



# *First Baptist* *Messenger*

Volume 5, Edition 6

## *From the Pastor's Pen*

First Baptist Family,

I am excited as we are entering this 2015 Advent & **Christmas** season! While we are living in evil times, my prayer is that this Holy season would be a reminder of not only the birth of Jesus Christ, but also a reminder of the Christ Presence that is born within each of us. Of course, this season celebrates the birth of Jesus, whose life and teachings have changed the world. His teachings have shown us "the way" that transforms all of our lives.



The love of Jesus has shown us a way of living that helps us to live meaningful, healthy, prosperous lives.

This **Christmas**, as we celebrate the birth of Jesus, I ask that we all celebrate the birth of the Presence of Jesus within us. And may we remember that we may be the only Christ that someone sees this **Christmas**. I ran across this poem by Warren Meyer, and I want to share it with you.

### **YOU ARE CHRISTMAS**

You are **Christmas**...

*Every time you smile and help to make the world a brighter place*

You are **Christmas**...

*Every time you laugh and let the sound join with all the happy music of the world*

You are **Christmas**...

*Every time you speak a word of faith to some fearful soul along an unpaved road.*

You are **Christmas**...

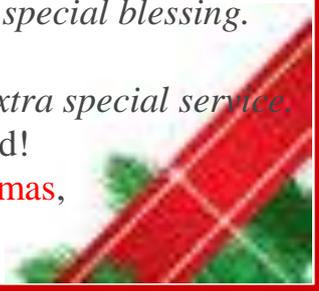
*Every time you pray a prayer for those who need your very special blessing.*

You are **Christmas**...

*Every time your loving hand goes out of the way to give that extra special service.*

Be **Christmas** in this world that needs it so bad!

Merry **Christmas**,  
Pastor Whit



# *A Word from the First Lady*

## **Let your Light Shine**

I love this time of year!!! Celebrating **Christmas**! I enjoy decorating the home, spending time with family and seeing all the beautiful **Christmas** decorations. I love the **Christmas** season!!!!



One of my most favorite places to visit during this time of year is The Festival of Lights that are displayed in Clemmons, NC. The Festival of Lights is a light display that is put up each year during the **Christmas** season at Tanglewood Park. The entire park turns into a winter wonderland filled with numerous different displays. I would venture to say there are a million individual lights shining bright at Tanglewood. It's a beautiful display!

As I sat and thought about The Festival of Lights, I began to think about our Christian walk. Matthew 5:16 says "Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify our Father. How do we let our light shine? Through our attitude, words and deeds. In everything we do, we should be shining bright!"

As Christians it is our job to be a light in this dark world! We are to let our light shine bright for others to see our good works and for them to glorify our Father. How do we let our light shine? Through our attitude, words and deeds. In everything we do, we should be shining bright!

People come from far and near just to see The Festival of Lights. They wait for sometimes hours to be able to drive through to see the bright lights. I've noticed as people drive through no one is searching for those who worked to assemble this extravagant display to give them a pat on the back, they just see their works and glorify the lights! When we shine bright others will see our inner light and come from far and near to enjoy the Light!!

We all have a Light within us that shines. It is up to us not to hide it or allow it be dimmed. When we allow our light to shine, not only do we give glory to God but we also provide direction for lost souls to find their way to the Light. (And many times we may be the only Light some individuals may ever see) You may not believe it, but just by letting your light shine at home, on your job, in your community, at your school you are providing Light to someone who is lost and encouragement to others whose light may have been dimmed along the way.

So this **Christmas** season as you see the lights decorated in your neighborhood or even as you visit the Festival of Lights; be reminded of the bright Light that is on the inside of you and let it SHINE!

Be Blessed,  
Sis Whit



**FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH  
EAST MARTINSVILLE**

**PRESENTS:**

*Miracles*

**DECEMBER 20, 2015**

**3:00 p.m.**

**1043 East Church Street**

**Martinsville, VA 24112**

**REV. CHARLES R. WHITFIELD, PASTOR**

*Dinner served afterward.*



## The Hanging of the Greens

The Hanging of the Greens ceremony was held on November 29, 2015. The ceremony was a joyous occasion. The service explained the Holy Season of Advent, and the celebration of the birth of Christ. The meaning of the decorations used at **Christmas** were explained and the biblical scriptures given. The church was decorated with evergreens, wreaths, candy canes, candles, and poinsettias to add beauty and enlightenment for the season. The youth of the church added a special touch to the service by playing Joy to the World with bells. The service was a delight and very informative to each in attendance to help them to understand the true and real meaning of **Christmas**. We hope that everyone will have a blessed and wonderful holiday season and remember to keep Christ in **Christmas**.





## ***Cereal Drive***

The Senior Missionaries annual cereal drive ended November 30th. A total of 267 boxes were delivered to Grace Network to those in need. Thanks to all for the donations of cereal or money for the purchase of cereal. Special thanks to the Senior Missionaries for spearheading this project to help our community.



