

The First Baptist Evangel

*January 10, 2016
State of the Church Session*



First Baptist Church of West Point is seeking to be a caring community of faith under the leadership of God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Celebrating the presence and love of God in Worship,

Nourishing persons in faith and discipleship, and

Reaching Out to the community with Christ's unconditional Love.

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CCLI #2561039

Welcome

We welcome you to worship at First Baptist this morning. Please help us be more faithful in our ministry to you, and get to know you better, by taking the time to put your name on the attendance pad found on your pew.

Visitors, please feel free to leave as little or as much of the information requested on the pad. We promise to only contact you if you ask us to, and to only send information as you request.

Members, if you have had a change to your mailing address, email, or telephone number please let us know by supplying that information on the pad.

Please Especially Note for Today...

The Offering for International Missions ends today, Sunday, January 10th. Our goal this year is \$3,300.

The monthly WOM meeting will be tomorrow night at 6:00 in the Gold Room.

Your 2016 giving envelopes are located by the door in the Gold Room. Please pick yours up today and remember to use them when you give your tithes and offerings in the coming year.

The first of our Three Nights Together will be held next Sunday night at 6:00 at the First United Methodist Church. Tom will be preaching. A time of fellowship will follow in the Zachary Center.

Ministry Leaders

Nursery Workers

Today: Stephanie McLain
Next Sunday: Ashlee Hill
January 24: Ann Adams

PEW Ministry Leaders

Today: Susan Groover & Linda Combs
Next Sunday: Debra & Joe Downs
January 24: Jerri & Donny Bolton

Offertory Prayer Leader

Today: Frances Reeves
Next Sunday: Chuck Smith
January 24: Joe Downs

Weekly Schedule of Activities

Sunday, January 10th

9:45—Breakfast
10:30—State of the Church Session

Sunday, January 17th

9:00—Deacons' Meeting
9:45—Sunday School
11:00—Worship
6:00—Three Nights Together at
WPFUMC

Linda Combs is responsible for the opening and closing of the church during the month of **January** followed by **Joe Downs** in **February**.

*The Church Covenant
of the
First Baptist Church of West Point*

Having been led as we believe by the Spirit of God to receive the Lord Jesus Christ as our Lord and Savior and, on the profession of our faith, having been baptized in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, we do now in the presence of God and this assembly, most solemnly and joyfully covenant with one another as one body in Christ.

We pledge, therefore, by the aid of the Holy Spirit to walk together in Christian love; to strive for the advancement of this church in knowledge, holiness, and comfort; to promote its prosperity and spirituality; to sustain its worship, doctrines, and discipline; to observe the ordinances of believer's baptism and the Lord's Supper; to contribute cheerfully and regularly to the support of the ministry, the expenses of the church, and the relief of the poor, and the spread of the gospel through all the nations.

We also pledge to maintain family and private devotions; to nurture children in the faith; to seek the salvation of our kindred and acquaintances; to walk circumspectly in the world; to be just in our dealings, faithful in our engagements, and exemplary in our deportment. Humbly relying on the aid of divine Grace, we solemnly promise by lives of sobriety, uprightness, integrity, and godliness, and by all other means in our power, to labor for the promotion of God's glory among our fellow men.

We further pledge to watch over one another in brotherly love; to remember one another in prayer; to aid one another in sickness and distress; to cultivate Christian sympathy in feeling and Christian courtesy in speech; to be slow to take offense, but always ready for reconciliation.

We additionally pledge, that when we remove from this place, we will as soon as possible unite with some other church where we can carry out the spirit of this covenant and the principles of God's Word.

Celebrating the Presence and Love of God in Worship

January 10, 2015

The State of the Church Session

10:30 AM

ANNOUNCEMENTS

TOM TUCKER

ENTERING INTO GOD'S PRESENCE

CALL TO WORSHIP

TOM TUCKER

Commit your work to the LORD,
and your plans will be established.

Let us render service with a good will as to the Lord and not to man, not by the way of eye-service, as people-pleasers, but as bondservants of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart.

—Proverbs 16:3; Ephesians 6:6, 7

INVOCATION

TOM TUCKER

PSALM

FBC CHILDREN

Psalm 100

A PSALM FOR GIVING THANKS.

- 1 Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth!
- 2 Serve the Lord with gladness!
Come into his presence with singing!
- 3 Know that the LORD, he is God!
It is he who made us, and we are his;
we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture.
- 4 Enter his gates with thanksgiving,
and his courts with praise!
Give thanks to him; bless his name!
- 5 For the LORD is good;
his steadfast love endures forever,
and his faithfulness to all generations.

