



Opening Doors...

As a Christ-Centered community, our mission is to know Christ and make Him known."



Ways to Make a Difference - Locally & Globally

Interfaith Food Bank have many different programs for Christmas 2009:

- **Christmas Hampers.** You can contribute to by donating the supplies necessary or by offering a cash donation - \$150 will cover a medium family, \$200 for a large family.
- **Adopt-A-Family** Choose to adopt a family this Christmas and do their shopping for them! For those who choose to shop-please contact Interfaith for a list of items to include.

For those who do not have time to shop-we will do the work for you. Family of 2-\$100; 3-4 \$150; 5-6 \$200; 7-8 \$250

- **Follow the Star Program** Make a pledge to "follow" a single parent and his/her children through the colder winter months.
- **The Gift of Giving**
- Under the Tree Toy & Gift Program

There are all kinds of different ways you can help.

MORE INFORMATION IS ON THE BULLETIN BOARDS THROUGHOUT THE CHURCH



CBM has made a little money box. This Christmas, you can help vulnerable children in Bolivia, one of the poorest countries in the world. There are 12 boxes available in the foyer. This is a great way to involve children in giving.

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OUR STAFF:

- Bruce Martin, Lead Pastor**
Chad Dranchuk, Youth and Young Adults
Ron Harris, Associate Pastor, Adult Ministries
Kathy Heidebrecht, Creative Arts
Sharon Harris, Children's Ministries
Kathy Jang, Office Administrator
Fabian Roman, Custodian
John Dozois, Minister Emeritus



December Study Guide & Family Advent Wreath Resource

A **study and prayer guide** for December is available in the Foyer, Fireside Room and on www.firstb.net. Please take one! The guide has daily bible readings, study notes, and prayer ideas. These are linked to the themes of our Sunday morning services. As you use the guide you will learn from God's Word, be encouraged to pray, and also join well over a hundred others from the church who are reading and studying the same scriptures. This can lead to some wonderful conversations!



Advent Wreath Resource:

For families who would like to use an advent wreath to help them worship at home, Bruce has prepared "Family Advent Wreath Celebrations Guide"

Email

If you would like to receive special announcements, reminders, study guides or opening doors via email, let the church office know what you would like to receive at info@firstb.net



Directory

It is time to update our church directory. Next Sunday, December 6 there will be a binder at the Welcome Desk with everyone's address. Please check the information to make sure that we have it correct. A new directory will be out in January 2010.

If there are changes, please write them down or contact the church office at 403-327-2082 or info@firstb.net

Photos for the Foyer

The pictures of those attending the church are being updated. This is for help in putting names to faces you may recognize - or not. Though many are now updated, many of you have been missed; and I don't mean to do that. If you want your picture displayed, please look for me on Sunday, December 6 and December 13, between ser-

vices and after the 11:00 service - in the Fireside Room. I'd love to get your picture in the display.



Christmas Eve Service & Church Services

The Christmas Eve Service will be at 7:00 p.m.

There will be one service on December 27 and January 3 at 11:00 a.m.



Non-traditional, non-“stuff” Christmas ideas

Check out Canadian Baptist Ministries “Hopeful Gifts for Change.” Booklets with ideas for giving goats, wells, education and other neat things in a loved one’s name are available throughout the church or online at www.cbmin.org.

For other ideas check out these websites:

www.adventconspiracy.org: ideas for how we can reclaim Advent as a time of worshipping Jesus, relationship building, and loving care

www.rethinkingchristmas.com: a forum for ideas for homemade Christmas gifts, gifts of talent/service, gifts of time spent with a person, etc., etc.

Bulletin Boards, Bulletins & Sermon Notes

With the changing design of the bulletin, we are trying to also display evens & happenings on the various bulletin boards throughout the church. This design allows us to be good stewards of our resources by using less paper.

Please check the bulletin boards in the foyer, by the Sanctuary (east wing) , west wing and by the youth and children’s area for lots of good information.



Smith Malcolm Ladies Group

On behalf of the Smith Malcolm ladies Group, I would like to take this opportunity to introduce the congregation to the Native's Women's Transition Home (NWTH).

There is a plaque that has been recently placed in the West Parlour thanking the Smith Malcolm Group for their many donations over the past years.

The NWTH provides a safe refuge

for Aboriginal women and children who are fleeing from situations of abuse. Unlike Harbour House (whose resources re time limited), the NWTH provides aid, support land connection to community resources for the extended time required to rebuild their lives and re-join society. The accomplish this in a way that honours and celebrates their aboriginal heritage.

The funding behind NWTH is sparse. Donations of any clothing,

house-hold furniture, utensils, daily living materials are greatly appreciated throughout out the year.

The Smith Malcolm Ladies has knitted mitts, toques, scarves, etc., for the children's Christmas stockings.

Thursday Adult Drop-In

Please be aware that the Adult Drop-In will end for the Christmas season on December 3 and will begin again on January 11.



