



2014

# THE CONNEC TION

from First Baptist Church \* 814 Buchanan Road \* New Tazewell, Tennessee  
Connect to God, Connect to Family, Connect to Community!



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### DID YOU GET IT?

*"Congratulations! I hope you got the greatest gift ever this Christmas. In fact, when I sent it I thought it was the Greatest Gift I had ever given. I call it the "get it" gift. Oh, I'm sorry, you didn't get the gift? I sent it with the most reliable delivery source available (The Holy Spirit). I even sent it by several messengers (angels, shepherds, lights, wise men, and members of First Baptist Church) so that you'd be sure to get it. I'm sorry you didn't get the "get it" I got for you. Perhaps next year I'll get it again for you and you'll get it then. Signed: God."*

Can you remember those days of anticipation, excitement, joy and wonder as a child waiting for the "get it" gift. As a child, each year the "get it" gift was a little different but it was always the same joy of getting WHAT I WANTED! How often have you heard that "Christmas is not about stuff or buying things and we need to put Christ back in Christmas." I've heard it and said it. While it is true, it falls short of expressing the joy of Christmas and what Christmas is. Actually we all are prone to describing what Christmas "is not" instead of telling others what Christmas "is".

**1. Christmas is not about giving a gift, it is about giving yourself.** – Aftershave and mouth wash are nice and some people really need them but what people really want and need is other people. I have attended and spoken at more funerals over the years than I want to remember. One thing that often saddens me is people who wait until someone is dead and then tell others how they loved, appreciated, enjoyed and felt about the person. I pray that we "get it" this Christmas that Jesus was born so that we could receive a relationship with God. God loved us, the unlovable, so that we could love others. It is a relationship that He alone could give but if you "get it" you are commanded to invest it by giving yourself to others.

**2. Christmas is about God's glorious Son. John Piper wrote: "God is most glorified in you when you are most satisfied in Him."** –The "get it" gift of Christmas fulfills our desires only when our one desire is to be content in Christ. So before you put a bumper sticker on your car saying put Christ back in Christmas, ask yourself is Christ in you, the hope of heaven and the focus of your life, worship, family and work. Is it Christ that makes you alive and gives you significance? If you have lost the fire of being a new Christian, perhaps you need to reignite the fire rather than settling for the cold darkness that has somehow become comfortable.

**3. "Christmas is about redemption."** - One of the most moving things about scripture is to realize that the Bible isn't about us. It is primarily about God. God created a perfect world that we corrupted. God chose to send his Son into our world to rescue us. God came to save the world from itself. The holidays have a way of drawing attention us to the things we don't have. It is the time of year we reflect on our lives, what we don't have, don't like, and think of those we have lost or those who have left. It is actually in the midst of that darkness and overwhelming sadness that our redeemer came in the form of a child to save you and me. What a spectacular display of God arrival. It's hard to imagine folks back then that didn't "get it", but here we live in a community where even some Church members don't "get it."

*It is easy and common to "not get" the gift of Christmas. Sally Lloyd-Jones writes, "As silent as snow falling, he came in. And when no one was looking, in the darkness he came... People don't leave something until they find something better. If we truly have the spirit of Christmas, we must do a better job showing, telling, encouraging and loving those around us so that they also might receive the warmth of God's love in the midst of their "dark and cold night" experience.*

Bro. Larry



## Rosa Dyke's 90th Birthday Reception



Article appeared in the Baptist & Reflector on Rosa's birthday Dec. 11<sup>th</sup>

Rosa Dyke, second from left, clerk for First Baptist Church, New Tazewell, for 59 years, was honored recently by the church on her retirement. From left are Larry Sharp, pastor; Dyke; Steve Minton; Jennifer Compton; and Beverly Slayton, administrative assistant.



Thank you to the JOY Club for a wonderful reception and to everyone who honored me and for the lovely gifts. Rosa

## Youth Visiting Laurel Manor Nursing Home



## Deacon's Christmas Party



January 7th, 2014

Church Council Meeting at 6:30pm

January 8th, 2014

6:30pm Short Business Mtg.

