

December 2003 Newsletter

The First Baptist Church of Boston

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TRUST IN GOD FOR THE FUTURE

Pledge Sunday is December 14th

Members and Friends of the Church will soon receive their 2004 Challenging proposals and Pledge Form in the mail. as part of the budget process for 2004, Pledge Sunday-designated this season as December 14, 2003-begins fund raising stewardship to meet Church responsibilities during the coming year. Pledges may be submitted by mail or in Sunday service plates until mid-January, 2004, when the Budget Committee will finalize decisions to submit to the Board of Trustees and the entire Church. A new Pastor and altered sources of Church income make this pledging season particularly important for your prayerful consideration.

Budget Committee

Candlelight Carol Service

The Book of Remembrance

is open to the pages honoring

Martha L. H. Shupe beginning 12/7

Ben R Williams beginning 12/21

We Gathered Together...

And had such a wonderful time at the annual Thanksgiving Sunday Brunch! The Church would like to thank Percy Mathis for all of her hard work to make this special event a huge success. We would also like to thank Rayford Glasgow and the Sunday School for their help with the table decorations. Because of all the help we enjoyed a wonderful day.

Saturday, December 20th, 7 pm

Preparations are under way for the Friends 18th Annual Candlelight Carol Service which will be held in the sanctuary. Splendid music will be directed by Minister of Music Bruce Herrick and the anthems by John Rutter will be performed by our talented choir. A Christmas meditation will be given by Rev. Jay W. VanHorn. This year the children will assist in the candle lighting and the Christmas Story, which will be read by Rayford Glasgow. And of course, the traditional caroling at the end of the service is always moving. Please bring your friends and family to this special and inspirational service for the coming of the Christ Child.

News from Christian Education

Hello Friends!

The kids in our Sunday school class have been quite busy this fall thus far. The CE committee has new adult and youth oriented curriculum which has been well received by the teachers and Sunday school participants both young and younger. The FBC Boston Christian Ed department has a new friendly face to introduce to you and her name is Megan Brown. Megan comes to us from Oklahoma. She is in Boston working towards her Master's degree at Boston University. Megan has a great smile, a kind heart and a wonderful spirit which brings much energy to our Christian Ed community. I look forward to working with and learning many things from Megan. Welcome to FBC Boston family and thank you very much for your time and talents!

We began the season with our CE annual Apple picking trek to Smolak Farm located in Andover, MA. Rev. Vanhorn and his entire family also joined us for this sunny afternoon adventure. In addition to a peck or two of apples being picked, a couple prize worthy pumpkins were pleasantly purchased. We feasted upon some tasty homemade donuts and had fun petting a few dogs found on the farm that sunny and most beautiful September day. Our next fun task, as many of you had visually enjoyed was the colorful decorations which adorned Wayland Hall for the annual church Thanksgiving dinner. A most pleasant & tasty buffet of fine homemade foods and desserts lovingly filled the table and our bellies.

The kids helped with the set up and break down of this festive gathering. Thank you to all the kids whom were in attendance to help: Rainie, Steven, Micheala, Sarah, Alison, Lynda and Gar. Finally, we looking forward to the Advent season with great anticipation and Joy! The kids have been asked once again to assist with decorating the church in preparation for our Annual Friends Candlelight Service and Christmas worship gatherings. Please stay tuned because there is certainly more to come. Peace & Orange!!

Deacon & Christian Ed teacher,
Rayford Glasgow

Happy Birthday!

Scott Macnair

December 29th

If you would like your birthday, anniversary or other special occasion mentioned in the Newsletter, please see Percy Mathis or leave word for Ann in the office.

Reprinted from the November, 2003 issue of The Vine

VanHorn's Views

For this installment of *VanHorn's Views*, I want to share a poem written by Herbert Bockering.

This poem was published in 1974 by Concordia Publishing House as part of a book entitled "I" Opener.

Living by Faith

Once there was a minister
who wore a cross
and went to where there was a war.
He got permission to risk his life
on the front line.
He hopped from hole to hole
hugging the soldiers.
He never stopped more than 30 seconds.
It was the only way
He could get in all the services.
One day
He held 246 services that way.
He never said a single word.

H. Bockering

You know, sometimes we let our lips get in the way of our hearts. What does it benefit the cause of Christ if in all of our doing for the Church we forget the reason why? Why do we do all that we do as the Body of Christ? The reason is very simple - to bring the love of Christ to a world of broken people.

Scripture reading - *Matthew 28:18-20*

Who needs me to show them the love of Christ today?

Advent Poinsettias to Grace Chancel

As has become a tradition at First Baptist, the chancel will bloom again this year with lovely red and white Poinsettias. They are available for purchase and may be taken home to enjoy after the Christmas service on December 21st. To make one (or more) of these wonderful plants your own, please see the inserts provided in your Sunday bulletin or contact Ann in the Church Office.

SERMONS & SCRIPTURES FOR DECEMBER

- 12/7 He Emptied Himself *Philippians 2:5-11*
- 12/14 Naming the Baby *Isaiah 9:6-7*
- 12/21 the Word Becomes Flesh *John 1:1-18*
- 12/28 Preparing for Jesus' Coming *Luke 1:5-17*

Senior Pastor Rev. Jay W. VanHorn preaching