

**UPCOMING EVENTS in  
DECEMBER!!**

*"Christmas at Southwestern"*

*A Free Christmas Concert at  
Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary  
In Fort Worth, Texas*

**Thursday, December 1st, 2011 at 8:00 p.m.**

**Bus leaves CLC at 4:00 p.m.** Arrives back at CLC about midnight! Tickets are required and we still have 15 tickets available, so call the church office today to have your name added to the list!

We will stop in Gainesville for dinner on the way— Your only cost for this trip is what you spend for dinner (and perhaps a few hours of lost sleep)— well worth the trip!

(Be sure to bring a blanket and pillow for the ride!)

**Deadline to sign up is Monday, Dec. 5th**

**For the Annual  
Senior Adult Christmas  
Dinner for adults age 50 plus...**



**"Hometown Christmas"**

**Saturday, December 10th**

**5:30 p.m. in the**

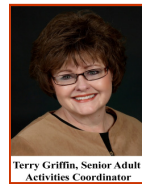
**Fellowship Hall of FBC**

*Christmas Carol Sing-a-long led by Russell Petty and a special presentation by the 5th Grade Puppet Team will follow a traditional Christmas dinner prepared especially for YOU.*

**NO Charge and NO Gift Exchange... However ...**

**...Donations will be accepted to purchase Pajamas for the Children residing at the Grayson County Shelter this Christmas Season.**

**Please turn in your donation in an offering envelope marked "PJ's" no later than Monday, December 5th.**



Terry Griffin, Senior Adult Activities Coordinator

*A Note from  
Terry Griffin*



**HAVE YOU EVER WONDERED...**

What is Heaven really going to be like? What will we look like? What will we do? Won't Heaven get boring after a while?

We all have questions about what Heaven will be like, and after 25 years of extensive research, Dr. Randy Alcorn has written the most comprehensive and definitive book on **Heaven** to date ...which invites us to picture Heaven the way Scripture describes it.

A DVD study on **Heaven** will be the topic of our next Tuesday Morning Adult Bible Study (see details below). If you've always thought of Heaven as a realm of disembodied spirits, clouds, and eternal harp strumming, you're in for a wonderful surprise! At the end of this 7 week study, when you hear someone say, "I can't imagine what Heaven will be like," you'll be able to tell them, "I can tell you!!"

**Dr. Rick Warren, author of "The Purpose Driven Life", is quoted as saying "This is the best book on Heaven I've ever read."**

So please consider joining us for this interesting and eye-opening DVD study titled "**Heaven**"— starting Tuesday, January 10th~

**CHRISTMAS IS IN THE AIR~** and Jack and I hope you all will have a very Merry Christmas as you seek to focus on HIM especially during this time of the year! Jesus is, after all, THE REASON FOR THE SEASON!! How blessed we are that God loved us enough to send His Son to earth— so mankind could have the opportunity to reconnect with our Father God and to be totally forgiven for our sins! What a remarkable Gift!! **God is so Good!!**

**Tuesday Morning Adult Bible Study**

(NOT for Seniors Only!!)

Will resume on **Tuesday, January 10th**

**From 9:30 to 11:00 a.m.** in the Friendship Room of the CLC

Please join us in the new 7 week DVD study on

*Heaven* by Dr. Randy Alcorn



**DOMINOES!**

**Thursday, January 5th**

**1-4 p.m. in CLC Friendship Room !!!**

Don't miss out on the **Fun, Food, and Fellowship!**

**First Baptist Church  
601 W. Woodard  
Denison, Texas**

**www.fbcdenison.org  
(903)465-4886**

**A Newsletter by, for and about the Senior Adults of First Baptist Church Denison, Texas.**

*"Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up." Galatians 6:9*



*This is the verse of scripture we have adopted as a constant reminder that God has a place of service for each of us for as long as we are alive.*

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December 2011  
December 2011*

**Five Reasons Why the Bible is the Most Important Book on Earth**

**By Dan Buttafuoco, President of the Historical Bible Society**

The Bible is the single most important book ever written. It is an eyewitness account of historical events of such magnitude that they have literally shaped the world in which we live. Without this book, the Western world and a good deal of the Eastern world would be completely different today than if the events of the Bible had never occurred.

Here are five primary reasons why you need to read the Bible for yourself.

**THE BIBLE HAS TRANSFORMED THE WORLD**

A good number of people around the world read portions of this book every day. It is one of the most published and printed books in the history of the world. It has been printed in just about every known language (including Braille) and each year since it was first written, it has been the world's greatest bestseller year after year.

