

# January 2009 Nuggets

First Baptist Church XLIV No 522

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## LOVE Inc.

This past year, our goal as a church has been to keep the fire burning on the altar of our hearts. The theme was taken from our year's verse in Leviticus 6:13. Throughout the year, our goal was to fan the flame of spiritual passion for the Lord, while the passion of some this year has been kept burning, the love of others has grown cold.

Our year's verse for 2009 is taken from I Thessalonians 3:12. *"And the Lord make you to increase and abound in love one toward another, and toward all men, even as we do toward you."*

Hinged upon our passion for God is love for one another and towards the lost in this world. We want First Baptist Church to become **LOVE Inc.** Not love incorporated, but love in the name of Christ. We hope to do some things this year that will demonstrate love within the church, and to our world. To that end, we will be preaching in the Gospel of John and the Epistles of John. The Apostle was thought of as the Apostle of love, and he speaks to us in the books he wrote. Laminated copies of this year's verse are available. We hope they will serve as a reminder to each of us to increase and abound in love in 2009.

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## Winter Schedule

January 4th begins our winter schedule of services. We will replace the 6:00 p.m. service on Sundays through February 8th, with a 1:15 afternoon service. We have found that with the winter driving conditions, more people will take advantage of our Discipleship Hour. Our afternoon services are shorter in length as we limit the preliminaries, but we will again this year have a game for the kids. The congregation will enjoy fellowship dinners between the services during that six weeks. We encourage you to bring the weekly menu items, and your own table service. Chase away those January blues and enjoy the fellowship with the family of God.

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## WOMEN WHO WORSHIP

— DOT DAVIS



### High Hopes

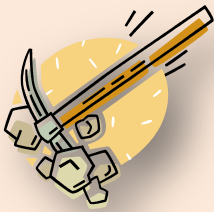
*"Now the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that ye may abound in hope, through the power of the Holy Ghost"*  
(Romans 15:13).

Around the globe people will gather to celebrate a new year and their hearts will be filled with renewed hope for happier days ahead. But upon what do they rest their hope? A good year for the economy and the stock market? A new president in office? A better job situation or a more exciting love relationship? They have high hopes, perhaps, but their reliance on temporal things to fulfill these hopes is tenuous at best.

As followers of Christ, we also face a new year, and yes, our hearts should be filled with hope. But upon what do we base our hope? The theme of our meditations for this year is "Big Truths from Little Verses." The foundation of all our hopes, indeed for our lives, is the Truth of God's Word. Without God's written revelation to us, we would have no hope at all for it is the basis of our knowledge of Him, our salvation in Christ, and our faith. "Faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God (Romans 10:17)." And because His Word is Truth, it is the sure foundation of our hope: "Remember the word unto thy servant, upon which Thou hast caused me to hope (Ps. 119:49)."

Hope is faith waiting. We wait upon God to do His work in the world. "I had fainted, unless I had believed to see the goodness of the Lord in the land of the living (Ps. 27:13)." We wait upon God to answer our prayers. "...In the morning, I lay my requests before you and wait in expectation (Ps. 5:3)." We wait upon Him to fulfill all of His glorious promises to us in Christ (2 Cor. 1:20). We wait for Him to work in us the Christlikeness for which we long (Phil. 1:6, 2:13). We wait in hope for our Savior's glorious return (Titus 2:13).

Hope should always fill the heart of a believer. But ours is not a tenuous hope because the assurance we have is the Lord Himself. As we face another year, none



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of us knows what calamities may beset us, what trials, what fears. But this we do know: God is for us and Christ is in us! Therefore we have great hope. "And now, O Lord, what do I wait for? My hope is in Thee (Ps. 39:7)." God's own attributes, character, and words are the anchor of our hope in this world.

What are you hoping for this coming year? And is your hope based on faith in the certain character and Word of your God? The hopes of many will not come to fruition this year because their faith rests upon vain and transient things. But as Christians, all of our hopes are in Christ, and what high and heavenly hopes they are!

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## WEB Site



Visit our Web Site at [www.fbnv.org](http://www.fbnv.org).

The Power Point Announcements are there.

Click on "What's happening?"

You can also read the Nuggets on line including previous issues (click on "Nuggets Newsletter").

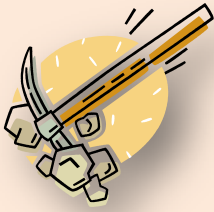
There is an up to date calendar and all the information you need about our church. If you haven't visited the web site recently, you will be pleasantly surprised with the updates.

