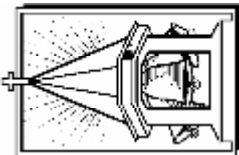


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First Baptist Church of  
Chickasaw  
"The Chimes"  
92 Fifth Street  
Chickasaw, AL 36611



### Hours of Worship & Activities

<b>Sunday</b>	
9:30 AM	Sunday School
10:45 AM	Morning Worship
4:45 PM	Choir Practice
6:00 PM	Evening Worship
<b>Tuesday</b>	
12:00 PM	Fun & Fellowship/Gym
<b>Wednesday</b>	
6:00 PM	Prayer Meeting
6:00 PM	Team Kids
<b>Thursday</b>	
9:30 AM	Nursing Home Visitation
12:00 PM	Fun & Fellowship/Gym

### Other Opportunities for Service

**Brotherhood** - Meets at 7 a.m. the 4th Sunday of each month in the Fellowship Hall.

**Lamplighters** - Meets the 4th Wednesday of each month in the Fellowship Hall at 5:00 p.m.

**WMU** - Meets the 1st Wednesday of each month at 10:00 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Lunch immediately following the meeting.

### CONTACT INFORMATION

Pastor: Dr. Henry Creel                      Cell 251-209-7136  
E-mail:    [h55digger@bellsouth.net](mailto:h55digger@bellsouth.net)

Minister of Music Dr. Ken Bergdolt                      251-447-0661  
Church Office    251-452-0222  
Church Fax    251-452-0280  
Church E-mail:    [firstbaptistc359@bellsouth.net](mailto:firstbaptistc359@bellsouth.net)

*Happy  
New  
Year!*

# The Chimes

## January, 2010

*Happy  
New  
Year!*

The year of 2009 has been a tough one. Our nation along with the rest of the world has been greatly affected by the world-wide recession. Many retirees and soon-to-be-retirees saw their retirement dreams vanish with the downward plunge of the stock market. Our nation has still remained engaged on two war fronts. The H1N1 flu virus has taken its toll, even as our Congress has been embroiled in the attempt to reform health care for our citizens. Indeed, 2009 has been a tough year.

But I have been encouraged on three fronts as we face the new year. First, I am writing this article on the day known as the Winter Solstice. All of you astronomy buffs will recognize the Winter Solstice as the shortest day of the year in terms of daylight. The sun has "stood still," stopped in its tracks, so to speak, in its travels to the southern hemisphere. The sun has now reversed itself and headed back north as it continues its ageless journey between the northern and southern hemispheres of our earth. In simple language, the daylight of each succeeding day lengthens, and the darkness of each day recedes, until we reach the Summer Solstice of June 21, 2010. Light increases. Darkness decreases. Metaphorically speaking, the bad news of 2009 now decreases. Hope for better news in 2010 increases. I am encouraged.

Secondly, I am encouraged by a recent event in my own life. I, along with my best friend, Paul McLendon, had the privilege to attend the winter graduation ceremonies at Carson Newman College in Jefferson City, Tennessee. Carson Newman is one of our SBC Colleges. Paul and I were there escorting our mutual friend, Will D. Campbell, renowned author, social activist, recipient of the National Endowment for the Humanities Medal, and true Prophet of Almighty God. Will was there to receive yet another (this one makes # 7) Honorary Doctor of Letters degree. Sitting on the dais, Will faced 110 graduates. These young people had earned degrees ranging from Chemistry and Biology to Photography and Film; from Elementary Education to Political Science; from Business Administration to Religion; from Sociology to Applied Psychology; from Computer Information Systems to Health Care Administration; from Exercise Science to Applied Physics; and many, many others.

As part of the requirement to earn their degrees, these students had to attend weekly chapel services where they sang the old hymns as well as the new praise choruses, and where they heard good preaching. They also had to successfully pass introductory studies to both the Old Testament and the New Testament. They were equipped spiritually along with their chosen field of study.

