There is peace in the world tonight. That seems like a very odd statement and one that is incompatible with the state of affairs in our world at the present time. There are two wars raging, our country is in an economic downturn, starvation in Africa, reports of domestic violence in the news every day, an energy crisis and I guess we could all just keep adding to this list.

People have every right to question a statement such as 'there is peace in the world tonight'. There does not seem to be an answer or hope in sight and yet, at a time when the world situation was much like ours today, Christ told His disciples, “Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid” (John 14:27).

Jesus knows about peace – He is the Prince of Peace. Then what is peace? Peace is not the absence of conflict – peace is the presence of God. In every situation, every condition, every conflict, peace is God in our lives. He knows the beginning and the end and He is in control.

Come rejoice with us and celebrate the birth of the Prince of Peace as the choir presents the Christmas musical, “There Is Peace In The World Tonight.”

Ice Cream Social to follow
Free Admission
Nursery Provided
Reflections

There is something special about the Christmas Season. It is the spirit of giving that makes this season special. It reflects in a small way the marvelous gift our Heavenly Father has given to us. He has given us His Son. We cannot begin to match His gracious gift but we can receive it with hearts filled with appreciation. As a sign of our gratitude, we can pass the gift to others.

We can share His love by helping others who are in need. The needs heard loudest at Christmas are those of our children. You have rose to the occasion to help meet these needs by supporting the GAL Christmas Program promoted by our Martha’s Ministry, the Samaritan’s Purse Christmas Box Program promoted by our Children’s Choir, and the Angel Tree Program. Each one of these programs brings a ray of sunshine into the life of a needy child. Thank you for your generosity.

As you contemplate other needs you will support this Christmas Season, let me suggest that you think beyond the physical needs visible to the eye and reflect on the spiritual needs that reach deep into the soul. Be alert to any opportunity God may give you to share the gift of His Son. Man has no greater need than this. Our Southern Baptist Convention provides us two avenues to assist in helping with meeting spiritual needs. One is the Cooperative Program and the other is the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering.

The Cooperative Program is the Baptist way of working together to further the cause of Christ around the world. It helps to fund our seminaries; it funds many educational opportunities to assist our churches in operating effectively; it aids in Disaster Relief efforts around the world; and it helps to pay the administrative costs of many projects, enabling monies given for missions to be used solely for that purpose. This is only a few of the many works of the Cooperative Program. To sum it up, I believe that the CP has been inspired by God and that it is one of the most effective means of doing missions on the scene today. This belief is why I encourage you to make an extra generous contribution to the CP during the month of December. Remember that you must mark your contribution to the CP on the box provided on your offering envelope.

The other need that gives throughout the year is the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering. This is one of three special offerings that we receive each year. It goes to support over 5000 missionaries around the globe. It is specifically for international missions. You will be hearing a lot about it over the next five weeks. Because we give, our missionaries do not have to spend large portions of their time looking for support. They can know that the support is coming and can dedicate their time to the task at hand. Again, I encourage you to make a generous gift to this need during the month of December. Keep in mind that the CP and the Lottie Moon Offering do not only minister to the physical needs of people; they minister to the spiritual needs by sharing the Gospel of Jesus Christ with the world.

I realize the recent woes of our economy have touched most of us but we need not allow our concerns to dampen our benevolence. We would be wise to follow the example of the Macedonian Church Paul mentioned in 2 Corinthians 8:1, 2. He wrote, "Now, brethren, we wish to make known to you the grace of God which has been given to the churches of Macedonian, that in a great ordeal of affliction their abundance or joy and their deep poverty overflowed in the wealth of their liberality."

Helen and I have had the joy of being on the receiving end of your graciousness for the past eleven years. It has been our privilege to be a part of a body of believers with a big heart. We deeply appreciate each one of you and we wish each one of you a Christ-filled Christmas and New Year.

Dennis
Have you met Luther and Judie Warrick yet? I am sure you have, but let me tell you a little bit more about them. They moved to McCormick on Thanksgiving of 1996 from California. Now all you have to do is hear them talk and you know they are not originally from CA. Luther’s job as a Civil Engineer and a career in heavy construction took them to many places but retirement brought them back to the South. Judie says they enjoy living on the Lake (especially when it has water in it).

We have here another set of High School sweethearts. They have been married 46 years, have raised a daughter and a son, and now have three grandchildren. Both were raised in Christian homes and were baptized. Judie loves being with family and friends, shopping, crocheting Afghans, making her own Greeting Cards (which are beautiful) and TALKING and LAUGHING. She also loves serving as a Door Greeter. This goes along with her love for talking. I know two more secrets Judie didn’t mention, but I’ll tell you. At Christmas time Judie’s living room is turned into a beautiful display of collectibles, villages, lights, moving figures and so much more. The second secret is less known. Growing up Judies’ family traveled and sang together in many churches. Judie was also the pianist for the group.