It was the first book ever put to the printing press. The man who first printed it, Johannes Gutenberg, was recently voted the most important man to have ever lived within the past 1000 years!

The Bible is available in every corner of the globe, even where it is illegal to own or read this book. It is available in electronic format and on CD as well. You can find it on the internet for free.

**PEOPLE ARE WILLING TO DIE FOR THIS BOOK**

People have died torturous deaths simply to gain access to this book. There are countries where this book is discouraged or even banned outright. In many countries, it is a crime to distribute or even possess this book.

Some have tried to eliminate it. All who have tried have failed. People have suffered exquisite tortures and loss of freedom and even their lives for printing it. This occurs even now and in fact, is a regular occurrence in this world.

This book is simultaneously hated and loved. Once read, it would be impossible to be indifferent to it; for it's claims are monumental and beyond exaggerating. It provokes a strong response in either a positive or negative direction; it was meant to be so by design. Most importantly, lives have been dramatically changed **for good** because of this book.

**IT'S THE MOST ACCURATE BOOK OF ANTIQUITY**

The Bible is the most copied book of antiquity. Written over a time period of some 1,500 years, it was completed approximately 2,000 years ago. Yet, in all the centuries that have passed, none of its contents have ever been found inaccurate.

It has been translated into its present form directly from the original languages from a vast supply of ancient manuscripts sifted by the best minds and most competent scholars of our day and of many prior generations. It has been translated into every known existing language.

It is surpassingly accurate to the smallest details. Its contents, as translated, are as close to the original words of the authors as humanly possible. Only a few words of the entire book (a tiny, insignificant percentage) are in any doubt as to the original words and none of the disputed text affects the message of the book. Additionally, new discoveries of previously unknown ancient manuscripts continue to provide even greater accuracy to the contents of this book.

Where this book can be verified by external events such as archeology, geography, custom, politics, culture, known world history and writings in other ancient texts it has been so verified as to be accurate in all respects. New discoveries always support it, never vice versa. It has never once been proven faulty on single detail or fact. Although many have mightily tried and failed.

**IT CONTAINS A LIFE-CHANGING MESSAGE OF FREEDOM**

The Bible has liberated many from oppression by its clear teachings. It raises the dignity and rights of every human being ever born. It contains clear teaching on the value and worth of every individual. It will astonish and surprise you and likely move you to tears.

It has freed minds and hearts throughout history. The events recorded in this book have generated more great works of art (and some not-so-great ones as well) more than any other subject matter in the history of the world. All the museums in the world, added together, could not possibly contain all of the art work inspired by the events of this book.

**(Continue top of page 2...)**

(Continued from Page One~)

The Bible represents true freedom. It has never been in the custody and control of a single group of people, unlike other important books. It belongs to everyone and it has been possessed by everyone, every culture and every tribe and race of people. Reading it will strike you directly in your heart. It has the "ring of truth" to all who love the same.

This book contains a message at its very core. It is a message to all people everywhere, in every time period, relevant to their everyday lives. It claims to be the very Words of God, an audacious claim, for sure. It is for you to decide whether to believe the message of this book and to apply it to your own life.

If you now know nothing about God, you will know a great deal about God after reading this book. If you believe you know much about God, you will know even more about Him after you read this book. You may even decide to re-evaluate your knowledge of God after reading it.

**IT CONNECTS YOU TO HISTORY'S MOST IMPORTANT FIGURE**

You may have heard of Jesus of Nazareth, also called the "Christ" (i.e. "Anointed One"). You may even think you know him. But if you have not read the account offered firsthand throughout this book, you will, in effect, know nothing definite about him. The entire Old Testament points to his coming, and the entire New Testament testifies to his teachings and actions.

The name of Jesus has been used to bless people and it has been used as a curse word by those who despise him. People have been healed and set free in his name. One thing is for sure, when you meet Jesus in the pages of this book and understand who he claims to be, it is impossible for you to remain indifferent to him.

People are free to reject this book and what it says. God made us "free moral agents" to choose as we desire. Yet, people violate the teachings and wisdom of this book at their own peril.

Because of the main person in this book, Jesus of Nazareth, **TIME** has been split in to two main epochs (B.C. "before Christ" and A.D./"anno Domini" for 'year of our Lord').

Each year, over a billion people celebrate Jesus' birth, his death and his bodily resurrection from the dead.

