by cards, visits, phone calls, flowers, food and donations to your favorite charity. But, most of all, we appreciate the many special prayers that were uplifted to God in the name of "our Renee."

Chris, Libby, Beth,
James and Family

First Baptist Church
1139 Usher Street
Covington, GA 30014
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The Informer

August 2011

"Making great the name of Jesus Christ in all the earth..."

5 Reasons to Begin Leading Your Family in Family Worship



Pastor Jason Dees

If you are the man of your household, or are a woman and due to a divorce, death or your husband's apathy are forced to being the spiritual leader of your home I want to give you five reasons that you should consistently be leading your family in family worship. This is something that we have talked a lot about in recent months at First Baptist, but something that will make or break your family's spirituality.

Family worship does not need to be complex or long. Paige and I take about 15 minutes two days a week to worship God together, I know some families that have family worship every day, and many others that do something in between. The keys are regularity, and intentionality. The following are five reasons that you and your family should join the millions of families throughout the history of the church who have been blessed by an intentional and regular time of family worship.

Families Need a Spiritual Leader - God is a God of order. He has ordered the universe, He has ordered His church, and He of course has ordered the family. While it is right that everyone in the family pursue God, a family needs someone to lead that charge. In God's order that person is the Man, the husband, the father; the Bible says in 1 Timothy 2:13 that *God created the man first and then the woman*. Men are called to lead spiritually in the home and a time of family worship gives the man a great platform from which to lead. Men, or women who by lack of a man's leadership are forced to lead your families spiritually, your children need to see you reading the Bible and hear you explain the Bible. If the only person your child can look up to as a spiritual leader is their pastor or youth minister then you as a Father or spiritual leader have failed in the responsibility that God gave you to lead your family toward Godliness.

A Platform for the Gospel - One of the chief responsibilities that husbands have over their wives, and that both parents have over their children is to preach the good news of the Gospel. Parents, it is your responsibility to lead your children to Christ. Family worship gives you a great platform to remind your family of the life changing Gospel of Jesus. The gospel is also not something that just needs to be heard once, but over and over again. It changes and then shapes our lives, and it is the only gospel that rightly will change and then shape your family.

A Platform for Prayer - Family worship also gives your family a great platform for prayer. Every Christian I know struggles to spend intentional time in prayer, or to even honor the promises of prayer they have made to other people. A time of family worship provides a wonderful opportunity not only for your family to pray for the needs of your friends, your church, and your community, but also to pray for one another. I recommend ending any family worship service with every member of the family praying out loud. A great way to do this is to pray through a Psalm. This is simply reading one verse of a Psalm and then letting its words and themes guide your prayer.

A Platform for Real Conversation - Every family deals with a lack of communication and a big part of this is time. Families simply don't take the time to sit down and share with one another in a real, honest, and vulnerable way. One of the many reasons families struggle to do so is that they don't have a platform for conversation. A regular time of family worship provides such a platform for every member of the family. If family members know that there is a safe, consistent time to share they will begin to communicate.

Bible Study Has Value in This Life and In the Life to Come - Paul said to his disciple Timothy in 1 Timothy 4:8, "for while bodily training is of some value, godliness is of value in every way, as it holds promise for the present life and also for the life to come." When your family knows the truth of God's word, the result will be a greater degree of Godliness. Bible study is essential to any family and a regular time of family worship will help in shaping the spirituality of the family God has given you to lead.

So what are you waiting on? There is no better day to get moving on family worship than today. For more information and for resources contact us by calling 770-786-9031 or by visiting us on the web at www.firstbaptistcovington.com.

What's Going on at FBC?



Fall is on the horizon and so are new programs at First Baptist.

First, Wednesday is expanding to 7:30. The **music programs for children will be 6:00 – 6:40** and **Mission's programs will be from 6:45 – 7:30**. Adults will begin at 6:00 and end around 7:15/20 so parents can talk a few minutes and get their children promptly at **7:30 so volunteers are able to leave promptly. Adult choir will begin at 7:15** in the Sanctuary.