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

HYMN OF PRAISE (#6)

ST. DENIO

"Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise"

...A CARING COMMUNITY OF FAITH...

Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it.

— 1 Corinthians 12:27

RENEWAL OF THE CHURCH COVENANT (See page 3)

CHURCH CLERK'S REPORT

JANICE DALLAS

(This report is printed on page 10.)

CHURCH TREASURER'S REPORT

ANN KERR

(Statics from this report can be found on page 11.)

BUILDING AND GROUNDS UPDATE

TOM TUCKER

DEACONS' REPORT

JOE DOWNS

(This report is printed on page 11.)

CELEBRATING THE PRESENCE AND LOVE OF GOD

Therefore let us be grateful for receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, and thus let us offer to God acceptable worship, with reverence and awe....

—Hebrews 12:28

MUSIC MINISTRY REPORT

HOWARD BRYAN

(This report is printed on page 12.)

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON

JOE DOWNS

Daniel 3:8–25

⁸ Therefore at that time certain Chaldeans came forward and maliciously accused the Jews. ⁹ They declared to King Nebuchadnezzar, “O king, live forever! ¹⁰ You, O king, have made a decree, that every man who hears the sound of the horn, pipe, lyre, trigon, harp, bagpipe, and every kind of music, shall fall down and worship the golden image. ¹¹ And whoever does not fall down and worship shall be cast into a burning fiery furnace. ¹² There are certain Jews whom you have appointed over the affairs of the province of Babylon: Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. These men, O king, pay no attention to you; they do not serve your gods or worship the golden image that you have set up.”

¹³ Then Nebuchadnezzar in furious rage commanded that Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego be brought. So they brought these men before the king. ¹⁴ Nebuchadnezzar answered and said to them, “Is it true, O Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, that you do not serve my gods or worship the golden image that I have set up? ¹⁵ Now if you are ready when you hear the sound of the horn, pipe, lyre, trigon, harp, bagpipe, and every kind of music, to fall down and worship the image that I have made, well and good. But if you do not worship, you shall immediately be cast into a burning fiery furnace. And who is the god who will deliver you out of my hands?”

¹⁶ Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego answered and said to the king, “O Nebuchadnezzar, we have no need to answer you in this matter. ¹⁷ If this be so, our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace, and he will deliver us out of your hand, O king. ¹⁸ But if not, be it known to you, O king, that we will not serve your gods or worship the golden image that you have set up.”

¹⁹ Then Nebuchadnezzar was filled with fury, and the expression of his face was changed against Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. He ordered the furnace heated seven times more than it was usually heated. ²⁰ And he ordered some of the mighty men of his army to bind Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, and to cast them into the burning fiery furnace. ²¹ Then these men were bound in their cloaks, their tunics, their hats, and their other garments, and they were thrown into the burning fiery furnace. ²² Because the king’s order was urgent and the furnace overheated, the flame of the fire killed those men who took up Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. ²³ And these three men, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, fell bound into the burning fiery furnace.

²⁴ Then King Nebuchadnezzar was astonished and rose up in haste. He declared to his counselors, “Did we not cast three men bound into the fire?” They answered and said to the king, “True, O king.” ²⁵ He answered and said, “But I see four men unbound, walking in the midst of the fire, and they are not hurt; and the appearance of the fourth is like a son of the gods.”

NOURISHING PERSONS IN FAITH AND DISCIPLESHIP

Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”

—Matthew 28:19-20

HYMN (#344, v. 1)

CHINA

“Jesus Loves Me”

CHILDREN’S MINISTRY REPORT

JERRI BOLTON

(This report is printed on page 12.)

YOUTH MINISTRY REPORT

TOM TUCKER

(This report is printed on page 13.)

SENIOR ADULT MINISTRY REPORT

LINDA COMBS

(This report is printed on page 14.)

REACHING OUT TO THE COMMUNITY

“You are the salt of the earth...”

—Matthew 5:13a

WOM REPORT

LINDA COMBS

(This report is printed on page 13.)

SUMMARY OF CHURCH-WIDE MISSIONS

TOM TUCKER

(See pages 14-17.)

MISSIONS MOMENT

JERRI BOLTON

...UNDER THE LEADERSHIP OF GOD...

For you say, I am rich, I have prospered, and I need nothing, not realizing that you are wretched, pitiable, poor, blind, and naked. I counsel you to buy from me gold refined by fire, so that you may be rich, and white garments so that you may clothe yourself and the shame of your nakedness may not be seen, and salve to anoint your eyes, so that you may see.

