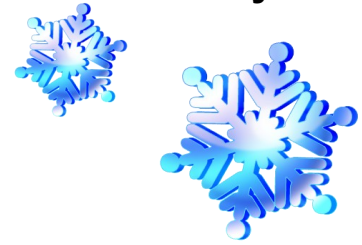


January 2012

Monthly Newsletter

First Baptist Church



Pastor's Paragraph

Death of an Atheist

Probably the most famous atheist in the world has died. His name is Christopher Hitchens. He died December 15th, 2011 after an extended battle with esophageal cancer. He was an outspoken and militant atheist who hated all religions and faiths. You could tell by the title of his most popular book: "God is not Great: How religion poisons everything". He was an intellectual and a prolific author, but he probably reached more people through his debates and appearances on TV shows. He was a ferocious debater because of his personality. He was egotistical and confident, and he did not hesitate to speak his mind. For that reason, it was painful to listen to the man. He would just make me cringe every time he opened his mouth. He did not even attempt to hide his contempt for believers. Even when he was seriously ill, facing the very real probability of death, he insisted that there would be no death-bed conversion for him. In fact, he wanted everyone to know that if there were any stories of him turning to God in his final moments, that would be a sure sign that he had lost his mind.

Christopher has a brother, Peter. Peter was also an atheist, until he became a believer. As you can imagine, the two brothers had a somewhat rocky relationship. The two of them were estranged for a long time, especially after Peter's conversion experience. However, they were able to restore their relationship somewhat the last few years of Christopher's life. Peter never really tried to convert Christopher. I suppose he felt that it was useless. Which brings up a good question. What do you do for a militant atheist? Do you pray for vengeance upon him, or do you pray for mercy? When news of his cancer became public, many were motivated to start a prayer chain for him. They actually organized an "Everybody pray for Hitchens day" on September 20th of last year. Hitchens responded by assuming that there were three types of people praying for him. The first group were the Christians who despised him and were praying that he would die and rot in hell forever. He basically told that group where they could go. The second group would be those that were praying for his conversion. He was not quite so hostile toward this group. However, he assured them that they should not waste their breath praying for his salvation. The third group was the group that would simply pray for his physical healing. Facing an uncertain future with a body ravaged by disease, Hitchens was a little more lenient on this group. His response was, "I don't mean to be churlish about any kind intentions, but when September 20 comes, please do not trouble deaf heaven with your bootless cries. Unless, of course, it makes you feel better." In his own way, he was confirming his belief that God is a myth and that prayers are futile, while showing some appreciation for their kind thoughts. So, it appears, Christopher Hitchens died the way that he lived: without God. He is the perfect example of a brilliant, but natural man. "But the natural man does not receive the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; nor can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned." 1 Corinthians 2:14 ~Pastor

January 2012

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|---|-----|----------------------------|---------------------------------------|-----|-----|---|
| 1  | 2 | 3 Deacon's Meeting 7:00 pm | 4 AWANA 6:30 PM Beat the Clock Night! | 5 | 6 | 7 Trustees' Mtg 8:00 a.m. |
| 8 Missions Trip Presentation by Elea Shaffer | 9 | 10 | 11 AWANA 6:30 PM | 12 | 13 | 14 |
| 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 AWANA 6:30 PM | 19 | 20 | 21 |
| 22 Annual Business Meeting/Soup Supper 6 PM | 23 | 24 | 25 AWANA 6:30 PM | 26 | 27 | 28 Teen Winter Games!!!  |
| 29 | 30 | 31 | | | | |

Thank You

Merry Christmas!

To all my friends, sisters and brothers in Christ. I want to thank you for your prayers—for Pastor's faithful visits also your cards, gifts, and visits. Also your expression of love over the past illnesses, hospital stays, and surgery.

The choir's ministry at the Ambassador as they presented the cantata. It was enjoyed by many. Also the carolers from the youngest (Quentin) to the oldest (unnamed). Bless your hearts! Also for Faye, her helpers, Anna W. and Hollie F. as they take time once a month to have coffee with the eldest here at the Ambassador and for Pastor as he brings a message from the Scriptures and held a special Christmas Communion.

Thank you all for your many blessings—God bless you all—Love in Christ, Doris

Dear Church Family,

Thank you so much for your extreme generosity this Christmas. Our family is so blessed to be here at First Baptist. God's mercies are new every day, and our church family never ceases to amaze us. God will richly bless you and reward you for your faithfulness and kindness. Thank you again from the bottom of our overflowing hearts.

In Christ's Love, Pastor, Susan, and Family.

Memory verse: "Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might. Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil." Ephesians 6:10-11

Reminder: There will be no evening service on New Year's Day.



Changes/Updates for 2012

We will be putting together a new General Information booklet for the new year. If you have any address changes, new numbers, corrections, etc . . . Please write it down and hand it to Susan Hunt, within the next couple of weeks!

Winter Games!



Teens grades 7-12th
Sat., January 28th
Mahoney Park
Leave Church at 8 AM
Cost: \$10
(if registered by
Sunday, Jan. 22nd)

| November Finances | |
|----------------------------------|-------------|
| Balance Forward 11/1/2011 | |
| Deacon's Fund | \$3.01 |
| Designated Fund | \$298.61 |
| General Fund | \$28,609.94 |
| Checking Account | \$28,911.56 |
| November Income | \$10,265.52 |
| November Expense | \$10,094.07 |
| Net Income (Loss) | \$171.45 |
| Balance 11/30/2011 | |
| Deacon's Fund | \$103.01 |
| Designated Fund | \$398.61 |
| General Fund | \$28,581.39 |
| Checking Account | \$29,083.01 |