Primetimers Christmas Luncheon

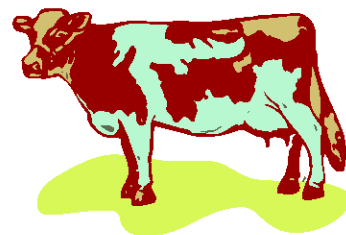
Monday, December 7 at 12 noon

Cost: \$7.00 per person plus a salad or dessert per family.

Tickets will be available between services this Sunday and after the 11:00 service. Tickets are also available from the church office

Our Christmas offering this year is for CBM's Hopeful Gifts for Change. Please remember to bring your gift if you wish to participate.

We have raised funds for 4 cows towards our goal of 10. Each cow costs \$65 each.





Kids' Kingdom

Our Church Mission Statement : As a Christ-centered community, our mission is to know Christ and make Him Known.

In Children's Ministries we aim to assist and encourage families and children as they grow in relationship with God through Christ.

We are a Church that desires to be a community that Welcomes children! Jesus said, "Let the children come to me don't stop them in any way."

As I write this article we are almost ready for Advent which begins today, November 29. I love Advent. It helps me to prepare my heart and my home for Jesus. What a wonderful God we have . He willingly came from heaven as a baby to show us His heart of love for all of us. Here at First Baptist we want to encourage families to remember and celebrate the real meaning of Christmas. Bruce has written a daily Advent booklet. The Booklets are available at the Kids Welcome Desk downstairs as well as up stairs on the Welcome Desk. Please pick one up and enjoy family time together.

Families please make a real effort to come each Sunday so your children can be involved in Daniel's Den Christmas video and The Ark and Young Worshippers songs. December 13 for both services The Ark and Daniel's Den will be involved. Daniel's Den will be participating in the service in many ways from reading scripture, greeting , ushering, praying, special music. December 20 Young Worshippers will be singing during the children's moment at the 11 o'clock service.

VBS to Chapala, Mexico – July 26 to July 30, 2010. We will fly out of Calgary July 23. We have a very exciting team coming together. Stay tuned for who is on the team. To be finalized next week.

If you are looking for a Christmas gift idea for some one who has everything, why not give a money gift to our Mexico VBS Team to help with expenses. Any amount would be a wonderful blessing. Just mark it Team Mexico VBS. If you have any questions please speak to me.



Kids' Kingdom

“Infusion” Conference

Six of us attended this conference for children ministry workers. It really did infuse us with vision and practical ideas. It was a wonderful team building time. The main speakers were Reggie Joiner and Kurt Bruner. The conference stressed that parents are the spiritual leaders of their children and the church is to come alongside and

give support in many practical ways. Here at first Baptist we are intentionally trying, through our Faith @ Home Events to give just such practical support and resources.

Take a look at HomePointe.org
In the months ahead I will be bringing some of their ideas to you as well.
~ Sharon

I had a wonderful time at the "Infusion" conference for children's ministry workers. The speakers were encouraging and the workshops opened my mind to new ways of approaching children's ministry. The workshops I attended focused on worship, and to be more specific, funky praise type of worship, and I came back excited to try some funky praising with the kids.

After doing Daniel's Den for several years things were becoming routine and I was getting discouraged that we didn't have more adults interested in working with the kids, but going to the conference renewed my excitement and passion for the work we do with our kids.

Going to the Infusion 2009 workshop was an energizing experience. It opened me up to the thought that there are other people out there in children's ministry. Lots, in fact. I saw people who care about kids and who have exciting ideas of how to dip into children's hearts and fill them with the love of Christ. I heard of how essential it is for parents to take ownership of the spiritual formation of their kids, and I learned of ways to support their efforts. I made paper airplanes filled with prayers of thankfulness to my Saviour and flung it aloft. I joined in a vibrant community of believers to worship the God of all creation. I was filled me with new ideas, and fresh enthusiasm for working with kids, and with thankfulness for committed and encouraging people to work with. If this sounds like fun to you, it is. Come and join us in children's ministry and help reach the hearts of a new generation.



“Infusion Conference”

We were blessed to attend this years “Infusion” conference in Calgary. The entire conference was loaded with exceptional speakers, sessions, and resources. Friday Night Reggie Joiner spoke passionately about how we as the church need to be relevant and continually update/ upgrade so that we can better meet the needs of today’s society. He explained that if you tried to use the latest photo software on his Mac Plus computer that he bought in the early 80’s it wouldn’t work. The tech support would ask what his operating system was and explain that he needed to update his software in

order for the program to work. Churches are the same. We can’t simply try to apply new material to an existing system, we need to continually update our systems so that the programs we run work and best reach those who need it most. We need to be relevant to our world today. Saturday morning we were treated to “ Kurt Burner and his wife” who spoke about Family time and how that can encourage Faith moments at home. They were very candid about the realities of having a family and what Family time looked like in their home. It was great to be encouraged and guided in a very busy

stage of life. They directed us to valuable resources that can encourage and assist all families. There were many more exciting aspects to this conference as it really was jam packed with a wide variety of ministry opportunities and information. We walked away from this conference excited about what God can do in our church and how we can play a role. I highly recommend this conference as well as others if you get the chance.