## **“Rocky” Reynolds Solo**



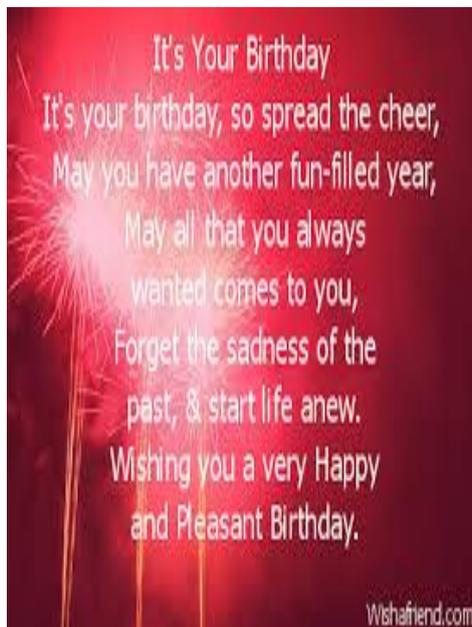
First Baptist was treated to the wonderful vocal talent of Mr. Walter (Rocky) Reynolds during a recent morning worship service. Mr. Reynolds was visiting with his mother, retired educator, and Grace Network volunteer Carolyn Drew. The two were welcomed by several MHS classmates, former students and friends. Rocky currently resides in Germany and returned home for the Thanksgiving Holiday. He is a classically trained musician with a career in the Theatre. His first big break was playing the role of Old Deuteronomy in "Cats" in Hamburg, Germany in 1986. We look forward to hearing from Mr. Reynolds whenever he visits Martinsville.



### **December**

*12/1-Michael Harvey  
12/3-Larry Hodge  
12/4-De'jah Williams  
12/9-Ardaith Brown  
12/9-Elexis Dandridge  
12/9-Elson Price  
12/9-Reginald Eldridge  
12/12-Marla Eldridge  
12/12-Renee Brown  
12/21-Brooklyn King  
12/21-Kenneth Diven  
12/22-Jerome Pete Morton  
12/24-Jan Smith  
12/25-Patricia Walton  
12/26-Dorothea Kirby*

## **Happy Birthday**



### **January**

*01/2-Carrie Hairston  
01/4-Blanche Scott  
01/5-Brenda Hampton  
01/8-MarQuerite Wilson  
01/8-Alfreda Brown  
01/8-Rose Jackson  
01/10-Michelle Dodson  
01/12-Chas Whitfield  
01/15-Morris Geter  
01/15-Wayne Moore  
01/18-George Brown  
01/21-Karen Carter  
01/24-Gorrell Webster  
01/25-Sybil Worrell*



*Pastor  
Charles Whitfield*

*First Baptist Church East Martinsville  
Just Because Ministry*  
**Fourth Annual Christmas Gala**

**Saturday, December 12, 2015**

**New College Institute**  
29 Jones ST.  
Martinsville, Va 24112

**Semi-Formal Affair**  
6:00 pm

**Door Prizes\* Buffet Dinner  
Must be Present to Win  
Tickets \$30**

**Concert Featuring:  
Larnell Starkey  
&**

**The Spiritual Seven Gospel Singers**

*For Tickets or More Information Please Contact:*

*Dorothy Still 276.632.3834*

*Shelia Williams 276.806.5509*

*[www.fbcmartinsville.org](http://www.fbcmartinsville.org)*

The newsletter staff sincerely hopes you have enjoyed the 5 years the First Baptist Messenger has been in publication. If you have any suggestions, submissions or comments please contact one of the newsletter staff or send to email below.

*Newsletter Staff*

*Maria Turner – Kenya Gravely*

*Carrie Hairston – Chantea Moore*

*Scharlean David—Photographer*

*Email:*

*[fbcmartinsville@yahoo.com](mailto:fbcmartinsville@yahoo.com)*

## Thanksgiving Service 2015



## Women's Day 2015

November 14—15, was the annual Women's Day weekend. The weekend was spiritual and uplifting. The theme for the event was Women Connected to God. For the Saturday morning service the audience was mesmerized, with the awesome dance performance from Mountain View Baptist Church. The bread of life was given by Sis. Nicole Gunn of the tidewater area, and the ministry of music was provided by Sis. Daniella Swann. First Baptist men put the finishing touches on the day with an awesome breakfast. Sunday morning was exceptional with the Women's Day choir singing to the glory of God, and Dr. Deborah Martin telling us Enough is Enough. With her scriptural text coming from Mark 5: 25-34. Sometimes we must let the devil know we are tired and fed up and Enough is Enough. To the committee, the men of First Baptist, Sis. Tamika Hairston we thank God for you and others whom helped to make this weekend a success. May God continue to pour out his rich blessings upon each of you for your service to his Kingdom, as we look forward to next year.



## Prayer Request

Mr. Anthony Dillard	VA Beach Rehab Center
Sis Leutisha Hairston	Blue Ridge
Bro Ronnie Ramey	Golden Living
Sis Dolly Ann Holland	Home
Bishop Robert Moyer	Home
Sis Corine Hairston	Home
Bro William Dillard	Golden Living
Sis. Dorothy K Hairston	Home
Sis. Irma D. Hairston	Home
Bro Matthew Brim	Blue Ridge
Sis Beulah Brim	Home
Sis Mildred France	Home
Sis Eileen Ramey	Home
Sis Marquerite Wilson	Home
Bro. Elson Price	Golden Living
Sis. Leora Hampton	Home

### Upcoming Services

One in the Spirit at 10:00 A.M.— 12/19

**Christmas** Program at 3:00 P.M.— 12/20

New Year's Eve service at 10:30 P. M.— 12/31

First Baptist will serve as the host for MLK service at 7:00 P.M.— 1/17

Pastor at Laurel Grove Baptist Church, at 3:00 P.M. — 1/5 (Deacon's Anniversary Service)



*'WELCOME TO THE PLACE OF LOVE'*

*CHRIST-CENTERED*

*CONNECTED COMMITTED*

And Jesus went about all the cities and the villages,  
teaching in their synagogues, and preaching the gospel of  
the kingdom, and healing all manner of disease and all  
manner of sickness. (Matthew 9:35 ASV)