



Sandy Level Welcomes You to **NEWS ON THE LEVEL**



January 2011

Volume 31 Issue 1

Southern Baptists: a praying people impacting a lost world

Lottie Moon Christmas Offering So far SLBC has reached their primary goal of \$7,500 by sending over \$10,000 to the Southern Baptist Cooperative Program

The lost are believing because you give!



January 31
Steve & Kathy Warren
Speaking
Everyone over 55 Invited



January 6th
10:00 a.m.



"Operation Warm"

January Project ~ GA's and RA's are collecting gently used & new coats - all sizes. Blankets also needed. Please place all coats & blankets in the box in Blackmon Hall.

Any questions please see Jerry Kaiser or Jessica Barfield.



Sandy Level Baptist Choirs
All Choirs will resume schedules

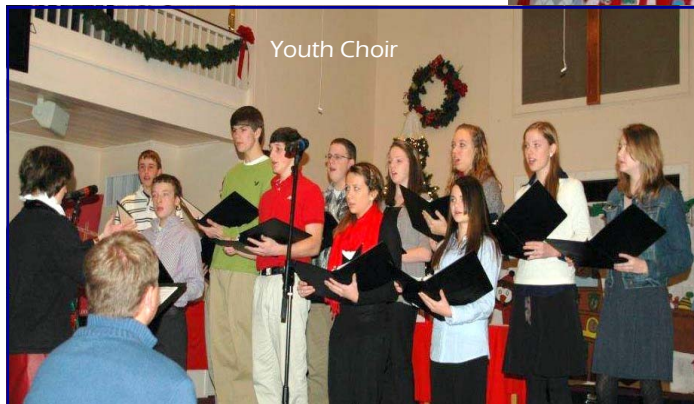
Sunday ~ Children's Honor Choir @ 6:00 p.m.


Children's Choir ~ All Jan 9th (6:30)

Youth Choir Jan 9th (6:00)

Wednesday ~ Music Makers Jan 12th (6:00)

Music Makers
December 12th



 Saturday, January 8th – Honor Children's Chorus and Younger Youth Chorus Concert at White Oak Conference Center @ 6:00 p.m. Public is invited.

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Read the Bible Daily

Professor Eugene Peterson says of the Bible in his book Eat This Book, "We open this book and find that page after page it takes us off guard, surprises us, and draws us into its reality, pulls us into participation with God on His terms." I'm sure you've experienced the power of Scripture in that way. The great hero of faith, the Rev. George Muller, accurately observed, "The vigor of our spiritual life will be in exact proportion to the place held by the Bible in our life and thoughts." A recent survey of Lifeway Research confirmed Muller's observation by showing that the number one predictor of spiritual maturity among active churchgoers is whether or not they read the Bible daily.

Yet researchers confirmed that only 16 out of every 100 active church attendees read the Bible daily; another 32 percent read the Bible at least once a week. And here's the clincher—only 37 percent of those who attend church regularly say that reading and studying the Bible makes a significant difference in the way they live their lives.

Studies indicate that over the past 50 years the church has joined secular culture in a rapidly accelerating decline into biblical illiteracy. This plunge is making a profound impact upon the way we think and live. One professor at a top Christian university says that though students today are exceptionally bright and deeply committed to Christ and the church, many fail very basic biblical literacy tests. They know neither basic Bible stories nor how the grand story of the Bible fits together.

If these cream-of-the-crop students are in this situation, where are the people who occupy the pews? Every study of the past 10 years confirms where they are—many don't know the Word; they don't think biblically; they don't know how to connect the details of the Bible with the daily needs in their lives.

