

The Lamplighter

First Baptist Church of North East

November 2017

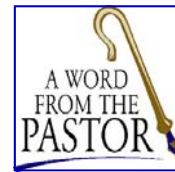
Newsletter

Vol. 49 No. 3

It's Shoebox Time!

My husband, Bobby, and I just returned from a trip to the Billy Graham Library in Charlotte, North Carolina. Touring the library was a wonderful experience. What made the day so extra special was that it was Biker's Day. Over 1,000 bikers from the southeast came bringing their boxes for Operation Christmas Child. The large parking lot was filled with motorcycles. In one area was a huge mountain of filled shoeboxes – over 6,000 in all. They were being packed into shipping cartons and loaded onto the back of a tractor trailer. There were all kinds of events taking place specifically for the bikers, but Bobby and I snuck over long enough to hear the testimony of their full circle speaker. (A full-circle speaker is someone who received a shoebox as a child, & testifies how much it meant to them.) We heard from Vladimir, who was born in the Ukraine. He was one of nine children. The family was extremely poor as his father was an underground preacher. Because of his faith, it was difficult for his father to hold a job. The children only had a couple pairs of shoes to share amongst themselves. They also had to share a toothbrush! However, one day, each of the nine children received a shoebox. Vladimir was thrilled to receive his own toothbrush, a yo-yo (which was a status symbol) and some toy cars. Up to that point, he and his brothers had used their shoes as imaginary cars. He was delighted to receive a bar of soap; it smelled so good! (I couldn't help but think if any of our kids received a bar of soap for a Christmas gift, I don't think they would have been as thrilled as he was!) There was one gift, though, that left him baffled. It was dental floss. He came to the conclusion that since it had a minty taste, it must be some sort of candy. He thought, "Those Americans have a strange way doing candy!" It wasn't until years later, after they had come to America and he had his first dental visit, that he discovered what it was. *(continued on page 3)*

Dear church family,



Greetings in the precious name of our Lord, Jesus Christ. It was 500 years ago on October 31, 1517, that an obscure monk in the Roman Catholic Church, wrote a paper with 95 reasons why he believed the sale of indulgences was wrong. It was known as the "95 Theses." It set off a chain reaction and a firestorm that has divided the Christian world ever since. He said, "If I can be convinced from Scripture, I will recant."

The Roman Catholic Church had despoiled Italy to build St. Peter's cathedral in Rome and now they were doing the same in Germany. Indulgences were pieces of paper (that they sold for lots of money), that said the souls of departed loved ones could get out of purgatory or even hell. It was said "As the coins fall and jingle in the coffers, their souls fly up." Luther was convinced that the pope had no authority to make such a claim, and that it was immoral to extort money from those to whom the worthless paper was sold.

The matter of indulgences was a big issue in 1517, but in the light and perspective of history, it was Martin Luther's rediscovery of the gospel of the Bible that *(cont. on page 2)*

(continued from page 1)

has transformed Christianity. The early church understood and preached it, but somehow it got lost over the centuries of the Middle Ages.

“The Just Shall Live by Faith” was the watchword of the Reformation. The transformational message of “Faith in Christ Alone” was what finally released Martin Luther from his painful struggle of being accepted by a holy and just God. All the works that his church told him to do had never brought peace to his soul.

He was 21, nearly a doctor and being ordained as a Roman Catholic priest, when he found a book in the library – a Bible. It was a Latin Vulgate Bible! He was trained in Latin so he could read it – but he had never even seen a Bible up until then! He studied and read it and started preaching it. It was through preaching a series on the book of Romans, that he (re) discovered the simplicity of the gospel by faith alone in Jesus. When God saved his soul, He also opened his eyes to all the abuses of the RCC, that so clouded the truth. Martin Luther set out to stay within and to reform the RCC, but that would not happen. The differences were so great that nothing but a clean break and a brand new start would do. And thus was born the Protestant Reformation.

Others before Martin Luther had come along with the same message, but most had been executed or martyred for even speaking up. A combination of events changed that. First was the invention of the printing press in 1453, and the possibility of mass printing of the Bible and other literature as well.

Second, in God’s providence, Martin Luther was protected from being killed. He was hidden for nearly a year in a secluded castle, out of harm’s way. During that year, Martin Luther translated the New Testament into German. That was his native tongue and soon it was being read throughout the land. Like the King James Bible united the English speaking world, so Luther’s German Bible united the German speaking peoples of Europe. It is hard to over-estimate the historical changes that have occurred because of those two translations of the Bible.

Martin Luther wanted every man and woman to read the Bible for themselves. All of the tenets of the Protestant Reformation came out of a fuller understanding of God’s Word. Over the centuries, certain practices of the church had become nothing more than empty meaningless rituals. In the midst of this darkness the Reformers sought to define Christian doctrines, especially those related to salvation. The Five Basic Beliefs were...

