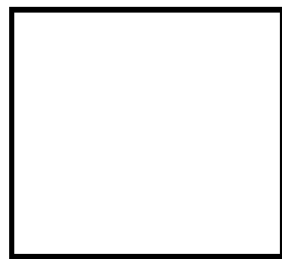


 Jesus first at
First Christian Church
Avon Park, FL



1016 W Camphor St.
Avon Park, FL 33825-3408

Phone: 863-453-5334
Fax: 863-453-9773
Email: firstchristianap@embarqmail.com
Website: www.firstchristianap.com
Greg Ratliff, Preaching Minister—863-991-5708

January Servers

Open Up/Lock Up: Rod Noggle

Hosts:

Thelma Rachel (Central)
Johns' Family (Sanctuary)

Library Assistant: Pam Reese

Communion Meditation: Tim Johns

Communion to the Sick:

1 Ricky Helms

8 Lee Taylor

15 Jim Click

22 Tim Johns


29 Greg Ratliff

Communion Preparations: Thelma Rachel

Communion Servers: Terry Anderson,
Mark Anderson, Duwain Baade,

Lloyd Verhoeks

Children Sermon: Sal Sboto

		
Sun	Coffee Time Cafe	8:30 AM
	Sunday School	9:00 AM
	Morning Worship	10:00 AM
Wed	Evening Bible Study	6:00 PM

JAM Class:

1 Betty Baker

8 Mayme Ivey

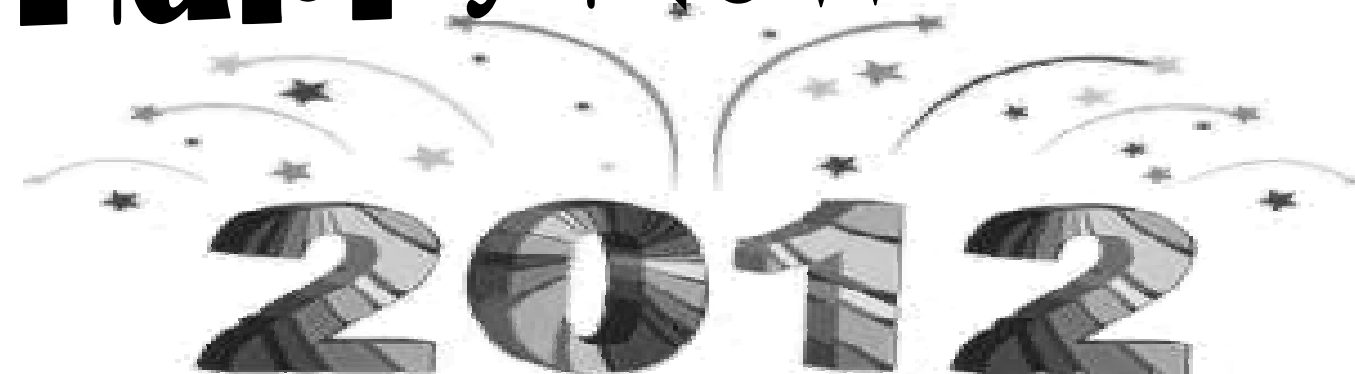
15 Betty Baker

22 Mayme Ivey

29 Betty Baker

First Christian Church of Avon Park
ACCLAIM
JANUARY 2012
EVENTS

Happy New Year!



Inside this issue:

- ✝ Begin Something NEW for YOU in 2012 (pg 2)
- ✝ I will establish myself as a Christian in 2012 (pg 4)
- ✝ Do You Know? (pg 5)
- ✝ PLUS much more for the New Year!

Begin Something *NEW* for YOU in 2012

Last January I proposed the idea of putting something new in your new year. I shared with you how time seems to be passing faster and faster each day, and I asked you to consider what God will bring before you in the year of 2011. Well, let me say I never would have guessed what was brought before Teresa and me this past year.