—Revelation 3:17-18

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON

HOWARD BRYAN

Acts 2:22–36

²² “Men of Israel, hear these words: Jesus of Nazareth, a man attested to you by God with mighty works and wonders and signs that God did through him in your midst, as you yourselves know—²³ this Jesus, delivered up according to the definite plan and foreknowledge of God, you crucified and killed by the hands of lawless men.²⁴ God raised him up, loosing the pangs of death, because it was not possible for him to be held by it.²⁵ For David says concerning him,

“I saw the Lord always before me,
for he is at my right hand that I may not be shaken;
²⁶ therefore my heart was glad, and my tongue rejoiced;
my flesh also will dwell in hope.
²⁷ For you will not abandon my soul to Hades,
or let your Holy One see corruption.
²⁸ You have made known to me the paths of life;
you will make me full of gladness with your presence.’

²⁹ “Brothers, I may say to you with confidence about the patriarch David that he both died and was buried, and his tomb is with us to this day.³⁰ Being therefore a prophet, and knowing that God had sworn with an oath to him that he would set one of his descendants on his throne,³¹ he foresaw and spoke about the resurrection of the Christ, that he was not abandoned to Hades, nor did his flesh see corruption.³² This Jesus God raised up, and of that we all are witnesses.³³ Being therefore exalted at the right hand of God,

and having received from the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit, he has poured out this that you yourselves are seeing and hearing. ³⁴ For David did not ascend into the heavens, but he himself says,

“The Lord said to my Lord,

“Sit at my right hand,

³⁵ until I make your enemies your footstool.”

³⁶ Let all the house of Israel therefore know for certain that God has made him both Lord and Christ, this Jesus whom you crucified.”

PRESENTATION OF THE 2016 CHURCH BUDGET

DANTZ FRAZER

(See handout.)

MOTIONS FROM THE FLOOR

OFFERTORY HYMN (#389)

LIEBLICH IST DER MAIEN

“To Worship, Work, and Witness”

OFFERTORY PRAYER

FRANCES REEVES

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

FBC CHILDREN’S AND ADULT CHOIRS

“Great Is Thy Faithfulness”

OFFERTORY RESPONSE

“Doxology”

OLD 100TH

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heav’nly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

THE GOSPEL LESSON

TOM TUCKER

Matthew 14:22–33

²² Immediately he made the disciples get into the boat and go before him to the other side, while he dismissed the crowds. ²³ And after he had dismissed the crowds, he went up on the mountain by himself to pray. When evening came, he was there alone, ²⁴ but the boat by this time was a long way from the land, beaten by the waves, for the wind was against them. ²⁵ And in the fourth watch of the night he came to them, walking on the sea. ²⁶ But when the disciples saw him walking on the sea, they were terrified, and said, “It is a ghost!” and they cried out in fear. ²⁷ But immediately Jesus spoke to them, saying, “Take heart; it is I. Do not be afraid.”

²⁸ And Peter answered him, “Lord, if it is you, command me to come to you on the water.” ²⁹ He said, “Come.” So Peter got out of the boat and walked on the water and came to Jesus. ³⁰ But when he saw the wind, he was afraid, and beginning to sink he cried out, “Lord, save me.” ³¹ Jesus immediately reached out his hand and took hold of him, saying to him, “O

you of little faith, why did you doubt?”³² And when they got into the boat, the wind ceased.³³ And those in the boat worshiped him, saying, “Truly you are the Son of God.”

PASTOR’S STATE OF THE CHURCH MESSAGE

TOM TUCKER

HYMN OF RESPONSE (#390)

AUSTRIAN HYMN

“We Are Called to Be God’s People”

THE CHARGE

TOM TUCKER

And let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up. So then, as we have opportunity, let us do good to everyone, and especially to those who are of the household of faith.

—Galatians 6:9–10

BENEDICTION

TOM TUCKER

May the God of endurance and encouragement grant you to live in such harmony with one another, in accord with Christ Jesus, that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

—Romans 15:5–6

POSTLUDE

LEE ANN LEAK

The pastor is available after the service at the front of the sanctuary for anyone who would like to talk more about today’s message, learn about faith in Christ, or for prayer. You may also make an appointment by calling the church office at 706-645-2969 or emailing him directly at tucker@fbcwestpoint.com.

Church Clerk's Report for 2015

The annual State of the Church Service of FBC West Point was held in the Gold Room on Sunday, January 25, 2015.

