

Upcoming Bible Studies

Ladies' Studies

Philippians for Busy Moms - begins Wednesday, January 4th - 6:30pm
No sign-up necessary. Just bring a Bible and come to the CCS Teachers' Lounge.

Apples of Gold by Betty Hulzenga - begins Monday, January 16th - *OFF CAMPUS*
Book cost: \$12 Mondays @ 6:00pm - Limited seating - Sign up in the lobby next Sunday.

David: Seeking a Heart Like His by Beth Moore - begins the week of January 15th
Book cost: \$20 Sign up, next Sunday, for either Tuesday, 9:30am or Wednesday, 6:30pm class.

Lord, I Want to Know You by Kay Arthur - begins the week of January 15th
Book cost \$15 Sign up, next Sunday, for either Wednesday, 9:30am or Thursday, 6:30pm.

Living Beyond Yourself - by Beth Moore - begins Thursday, January 19th
Book cost: \$20 Thursdays @ 1:00pm - Sign up in the lobby next Sunday.

Co-ed Studies

Stewardship - led by Joe Hayes - begins Wednesday, January 4th - 6:30pm
No sign-up necessary. Just bring a Bible and come to the CCS Science room.

Magnificent Obsession by Anne Graham Lotz - begins Tuesday, January 17th
Book cost: \$14 Tuesdays @ 1:00pm - Sign up in the lobby next Sunday.

One Year Alone with God by Ava Pennington - begins Thursday, January 19th - *OFF CAMPUS*
Book cost: \$14 Thursdays @ 6:45am - Sign up in the lobby next Sunday.

Embraced by the Spirit by Chuck Swindoll - begins Wednesday, January 18th
Book cost: \$14 Wednesdays @ 1:00pm - Sign up in the lobby next Sunday.

The Way of the Master led by Mike & Christine Potter - begins Sunday, January 22nd
Book cost: \$6 Sunday nights from 7:00-8:30pm - Sign up in lobby next Sunday.

Men's Study

Leviticus and Hebrews - continuing study on Thursday evenings - 7:00pm
All men are welcome! Bring your Bible and come to the Fellowship Hall. No sign-up necessary.

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH • (941) 629-0444

Week At-A-Glance

TODAY, December 25th
Merry Christmas!

MONDAY, December 26th
Church Offices Closed

TUESDAY, December 27th
8:00am FBC Workday (until noon)

WEDNESDAY, December 28th
All Classes Cancelled

THURSDAY, December 29th
6:45am *Early Risers'* (Promenades McDonalds)
7:00pm Men's Bible Study (Fellowship Hall)
NO Adult Choir Rehearsal

FRIDAY, December 30th
FBC Offices Closed
7:00pm Hispanic Min. Music Practice (FH)

SATURDAY, December 31st
6:00pm Movie "Courageous"
(Worship Center)



Year-End Giving

There are 3 ways you can ensure that your financial gifts are included in your 2011 Giving Statement:

1. Bring your tithes/offerings to a worship service or to the church office *before the close of business on Thursday, December 29th.*
2. If you mail them, make sure they are *postmarked on or before December 31st.*
3. You can give online *until midnight on December 31st.* Just visit our website, www.LovingFamilies.US, click "About Us" and choose "Online Giving" from the drop-down menu or the right-hand side on the "About Us" page.

Thank you for your faithful support!



DECEMBER 25, 2011

Today's Worship

Welcome Guests
How Great is Our God/How Great Thou Art Majesty
Pastoral Prayer
Offertory - *BJ Gabrielsen*
My Jesus, I Love Thee
Special Music - *Ms. Najla Bray*
Message - *Pastor Jim*
His Name is Wonderful
There's Something About that Name
Decision Time

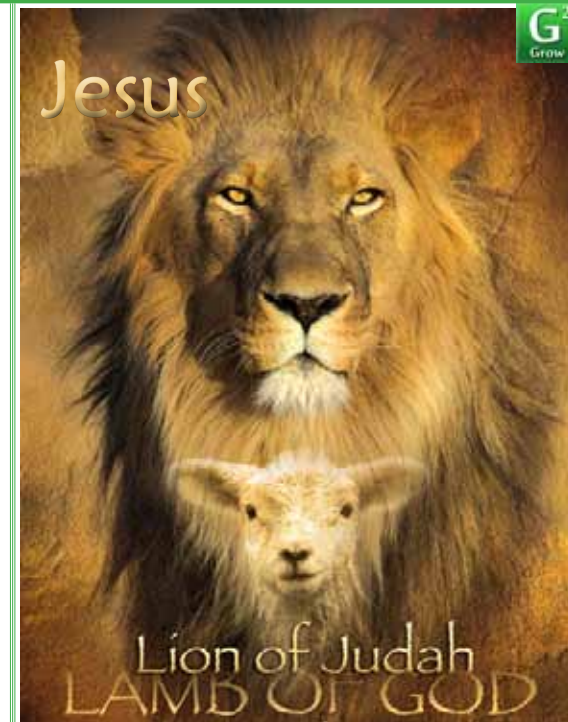
Today and January 1st

11:00am - One Service Only

12:45pm - Hispanic Service

- Preschool Childcare (birth thru kindergarten) available during services.
- Deaf Interpretation is provided during the 11:00am service.
- Message (video and audio) and message notes will be available on our website this week.