So once again, I've been praying about this new year of 2012. Not so much about all the predictions people are making...there are already enough people worrying about them. Rather, I've been praying and thinking once again about what God will bring forth in our lives, and of course about what man will bring about as well. I recently spoke with a friend who suffered loss in his family, in his business, but more importantly in his relationship with God. What he shared was how people in this world, Christians and secular, seem to want to attack every little thing that happens. He was most amazed when someone had the audacity to recently accuse him of being instrumental in the loss of a family member. Let me assure you, he was devastated personally and spiritually by this accusation which of course had no truth in it, but it still hurt nonetheless.

I am more and more convinced as each week passes, if we the church do not "Step Up" in 2012 and take hold of the responsibility God has put before us, that is to build up His church family, like many others we're going to face a hurt that may not be easily healed. Paul began his second letter to the church at Corinth by saying, ***"Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves have received from God."*** 2 Corinthians 1:3,4 NIV Imagine if you will the difference you could make in someone's life this next year by asking God to "Begin Something NEW in Your Life in 2012." That which God begins will be a blessing not only in your life, but in the lives of those around you. Remember what Paul wrote to the church at Colossae, ***"...put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge in the image of its Creator."*** Colossians 3:10 That which is renewed in God's image cannot and will not fail, nor bring about hurt.

Surrender control over to God regarding matters in life this next year that bring distress and confusion, both to your life and to the lives of others. Allow God to bring about a "NEW YOU" in the coming months, and experience the difference of building up His Kingdom I a world that gives the appearance they want to tear it down. Rid yourselves as Paul wrote of ***"...anger, rage, malice, slander, and filthy language from your lips. Do not lie to each other, since you have taken off your old self with its practices..."*** Colossians 3:8,9 Instead, speak words that encourage and strengthen God's work and God's workers. **Hebrews 3:13**

Foster Jones

Happy New Year

Find and circle all of the words that are hidden in the grid. The remaining letters spell the name of a popular location for celebrating New Years Eve.

S	E	I	B	A	B	N	E	W	Y	E	A	R	S	E	V	E	Y
G	C	H	A	M	P	A	G	N	E	T	Y	I	M	N	S	T	T
E	N	S	S	U	E	T	H	C	D	A	N	C	E	D	R	H	R
S	Q	I	N	F	E	T	O	O	D	M	U	A	Y	O	E	I	A
E	F	C	G	F	I	N	A	S	L	S	U	E	R	F	K	R	P
D	H	E	F	N	F	R	R	R	R	I	A	S	E	D	A	T	S
A	I	U	S	E	I	A	S	E	B	R	D	N	I	E	M	Y	K
R	B	B	T	T	E	S	M	T	I	E	S	A	F	C	E	F	R
A	M	T	A	Y	I	A	N	N	O	R	L	A	Y	E	S	I	O
P	I	S	W	L	E	V	R	O	E	F	T	E	E	M	I	R	W
N	D	E	A	R	L	E	I	N	I	H	J	V	C	B	O	S	E
D	N	E	T	R	V	O	N	T	E	T	E	A	S	E	N	T	R
A	I	S	W	I	A	A	O	R	I	N	A	S	N	R	O	H	I
Y	G	Y	E	O	B	I	T	N	T	E	I	R	R	U	K	C	F
O	H	W	I	N	E	I	T	S	S	K	S	I	O	H	A	T	S
N	T	Y	L	I	M	A	F	N	O	I	S	A	C	C	O	R	T
E	T	S	A	E	F	S	N	O	I	T	U	L	O	S	E	R	Y
S	R	E	Z	I	T	E	P	P	A	Y	F	R	I	E	N	D	S