Second, GAME ON is the theme for Children's Ministry for this year. We will have a **"Game On" kick off, Wednesday August 10th**. Bring your **4 year old though entering 5th grader** to the **Sun Room** on the second floor. We will have age appropriate games, a showcase of the year and special activities. **You MUST ACCOMPANY** your child so we can get **emergency information, cell numbers, etc.**

Third, we will offer three tracts for our adults. The first will always be an **In Depth Bible Study** in the Sanctuary led by **Jason Dees**. We are providing a **"Marriage Mentoring" tract** led by numerous church members. Many of the groups will meet in small groups to discuss and learn together using a variety of Marriage curriculums. They will showcase their ideas and signups will take place that night in **Room 105**. We will also offer **Crazy Love by Francis Chan**. This book helps us fall in Love with God seeing Him as God! This class will meet in **Room 203**. We have the privilege of offering **several new Sunday School classes** on August 7th. Keep your eyes open as we continue to reach and disciple people.

Last, at this writing we are in need of some children's workers. I pray they have been filled by the time you receive this. We are seeking for **Sunday school – 4 assistant teachers and 2 lead teachers**. We need an **RA Director/teacher and several Music leaders**. We are so grateful to all who are a part of raising up the next generation. **Without these vital positions being filled, we are really being "short sighted" with the Gospel. Pray about your role.**

What a privilege to serve with you,
Ralph Meaker
Minister of Education



Youth Update

Now that we are kicked off for the year and we've inducted our new crop of 6th graders, LIFT is rolling right along! We've got great weekly programs that you will want to make a part of your school-year routine. First of all, LIFT is every Wednesday at 5:45! Every week we will have great music, surprises, and we'll be starting off on a series called "Tiny Books." Prayer Breakfast will be every Tuesday at 7:30am for High Schoolers and 8:15am for Middle Schoolers in the Annex. Each Sunday, we offer fantastic Sunday School classes at 9:45am and 11am, too! Plus, each



Sunday night at 6pm in the Annex we have LifeLine, a combination of Bible Study and missions projects. We'll be starting off the school year studying World Religions at LifeLine. Last but certainly not least, next month we'll be hosting a study for Parents of Teenagers on Wednesday nights during LIFT. Stay tuned for all the details!

In Christ,
Matt Funk



First Baptist Academy

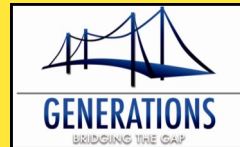
The 2011-2012 school is quickly approaching! We ask that the church congregation begin praying for a wonderful start to our year, and that the staff, teachers and families are well-rested and ready to gear up for all the awesome things God has in store for us.

If any of you have a library of children's book and are looking for a place to donate them, then look no further! FBA would love to have your new or "gently" used books as we are trying to stock our library with more literature. Please see Julie or Patty in the FBA school office to make your donations! We are starting with a full house in the preschool and have added a 3rd grade class in our elementary school! As always, schools are in need of donations from folks in the community. If you have any supplies, goods or furniture that are in good condition, we'll gladly accept your donations to help furnish our classrooms! We look forward to a great year and look forward to working with FBC to build a generation for Kingdom growth!

Julie Harpe & Patty Cates



Median/Mature Adult Ministry & Administration Update



Bridge Builders

Our monthly luncheon will be on Thursday, August 11th at 11:00 a.m.. It will be held in the Fellowship Hall and Carol Dearing will be catering the meal. The program will be looking back as to what has happened this past year and looking forward to what will happen this next year. Each person will have a chance to give feedback regarding the Median/Mature Adult Ministries. It does not matter whether you have been a part of 3Rs, Bridge Builders or any particular Sunday School class – we want you at this luncheon so we can hear from you! A special thank you goes to Sandra Geiger and Ruby Lewis who have help coordinate the monthly luncheons this past year. Our desire during these luncheons is provide a time for fellowship, encouragement and inspiration each month.

