



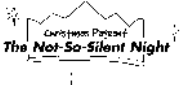






December 2011

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				5:00 Canton Community Kitchen Ministry 7:00 Praise Team	1 Youth \$25 Deposit Due for Crossroads Winter Retreat	2 Wellspring Sunday School Class to Samaritans' Purse
9:00 FirstPray - (Parlor) 9:45 Sunday School 10:55 Worship Service 4:30 Praise Team 6:00 Blue Christmas Service 	6:00 Community Children's Christmas Party 	10:00 Jean Teague Staff Meeting	6 "Wednesday Night Alive" 4:30 Youth Praise Team 6:00 GriefShare, Kids Praise 6:30 Advent Devotions - Christmas in the Mountains Griefshare - Surviving the Holidays The Gathering CIA, CIM 7:30 Sanctuary Choir	7:00 Praise Team	8 6:00 Youth Christmas Party 	10 12:30 JOY Club Outing
9:00 FirstPray - (Parlor) 9:45 Sunday School 10:55 Worship Service - Christmas Cantata 3:00 Basket of Joy Ministry  NO EVENING ACTIVITIES	7:00p Irene B. Smith	12 10:00 Staff Meeting 5:00 PRAE	13 "Wednesday Night Alive" 4:30 Youth Praise Team 6:00 GriefShare, Kids Praise 6:30 Advent Devotions - Christmas in the Mountains The Gathering CIA, CIM 7:30 Sanctuary Choir	14 7:00 Praise Team 7:30 Deacon's Christmas Dinner	15 16	17
9:00 FirstPray - (Parlor) 9:45 Sunday School 10:55 Worship Service 6:00 Children's Christmas Pageant and reception 	18 19	20 9:00 Staff Open House 	21 "Wednesday Night Alive" 4:30 Youth Praise Team 5:30 Christmas Covered-dish Dinner 	22 23	24 7:00 Christmas Eve Service 	
10:30 Silver Bluff Communion 10:55 Worship Service 	25 26	27	28 29	30	31	
			CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED			

OUR STEWARDSHIP NOVEMBER 27, 2011

IN GIVING:

Weekly Needs	11,139.41
Budget Gifts	6,703.00
Designated Gifts	3,189.00
YTD Budget Needs	534,691.68
YTD Budget Gifts	471,853.94
YTD	(56,837.74)



Youth The day after Thanksgiving or better known as "Black Friday," gives me an intense feeling that Christmas is almost here. Does it you too? Now I don't know if you enjoy storming the mall or various department stores early in the morning (now opening at 12am...what is up with that?), but Heather and I love it! What I have come to understand this year on Black Friday is that there are three kinds of people who get out. You have the most intense group that I call "the campers." These guys are fearless as they arrive to the place where they shop extremely early the day before. They put up tents or make a bed in their cars to sleep for the night and wake up on site. If you are in this group I applaud you. The second group of people who get out on Black Friday is what I call "the shoppers." This group loves to shop for deals and are very strategic. They begin by getting a newspaper on Thanksgiving and begin marking up, taking notes, and making cuts as a good coach would do in selecting his/her winning team. They might not be there early as the campers to get the door busters, but they are set on a mission knowing exactly what they want to purchase. The last group of people fits Heather and myself - I call them "observers." Observers are not going to get up early, or have a shopping list, but they enjoy being in the chaos and crowdedness of it all (sounds crazy huh?). They do not have a strict agenda, but just love taking in the moments of Christmas filling the air. Step back and look at these three groups...Campers, Shoppers and Observers. Each group has a reason for being out and way of participating. As we celebrate the true heartbeat of Christmas, Jesus our Immanuel, the shepherds, wise men, and Mary remind us of three different but necessary actions through this season.

When the shepherds heard the news of the coming Messiah, they suddenly surrendered activity and "went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby" (Luke 2:16a NCV).

December can look different this year. Help us to embrace surrender to God.

The wise men remind us to rely on the source for direction when searching for the Child. "The star they had seen when it rose went before them until it came to rest over the place where the child was (Matthew 2:9 NCV).

December can look different this year. Help us to rely on God's direction.

Mary took time and "treasured up all these things, pondering them in her heart" as she was recalling the angels promise, Joseph act of believing in a supernatural pregnancy, safety getting to Bethlehem, and surviving the pregnancy (Matthew 2:19 NCV).

**December can look different this year.
Help us to remember and praise God for his faithfulness.**

Jason

Submit information in writing or by email to brendaisrael9035@gmail.com. Call 648-2367 for more info. To receive by email, write "subscribe" to cfbwitness@gmail.com.
PUBLISHING INFORMATION & DEADLINES: *WITNESS Deadline: Friday *Bulletin Deadline: Wednesday

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Canton First Baptist

The Witness

VOLUME 54, NUMBER 35, NOVEMBER 25, 2011

"A full holiday with family is not just for the elite of this nation — all Americans should be able to break bread with loved ones and get a good night's rest on Thanksgiving!" — Anthony Hardwick

Anthony Hardwick could be one of us. After graduating college from Park University in Missouri, he scoured the internet for cities with low unemployment rates looking for a place to settle down and raise a family. His search for a community where he could "pursue the American Dream" led him to Omaha, Nebraska, where he works two jobs - one, as a shopping cart attendant at Target and two, as a printing supervisor at OfficeMax. Here is where the story gets interesting. Late last month, Mr. Hardwick's supervisor at Target told him he would be needed at 11 p.m. Thanksgiving night in order for Target to open its doors at midnight for Black Friday, which the discount retailer was doing for the first time this year. "I'd have to be at Target from 11 p.m. until 4:30 a.m., then I'd have 30 minutes to scurry down to OfficeMax, where I was starting at 5 a.m.," he said. Mr. Hardwick makes \$8.50 an hour at Target, and between his two jobs earns about \$25,000 a year. "I used to be able to pull 24-hour shifts," he said. "I'd drink Red Bull. But now I'm 29, and I'm starting to feel it. I'd have to nap." Hardwick was disappointed to say the least that he wouldn't be able to spend Thanksgiving with his girlfriend and future in-laws. He went to the internet to open up a discussion of his dilemma, and the conversation went viral. Some shared that Mr. Hardwick ought to be glad to have a job, yet a majority of others supported Mr. Hardwick's position, namely shouldn't every American have the opportunity to enjoy a full holiday with family to celebrate a national holiday. *"A full holiday with family is not just for the elite of this nation — all Americans should be able to break bread with loved ones and get a good night's rest on Thanksgiving!"*

There is a conversation behind the conversation. This isn't simply about one man wanting to be with family for the holidays or an ungrateful, lazy young person thinking it unreasonable to work Thanksgiving. The conversation behind the conversation questions our cultural shift where holidays are being marketed as days of shopping and spending. The conversation is about what makes for meaningful "(holy) holi-day" time and family time. Black Friday has now birthed Black Thanksgiving. In a world where many people stand in long lines for food and medical attention, our society is thinking more and more that it is best to stand in line for an article of clothing or an electronic gadget that most likely will be out of style or obsolete within 6 to 12 months.

In the coming days, as your pastor let me encourage you to make meaningful time for the "holy-days" of the Advent and Christmas seasons; make meaningful time for family; invest in the gifts of relationship and spiritual growth that do not fade or wear with time; choose the best elements of life by sharing time with God and one another.

Grace and Peace,
Pastor Jay