1. By faith alone
2. By scripture alone
3. Through Christ alone
4. By grace alone
5. Glory to God alone

These simple truths that may seem obvious to us were revolutionary 500 years ago. The Pope summoned Luther to answer the charge of heresy and even promised him safe passage to and from the council. Luther went, even though he knew he would probably be executed. He bravely said that unless he was convinced from Scripture, he would not recant anything. “Here I stand. I cannot do otherwise. So help me God.

Amen.” Soon thereafter, he was excommunicated (kicked out of the RCC and supposedly from heaven) and an edict was handed down that commanded all to take him prisoner and prohibited printing, buying, or selling of any of Luther’s writings. So much for safe passage. This edict hung over him until his death 35 years later.

At that time, there were many other reformers who risked their lives to establish these truths in the world. For example, John Wycliffe in England (!380’s), and John Hus in Czechoslovakia, who was burned at the stake in 1415. We stand on the shoulders of those who have gone before us. Praise the Lord for all that God has done to buy our salvation, through Christ’s shed blood on the cross of Calvary. And praise the Lord for those who have sacrificed so much to keep that message pure and make it available to whosoever will believe in Christ alone.

Your brother in Christ alone,

Pastor Steve

Pastor Stephen D. Hokuf



State Missions Offering

State Goal: \$150,000

**OUR CHURCH GOAL:
\$1,000**

**Goal reached and
exceeded: \$1231 PTL!!**



NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Chelsea Logue
- 2 Goldia Gregg
- 5 Tommy Murray
- 7 Alicia Callaghan
Mark Gibson
April Vance
- 8 Audrey (Beman)
Hammond
- 11 Iva Lewis
Sophie "Sue" Moore
Esther Watson
- 13 Dorothy Lundberg
- 14 Megan Burns
Michael Jones
- 15 Melissa (Jackson)
Marvel
Cassandra Walsh
- 16 Delilah Keyes
Brian Musser
- 17 Colby Brice
- 18 Cameron McCann
- 19 Jennifer Barker
Connie Hamilton
Anthony Taylor
- 20 Bobby Hilaman
- 21 Matthew Hamilton
- 23 Frances Cantler
- 24 Ethan Hokuf
- 25 Amy Hall
Jason Whitmore
- 26 Logan Hokuf
Morgan Naggie
- 27 Janet Hokuf
Bowen Milburn
- 28 Ann Reeder



NOVEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

- 1 Charles & Beverly Poff
- 2 John & Nancy (Carpenter) Carr
- 4 David & Mary Beth Naggie
- 5 Kevin & Jennifer Barker
- 7 Will & Teala Robertson
- 22 Carl & Evelyn Moore
- 26 John Jr. & Manda Barber
James & Sophia "Sue" Moore
- 27 Jim & Patricia Adkins

("Shoebboxes" cont from page 1)



It was so encouraging to hear his story. As we are preparing for another year of doing shoeboxes (which by the way is the 20th year that our church has participated), I challenge you to put a lot of prayer into your shoebox(es). God has a wonderful way of using our simple gifts to speak to precious boys and girls of His love for them.

Dedication Sunday is November 12th. Please bring in your shoeboxes, and we will have a short dedication with the children. Again, our church is a relay center for this are. The days and times of collection are as follows:

**Mon, Nov 13th-Sat, Nov 18th
from 10am-4pm**

Sun, Nov 19th from 1-3pm

**Mon Nov 20th
from 8:30am-12:30pm**

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The Lamplighter
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An electronic version of our newsletter is available on our website as a pdf file and may be emailed to you upon request. It will be emailed to you instead of a mailed, printed copy.

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Women on Mission

Women on Mission will sponsor the Angel Tree



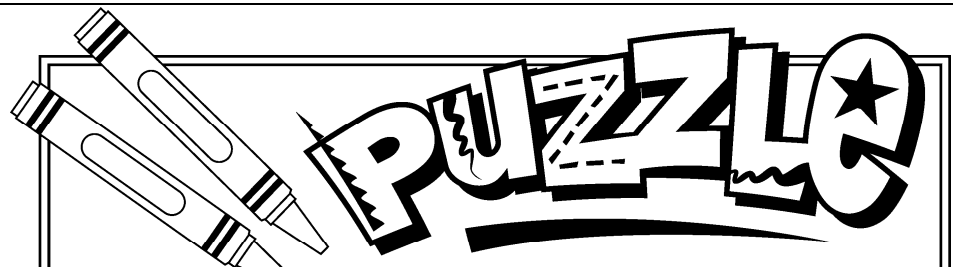
again this year. The Christmas tree will be up by November 26th. The angels, with information about the child (age, size, gift wish, etc.), will be on the tree. Please take one or more than one. The families appreciate the kindness and generosity of our church family.