We began the service with the renewal of the Church Covenant.

Reports from the Church Clerk, Church Treasurer, Nominating Committee, Deacons, Music Ministry, Children's Ministry, Youth Ministry and Women on Missions were heard.

During this session, a budget of \$208,576.00 for 2015 was approved and accepted as presented by Donny Bolton, Chairman of the Finance Committee.

At the beginning of 2015, our resident membership stood at 119. Since that time we have had 3 dismissals with the deaths of Jack Combs, Ailene Love and Geneva Bartlett. We have had 2 additions, 1 by baptism and one by letter. Our current resident membership now stands at 118.

October 18th Joe Down, Chairman of the Nominating Committee presented its' slate of General Officers, and teachers for the Sunday School hour and Wednesday Night Family Night activities for 2016. This was approved and accepted by unanimous vote.

October 25th, a church-wide luncheon and discussion time was held regarding proposed Constitutional Amendments. The first would give the Deacon body authority to deal with Deacon vacancies. The second to Supersede the Constitutional Vote Requirement for Constitutional Amendments in regards to the Proposed Amendment to Allow Women Deacons and the third was a proposed amendment for Allowance of Women Serving as Deacons.

A second discussion time for the proposed amendments regarding the diaconate was held during the family night supper on November 11th.

November 15th, a called business session was held for the purpose of voting on the proposed amendments to the constitution. The proposed amendment to give the deacon body authority to deal with deacon vacancies passed. The motion to supersede the constitutional vote requirement for constitutional amendments in regards to the proposed amendment to allow women deacons failed and the proposed amendment for the allowance of women serving as deacons passed.

November 29th, nominations for deacons were made and on December 13th, Linda Combs, Debra Downs, Robert Groover and Frances Reeves were elected to serve 3 year terms beginning January 2016.

—Janice Dallas
Church Clerk

The Church Treasurer's Report

2015 General Fund Budget:	\$208,576.00
Received	\$170,627.08
Disbursed	\$182,410.40

Designated Funds

Beginning balance	\$58,684.58
Ending balance	\$76,893.35

Special Offerings and Designated Gifts

Food Closet	\$3,055.00
International Missions	\$3,212.00
North American Missions	\$25.00
State Missions	\$25.00
Christmas Ministry Fund	\$2,879.37

Deacons' Report

Our deacon year included discussions of ways to fulfill the needed number of deacons for the deacon body. The deacons turned to the congregation, exploring four possibilities. Two stood out and were presented as amendments to the constitution: more leeway be given to the deacons in determining to fill vacancies, and the addition of women to the diaconate. Both amendments were passed on November 15th by 78% and 73% approval respectively.

The deacons welcomed the election of Robert Groover, Linda Coombs, Pal Reeves, and Debra Downs. The ladies were ordained on Sunday, January 3.

The deacons and church appreciate the service of Chairman Howard Bryan, Vice Chairman Joe Hill, and Secretary Dantz Frazier. These three gentlemen have completed their three year terms and will enjoy some time off.

The new deacon officers include Chairman Joe Downs, Vice Chairman Donny Bolton, and Secretary Linda Combs. With God's help, we will work together to meet the challenges of 2016.

—Joe Downs
Chairman

Music Ministry Report

The music program is quite remarkable for a church our size. Jerri Bolton, Jeri Smith and Ashlee Hill have a vibrant children's choir. All of their presentations are meaningful and the children learn more than just music. Debra Downs has provided leadership that has maintained the high standards of the ringing program from children to adults. It should be noted that the hand bell choir has been in place since Janie Peacock started it in the eighties. Some of the original ringers are still involved. The adult hand bell contributions to our Sunday morning worship during Christmas is evidence of the hard work they put in through rehearsal.

The adult choir is a hard working dedicated group. For the fourth year we joined the Presbyterian choir for our Christmas music. At our Sunday afternoon rehearsals a majority plus of our choir was present. We have already agreed to continue this Christmas tradition at our church next year.

We are delighted to have Lee Ann Leak as our church pianist. She jumped right in and has provided excellent music from the very start. We are lucky to have Lee Ann.

—Howard Bryan
Director of Music Ministry

The church budget proposes **\$9,070** of the General Fund go toward the music and worship related ministries.

Children's Ministry Report

Today you have seen a brief picture of what goes on in children's ministry. We have activities and fun, but the focus of everything is to help our children in their journey in faith in Jesus Christ. You've seen it this morning—we learn songs of praise, we focus on Bible stories, specific verses and catechisms. We emphasize God's love for the nations and learn and pray for missionaries and their work over the world.

