



# Family Newsletter

*Because we are recipients of God's love and grace, we will seek to be instruments for sharing His love and grace with everyone.*

A publication of First Baptist Church of Cambridge, 501 Glenburn Ave., Cambridge, MD 21613; 410-228-4943; E-mail: [fbccares@verizon.net](mailto:fbccares@verizon.net); Website: [www.fbccares.org](http://www.fbccares.org); This newsletter will be available in color at church Website.

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letters from China talks about why she viewed Christmastime as an excellent time to focus on missions:

*"Need it be said, why the week before Christmas is chosen? Is not the festive season when families and friends exchange gifts in memory of The Gift laid on the altar of the world for the redemption of the human race, the most appropriate time to consecrate a portion from abounding riches and scant poverty to send forth the good tidings of great joy into all the earth?"*

## Lottie Moon Offering for International Missions

One of our annual Christmastime traditions is to participate in the Lottie Moon Offering

for International Missions. Our church's goal for this offering is \$4555. All funds given – 100% of the offering – support missionaries overseas. According to the International Mission Board, approximately 5,000 IMB missionaries' ministries depend on the Lottie Moon offering. The following excerpt from one of Lottie Moon's



letters from China talks about why she viewed Christmastime as an excellent time to focus on missions:

## Thanksgiving Outreach

Members of Primera Iglesia Bautista Hispana showed they care for the community by preparing and delivering 140 meals on Thanksgiving day. Many of the recipients would not have a special celebration without this ministry.



Members of Primera Iglesia Bautista Hispana prepare Thanksgiving meals to share with the community.

## Biographical Sketch: Pastor José Nater

In September 2006, Pastor José Nater became the Pastor of Primera Iglesia Bautista Hispana. For Pastor Nater and his wife of 22 years, Mayra, this call reflects the culmination of more than two decades of Christian service. The couple was involved with various youth and drama ministries in their native Puerto Rico. They also participated in a church planting effort on Good Friday in 1987 sponsored by the Christian Missionary Alliance. They were overjoyed to have 65 people attend services on the first day!

Pastor Nater acknowledges feeling God's call upon his life for many years and struggling with the fact that work commitments often got in the way. The struggle was most notable during a five to seven year period when he worked for Motorola on the night shift. Although he was still working with various churches, he struggled with the fact that he was not doing what God called him to do.



Pastor José Nater, Mayra, Josean, & Joam

That changed when he switched careers to the hotel industry and, in June 2002, was transferred to the Hyatt Resort in Cambridge. Pastor Nater, Mayra, and their two sons Josean (now 18) and Joam (now 14) settled in Trappe. They became involved in various ministries and a Hispanic congregation in Easton. Although the position at the Hyatt ultimately did not work out, God's plan was accomplished in placing the Nater family on the Eastern Shore.

On April 15, 2006, at a community outreach event in Cambridge, a conversation between Pastor Wilfredo Rodriguez from Immanuel Baptist Church in Salisbury, a local couple Bernardo & Carmen Torres, and trustees of First Baptist Church led to the founding of Primera Iglesia Bautista Hispana. Pastor Nater was called to lead the new church in September 2006. He notes that the call has been confirmed for him in many ways. Most notably was the fact that his current employer responded to the new, additional requirements on his time with acceptance.

Through Primera Iglesia Bautista Hispana, the Nater family is reaching out to the approximately 2,000 Hispanic residents in Cambridge. Most of these residents are young (under 25 years old), single, and isolated. We rejoice in the fact that 30 to 40 are attending regularly. Pastor Rodriguez' congregation from Immanuel Baptist Church in Salisbury also joins them for worship on Saturday evenings, providing support which Pastor Nater notes has been key.

## Sunny Day Christian Preschool News

The children of Sunny Day presented their annual Thanksgiving pageant on November 21<sup>st</sup>. Parents and friends enjoyed hearing the "little pilgrims" sing with joy!



## Fall Harvest Party

Thanks to the efforts of many volunteers the Fall Harvest Party was again a great success! Many families and children from FBC and the surrounding community enjoyed "trunk or treat", pumpkin painting, a cake walk, hay rides, and fellowship. As the pictures below show, attendance was diverse including Minnie Mouse, Sylvester the Cat, a couple of pirates, and several princesses!



# 125<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

1881-2006

Thanks to the hard work of all those involved in the planning, members and friends of FBC joyfully celebrated 125 years of experiencing God's grace and love through ministry and worship on November 12<sup>th</sup>. The morning event was a special worship service in which Amy Bennett sang "The Cross is My Family Tree". Former Pastors Brent Coleman and Bruce Revel shared memories and provided encouragement to both the congregation and new pastor, Reverend Jerry Wade. After Pastor José Nater gave the benediction, the congregation enjoyed a delicious catered lunch and a time of fellowship. The pictures below capture some of these special moments.