Luther enjoys fishing, yard work, motorcycles, reading and learning. His current interests center on his Christian faith, Bible prophecy, family, world events, history, politics and Christian friendships. In February Luther will be one of the teachers occasionally in the Koinonia Class where they have been attending. Luther also works with Property and Grounds Committee and assists in contractor work and handyman work around the church. You will also find him as a Greeter some Sundays.

The Warricks say, “We enjoy living here. We enjoy and appreciate our church and friends. We both understand that God has abundantly blessed us and we strive to be good stewards.”

We also thank God for bringing you here and having you a part of our fellowship. We love you both.

101 Reflections

As most of you know our pastor has written a weekly article for the “Messenger” for the past ten years. In response to the many kind comments from our church family and members of the community, he has chosen 101 of the articles and rewritten them. He has placed them in a book called “101 Reflections.”

The book is available at a cost of $13.99 plus tax. If you would like to be one of the first to receive a copy, we encourage you to email him at pastormfbc@wctel.net.
**Ministry of Fellowship**

**Trip to Cornerstone Christmas Theatre**  
**December 13**

We will leave for the Cornerstone Christmas Theatre at 3:30 P.M. on December 13. This will give us plenty of time to be there before show time. If you would like to go but do not have a ticket, you may call 864-949-7469 to see if there is still seating available for that date.

**Wednesday Night Suppers**

We will meet the first two Wednesdays in December our Pot Luck supper. We meet at 5:15 P.M. It is a great time of fellowship before we go into Wednesday night prayer meeting. If you have not joined us, give it a try. You will enjoy the food but you will enjoy the fellowship even more.

**Ice Cream Socials**

There will be an ice cream social following both performances by our Sanctuary Choir on December 5 and 6. Invite a neighbor to come with you to one of these performances. Music can often be the drawing card God uses to bring folks to a place to hear the truth of God’s love proclaimed. Both performances will be at 7:00 P.M.

**Annual Christmas Dinner and Children’s Choir Special December 14**

Mark your calendar for our annual Christmas dinner on December 14. Dinner will be served at 5:30 P.M. Following the dinner at 7:00 P.M., the Children’s Choir will perform their special musical “The Christmas County Spelling Bee.” After the performance, everyone is invited to come back to the Fellowship Hall and have dessert, cake and ice cream. The church will provide the meat, dressing, potatoes, gravy and drinks. Everyone is encouraged to bring a side dish or dessert. The children in the choir along with their families will be invited to have dinner with us so add an extra measure to your side dish. Side dishes and desserts should be dropped off at the church by 5:00 P.M. We look forward to seeing everyone on this festive occasion.

[December Volunteer Schedule]

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<tr>
<th>December 7-14</th>
<th>Audio Visual</th>
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<td>Audio - W. Matheny</td>
<td>Projection - G. McKee</td>
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<th>December 21-28</th>
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<tr>
<td>Audio - L. McMahon</td>
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<td>Projection - J. Prince and C. Eichem</td>
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(Is your name missing from the birthday list this month? Please stop by or call the office to update your membership record.)

**December**

1. Nell Henderson  
2. Al Burns  
3. Isaiah Furqueron  
4. Kelly Coxe  
5. Ben Combs  
6. Denise Nicely  
7. Nancy Wilkie  
8. Reeves Browne  
9. Charles Parnell, Jr.  
10. George Krohn  
11. Doris McKinney  
12. Clifton McKinney  
13. C. Ryan Burns  
14. Debbie Daniels  
15. Jim Gilbert  
16. Laura Seigler  
17. Jamie Sanders, Jr.  
18. Tony McKee  
19. Mandi Keown  
20. Meaghan Wilkie  
21. Chad Keown  
22. John Talbert  
23. Oliver Thomas  
24. Jamie Seigler  
25. John Seymour  
26. Julia Long

[Anniversaries this Month]

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Mission Trip Fund
Remember that we have a Mission Trip Fund. We can never be sure when we might need it. Consider giving a small amount each week so that it can be built up to meet any future needs that might arise. By giving regularly, we will always be prepared when the opportunity comes.

Cooperative Program Giving
The CP is the members of the SBC working together to serve the cause of Christ around the world. The money our church sends to the CP goes to the South Carolina Baptist Convention Headquarters in Columbia. It is combined with the money given by all the contributing churches in our convention. Sixty percent of this money stays in the state to fund the ministries of our state convention. The other forty percent goes to the SBC to join conventions from around the nation in funding the ministries of the SBC. (At the convention in November, a plan was adopted to move toward dividing the CP giving equally between the state and the national convention.)

It is important to remember that our mission giving is designated giving. If you wish to give to the CP, you must designate the gift in the space provided on your offering envelope. To date our goal is $35,000 and we have given $27,408.