During 2015, we had several big events. We had VBS with the Presbyterian Church. It was a good time of fellowship and working together. We had our annual Sunrise Celebration and Breakfast in Bethlehem. We had good attendance and fun at our fall fellowship in November.

To everyone who prays for children's ministry and serves with us, we give thanks! We appreciate each and everyone! Most of all, we pray that God will bless our every effort and make Himself known to the children in our care.

—Jerri Bolton
Children's Ministry Director

The church budget proposes **\$4,500** of the General Fund go toward the children's ministry.

Youth Ministry Report

The youth ministry of FBC is an ever-evolving endeavor. Over the past year we have been unable to secure a permanent youth director, and now with budget constraints we look to once again alter the means by which we teach and nurture the youth of our church.

Over the coming year I would like us to more fully explore a rotating volunteer group for the teaching aspects of our youth ministry and the fellowship efforts as well. We already have a small group of people volunteering to teach Sunday School and I would like us to expand that group. If you are interested in greater involvement with our youth group please speak with me about ways you can help.

We can all help our young people through prayer. Pray for their growth in the faith and as followers of Jesus. Also pray for those who volunteer with our youth, that they might have wisdom, understanding, compassion and commitment.

—Tom Tucker
Pastor

The church budget proposes **\$1,200** of the General Fund go toward the youth ministry.

Women On Mission Report

The Women on Mission had meetings each month where we prayed for missionaries, studied about some specific ones, and planned ministry projects.

During the past year WOM

1. Provided letters of support and money for Rob who is in prison.
2. Collected paper products and cleaning supplies for Ladies at the Hosanna Home in LaFayette.
3. Assembled and delivered goodie bags for shut-ins of the church.
4. Delivered pajamas and crocheted hats to the children of the Hosanna Home for Christmas- also provided 15 blankets for their beds.
5. Purchased and delivered all the food for a Christmas meal for residents of Hosanna Home and their children (30 people). (Adult Sunday School classes helped pay for the food).
6. Continued to pray for Sarah Auler and for the Johnson family who are in countries where they cannot use their names or locations. We continue to remember Jessica Bolton each month as she ministers in Nashville.
7. Participated in the associational WMU annual luncheon and fellowship.

—Linda Combs
Women on Mission Leader

Senior Adult Report

A group of Senior Adults from FBC West Point participated in the Troup Associational Senior Adult Rally. There was entertainment, lots of door prizes, and good food and fellowship.

Our Senior Adults are combining each 3rd Friday with the Presbyterian Adults for a fellowship luncheon. We are alternating the place and responsibility for the meal. The month of January will be here at FBC on Friday, Jan. 22nd at noon. Join our group of you are able to do so.

Members of the Senior Adult group cook a meal once a month which is delivered by various people in the church to the shut-ins of the church and others in the community that are in need of a meal. Most of the months 25 plates or more are prepared. The food is all home cooked including a good dessert. Each month something from the garden is served-sometimes several things. Ann and Bill Adams have been helpful with this in picking, shelling, stringing, and freezing beans, peas, and greens. A big thank you to those who help cook and deliver the food. We hope to continue this ministry during this coming year. If you know of someone who is in need of a plate, please let us know.

—Linda Combs
Senior Adult Committee Co-chair

The Caring Special Fund

We spent \$2,937.36 this year helping 48 individuals and families in their times of need with matters such as filling drug prescriptions and paying utility bills.

The Caring Special Fund was also used to support the efforts of the West Point Area Youth Project's *Tutoring 4 Life*.

You can support this fund through special offerings collected during Communion services or by making a designated gift to the Caring Special Fund.

The Food Closet Report

The Food Closet continues to thrive and be a vital ministry to our community. We have a good core group of volunteers who are assisted by monthly volunteers from area churches. There is also a strong commitment from the community to support the efforts of the Food Closet.

This year the Closet has received canned goods and/or donations from the following:

- City of West Point – canned goods
- Power Tech – monetary
- Interface Carpets – canned goods
- Valley Christmas Parade – canned goods and monetary
- West Point Lions Club – monetary

West Point Elementary School – canned goods
McClendon/Kia paint cleanup service – canned goods
West Point Neighborhood Watch – canned goods
Curves – canned goods
Farm Bureau LaGrange – cases of peanut butter
Springwood School – canned goods

Thanks to the generosity of local churches and the community, we were able to purchase additional shelves for storage something which is required by Feeding the Valley—the food bank we use to stock our shelves.