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## Empire State Conference

The Winter Conference of our State Fellowship will be held in Bath, NY at the Harvest Baptist Church on January 26, 27. The meetings start on Monday afternoon at 3:00 p.m. and run through Tuesday afternoon. The church is located at 7568 Highway 54. Seven pastors from our state will be speaking on the theme "Questions Baptists Need to Answer." Do you want a better understanding of our historical Baptist faith? Attend one or both days of services.

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## With the Lord



**Stanley Mills**  
**died December 10, 2008**

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## An Ideal Visit

The Junior Sunday School Class visited some of the widows in Ideal Nursing Facility. They took a small gift including cookies, and sang Christmas carols. The girls along with the Spiegels had lunch at Friendly's.

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## 2009 Bible Reading Charts

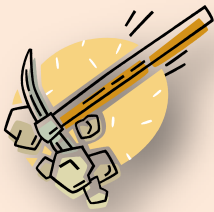
We have purchased some Bible reading charts to be used this year. Try to read the Bible through during the coming year. These reading charts will give you a way to keep track of your progress. Pick them up in the foyer.

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## Valley Classic's

Luncheon  
February 3<sup>rd</sup> at Noon  
with  
Dave and Elizabeth Mayner  
CBF Missionaries

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## No Awana in January

As a cost savings measure, this year we are not holding Awana in January. Clubs will begin again on February 2nd. Prayer meetings are being held during the winter months in the Heritage Room or Room #122.

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## Pastor's Desk



Well, it's time to take down the '08 calendars and put up new ones. Pastor has to change the calendar in his office. I think he has a hard time figuring out what day it is. He has a six-month calendar on the bulletin board and a monthly calendar on the wall. He has a desk pad that contains two months per sheet and he still pulls up his calendar on the computer. I've seen some of the things he is including for the coming year and we should have some exciting events. Oh, yes, he also has a church planning calendar in the drawer. He must think everyone has as much trouble as he does keeping track of the days as he and Joanie gave away two-year pocket calendars this Christmas. He says that the reason they gave away the calendars is that he wants those in the church to pray for him each day.

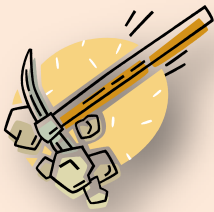
The Spiegels got some nice gifts this Christmas. I haven't told him yet who it was that brought in some "store bought" cookies. He made the point in his Christmas sermon that no one would give away cookies which weren't homemade, but this character wanted Pastor to know that he did.

Happy New Year to everyone. Stay warm!

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## Annual Meeting

Our church's Annual Meeting will be held on January 21st at 6:45 p.m. The agenda for the business meeting includes the financial reports and the 2009 budget. The deacons have reduced our new budget to \$207,000 and require weekly giving



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of about \$4,000/week. At the meeting, we will also be electing deacons for the new year. Plan to attend the meeting and be informed about our church's business.

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## Offering Envelopes Available

We encourage those that contribute regularly to the ministry of First Baptist Church to use the envelope system. We are required to keep records of individual giving for income tax purposes, and we are able to give a detailed statement at the end of the year to individual donors. You can get a set of envelopes by stopping in at the church office. The Finance Committee reminds people to put their check number on the envelope. Since we have a unified budget which includes missions, it is not necessary for you to designate money to missions separately as a percentage of money given to the General Fund helps support the church's missionaries.

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## The Stranger

Are you looking for a good way to put the Bible into the hands of someone with little Bible knowledge? [The Stranger on the Road to Emmaus](#) by John Cross is a unique book that tells the story of the Bible from Genesis to the New Testament. It is not a translation or paraphrase and uses several translations for the Scriptures that are quoted throughout the book. Cross endeavors to capture the essence of the Biblical account as it might have been explained by Jesus to two disciples on the Road to Emmaus when He opened up the Scriptures to them. This book is an attempt to explain words that we use in our Christian circles in terms that an unbeliever will understand. It concludes with a powerful invitation to salvation. The book is not "deep" and will provide little new information for the seasoned saint, but it will tie the whole Bible story together for someone with limited exposure to Biblical teaching. I found the book refreshing in its approach, and believe it would make a significant contribution to the understanding of a new believer and a powerful witness to someone who is lost. The book is published by Goodseed International.

– Reviewed by M. Spiegel