I don't have a cure-all for the disease of biblical illiteracy, but I do have a recommendation for each one of us. As we stand at the threshold of a new year, let's make a commitment to read the Bible daily. I didn't say read the Bible through. That's a lofty goal, and if you set that as your reading goal for the year, may the Lord bless you in the endeavor. But the simple commitment I'm recommending is this—just read the Bible daily. Read a lot. Read a little. It doesn't matter. Just be consistent. And before your daily reading, pause a minute and ask God to speak to you about your life through the reading. Ask the Holy Spirit to make the daily portion of the Word you read to be God's special word to you for that day. Then through the day reflect on what God has spoken to you. Read the Bible for more than information. Read it for transformation. Ask the Holy Spirit to make the Word real in your life. There is nothing you can put into your mind more powerful than the Word of God. Think of how much more Christ-like your life will be a year from now if you follow this simple plan.

Ben



Jake

Sandy Level Youth in the Community

Kate Kacsur

Kate performed with the Columbia City Ballet in The Nutcracker this Christmas. The ballet was fantastic from beginning to end. It involved both accomplished dancers, as well as first time young dancers. Kate was in 3 different scenes playing 3 different parts. She represented her family, her church, and her Savior very well! Kate prepared for the Christmas show for months and did a great job!

Brad McGuffin

Brad is representing Christ on the hardwood floor this winter. After months of conditioning, and practice the Blythewood High School JV basketball team has started their season, and Brad is a part of this team. I would encourage all of you to go out, and support Brad this season. He will have a great opportunity to represent Christ in athletics this winter!

William Ellis

William has been demonstrating his gifts in acting for our church family for years in Children's Choir, but this isn't the only place that William performs. William also performs at The Town Theater in downtown Columbia. This Christmas William performed in the musical White Christmas. The play was excellent, it combined great music, and a great story line to make for a very entertaining evening!

These are not the only youth who are active in our community. We are blessed to have so many students who are active in sports, community service, and the arts in our community. They represent Christ in many fantastic ways. The students above did so this Christmas season and we are very proud of each of them!

Build a Bridge – The Start! by Thomas Black Jr.

As I sit down to write the first bridge update article for 2011, I reflect back on the past year, stories shared, prayer, patience and waiting on answers. And, one by one, the answers came, not only concerning the bridge, but for the purpose and direction I had personally been searching for in my own life. I have changed; no longer shy about sharing my faith or my stories. Even writing rap songs based on some of these stories and then sharing them with the world to listen to and watch on YouTube (crazy, I admit).



As many of you know, the week before Thanksgiving I traveled to El Salvador and joined hands with a team from Parsons Brinckerhoff, a worldwide civil engineering company, in building a pedestrian foot bridge for a small, rural community. The El Charcon community is similar in many ways to the Gavilan and Patastule communities we will be building a bridge for in Nicaragua, starting this month in fact. The purpose of this trip was for me to gain experience, to see and help with the construction process, and to visit some completed bridges in the country.

However, I was not fully prepared for the experience, meaning the manual labor part, but quickly adjusted. Carrying large stones from the river, shoveling gravel and sand, mixing concrete by hand, handing off buckets filled with concrete to the workers above, digging a two foot ditch through ground filled with stones, and trying to survive on a PB&J bagel sandwich for lunch (and it was sooooo good too). But the relationships I formed, the friendships, getting to know the people in the community, seeing their need and desire for the bridge, these things quickly overshadowed the physical labor aspect and assured me of my calling to build these bridges, of my new found passion in life. And then the encouragement of meeting the bridge's fundraising and project coordinator from Parsons Brinckerhoff, who shares an equal passion and excitement for these bridges, was a bonus. Yes, I received many more blessings from the trip than I gave, though I did share not only my faith but also a lot of my fundraising stories at dinner each night. And yes, I even performed for them a few of the rap songs I had written.

What about the Gavilan-Patastule (Nicaraguan) Bridge our church is sponsoring? The contract with Bridges to Prosperity has been reviewed and signed, and the \$25,000 raised for the bridge will soon be transferred to their bank account, which will officially kick off the project for them. It is worth noting that this is the first bridge the Bridges to Prosperity team has built in Nicaragua, and they are very excited to be partnering with our church. The bridge's official completion date has been set for April 23, but a target date of April 16 is very feasible. The majority of team members from Sandy Level will be needed near the end of March and early April to help assemble the bridge's walking deck on the cables, which will include the walking planks and installing the safety fencing between the cables. However, I plan at least one trip before then to help with the other aspects of the bridge construction, and to meet the community members. I will keep those who are interested informed of these dates when they are known, which will be after the actual bridge construction begins in January. Of course, others are welcome to go anytime once the bridge construction begins.