As I sat watching 87 year-old Will Campbell facing 110 graduates in their 20's, my mind wondered how many of these young graduates would one day sit on some dias at some college or university, to receive their own Honorary Doctorate of Letters degree because they, too, had made a tremendous difference in our world. I predict there will be several. The old prophet passes the mantle to the young. And I am encouraged.

Thirdly, as all of these thoughts swirled through my gray cells, I remembered a scene from Winston Groom's book and subsequent movie, **Forrest Gump**. Forrest is in New York City visiting Lt. Dan for the New Year celebrations. Two of Lt. Dan's lady friends (unspoken in the movie but implied, prostitutes) are there with Lt. Dan. One of the ladies says, "*I just love New Year's, don't you? It's a chance to start all over again. Everybody gets a second chance.*" This is my favorite line from the movie. It is obvious from the context that this young lady desperately desires the opportunity to "start all over again" and get "a second chance." Metaphorically speaking, this New Year of 2010 does indeed give everyone of us an opportunity to "start all over again." And theologically speaking, God gives everyone of us a "second chance."

How about you? Are you ready to "start all over again" and take advantage of a "second chance?" I am encouraged by those who will.

Dr. Creel

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**GENERATIONAL CONFERENCE - LED BY JIM SWEDENBURG  
JANUARY 26, 2010  
First Baptist Church of Chickasaw**

This conference is designed to educate church leaders concerning the differences between generations. An understanding of these differences will enable church leaders to better know how to evangelize each generation.

State Missionary Jim Swedenburg is director of the Office of Cooperative Program & Stewardship Development for the Alabama Baptist State Board of Missions.

**Sunday School Attendance**

11/29/09 - 12/20/09

Average

Enr. Att.

Sunday School 187 78

Homebound 7 7

**MEMORIAL**

A gift in memory of Elbert and Mae Saxon

Given By

Daisy Saxon Schexnayder and Al Schexnayder

\*\*\*\*\*

**THANK YOU**

I would like to thank the church for the nice cards. I finally got moved and settled.

Please tell all hello for me.

Margaret Napier

**MUSIC HAS THE CAPACITY TO...?**

The trenches were open to bitter winds, icy rain, and were coated with "greasy and glutinous" mud. Between the trenches, in No Man's Land, lay the tragic results of warfare. But as the first Christmas of World War I approached, a cautious shift of mood seemed to soften the hostilities.

Lieutenant Johannes Niemann of the German army moved up to the front line with his regiment on Christmas Eve. "All was quiet" he wrote. "No shooting. Little snow. We placed a tiny Christmas tree in our dugout...then we began to sing our old Christmas songs: 'Silent Night' and 'Oh, How Joyfully.'"

Across No Man's Land, less than 100 yards away, the British could see the lighted trees and hear the singing. Years later, Albert Moren of the 2nd Queen's Regiment remembered the "...beautiful moonlit night, frost on the ground, [and] white almost everywhere." When he heard the Germans sing 'Silent Night', he asserted "I shall never forget it. It was one of the highlights of my life."

In *Silent Night*, his well-documented book, Stanley Weintraub presents a moving account of the unauthorized and all-too-brief WWI Christmas truce in which numbers of soldiers from both sides left their trenches, met in No Man's Land, sang carols together, and even exchanged gifts.

Throughout that fragile recess from destruction, Weintraub records instances when singing gave rise to a spirit of good will among the combatants. Music's ability to raise spirits is not its only value. **Music has the capacity to...teach, to challenge, and to inspire, which makes it a tool well suited to enrich our worship.**

And the effectiveness of our music ministry depends on the talents, faithfulness, and devotion of many people. For Mary Couey, with her gifts as a pianist and vocalist, for Billy Stone and Paul Chitty with their conscientious attention to the sound and lighting, and to each choir member with their faithful support, we are indeed blest and ever thankful.

Dr. B and Colleen