Jesus is the only religious leader ever claimed to have risen from the dead. All others are dead and buried. Abraham is dead. Moses is dead. Mohammed has died and remains dead. Buddha is dead. Gandhi is dead. Only Jesus claims to be alive. Even Muslims revere Jesus as a holy man and a great prophet. All told, about half of the world today accepts that this Jesus was a great and remarkable personage.

**Keep turning the pages** of the Bible. Read it with an open mind and open heart. It contains pure truth about God, about life, the nature of mankind and our own hearts as human beings. The Gospel of John is a wonderful place to start, but read the whole thing— Old and New Testaments. You'll be amazed what you discover about God, and about yourself.

If this God is indeed your judge, before whom you will someday give an account of your life, it truly behooves you to be aware of who He is and the simple thing He asks of us before that solemn time comes. In essence, this book will help you to deal with that very event for which we are all destined. But be warned, you will not be the same after you read it!

**Christian One-Liners** (received from Jane Hayes)

**If God is your Co-pilot, swap seats!**

**He who angers you, controls you!**

**You can tell how big a person is by what it takes to discourage him.**

*Twas the month before Christmas when all through our land,*

*Not a Christian was praying nor taking a stand.*

*See the PC Police had taken away*

*The **reason** for Christmas!—Why? No one could say.*

*The children were told by their schools not to sing*

*About Shepherds and Wise Men and Angels and things.*

*"It might hurt people's feelings", the teachers would say.*

*"Twenty-fifth of December is just 'Holiday'."*

*Yet the shoppers were ready with cash, checks and credit*

*Pushing folks down to the floor just to get it!*

*CDs from Madonna, an X BOX, an I-Pod*

*Something was changing, yes, something was quite odd!*

*Retailers promoted Ramadan and Kwanzaa*

*In hopes to sell books by Franken & Fonda.*

*As department stores hung all their trees upside down*

*At Old Navy stores "**Christmas**" ... no where to be found.*

*At Safeway stores, Staples and Office Depot,*

*You won't hear the word "Christmas"—an absolute NO!*

*'Inclusive' and 'sensitive', 'd'i-ver-si-ty'*

*All words that were used to intimidate me.*

*And we spoke not a word, much to our disgrace!*

*Forbidden to speak of salvation and grace?*

*The true Gift of Christmas exchanged and discarded;*

*The **reason** for Christmas now stopped before started.*

*Those relaxing on 'Winter Break' under 'Dream Tree'*

*All sipping their Starbucks,—please listen to me!*

*You may be surprised, (and slightly dismayed)*

*To hear "**MERRY CHRISTMAS!!***

*not Happy Holiday !*

*\*\*Stand up with other Christians to wish everyone you meet a "**MERRY CHRISTMAS**".*

**The task ahead of us is never as great as the Power behind us.**

**The Will of God never takes you to where the Grace of God will not protect you.**

**God doesn't call the qualified, He qualifies the "called".**

**Forbidden fruits create many jams.**

# Happy Birthday



Viola Brown — December 1

Ray Miller — December 2

Charlotte Giles — December 3

Charlene York — December 3

Sandra Holt — December 5

Carol Washburn — December 8

Beverly Talbott — December 9

Karen Sylvester — December 12

Dale Joseph — December 14

Lewis Lefas — December 15

Frances Bailey — December 19

DeeDee Kunkel — December 22

Imanelle Howell — December 23

Marita Miller — December 25



Mark Mitchell, Senior Pastor

The Pastor's  
Pen



**Merry Christmas! I feel like I am a few months late saying that...as Walmart has been playing Christmas music for over a month now. Oh my. I do hope and pray that the coming days and months are a special time for each of you. I will be praying for you all during this season. This morning I have been sitting here thinking through the names on our Senior adult membership list. So many of you have lost loved ones and friends in the last few years.**

**Though Christmas is a special time for family...it is also a time when the absence of loved ones is felt most powerfully. I pray that God will be your strength and comfort through this season. May He himself be the source of your Christmas peace and joy.**

**You all are so very special and I thank God for your love and friendship. God bless you and Merry Christmas,  
Mark**

**SORRY** — is looking back.

**WORRY** — is looking ahead.

**FAITH** — is looking up!

*Introducing ...*

*Mr. & Mrs. Marvin Williams*

*Wed November 12, 2011*

*First Baptist Church / Denison*

*Congratulations!*

*May God richly bless this union!*