Parents, please retrieve your children in a timely manner from the Preschool Department after the service.



For a schedule of upcoming events, visit our website and click on "Calendar"

www.LovingFamilies.US

From the Pastor's Heart

Good morning everyone. I hope and pray for each of you a joy-filled day as we celebrate the birthday of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. My love, Pastor Jim

One of America's greatest poets is Henry Wadsworth Longfellow. The year 1860 found Longfellow happy in his life, enjoying a widening recognition, and elated over the election of Abraham Lincoln, which he believed signaled the triumph of freedom and redemption for the nation. The following year the Civil War began.

On July 9, 1861, Longfellow's wife, Fanny, was near an open window sealing locks of her daughter's hair, using hot sealing wax. Suddenly her dress caught fire and engulfed her with flames. Her husband, sleeping in the next room, was awakened by her screams. As he desperately tried to put out the fire and save his wife, he was severely burned on his face and hands. Fanny died the next day. Longfellow's severe burns would not even allow him to attend Fanny's funeral.

In his diary for Christmas day 1861, he wrote, "How inexpressibly sad are the holidays." In 1862, the toll of war dead began to mount and in his diary for that year Longfellow wrote of Christmas, "A merry Christmas say the children, but that is no more for me." In 1863, his son, who had run away to join the Union army was severely wounded and returned home in December. There is no entry in Longfellow's diary for that Christmas.

But on Christmas Day 1864, Longfellow sat down to try to capture the joy of the season. He began: "I heard the bells on Christmas day, their old familiar carols play, and wild and sweet the words repeat of peace on earth, good will to men." As he came to the third stanza, he was stopped by the thought of the condition of his beloved country. Days looked dark, and he probably asked himself the question, "How can I write about peace on earth, good will to men, in this war-torn country, where brother fights against brother and father against son?" But he kept writing: "And in despair I bowed my head: 'There is no peace on earth', I said. For hate is strong, and mocks the song Of peace on earth, good will to men."

Then, as all of us should do, he turned his thoughts to the One who gives true and perfect peace, and continued writing: "Then peeled the bells more loud and deep; 'God is not dead, nor doth he sleep! The wrong shall fail, the right prevail, With peace on earth, good will to men.'" And so there came into being that marvelous Christmas carol, "I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day."

Announcements

AWANA Parents / Guardians, please note the following:

NO AWANA this Wednesday, December 28th. AWANA resumes next Wednesday, January 4th.



Opportunity to Love Children - Volunteers with a heart for God's little ones (ages birth to kindergarten) are needed to teach them during the Sunday Morning services about God's love for them. If this is YOU...then contact Cathy in the Preschool Ministry Office.



GriefShare

We are looking to begin a GriefShare Ministry. If you have had any experience with this ministry, please contact Midge in the office. We'd love to speak with you about it. Thanks.

Lost and Found

If you have lost any personal items in the Worship Center this past year, please check the lost and found bin in the lobby before January 1st. All items remaining in the bin after January 1st will be donated to a local charity.



Church votes to call Minister of Education and Children

Pastor Troy George has accepted the position and will arrive the first week of January to begin serving. Once his youngest son graduates from high school (May) and his other son gets married (July), his wife Karen will join him here. We look forward to having Troy on staff. Pastor Troy writes, "It has been a real joy to see God work in bringing us here. I look forward to meeting you and getting to work with you to do what the Lord is leading us to do together. I am ready to get started strengthening families and equipping God's people to accomplish His will. I pray that we will become a mighty force in furthering the kingdom of God in the upcoming months and years. I can't wait to get started!" We will begin lining up meals where you can schedule to have breakfast, lunch, or dinner with Troy; at your home or a restaurant. Thank you for the ways you will make him feel welcomed!



FAMILY NEWS

Birthdays This Week - December 25 - 31

Today - Elijah Brooks

Monday - Barbara Hemsath, Delta Wedderburn

Tuesday - Daisy Allen, Eulalia Chase, Heather Gilbert, Payton Naro

Wednesday - Kayla Cormier, Maureen Fry, Edwin John, Penny Townsend, John Longworth

Thursday - Charles Wiltfong, Dylan Jacobson, Ann Napolitano, Elijah Tirado, Becky Tipmore

Friday - Donna Aguero, Glen Armstead, Jean Sears, Katie Taylor, Cathy Yurkovich

Saturday - Mavis Barnes, Steve Lawrence, George Pavone, Cynthia Roe, Paul Thompson

Our Condolences to Sally Norrid, in the passing of her mother, Isabel Abrams, last Saturday.



Our AWANA Clubbers shared the joy of Jesus' birth by caroling at a local assisted living facility earlier this month.

OUR STRATEGY



GOD
Attend Worship Services



GROW
Join a Small Group



GIVE
Serve the Lord



GO!
Share Your Faith

Faithful Stewardship

Weekly Budget Needs:	\$22,176.52
Budget Receipts 12/18	\$20,809.62
Budget Needs to Date:	\$1,131,002.52
Budget Receipts to Date:	\$1,173,157.48

Mortgage Monthly Payment	\$13,101.00
Mortgage Payoff:	\$1,170,949.51



COMMUNITY CHRISTIAN SCHOOL - (941) 625-8977 www.ccmustangs.com

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