

December 2014

Community Thanksgiving Service

Sunday, November 23

Liberty Hill Baptist Church

6:00

Bring Food Items for Food Boxes to Be Distributed in the Collinsville Area.
The offering at the service will be used to Purchase a turkey (or ham) for each box.

Liberty Hill will put the boxes together. They have said that they would love to have some help delivering the baskets, probably on Tuesday afternoon, November

25

Let Us Know if You Know Someone Who Would Appreciate a Box.

Community Christmas Tree Lighting

Thanksgiving Day

At the Stop Light

5:00

The Churches Are Responsible for Drinks Such as Hot Chocolate, a Devotion and Christmas Carols. Let the Church Office Know If You Would Like to Help.

Youth Lock In

Friday, November 28

Alabama Baptist Children's Home Open House

Sunday, December 7

2 – 5 p.m.

Decatur, Alabama

Advent/Christmas 2012 Sunday Mornings

November 30 First Sunday of Advent

Wonderful Counselor Isaiah 9:6

December 7 Second Sunday of Advent

Mighty God Isaiah 9:6

December 14 Third Sunday of Advent

Children's Choir Program

Everlasting Father Isaiah 9:6

December 21 Fourth Sunday of Advent
Prince of Peace Isaiah 9:6

Thursday Dec 25 Christmas

December 28
Christ Luke 2

Thursday Jan 1 New Year's Day

January 4 Epiphany Sunday
Light Has Come into the World John 1:4-5

Advent Evening Services

November 30 Lottie Moon Emphasis
December 7 Community Christmas Service
December 14 Caroling in Our Community
December 21 Lighting of Christ Candle
December 28 No Evening Service

Community Christmas Service

Sunday, December 7 at 6:00
Rehearsal Today 4:00 – 5:30
First Methodist Church

Community Christmas Parade

Saturday, December 13
3:00

Dekalb and Fort Payne Schools

Christmas Break – December 20- January 4

Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for International Missions

November 23 – January 4
Week of Prayer – November 30 – December 7
National Goal: \$175 Million

Church Goal: \$3600

100% of this Offering Goes to Overseas Mission Work



Men's Day
Sunday, February 1

Covered Dish Dinner
And Quarterly Ministry Meeting
Sunday, January 11
Noon

Sanctity of
Human Life Sunday
January 18

Volunteers for December and January
Lord's Supper – Sunday night December 21
January – Mark and Glenda Morgan

Operation Christmas Child – 29 Boxes on Sunday morning
Gideon Sunday Offering - \$294.10

Many, many thanks to Jimmy Cunningham for his landscaping work around the church.

And thanks to Jamie and Donna Etheridge for tickets to the Jax State football game for 15 of our youth and leaders.

We wanted very much to express our thanks to the church for the use of the church building and for all the help and well wishes to mom and dad.

Thanks. You mean so much to us.

The McReynolds Family

Volunteers are needed to help with several projects at the site of the Kilpatrick Hispanic Mission that is sponsored by our association who purchased a property for the church to use. Help is needed for cleaning, mowing and several construction/remodel projects. If you would like to help, contact the church office for a list of things that need to be done.

My father worked for the *Nashville Banner* as a photographer. He put in long hours and had to be away from home a lot. Not very often, but sometimes I got to go out with him on a job. He let me go with him to a few ball games. And I went with him several times at Christmas when he was taking pictures of the house that won the *Banner's* Christmas decoration contest. I always liked the house on McGavock Pike that had a live nativity. Real animals and real people. But it never won. Not Christmasy enough. It was a time like *Charlie Brown Christmas* – houses with metal trees and garish lights always seemed to win.

One cold Christmas night after we had settled in from the excitement of the day's presents and food, the phone rang. It was a call asking Daddy to cover a fire. He carried me out with him. We could see the light of the flames in the sky.

The Maxwell House Hotel was burning. It was a Nashville landmark dating back to the Civil War. A hotel so great seven presidents had stayed there. Including Teddy Roosevelt who proclaimed that the coffee at the hotel was so good that it was "good to the last drop". Yes, that's where Maxwell House Coffee and its advertising theme began.

And the Maxwell House was on fire. Daddy grabbed a couple of cameras and headed toward the fire. Almost the entire Nashville fire department was there. Fire hoses everywhere. The heat from the fire beat down. The December air no longer cold. The smoke stinging eyes and making it hard to breathe.

I stayed back beyond the barricades. Daddy took his pictures. One of them would be on the front page of the *Banner* the next day and was so good it was on the cover of the Nashville Fire Department annual report. The firemen fought bravely.

Unfortunately, it was too late for the Maxwell House. Nashville lost its landmark and it has never been rebuilt downtown. All five stories of the hotel burnt that night leaving only a skeleton of the building. It took four hours before the fire seemed to be under control and not spreading to the adjacent downtown buildings. By then I was back home asleep and Daddy was at the *Banner* developing his film. Quite a way to conclude a Christmas Day.

It turned out the fire was not under control, and it sprang back to life later. It took eleven hours to finish the fire fight. The Nashville sky stayed orange all night and then the sky had a huge column of smoke the next day that was visible almost as far away as the light had been. That was Christmas, 1961. I was 13.

Only in the last few years did I learn the rest of the story of that day. That day a family of five was moving to Nashville from Memphis. And their first impression of Nashville was of the huge fire on their right as they crossed the river to go to their new rental home about two miles from my house.

Yes, it was Gloria's family. It would be several months before they moved to the house next door to me. Several months before we spoke to each other. But now I look back and wonder how close we came to each other that day. Did I see her car? Probably not. It was just another car that nobody noticed.

To everybody else that December 25 – 26 was about the loss of a special building. But to me it has become the day my Gloria came to town. We never really know exactly what God is doing, do we? How He is bringing about His plans for our lives. God would bring Gloria and I together in His time.

Christmas was a little that way, wasn't it? Nobody noticed the couple from up north going through Jerusalem. Just another couple. No different than all the others in the city. Not worth a second glance. If you did glance, you probably only noticed how close the woman seemed to be to having a baby.

The couple would have quietly gone through town and walked a couple of hours more to go six miles south to Bethlehem. Just in time to hear – "No room. Sorry." And finally – "No room. Do you want to stay in the stable?" Nobody noticed or cared about the couple from Nazareth. Nobody suspected what God was doing on that first Christmas night.

Wouldn't you love to get in a Way Back machine and go to Bethlehem? To witness the most important birth in history. To share that night with the couple. And the shepherds. And the angels. And the baby Jesus.

What would you give to be able to see that? What would you give to be able to smile at the baby Jesus? What would it be worth to you if Mary and Joseph proudly smiled at you and let you pick up the baby? Would you cry as you held the baby Jesus? I can almost cry now thinking about it.

How great is God. And His plans for our lives. His timing, not ours, is perfect.