Lottie Moon Christmas Offering
It takes a lot of faith to believe God will provide $170 million through once-a-year missions offering named for a 19th century missionary. Even more is required given America’s current economic climate.

Over the past year, the U.S. dollar has lost as much as 15 percent of its value in the world marketplace. That means Southern Baptists must give $1.15 to the Lottie Moon offering in 2008 in order to match the buying power of every dollar given in 2007. Though 15 cents may not sound like much in the scope of the International Mission Board’s $300 million budget, those extra pennies add up to $45 million.

Why does this matter? Because God continues to call record numbers of Southern Baptist missionaries to reach the lost. This year we anticipate sending out more than 900 new missionary personnel. They are faithfully responding to God’s call to carry the Gospel to the ends of the earth. Will we be faithful to send and support them?

I pray that God will empower you to lead your church to give generously to the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering. (Jerry Rankin, president, International Mission Board)

Welcome Baskets Available
The Welcome Basket Ministry began by our Martha’s Ministry offers an excellent opportunity for us to be the first on the scene when new people move into our neighborhoods. The idea is to take a basket as soon as you can after a new family has moved into their new home. By making this contact you will open a door for building a new relationship and you will let them know that our church is interested in them. You may pick up these welcome packets in the old church library in the parlor or you can call Carol LaSalle, if you have questions.

What’s so amazing about Christmas?
Consider this: God loved the world so much that he came visiting. God slipped into the world as a helpless baby, without fanfare or heraldry.

Think of it: The baby, born of humble parents, the man a carpenter, the woman still in her teens, scholars say. Jesus was born in a backwater town called Bethlehem, in a stable reeking with animal smells.

It took years before people fully comprehended God’s self-revelation. Even John the Baptist, sitting in Herod’s prison, sent a message to Jesus asking, “Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?” (Matthew 11:3, NRSV). Jesus then explained that he was working miracles and bringing good news to the poor.

That became even more clear when Peter concluded that Jesus was “the Messiah, the Son of the living God” (Matthew 16:16, NRSV).

What’s amazing about Christmas is that it began in a manger. And today more than 2 billion people around the world celebrate Jesus’ birth.
Children’s Korner

MARK YOU CALENDARS FOR SUNDAY NIGHT DECEMBER 14!

It’s going to be a performance you do not want to miss from the Children’s Choir of MFBC! This year’s Christmas musical is “The Christmas County Spelling Bee.” The children have worked really hard and we need your support. The musical will be after the Church Wide Christmas Dinner. We will start at 7:00 P.M. Please make plans to come and see what these 30 kids, ranging from Kindergarten to 6th grade, have been faithfully working on every Wednesday for three months.

We would like to thank everyone who has helped with the children’s choir this year. There have been loyal and committed volunteers who have come each week to help car pool the kids from the schools to the church, fix snacks, and stay for choir practice. There is no way we could have done it without your help! Please be sure to let these people know how much you appreciate their willingness to help on Wednesdays when they are available: Director: Autumn Seigler. Assistant Directors: Amy Seigler and Marian Parnell. Volunteers Mary and John Tabor, Jim AND Mary Bleakley, Dave LeRow, Susan Wood, Beth Owen, Lee Wilson, Mary Ann Currey, Ed DeVos, Dennis Lynn, Cathy Patterson, Julia Long, Jayne McMahon, Mary Ann Beckwith, and David Derks. I am sure we have left out someone, but thank you all SO VERY MUCH!

It is only with God’s help and your prayers that we have had another successful season of Children’s Choir. It is amazing to see the commitment from the kids and the desire they have to give an awesome performance to God’s Glory. You can come in to the church on any given Wednesday afternoon and hear the children singing to the top of their lungs in the sanctuary - what a glorious sound it is!

The kids are looking forward to seeing you on DECEMBER 14! We think it will be their best musical and performance yet, so please come out and show them the love our church family has for them!

Just for Kids

The Story of Jesus’ Birth

Jesus’ birth is recorded in three New Testament chapters: Matthew 1 and 2, and Luke 2. Follow some important words about our Savior’s birth by starting at a word beginning with the letter A and finishing with a word starting with the letter Z.

```
angels  Bethlehem  car  dance  easel

cat  bear  child  donkey  egg  fast

great  glory  hark  Earth  feathers  gap

inn  jacket  grapes  peace  quiet  hat

Joseph  King  Lord  only  righteous  shepherds

kept  loop  Mary  night  unique  tidings

least  made  paper  wise men  virgin  water

open  nest  word  excitement  young

silence  given  by  the  baby  called  Jesus

answer: angels, Bethlehem, child, donkey, Earth, sleeper, glory, hark, inn, Joseph
```