It kind of makes you sit up and listen a little closer when you hear that studies have shown that over 50% of kids raised in evangelical homes will leave the church once they graduate and not come back. Even within churches with cutting edge programs and all the bells and whistles, stats still remains the same. How can we effectively combat those kinds of statistics?

Both of the main speakers, Reggie Joiner and Kurt Burner, reiterated again and again the importance of relationships within the church and helping parents reinforce spiritual values in the home. The home is the primary context of spiritual formation, faith legacies are passed down to the children in the home. Life is busy and it is so easy to get caught up in running from one thing to another, Satan’s biggest deception is confusing the priorities in the home. Which really speaks to the importance of intentional actions towards passing faith onto our kids, and encompassing our faith into our every day lives. Many parents are unsure how to pray with their kids, how to go about devotions, how to bring up faith topics. Sharon is trying to have sessions which give parents resources and different ideas on blessing your children, do devotions with your children, praying with them etc. We can’t expect to do a 180 degrees turn around and become the perfect spiritual family, however little steps towards being intentional with passing our faith on to our kids is all it takes.

At the end of the day nothing is more important than someone’s relationship with God. Reggie Joiner pointed out that no one has more potential to influence a child’s relationship with God then their parent. On the flip side no one has more potential to influence the parent then the church, and both the church and parent’s potential to influence the child dramatically increases when the parent and church partners together. It was an excellent conference offering so much more than I expected, and definitely worth my time to go. Hope to see many more join us next year!



First Baptist Church

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"As a Christ-centered community, our mission is to know Christ and make Him known."

We're on the Web
www.firstb.net

Mission

As a Christ-centered community, our mission is to know Christ and make Him known.

Our Core Values:

We value

1. intergenerational community
2. lifelong spiritual growth
3. personal and corporate worship and prayer
4. involvement in mission through evangelism and service
5. being a welcoming community who care for and serve one another

Our Vision

Through the power and guidance of the Holy Spirit, our vision is to be a welcoming, intergenerational Christ-centered community who knows Christ and makes Him known, locally and beyond ourselves so that Christ might be glorified and the Kingdom of God advanced.

Library

Did you know that we have over 2,900 items in our library? One of the tasks that we have decided to take on is an inventory of the books. We want to make sure that our records that have been so diligently kept match what we have on the shelves. Please, Please, take a look around your house for any forgotten books.

If you want to lend a hand, just give the church office a call. One thing that I have learned is that some books are checked out without being signed out. Please, if you borrow a book from the library, please sign the card and put it in the little black box that is on the desk in the library. If for some reason you don't like to sign out books, could you please contact me so that at least I know who has the book or perhaps we can think of an alias for

you to sign out books with. There are times that we have people looking for particular books and I can't help them because I don't have a clue who has it.

We may also begin to do a time period for checking out books, especially fiction, as these seem to be of great interest.

There are binders located on the library desk with the categories: title, author and subject. If you are looking for a particular book, check these for information. Please ask if you aren't sure how things work in the library.

Kathy Jang



December 2009

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|-----------------------------------|---|---|--|--|---|-----------|
| | | 1 9:30am Men's Study 9:30 am Ladies Study 1:30 pm Ladies' Study | 2 8:45 am Stretch Class 1 pm Prayer Time 7 pm Gravity PM 6 pm Christianity Exp. | 3 9:30 am Adult Drop-In 10 am Men's Coffee @ Burger King 7 pm Choir | 4 6 pm Young Adults | 5 |
| 6 | 7 10 am Men's Coffee @ Westside McDonalds Noon Primitimers 6:15 handbells | 8 7 pm Ruth & Naomi 1:30 pm Ladies' Study | 9 8:45 am Stretch Class 9:30 am Mom's Group 1 pm Prayer Time 7 pm Gravity PM | 10 10 am Men's Coffee @ Burger King 7 pm Choir | 11 5:30 pm Youth Christmas Party | 12 |
| 13 | 14 10 am Men's Coffee @ Westside McDonalds 6:15 handbells | 15 1:30 pm Ladies' Study | 16 8:45 am Stretch Class Noon Smith Malcolm | 17 10 am Men's Coffee @ Burger King 7 pm Choir | 18 | 19 |
| 20 | 21 10 am Men's Coffee @ Westside McDonalds 6:15 handbells | 22 | 23 8:45 am Stretch Class 9:00 am Soup Kitchen 10 am Edith Cavell 1 pm Prayer Time 6:45 pm Gravity PM | 24 7 pm Christmas Eve Service | 25 | 26 |
| 27 1 Service @ 11 am | 28 10 am Men's Coffee @ Westside McDonalds 6:15 handbells | 29 | 30 1 pm Prayer Time | 31 | | |