**November 2013**

General Fund

Month's Receipts.....\$19,753.55

YTD Receipts. ....\$37,986.95

## UNSUNG SERVANTS

Dan Piercy for cooking the delicious breakfast food for the Family Dinner and Meeting.

The JOY Club for a wonderful 90th birthday reception for Rosa Dyke.

All of those who helped with the 2<sup>nd</sup> Harvest Food Drive. 462 Families were served. Since our first distribution in December 2012, we have done a total of 4, we have served a total of 1103 families.

To Fastenal for allowing us to borrow their pallet jack.

To The Regional Learning Center and other private donors for sponsoring the 2nd Harvest distribution.

The men and women who have helped set up tables and chairs.

*Thank You*

To All for the Prayers, Love, Support & Generosity.

In His Service, Larry & Susan

*Thank You*  
In Him, Beverly

# THE CONNECTION

from First Baptist Church, New Tazewell, Tennessee

Larry Sharp, Pastor.....423-526-8038  
 Todd Spangler, Music Director.....423-626-5401  
 Barry & Tina Liles, Youth Directors.....865-585-1837  
 Brad Austin, Contemporary Worship Leader  
 Pam Worley, Deaf Interpreter

Barry Liles, Chairman of Deacons.....865-585-2554  
 Beverly Slayton, Administrative Assistant.....423-626-5401

Church E-Mail Address: fbcnewtazewell@centurytel.net  
 Church Website: www.ntfbc.org

## Weekly Schedule

### Sunday

9:45am Sunday School for All Ages  
 11:00am Worship Service; Children's Church; Nursery  
 5:30pm Choir Practice  
 6:30pm Worship; Youth & High School to College  
 Bible Study and Fellowship; Nursery

### Wednesday

6:30pm Prayer Meeting and Bible Study; Kidzchoir;  
 Nursery

### Thursday

10am to 5pm Emmaus Centre for Christian Counseling  
 7:00pm Contemporary Worship Svc.

## JANUARY

Wed (1) Church Office Closed  
 Sun (5) 5:00pm Deacon's Meeting  
 Tue (7) 6:30pm Church Council Meeting  
 Wed (8) 6:30pm Quarterly Business Meeting  
 Mon (27) 6:30pm Building & Grounds Meeting

## FEBRUARY

Sun (2) Soup-er Sunday  
 5:00pm Deacon's Meeting  
 Wed (12) 6:30pm Short Business Meeting  
 Fri (14) Winter JAM  
 Sun (23) 6:30pm Building & Grounds Meeting

# January 2014

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			 Church Office Closed	2 10am to 5pm Emmaus Counseling  7:00pm Contemporary Svc. w/Brad Austin	3	4
5 Benevolence 9:45am SS 11am Worship  5pm Deacon's Mtg. 6:30pm Worship, Youth	6	7  6:30pm Church Council	8 6:30 Qrty. Bus. Mtg. Prayer Meeting & Bible Study Kidzchoir	9 10am to 5pm Emmaus Counseling  7:00pm Contemporary Svc. w/Brad Austin	10	11
12 9:45am SS 11am Worship  6:30pm Worship, Youth	13	14	15 6:30pm Prayer Meeting & Bible Study Kidzchoir	16 10am to 5pm Emmaus Counseling  7:00pm Contemporary Svc. w/Brad Austin	17	18
19 9:45am SS 11am Worship  6:30pm Worship, Youth	20 Martin Luther King Day	21	22 6:30pm Prayer Meeting & Bible Study Kidzchoir Youth Bible Study/Fellowship	23 10am to 5pm Emmaus Counseling  7:00pm Contemporary Svc. w/Brad Austin	24  FBC Men's Conference Fight for Manhood	25
26 9:45am SS 11am Worship  6:30pm Worship, Youth	27  Bldg. & Grounds Mtg. 6:30pm	28	29 6:30pm Prayer Meeting & Bible Study Kidzchoir Youth Bible Study/Fellowship	30 10am to 5pm Emmaus Counseling  7:00pm Contemporary Svc. w/Brad Austin	31	