Senior Saints -- Remember those who cannot come as they once did.....

Earline Boney	1025 Old Birch Drive	Betty Humphries	1213 Grover Wilson Rd
Gabie Entzminger	1519 Loner Road	Dorothy Geddings	133 Tam O'shanter
Louise McCormick	112 Cooper Road	Dan Stevens	1155 Russ Brown Rd
Gladys Wofford	2248 Muller Road	Henry Mixon	11112 Wilson Blvd
Rollin DeHart	1401 Blythewood Road	all of Blythewood, SC 29016	

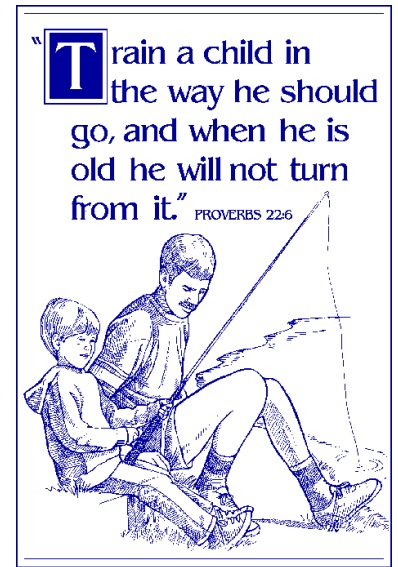
Dot Blume	5114 Providence Rd – Apt 203	Charlotte, NC 28226
Louise Cooper	NHC Parklane 7601 Parklane Road	Columbia, SC 29223
Polly Raines	NHC Parkland 7601 Parklane Road	Columbia, SC 29223
Freeman Sharpe	NHC Parkland 7601 Parklane Road	Columbia, SC 29233
Carrie Toplock	Life Care 2514 Faraway Drive	Columbia, SC 29223
Willa Jean & Claude Williams	NHC Parklane 7601 Parklane Rd	Columbia, SC 29223
Ruby Boney	Alterra Sterling 251 Springtree Drive	Columbia, SC 29223





Children's Ministry Schedule - January

- January 2nd** **Nursery:** Tara Horton & Christopher Wofford
 Toddlers: Jerry Kaiser & Danielle Kahle
 Children's Church: Tom Chase & Holly Bunting
- January 9th** **Nursery:** Paula Thayer & Shirley Newman
 Toddlers: Susan Combs & Gertrud Whitlock
 Children's Church: Lauri Dees & Cara Kaiser
- January 16th** **Nursery:** Alice Wofford & Lea Oakes
 Toddlers: Donna Baughman & Gilbert Creel
 Children's Church: Leigh Powell & Christopher Wofford
- January 23rd** **Nursery:** Michelle Creel & Gina Lee
 Toddlers: Jason Powell & Jane Plante
 Children's Church: Benji Barfield & John Combs
- January 30th** **Nursery:** Lynn Christopher & Babbi Bowers
 Toddlers: Butch Royson & Tara Horton
 Children's Church: Tom Chase & Danielle Kahle



Kids For Christ
January 2
 Audrey & Abby Castles

Happy Birthday!!