APPETIZERS	DECORATIONS	HATS	PARADES
BABIES	END OF DECEMBER	HOLIDAY	PARTY
BALLOONS	EVENTS	HORNS	PUNCH
BANNERS	FAMILY	KISS	RESOLUTION
BUFFET	FATHER TIME	MIDNIGHT	SINGING
CELEBRATE	FEAST	MUSIC	STREAMERS
CHAMPAGNE	FESTIVITIES	NEW YEARS DAY	THIRTY FIRST
CONFETTI	FIREWORKS	NEW YEARS EVE	TIARAS
DANCE	FIRST OF JANUARY	NOISE MAKERS	WINE
DAY ONE	FRIENDS	OCCASIONS	YEAR IN REVIEW

Peanut Butter Surprise Cookies

1 1/2 cups all-purpose flour
 1/2 cup unsweetened cocoa powder
 1/2 teaspoon baking soda
 1/2 cup white sugar
 1/2 cup brown sugar
 1/2 cup butter, softened
 1/4 cup peanut butter
 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
 1 egg

Filling:

3/4 cup powdered sugar
 3/4 cup peanut butter



Preheat oven to 375* Combine flour, cocoa and baking soda, set aside. Beat sugars, butter and peanut butter. Beat in the egg and vanilla. Stir in the flour mixture and blend well. Set aside. Make the filling by blending the powdered sugar and peanut butter.

Roll the filling into 1" balls (about 30 balls). Shape a tablespoon of cookie mix around each peanut butter ball, making a filled cookie. Place cookies onto un-greased cookie sheet 2" apart and flatten each one with the bottom of a glass (dip the glass in sugar for something extra!) Bake for 9-11 minutes. Cool. ENJOY!

Non Alcoholic New Years Eve Punch

3 1/2 Liters Ginger Ale 2 qts. orange Juice
 2 oranges sliced into rounds 20 maraschino cherries

In a large punch bowl mix ginger ale and orange juice. Place sliced oranges on top of punch and arrange the cherries on top of the orange slices.

JANUARY 2012

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1 Happy New Year	2	3 A: Greg & Teresa Ratliff	4 Bd: Jeannine Verhoeks	5	6 Bd: Charlie Frey	7 Bd: Vern Jones
8 Bd: Betty Baker	9 Bd: Gordon Lauver	10	11 Bd: Phil & Elna Carlson	12	13	14 Bd: Al Ovre
15 6:30 PM Tom Shelton Concert Sebring Christian	16 7 PM Board Meeting A: Glenn & Dorothy Ruffner	17 Bd: Alexis Newgent	18	19	20 Bd: Anna Dee Shaw	21
22 Bd: Terry Anderson	23	24 Bd: Melissa Newgent	25	26 Bd: Gloria Bradshaw	27	28 1:30pm Ladies Birthday Party
29 6pm Movie Night Returns	30	31	Jan. 15 Tom Shelton Sebring Christian Church 6:30 PM Jan. 16 FCCAP Board Meeting 7:00 PM Jan. 28 Ladies Birthday Party 1:30 PM Jan. 29 Movie Night Returns 6:00 PM			

I Will Establish Myself as a Christian in 2012

Do you ever wonder what people see, that is people who do not know the real you, see in you when they watch you walking through a mall or store? I enjoy just watching people, trying to guess at what they may do in life, or have done in life. In today's world, sometimes it's a hard guess. For example, when you see someone, can you tell if he or she is married? Many people today continue to wear a wedding ring long after a spouse has passed, so you can't really know if they're still married without asking. Or, is that person employed at a full or part time job, and if they are what kind of work do they do? Today, many people are still employed after retirement age, and many other who are still young enough to work, are retired. It can be very confusing today trying to understand people unless you know the answers to the questions. And the best way to know is to ask.

I hear people say of others today, "I know their name, but I really don't know much about them." Why is that comment so true? Again, because much too often we don't take the time to get to really know someone. We live beside them in our neighborhoods, we work beside in our jobs; we even sit beside them in church or at meals and still we don't really get to know them. One of the problems our society faces today when it comes to knowing others is that we really don't practice getting together in our homes as people did once upon a time. We're too busy in our everyday lives and so we just meet at a restaurant or shopping mall, eat our meal or drink our coffee, and then it's back to our busy lives. Why not slow down and get to really know one another?