Merry Christmas!
Financial Summary
October 2008
Annual Budget $379,782

Y-T-D  October Contributions*
$295,276  $25,173

*Includes contributions to funds/non-budget Missions
Non-Budget Missions Goal  Y-T-D
Coop Program $35,000  $27,408
Lottie Moon 8,000  720
Annie Armstrong 4,750  2,955
Janie Chapman 2,000  1,384

Church Funds  M-T-D  Balance
Disaster Relief  $0  $4,981
Ren/Cap Expansion 1,434  13,526
Capital Improvements 1,250  12,500
Mission Trip 440  15,529
Bus Fund 180  3,818
Benevolence 50  780
Music Fund 50  670
Youth Fund 4,878

Renovation Loan
Borrowed $71,500
Balance $15,419

Managed Investments
(Beginning Bal. + Interest Earned Y-T-D)
Connor Memorial $25,000 + $1,820
Crema Faulkner/Lottie Moon $15,000 + $761.06
Elizabeth Talbert Memorial/Lottie Moon $15,000 + $540.04
Raymond Henderson Memorial $15,000 + $165.19

Thank you for your continued contributions

Celebrate Christmas
Decorate your Christmas tree.
Ring a Christmas bell.
Sing a joyful carol
With a jubilant noel!

Light your Advent candle wreath.
Rejoice with friends on Earth.
Give thanks to God for sending Christ
In this, His Christmas birth.

Share your joy of Christmas
And God’s blessings from above.
Celebrate God’s Graciousness!
Celebrate God’s Love!
–Peggy Ferrell, Prayers and Poems

(from Newsletter)

Ministry of Discipleship
Vital Signs Check Continue
The pastor will complete his series on the Vital Signs of the Church the second week in December. This is a valuable series that has challenged and will continue to challenge us to look at our lives in an effort to measure our spiritual health. Topics in December will be Lay Ministry and Leadership. Join us on Sunday morning for these important messages.

By-Laws of the Kingdom
In October the pastor began the series, By-Laws of the Kingdom on Sunday evenings. It is a series of messages on the Sermon on the Mount. These messages paint a picture of the manner in which we should live together. Join us each Sunday evening at 6:00 p.m. to examine what life in the kingdom should look like.

Wednesday Night Study of Eschatology
The pastor will conclude the Study of Eschatology on Wednesday nights in December. This study is more than a study of the Book of Revelation. It began with the covenant that God made with Abraham and traces God’s plan down through the ages. Following our lesson, there will be a time of prayer for the needs of the church.

Sunday School Is Important
If you are not presently in Sunday school, make a commitment to try it. It is not only a place to study God’s word. It is a place to build lasting relationships with others. While worship is essential to our spiritual health, it does not give us opportunity to interact with one another. The Sunday school class does. Make a commitment to attend for six weeks and you will not want to stop.

Christmas Music Specials
The adult choir will present its special Christmas music on December 5 and 6. Dave planned the music to prevent conflicting with other Christmas happenings in the community. Notice that this is Friday and Saturday nights rather than Friday and Sunday nights. The Kitchen Angels will once again serve ice cream for both performances. The children’s Christmas music will be on Sunday, December 14 this year.

Pray that these programs will help inject the true meaning of Christmas into our holiday plans.
**Deadline for January Chimes** is **December 14.** Email information to church office or drop in Chimes tray located by secretary’s office.

**Notes**

Thank you to the Upper Room Bible Study Ladies of McCormick First Baptist Church and community. I could not have been more surprised nor delighted with my delightful Devotional Book. The images displayed the Glory of God in each face and the Scripture devotions will speak to my heart the rest of my life. I will never be the same. Truly, I am blessed to have been allowed to partake in such an holy adventure for ten terrific years. Thank you for blessing me in such a unique and beautiful way.

“For it is GOD who is at work in you both to will and todo of His good pleasure.” (Philippians 2:13) ...and He has and He will....

Blessed, indeed,

Helen

Dear MFBC Family,

My family and I want to thank you for all the thoughtful acts of kindness you have done for my daughter, Kay, and for us during her long battle with cancer. Your prayers have sustained each of us and we ask for your continued prayers. The cards, phone calls, and support meant so much to Kay. We have been humbled by the support you have given our family—food, cards, flowers and your kind words and hugs. I am so blessed to be a member of such a caring church as McCormick First Baptist.

May God bless each of you and keep you in His loving care.

With love to all of you,

June White

To my southern family,
I wish you all a wonderful Christmas and most happy New Year. I pray good health for each of you and your families.

In His love,

Lee Wilson

**Merry Christmas**

May you have the Spirit of Christmas, which is Peace,
The Gladness of Christmas, which is Hope,
The Heart of Christmas, which is Love,
The Gift of Christmas, which is Christ.

—Ada Hendricks

**A Christmas blessing**

**The McCormick First Baptist Church Staff**

**DEACONS OF THE MONTH**
William Matheny
George Patterson
Mark Young
Bryant Hurt