- | | |
|------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1 Andy Rose | 13 Dennis Humphries |
| 1 Minnie Smith | 13 Jerry Kaiser |
| 3 Harry Sandifer | 13 Tricia Goodwin |
| 3 Dot Benton | 13 Oliver Ellis |
| 4 Grant Meisner | 14 Theo Peoples, Jr. |
| 5 Dayton Chase | 14 Donna Raines |
| 5 Elizabeth Miles | 17 William Ellis |
| 6 Stacey Keasler | 18 Bill Paschal |
| 6 Mary Pat Wright | 20 Hunter Wooten |
| 8 Austin Wooten | 24 Kim Oxendine |
| 9 Carisa Buff | 26 Jacob Payne |
| 10 Dorothy Geddings | 26 Harrison Wofford |
| 11 Michael Greene | 27 Albert Broach |
| 11 Randy Wilson | 29 Laney Sutton |
| 13 Betty Bradley | 29 Robin McCormick |
| 13 Randy Broach | 31 Gene Lee |
| 13 Allen Hagood | 31 Neysa Rimer |

USHERS - December

01/02/11	Alex Oakes	Alan Branham
01/09/11	Derrick Horton	Greg Dees
01/16/11	Jerry Whitlock	Jim Zimmerman
01/23/11	Jerry Kaiser	Bruce Hubbard
01/30/11	Jim Goodwin	Jason Powell

Happy Anniversary!

- 2 Ben & Shirley Newman
- 22 Mike & Cyndy McCormick
- 29 Mike & Donna Spearman

JANUARY 2011



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 Happy New Year
2	3	4	5 Fellowship Meal 	6 	7	8
9	10	11 Youth Leadership Team 7:00 p.m.	12 Fellowship Meal 	13	14 Youth Winter Retreat ← →	15
16 Youth Winter Retreat ← →	17	18	19 Fellowship Meal 	20	21	22
23	24	25 Gleaners SS Class Fellowship Hall	26 Fellowship Meal 	27	28	29
30	 31					

Wednesday Night Schedule

- 5:30 Fellowship Meal
- 6:00 Music Makers, Youth Bible Drill
- 6:30 Prayer Meeting, RA/GA
- 6:45 Mission Friends
- 7:00 The Station
- 7:45 Adult Choir

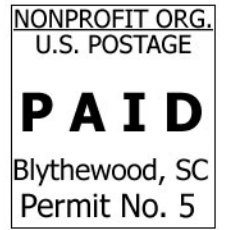
Sunday Morning/Evening Schedule

- 9:15 Sunday School
- 10:30 Morning Worship
- 5:00 Bible Drill 4-6th grade
- Acteens/Iron Men
- 6:30 Children's Choir
(2nd thru 6th grade)
- Youth Choir
- Men's Small Group
- 6:45 Adult Bible Drill I
- 7:30 Adult Bible Drill II

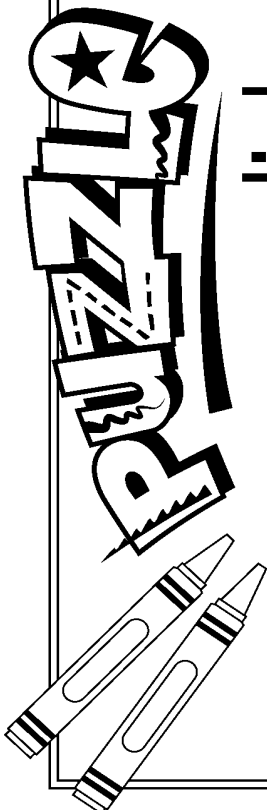
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From darkness to light

In the Bible, God speaks often about light and darkness. He gives us much instruction about which path we should choose.

Match the opposites and then write the word in the right-hand column in the correct blanks to finish each verse.

1. Good	Righteousness
2. Death	Children
3. Go	Life
4. Evil	Come
5. Adults	Bad

“When your eyes are good, your whole body also is full of light. But when they are _____, your body also is full of darkness.” Luke 11:34, NIV (1)

“I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of _____.” John 8:12, NIV (2)

“I have _____ into the world as a light, so that no one who believes in me should stay in darkness.” John 12:46, NIV (3)

“For what do _____ and wickedness have in common? Or what fellowship can light have with darkness?” 2 Corinthians 6:14, NIV (4)

“For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Live as _____ of light.” Ephesians 5:8, NIV (5)

Answers: 1. bad, 2. life, 3. come, 4. righteousness, 5. children