

THE COLUMNS

First Baptist Church, Omaha, NE
Forward in Faith...Empowered by the Spirit

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Just A New Year Thought...

From Pastor Kip

Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the east came to Jerusalem, saying, Where is he who has been born king of the Jews? For we saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him. @ Matthew 2:1

Who? What? When? Where? and Why? These are the five words that need be answered whenever there is an announcement to make. If you miss answering just one of the questions your announcement is rendered almost ineffective. If you miss answering two of the questions your announcement may as well not have been written at all.

These one word questions make up the way in which we get information as well. Children are asked these questions when they want to go do something with their friends by their concerned parents. They are questions that police and other legal people ask when they are investigating a case. They can also be used to bait people in the gossip chain. A You=ll never guess who? Or what? Or where? Or why?≡

We live in a A need to know≡ kind of world and will spend many hours digging to unearth the answers to these questions, like the wise men in this passage for instance. Who were the wise men seeking? Jesus! What had happened? Jesus was born. When did this happen? Sometime when the star rose. Where did this happen? In Bethlehem.

But it is the answer to *Why* that is most compelling. For some unknown reason these smart guys from somewhere in the east, men who had not probably grown up recognizing the one true God, knew enough to realize that something important had happened and that with all that they did know, they still needed to know more. And so they came. They came seeking. And when they got in to see Herod they began asking questions that not even he could answer. Herod had stopped asking questions, he had stopped being a learner, he had decided that he knew all that he needed to know, that is until that moment when confronted with the news of a new born king.

Why did the wise men want to find Jesus? For a reason that none of us could have expected. They came all of those hundreds - if not thousands - of miles to worship. Somehow in all of the questions of their lives Jesus was the missing link, the missing piece of the puzzle. It is Jesus who gives us the answers that we seek. Who are we? Beloved children. What has happened? Jesus came to free us from our sins. When does this take place? The moment we call on His name. Where does it happen? In our hearts and lives. And why? Because God so loved the world.

As we enter 2008 may it be that we continue to seek Jesus like those wise men of old. May 2008 be a year that we choose to walk even closer to the Lord, and as we celebrate 150 years as a church may we continue to be found in him and known as his. May this give us cause to live out lives of worship and praise of Jesus who is the ultimate answer to all of our deepest questions.

Happy New Year!

Prayer Requests

Please remember our members who are unable to be in church any longer. They appreciate our thoughts and prayers.

- ✓ Lorraine Olson, homebound.
- ✓ Ella Faulkner, homebound.
- ✓ Pat Buie at Millard Manor
- ✓ Beverly Tompkins at St. Joseph Towers.
- ✓ Violet Schoening at Fox Run Assisted Living.

*With
Sympathy*

Our love and prayers go out to the following who recently had a loved one pass away.

Bruce Carlson's father passed away on December 15 and a memorial service was held at the Lutheran Home on December 18.

Lynne Chesire and Colleen Sariscsany's brother Ray Kelly, passed away on December 15. His service was held on December 20th in Missouri.

Wanda Chandler's sister, Noyon Schaaf, went home to be with her Lord on December 15th. Her funeral service was held in Avoca, IA on December 20th.



Thank you, church family, for your expressions of sympathy on the recent death of my sister, Noyon Schaaf. I greatly appreciate your caring and thoughtfulness.

Wanda Chandler

My heartfelt appreciation for the many cards, gifts, words of thanks, etc. that were received at Christmas time. Your generosity was overwhelming. I look forward to the many exciting things being planned for our 150th Anniversary celebration at First Baptist Church.

Pastor Kip

Our heartfelt thanks to Christina Atkins who wrote and put together the Children's Program that was presented on December 16. What a wonderful gift to the congregation. Thanks to all who assisted Christina in this endeavor.

We were also blessed with an inspirational choral presentation by the adult choir on December 23. Jim, Karla and all the musicians did a fantastic job and really put those who attended, in a festive mood.



Retired Ministers and Missionaries Offering Quite Successful

Praise God !!!! We just concluded receiving financial gifts for the ABC Retired Ministers and Missionaries Offering. The money collected throughout the ABC denomination, will be divided and distributed to the many retired ministers and missionaries and their widowed spouses, who have faithfully served God in their work. We are grateful for each and every gift that was given.

Please note that there will be NO Electric Wednesday Activities (including bell choir and adult choir rehearsals and Bible studies) until January 9th.



FBC Men are encouraged to attend the Men's Prayer Breakfast on January 5 starting at 8:30 a.m. Come and share this time of food and fellowship. It is a great opportunity to get to know one another a little better and have fun doing it.



Annual Meeting

The Annual Meeting and Potluck Dinner is January 20th immediately following the morning worship service. Ministry reports will be presented and we will have the opportunity to learn what lies ahead in 2008 for First Baptist Church as we celebrate our 150 years as a church.

Food designations are as follows:

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| A – G | Dessert |
| H – P | Main dish |
| R – W | Salad or side dish |

Young Adult and Youth News

The young adult group had an evening of games and bowling on December 2. High score: 197, fastest bowler bowled a whopping 21 mph and the slowest bowler did around 2 mph. The women won the trivia game played at the Stober's home. Be on the lookout for future events that will be advertised in the bulletin or via e-mail.

Youth:

One computer is up and running. It can be used for homework or to do research.

Mark your calendar NOW for a youth retreat on March 28-30th. Start saving your pennies as the price will be \$80 for the event. There will be tuition assistance. See Jeremy for details.

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Begin
the
Year
with
God