In 2015 the Food Closet fed a total of 1,359 individuals which is up from 742 in 2014.

—Ann Adams

Co-Director of the West Point Area Food Closet

This year our church gave **\$3,055** to the Food Closet. Please continue to support this important ministry which we undertake with other churches in our area. We ask that you give a regular gift above your tithe and designate it to the Food Closet.

The Troup Baptist Association and Denominational Work

The Troup Baptist Association is a diverse group of 52 Baptist churches in Troup, Harris, Heard, and Meriwether counties which associate together based upon their affirmation of the ancient Christian faith and certain Baptist distinctives. They seek to work together to be a presence for Christ in our area through fellowship, support, training, accountability, and mutual edification.

As a part of our commitment to minister beyond our own four walls, and to further strengthen the work in our area which the TBA does, the proposed budget for the coming year increases the level of giving to the Association from 2.5% to **3% of all General Fund receipts**.

Our giving at the Denominational level will remain at **5% of all General Fund receipts** for 2016.

West Point Elementary Mission Project

In February of 2015, the church undertook a local mission project of supplying the teachers at West Point Elementary with fresh supplies of hand sanitizer and disinfectant wipes. We collected canisters of wipes and used mission monies to purchase the sanitizer, giving 30 of each to the school. This was a welcomed gift to our local classrooms, and much appreciated by the teachers.

We would like to this mission project again this year with great involvement from all ages in the church.

Gentle Hands Orphanage Clothing Drive

The Gentle Hands Orphanage in Manila ministers to the most vulnerable in this large Filipino city—orphaned and abandoned children. We became aware of this ministry when three girls who Jessica Bolton had ministered to during her time there became orphaned. As you can imagine, the needs of such ministry are great.

In October, we were able to send two large boxes packed with clothes to Gentle Hands. Thank you for your generosity, and thanks to Jerri Bolton for leading us in this project. Please continue to pray for the work of Gentle Hands and the children to whom they minister.

Lynn Smith & Glad Tidings

Glad Tidings Holy Land Designs, Inc. is an outreach to the physically challenged and underprivileged in the Holy Land. Located in the hills of the Roman city of Philadelphia, now modern day Amman, Jordan, Glad Tidings Workshop currently trains and employs around 20 full-time workers. Lynn is a co-founder of this ministry and spoke at our church in 2009.

Contributing to the ministry helps us to accomplish our mission of reaching out to the world-wide community with Christ's unconditional love. And gives us a very direct contact in this important part of the world.

In 2015 we were able to send \$1,704.97 to aid Lynn and Glad Tidings.

The 2016 budget proposes that we continue this relationship and support by giving **1% of all monies received for the General Fund.**

Christmas Ministry Fund

This offering, which is collected in the fall of each year, goes to purchase Christmas gifts for children in the Georgia Baptist Children's Homes Good Shepherd Therapeutic Center and Meansville campus as well as for local families here in the West Point area.

This year we had an adjusted goal of \$2,000 and received \$2,879.37. While down slightly from last year's giving, our receipts for this offering remain higher than in previous years. We were able to purchase thirty-five \$40 gift cards for the children at the Meansville Campus and Good Shepherd Center of the Georgia Baptist Children's Homes. Another gift card of \$450 was sent to them to help purchase a Christmas meal for the homes and other household items.

We also sent \$1,000 to the Christian Service Center in Valley to be used for purchasing Christmas gifts for children in need here in West Point.

In 2015 we began collecting this offering in October and ran through Thanksgiving. In 2016 we will once again begin this offering in October.

The goal for next year's offering is **\$2,500.**

Offering for International Missions

Our International Missions Offering has been one of the great movements of faith and commitment in our church. Over the past three years we have gone to from giving \$1,340 in 2012 to \$3,266 in 2014. That is nothing short of remarkable.

This year, due to the early date of the State of the Church Session, our International Missions Offering concludes today. To date we have received \$3,212 toward our goal of \$3,300. That leaves us just \$88 shy of our goal. Let's break past it today.

Remember, every penny of this offering goes to missionaries serving in countries around the world. It is a very real and tangible way in which we each are taking part in Christ's command to go and make disciples of all nations. We show ourselves to be committed participants in God's mission of salvation for every tribe, language, and people group.

In the coming year once again consider putting aside a set amount every month toward this offering, so that we might continue to excel in giving to international missions.

The goal for next year's offering is **\$3,400**.

Church Staff

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