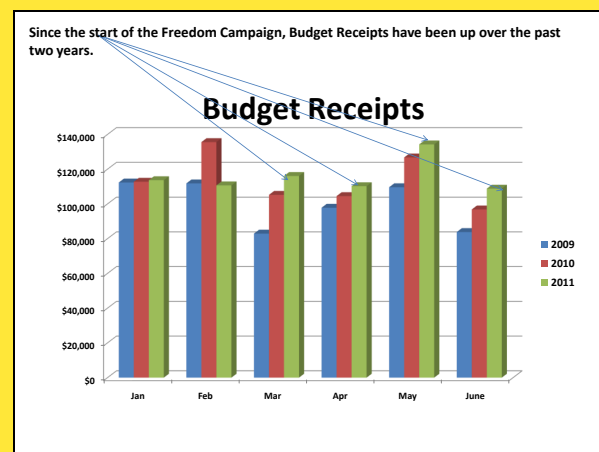
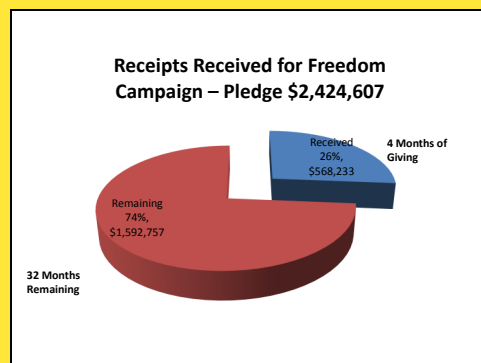
Game Days

Join us on August 8th and August 22nd from 10:00 am till 2:00 pm for Game Day in the Annex. There is always plenty of food and fellowship to go around. Anyone regardless of age or maturity is welcome to participate

Note Burning of the Annex

First Baptist Church celebrates the paying off of the notes on the Annex. Look at the graphs below for further information regarding the progress of the Freedom Campaign.

Charles H. Reynolds,
Minister to Median & Mature Adults/Church Administrator



GET BACK!

Sunday, August 7th
9:45 & 11:00 a.m.
Sunday School hours

Now's the time to **"Get Back"** to Sunday School! Summer's over and it's time to plug back in or plug in for the first time. Breakfast/Refreshments will be served in all Sunday School classes on this Sunday.



BETH MOORE
SIMULCAST
September 10, 2011

Tickets are \$20 before Sept. 1st and \$25 after Sept. 1st.
Contact Sandie Stevens for more info.

M2 MARRIAGE MINISTRY

The Amazing Race!

Friday, August 12, 2011

6:30-9:30 p.m.

The Annex

Enjoy a fun date night with your spouse with a Scavenger Hunt! Free childcare available. Call the church office by Wednesday, August 10th to reserve a spot for your child.

Summer Miracles:

During the week of July 4th Becky Morgan and her three children traveled to Ardmore, Oklahoma to assist in the building of a new church start, Rawhide Cowboy Church of Carter County. Assisting in building churches has been a tradition in her family since she was in first grade. Becky was hungry to see God work in miraculous ways and for her children to see, with their own eyes, what God can do. Their family is active in mission work in Covington but she felt it was time for the children to expand their vision for service to another part of our country.

Upon arrival, they headed to the church site to learn what they would be doing during the week. What they found was a metal framed building with nothing inside. But what they would soon find out is that this simple building, in the barren pasture, was not empty but full of miracles. A miracle of donated land; a miracle of another church in town raising \$44,000 for the foundation, exterior wall and roof in just two weeks with only 75 members; a miracle of lumber appearing when there was no money for supplies; a miracle of cool air and the miracle of watching God's plans accomplished.

Thank you, Becky for listening and accepting the invitation of God's call for your family. You can read more about the Morgan's trip by clicking on the link "Summer Miracles" on the Love, Learn, Live page at www.firstbaptistcovington.com.