Amy Bennett ministering in song



Rev. Brent Coleman, FBC pastor 1960's-1970's



Enjoying each other's company!

## Baptisms & New Members

On November 19<sup>th</sup>, FBC rejoiced with Kris Kues as she baptized. We also welcomed new members Kris & Marty Kues and Amy & Jackie Bennett. Several other people are currently working through the membership process as well.



*Kris Kues hugs husband, Marty, after being baptized by Pastor Scott Hook.  
Kevin Aclen assisted*

## Upcoming Events

**Friday, December 15th (7:00 pm)**  
Sunny Day Christmas Program

**Sunday, December 17th (10:30 am)**  
Christmas Cantata

**Sunday, December 17th (7:00 pm)**  
Sunday School Christmas Program  
All are welcome to attend!

**Sunday, December 24th (TBA)**  
Soup and Christmas Eve Christmas  
Caroling at nursing homes, hospital, etc.

## Coming Soon!

In the next issue of the newsletter, we will begin a special series focused on the Strategic Plan. Stated simply, the Strategic Plan is a vision for FBC's ministry focus over the next 18 months. The series will first provide an overview of the entire plan and then separate detailed discussions of the various parts and how everyone can be involved in fulfilling the vision that God has placed on the hearts of FBC's leaders.

## Epiphany Celebration

On Saturday, January 6<sup>th</sup>, Primera Iglesia Bautista Hispana will hold an epiphany celebration. Following the tradition of many of their home countries, the church will celebrate Dia de los Reyes Magos (the Three Kings Day). Over the next few weeks, they will be collecting new and/or gently used toys of about a \$10.00 value. On January 6<sup>th</sup>, there will be a special gathering at the church where the three kings themselves will give the donated toys away to the children of the community.

By next Sunday there will be a box in the foyer for toy donations. The toys should NOT be wrapped because they will need to be classified by age and gender. Cash donations that will be used to purchase toys can be given to the treasurer or placed in the offering plate. What a great opportunity for those who come for a material gift to hear about Jesus and receive the best gift of all, the gift of eternal life!



If your birthday is missing or incorrect, please contact the office with correct information.

**Happy Birthday from the Family!**

#### *December*

2 Joan Paul  
 4 Chris Hubbard & Bradley Oliver  
 5 Katie Cheesman & Hunter Aaron  
 6 Richard Harper, Madison Forrest, & Chris Tolley  
 7 Nacole Russ & Judy Paul  
 8 Darlene Burton & Santez Davis  
 10 Chris McMullen  
 11 Anne Councell & Whitney Frankel  
 12 Linda Thomas  
 13 Jerry Wade  
 14 Katie Wiecech & Wayne Asplen  
 16 Elsie Taylor  
 17 Victoria Brohawn & Stacey Wheatley  
 18 Robin Barwick & Santez Davis  
 19 Clara Evans  
 20 Doris Hurley, Herb Dobson Sr. & Morgan Forrest  
 21 Katie Stubbs & Steven Stubbs  
 22 Angela Bromwell  
 23 Chance Wheatley  
 24 Krista Wheatley  
 25 Joy Carpenter  
 26 Marissa Stanley  
 28 Seth Cabeceiras & Michelle Tanman  
 31 Chuck Potter & Pat Sirman

#### *January*

1 Janet Stone  
 3 Debbie Johnson  
 4 Debbie Marshall  
 6 Gena Fraley  
 9 Andy Engle  
 10 Greg Oliver & Nancy Oliver  
 12 Hannah Fountain  
 13 James Brode  
 14 Nikki Cox  
 16 Charles Robinson  
 18 Donna Justice  
 19 Davis Elliott, David Webster, & Adam Whitaker  
 20 Steve Marshall  
 21 Samantha Harrison & Kasi Downs  
 23 Sarah Todd & Margaret Smith  
 24 Gail Combs, Sarge Johnson, & Caroline Brooks  
 25 Kaden Kues & Khloe Kues  
 26 Luke Messick & Jeannie Groves  
 27 Ashleeygh Wilson  
 28 Courtney Collins  
 29 Corey Sard, Donna Foxwell, Colby Sard & Zac Ruark  
 30 Steve Moubray

## **Community Outreach: Clothing Giveaway**

On Saturday, December 9<sup>th</sup>, members of Primera Iglesia Bautista Hispana distributed clothing to the Cambridge community. They set up a table in front of Mi Tienda Mexicana and for three hours, anyone passing by could pick up clothing. Passersby also received an invitation to the church. Despite the cold temperatures, many community members were blessed by the event. One participant told Pastor Nater, "I just moved to the US two weeks ago with no more than a small bag on my back, and now I have so much. Thank you!"