



Monday Morning Missive

At the end of the night, how many of you said, “Whew! The pastor was right.” It was a busy day yesterday, but it was FANTASTIC! Thank you to Zack for the message he preached yesterday – another great introduction to the Christmas season. Thank you to the Jones children for a great opening to the service as they sang for us the Christmas story. Thank you to the choir for the fantastic job they did both morning and evening. Someone told me after the service last night that they would put our choir up against any big church choir in the world. And I agreed! Not only was it a powerful cantata, but also it was beautifully done. The orchestra was tremendous, and the choir had such an angelic harmony that several people were moved to tears. We are so blessed at First Baptist Church!

Just in case you were on another planet yesterday – or at least not in Dadeville – let me tell you about the afternoon activities. We had a wonderful Hometown Spirit of Christmas. Lots of people came out to enjoy the vendors, food, and Santa Claus. Thank you to Sonya Hayes and Charlie and Jamie Tatom for putting together a great photo booth (build by Jason Tidwell). We had lots of people come by for a free picture, and we were able to talk with them about our church. Forrest put together a great Christmas parade float – I wish I knew who all the helpers were – that spoke volumes about who we are as a church. It was beautiful to see some of our children and parents riding along and walking beside the float for the parade. Forrest did not dress or act like a clown, but he did make a pretty good snowman! All in all, yesterday was a great day filled with many activities that I believe glorified our Father as we celebrated the birth of our Savior. I'm almost ready to say "whew" again after writing this.

I would be negligent if I didn't mention one other

fantastically fun Christmas event. The Ladies' Night Out on Friday night was spectacular. Thank you to Linda Kilgore and her team that put this together. The tables were beautiful, the food was delicious, and the service was great – except for one or two of the men who heckled me for being a participant and not a worker. Their names will not be mentioned but their initials were Chipper Washburn and Mike Kelley. But they really did a great job, too.

I just can't think of a better way to enjoy the season than what we have already experienced at First Baptist Church. However, it isn't over yet. Next Sunday, I get to preach for the first time in 3 weeks. I promise to keep it under an hour. Then Sunday night, our Handbell Choir will bless us with some beautiful Christmas music. And on December 24th, we will have our Christmas Eve Communion Service. It will be a worshipful time with music, Scripture, and a celebration of the Lord's Supper. Please, invite everyone you can to join us for this special time at 6 p.m.

For a few housekeeping items:

- Men's Bible Study is back on this Wednesday at 10 a.m.**
- We will vote on our proposed budget immediately following both morning worship services this Sunday. It will be a straight yes or no vote with no discussion, so it will only take a few minutes.**
- Thursday, December 19, is our day to volunteer at Loaves and Fishes. If you can help out, let me know by responding to this e-mail or calling the church office. I will give you times later.**
- We need to get our Small Groups organized for next semester. There is still time to sign up if you haven't been participating. If you have been participating, you will automatically be assigned a new group. Young adults, we are going to put you all together in one big group that will divide up each Sunday night. So be sure to sign up.**

Yes, it's beginning to look a lot like Christmas, but don't forget to slow down, take a deep breath, and contemplate what that really means. Immanuel, God in the flesh dwelling among us, came to earth so that we might have life – abundant and everlasting. Just what does that mean to you?

**Merry Christmas to all, and to all a great day!
Bro. Ben**