In the early church days people met in homes. It's not just that church buildings were not available. Those early church members also found that persecution was waiting right around the corner if they were not careful about their worship. But one thing came out of those home meetings, and that one thing was togetherness. The commitment they shared in Jesus Christ was real; we know this because Christianity is still practiced today. The early church fathers could have said "No More!" But instead they said forevermore! Yes, they encountered problems within the church; no one was perfect. But it was their commitment in Jesus Christ as Lord over their lives that kept the church together. They were not going to be torn apart because of rumors, gossip, or diversity in personal views or opinions. The most important cause then is still the most important cause today: *SPREADING THE GOSPEL OF JESUS CHRIST THROUGH-OUT THE WORLD*. These men and women believed in what Jesus taught the disciples the night of His betrayal in the upper room, where in *John 13:34-35* we hear Jesus say, "A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another." Folks, please understand: the work of the church, you and I, is just as it has always been. Nothing has changed. Each of us is commanded, yes commanded as just stated above, to love one another. Remember the two greatest commandments Jesus gave to the teachers of the law as recorded in *Mark 12:29-31*. "The most important one," answered Jesus, "is this: Hear, O Israel, the Lord our God, the Lord is one. Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.' The second is this: Love your neighbor as yourself.' There is no commandment greater than these.'" No where in either of these passages is there room for what *Proverbs 24:26* refers to about malicious talk. "A malicious man disguises himself with his lips, but in his heart he harbors deceit." Or as we read in *1 Timothy 6:3-6*, "If anyone teaches false doctrines and does not agree to the sound instruction of our Lord Jesus Christ and to godly teaching, he is conceited and understands nothing. He has an unhealthy interest in controversies and quarrels about words that result in envy, strife, malicious talk, evil suspicions and constant friction between men of corrupt mind, who have been robbed of the truth and who think that godliness is a means to financial gain. But godliness with contentment is great gain."

Rather than not being known as a Christian both in your walk and in your talk in 2012, establish yourself as a Christian and let people every where know both who and what you believe! It is time that the church steps up and is known as a place where loving, caring people come together with Jesus as the center of who they are while reaching out to a world that needs togetherness, not misunderstanding. Stand up with your fellow Christian in 2012 and be counted as one who is working for the One. Let people see Jesus at work in all you do this coming year, and

"Let the name of the LORD be praised, both now and forevermore." Psalm 113:2

**Do
You
Know?**

**Ricky
Helms**



Who is that familiar voice welcoming everyone at the beginning of the service on Sunday mornings? That would be God's servant, Ricky Helms. Greetings and announcements on Sunday morning is just one of the hats Ricky wears at First Christian Church.

As being the head of the Sound Ministry at First Christian Church, Ricky has a talent of making people sound good. He has been in the sound room for many years and trained both of his sons along with many others to operate the equipment while they were attending First Christian. He also assists with the Audio/Visual Ministry when needed.

Ricky has been a member here since 1981. He has served on the board as a deacon or elder for many years and has held all of the various officer positions at some time. He does the head count on Sunday mornings and is always willing to take his turn at other services such as open/lock up, preparing communion, greeter, communion meditations, substitute teacher in Sunday School and Bible study and wherever else he may be needed.

Ricky is currently employed by Highlands County, and serves as the County Administrator. Ricky is a wonderful example for God in his work at church as well as his work each and every day. He strongly believes in doing things the right and ethical way --- directed by God. Thank you Ricky for letting us celebrate your walk with the Lord. ~As described by his loving wife, Beth Helms

PRAYER LIST CHANGES—Our prayer list will be update—meaning that ALL names previously listed in 2011 will be removed. If you would like to have your name, or those you had listed in 2011 to be added once again, please either contact the office to let us know names and needs, or you may write them on the back of your Sunday morning Roll Call Card.