

First Family

December 19, 2011

Merry Christmas from the Coopers

Dear Church Family,

Amongst all the happenings of the last few weeks, one thing has been abundantly clear – God has been good to our family. This year has been overwhelming from that standpoint. We have seen God move and work in ways that never could have been imagined. In 2004, a week before Christmas, we moved to Louisville, KY in obedience to the call that God had placed on our lives for full-time vocational ministry. That Christmas season we had one little 18 month-old son, a 2 bedroom apartment full of boxes, a city in front of us where we knew no one, no source of income, and a call that was so unclear that we could not give a good answer as to what God was actually calling us to do. We also got a foot of snow that week! However, even then, we began to see God at work...God moving to bring about something special for us. Over time we welcomed the first Kentucky native into our family...our precious little curly-headed blond baby girl. All the while, God was at work. We had opportunity to serve Him in so many ways – on staff at a church, among friends we met, within the jobs that we held. All the while God was at work. Our family in Georgia joined us in prayer. We all prayed for God to use us for His glory, for His purposes, wherever that may be. Since we moved away during Christmas, each Christmas season that would pass would mark another year for us away from family, away from the people and places that we grew up with and knew and loved. Would we ever be there again? We didn't think so, but we were ok with that. A calling into ministry is like that. You are satisfied first and foremost with seeing God move, being able to look back and say, "Yes, God has brought us to this point - just look at all that He has provided and orchestrated!" We praise God for those years in the Bluegrass.

Then came the Christmas of 2010. This was the first one we had ever experienced without David Cooper – an extraordinary husband and father and grandfather. It was a tough season to say the least, but as we gathered together as a family last year to enjoy each other and remember, we got news about a church - a church in our beloved Northwest Georgia that did not have a pastor. We had learned through previous pastor search processes to proceed with caution. To get hopes up or get too attached to the people you would meet through the process is just too painful. This is especially true when the potential church is in the area where you grew up and all of your family still resides. However, with much prayer, a resume was sent to the First Baptist Church of Lakeview somewhere around the first of the year. A few weeks went by, and then a call came one night. On the other end of the line was a speaker phone and gathered around it were some of the most precious people we would have the privilege to ever know. Little did I know at the time, but these people, along with the church that was behind their search, were the very people that our family had been praying for. These were the people that God would call us to serve and love.

So here we are...Christmas 2011. This Christmas season will not mark another year in Kentucky away from family and loved ones. It marks the first year of a reunion with family, but it's not just the family we left in 2004, it's also the family we have been given by a sovereign God. God's Word tells us that in the fullness of time, God sent forth His Son. This fact we celebrate this time of year. Christ came at just the right time to redeem us. We have experienced perfect timing in our life as well this year. All of you reading this now are the greatest gift our family has been given this year. We love you...we are privileged to serve alongside you...we are honored to be a part of The First Baptist Church of Lakeview. Merry Christmas dear loved ones!! We look forward to 2012!

Love,
Patrick, Leslie, Andrew, and Grace

Church Family,

This season is about celebrating the birth of Jesus and praising God for all that we have been blessed with this past year. Thank you for loving my family and blessing me each week with your friendship and prayers. May God bless each of you during this Christmas season. Merry Christmas and a happy New Year!

In His hands!

Daniel, Charme, Callie, and Price Ray

To our family at LFBC:

We just want to wish all of you a very Merry Christmas and a wonderful New Year. We thank you all for your loving support over the past eight years. We look forward to serving our Lord with you in 2012. We are so excited about what God is doing at LFBC and look forward to what He has in store for us.

Love and blessings to you all,
Don, Donna, Kelsie and Corey Austin

Luke 2:10-12 says. "Then the angel said to them, 'Do not be afraid, for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy which will be to all people. For there is born to you this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. And this will be a sign to you: You will find a Babe wrapped in swaddling cloths, lying in a manger.'"

We have heard and read these words a thousand times. May our joy be renewed this year as we hear these words again.

May our focus be on this baby, this baby who grew into a man and bled and died for our sins, this baby who grew into a man that rose again on the third day, this baby who grew into a man and now sits at the right hand of the Father. Praise God for this baby. Praise God for this Savior. This should bring us all great joy. I pray we all seek Him this Christmas season.

Donna and I wish you a Merry Christmas and a blessed New Year! We love each one of you and pray for you daily.

Following hard after Christ,
Chris Cooper

SCHEDULE CHANGES!

Please make note.

On Sunday, Dec. 25th, and Sunday, Jan. 1st, we will not have Sunday School. The church services will start at 10:30am and there will be no evening activities. Also, there will be no Kid's Worship (Children's Church) during these services.

Hope House will be closed Monday & Tuesday the 26th & 27th AND Monday, Jan. 2nd.

The Church Office will be closed Friday, Dec. 23rd & Monday, Dec. 26th AND Monday, Jan. 2nd.

There will be NO Wed. night supper or meal delivery on Dec. 21st and 28th but we will have prayer meeting with the 21st being our Communion Service.

NEWS FOR CHILDREN

NO Awana on Dec. 25th or Jan. 1st; we'll see you again Jan. 8th @ 5pm!

NO Children's Choir Dec. 21st or 28th. We'll see you again on January 4th at 6pm!

NEWS FOR YOUTH

Youth Christmas Party
THIS Wed., December 21st
at Buddy & Dianne Godfrey's house. We will leave the church at 6:00 p.m.

WORD OF THANKS!!

Thank you to all who gave recipes for the cookbook. We tried to use all recipes received and regret if there are any errors or omissions. Thanks to all of you for the continued support to God's mission field in Haiti! ~Your C.I.A. Ministry

THE COOKBOOKS ARE HERE!!

The "Recipes of the Flock" cookbooks are here!! The cost is \$15.00 each. All proceeds will go to FBCL Haiti Mission Trips. If you'd like to make a purchase, come by the church anytime this week between the hours of 8am and 4pm (call 1st to be sure someone's here). If you pay by check, make it out to FBC Lakeview and designate to CIA/Haiti. You can also buy them Wednesday night, before or after the 6pm Communion Service.

Christmas Day Service begins at 10:30 a.m. Sunday. There will be NO Sunday School or evening activities.

Bible Study Plan for Sunday, December 25th:

"Christmas in Egypt"
Genesis 45

Additional Verses:

Genesis 41-44

Proverbs 16:9

2 Cor. 5:18-21

Genesis 50:15-21

Romans 5:6-11

Don't forget about our Family Communion Service this Wed. at 6pm!

Adult Choir will not meet Dec. 21st or 28th. We'll start back on Jan. 4th.

There will be a Special Called Business Meeting on Sunday, January 1st after the morning service to vote on the 2012 church budget.

Dear Church Members,
Many thanks for all the visits, calls, cards, & especially the prayers while I was in the hospital.

Love you all,
Frances Chastain

This is the FINAL newsletter of 2011. Due to the holidays and office closings, we will not have one next week.

VOLUNTEER WORKERS

****Sunday, December 25th**

Nursery Workers (be here by 10:15am)

Team 7: Susie McClain and Tonja Hicks

Kid's Worship Leaders

NO Kid's Worship/Children's Church

Greeters

Bill Quinn, Bernice Rendleman, & Leroy Shaver
(NO Sunday School; service starts 10:30am)

****Sunday, January 1st**

Nursery Workers (be here by 10:15am)

Team 8: Dianne Godfrey, Ryan Taylor, and Bryan Hill

Kid's Worship Leaders

NO Kid's Worship/Children's Church

Greeters

Kathleen Purcell, Bill Quinn, & Leroy Shaver
(NO Sunday School; service starts 10:30am)

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