The gifts should be brought in by **December 17th**.

Our W.O.M. Christmas party will be held at Sylvia Hobson's home on Saturday December 16th at 1pm. Her home is beautifully decorated and we can feel the Christmas spirit. Everyone brings a dish and cookies to exchange. Each woman brings \$10 to put in a card for a woman that we feel deserves a special "thank you" for her service in the church. May all our hearts be blessed as we help and encourage our church family.

W.O.M. Secretary,
Brenda Sommers


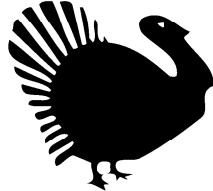






GIVE THANKS TO GOD

God gives us many blessings every day. How can we thank him?

Directions: To complete the Bible verse below, follow the code and fill in the blanks.

A=1, B=2, C=3, D=4, E=5, F=6, G=7, H=8, I=9, J=10,
K=11, L=12, M=13, N=14, O=15, P=16, Q=17, R=18,
S=19, T=20, U=21, V=22, W=23, X=24, Y=25, Z=26.

“ _____ will _____ 16 _____ 18 _____ 1 _____ 9 _____ 19 _____ 5 _____ , _____ name in _____ 19 _____ 15 _____ 14 _____ 7 _____ and _____ 7 _____ 12 _____ 15 _____ 18 _____ 9 _____ 6 _____ 25 _____ 8 _____ 9 _____ 13 _____ ”

20 _____ 8 _____ 1 _____ 14 _____ 11 _____ 19 _____ 7 _____ 9 _____ 22 _____ 9 _____ 14 _____ 7 _____

Answer: "I will praise God's name in song and glorify him with thanksgiving." Psalm 69:30, NIV

Bible Quiz

After Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego were thrown, bound, into a blazing furnace for refusing to worship false gods, how many men did King Nebuchadnezzar see walking around in the fire?

- A. None — they were all dead
 - B. Three — unbound and unharmed
 - C. Four — and the fourth looked like a divine being
 - D. Too many to count
- (answer on pg 5)



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NOVEMBER 2017



Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
29 9:30am: New Members Class (Rm 9) 6pm: Barbara Sandbeck concert Deacons' Mtg (after 6pm service)	30	31 10:30am: Ministers' & Wives' fellowship @ Aberdeen First Baptist Church	1	2	3	4
5 9:20am: Breakfast	6	7	8 6:30pm: Prayer Mtg/Bible study Business Mtg (after prayer mtg.)	9	10	11 Veteran's Day
12 OCC: Shoebox Dedication Sunday BCM/D Annual Meeting	13	14	15	16	17	18 9am-7pm: Youth trip to Cherry Crest Farm
19 6pm: Movie, "Case for Christ" w/ a Deacons' mtg immediately following	20	21	22	23 Happy Thanksgiving 	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	1	2 2pm: An Olde Worlde Christmas @ LBC

Bible Quiz answer: Answer: C (See Daniel 3:25.)

See page 6 for regular events/services

("Shoeboxes" continued from page 3)

Just a reminder about some changes this year. The shipping cost has gone up to \$9.00 per box, and candy and toothpaste can no longer be included. You can pay your shipping online and print out the follow-your-box labels. If you use these, you should receive an email letting you know where your box(es) went.

May you be blessed as you pack your boxes.

Nancy Hudler



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Prepared with love, especially for:

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

REGULAR CHURCH SERVICES/EVENTS

Sunday

8:30a **WORSHIP**
9:20a **Breakfast** (1st Sun, monthly)
9:30a **Bible Study/Sunday School**
10:30a **WORSHIP/Children's Worship**
6p **Monthly** Last Sunday **WORSHIP**
6p Youth Ministry Mtgs.

Tuesday

11a Worship Committee Mtg. (4th Tues)
5:30p Praise & Worship Team Practice

Wednesday

6:30-7:30p Kids' Klub—grades 2-6
6:30-7:30p **Prayer/Bible Study**
BUSINESS Mtg (2nd Wed—after Prayer Mtg)

Thursday

10a Choir Practice
11a Ladies' Prayer Time



Budget/Attendance Analysis

Budget/General Fund
Weekly Average as of
10/22/17(42 wks): **\$3,730.**

Needed Weekly: **\$3,566.**

Budget Status: **\$7,042.**

PARKING LOT FUND
received to date: **\$35,740.**

We have 3 revised parking lot
fund goals: **\$20,000** (PTL);
\$30,000 (Glory to God);
\$47,745 (Hallelujah!).

Audio/Visual Fund: **\$66**
received to date.

Average morning worship
attendance: 9/24/17-
10/22/17: **92**

