

Ash Avenue Baptist Dispatch

ISSUE # 161

NOVEMBER 2011

From Eure Pastor's Desk

by John D. Eure

You know Simon Peter, and Andrew, and James, and John; Philip, Bartholomew, Matthew, Thomas, the other James, and Thaddeus.... but do you recall the most unpopular disciple of all? Of course, this would be Judas Iscariot.

We don't really know how Judas ever met Jesus, but we do know that the Gospels mention he was the one Jesus foretold as His "Betrayer".

A lot of people ask questions about Judas' free will in the whole matter. "Since it was predicted that he would betray Jesus, could he really do otherwise?" "Was it fair that he was singled out by God to commit such a shameful deed?"

The full depth of understanding God's foreknowledge is a mystery, but I think it can be simply stated: Judas had a free-will and God knew what he would choose. The Father is in control of all things, yet He allows us limited free will (He doesn't allow everything we want). He knows all things and has perfect timing to intervene in the affairs on earth in order to accomplish His kingdom purposes.

What should really capture our attention about Judas is how He was treated by Jesus. While knowing Judas' plot, the Master still loved him and treated him as a loved disciple.

Obviously, Judas became disappointed in Jesus. This Messiah hadn't met his expectation of freeing his people from Roman rule. Judas felt Jesus was no longer enough for his life so he followed his own selfish desire.

So, what did Jesus do that was so different? On the last night it would appear they still ate together. The Gospels seem vague on whether or not he was there for Jesus' blessing of the bread and wine. But there seems to be no argument that Judas was present for Jesus to wash his feet (see **John 13:1-17**).

Why on earth would Jesus wash the feet of the one who'd sell Him out for 30 pieces of silver? Good question. And it's a good question that Christians unfortunately ask way too often when it comes to sharing the Gospel or serving others in Jesus' name. We're not like Jesus when we're more concerned about the benefit others will bring to us. We want attendance to be better, the offering to be up, perhaps get more people to join the choir, and to rope them into Sunday School so the enrollment numbers look better.

There are people who are ready to follow Jesus. There are others who are getting there; there are those who will totally reject Him. Just as Jesus washed Judas' feet, we're called to

humbly serve even those who would do us no good. To do otherwise, is to be like Judas.

If you focus on why Jesus would wash Judas' feet then it should lead you to a more important question: why did Jesus die on the cross for sinners (which you and I are)? After all, haven't you and I betrayed Jesus? We do when we disobey Him; when we live in doubt of His supernatural ability to lead us; and when we substitute His saving sacrifice with our pitiful goodness. We cast Him aside when we treat others disrespectfully; when we manipulate conditions to suit our own thinking; or when we hinder and discourage those who would serve Christ wherever He would lead them. The list goes on.

Give thanks to Jesus for such great love He would give Himself to cleanse your sins. Then give yourself away to Him. As you serve in His name, there will be betrayers, slanderers, and opponents. You may have been like them, but you no longer have to be. It's not others who have washed your feet— Jesus has! Judas felt sorry for his actions later, but didn't repent. You can! Start now! Choose the difference He makes!

This is the time of year when we cook all those special holiday foods, shop for gifts for our loved ones, and look forward to being with our families. Unfortunately, many people in our community struggle on a daily basis, just to put food on the table and the thought of a festive holiday with presents and special treats seems like an unattainable dream. Please look into your hearts and consider making a donation to our **Little Church Fund**. All money collected throughout the year is used to help our less fortunate neighbors. Your donations may be placed in the small wooden church in church lobby. A special **Thank You** to anyone who has donated throughout the year! Your continued generosity is a true blessing!

One of the exciting new minis-



November

- 11/6 Randy Guill
Jerry Crenshaw
Randy Hupp
Jason Snead
- 11/13 Dennis Stewart
Jimmy Allen
Tom Hahn
Daniel Ivey
- 11/20 Don Williams
Victor Crump
Dickie Fallen
Don Gainey
- 11/27 Ricky Brogden
Jim Chandler
Fred Flinn
Mike Harris



**AABC Offering
Report as of
10/23/11**

**Budget offering
received...**

\$ 149,234.22

**Budget offering
needed...**

\$ 169,108.25

**Offering deficit:
(19,874.03)**



• **During SUNDAY SCHOOL**

The November Nursery

Coordinator:

Joy Eure

• **During WORSHIP**

The November Nursery Coordinator:

Cynthia Camp

Volunteer Assistants:

November 6th– Donna Harris

November 13th– Cynthia Camp

November 20th– Mikaela Cook

November 27th– Sherri Reichel

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• **November Children's Church Leader:**

Cynthia Camp
& Jessica Snead

**** Please note:**

Children's Church will be held
on just the 2nd & 4th Sunday
of each month.



**Tuesday, November 22nd
7:00pm
First Presbyterian Church
South Boston**



**Tuesday, November 8th
Remember to VOTE!**



**5:00pm Sunday,
November 13th**

Followed by
**Quarterly Business Meeting
at 6:30.**

(Quorum of 40 required for
Business Meeting.)

**A signup Sheet for
the Dinner will be
in Welcome Center
November 6th.**



The Church Office will be closed
Thursday, November 24th
and **Friday, November 25th**
in observance
of the Thanksgiving holiday.

WMU NEWS

- During November we're collecting stationary (paper, envelopes, stamps, etc.) to be sent to the Fluvanna Women's Prison.
 - The December focus will be on our food pantry, *Feed My Lambs*.
- An ongoing project is our local Summer Reading Program. A large jar has been placed in the church office lobby. We'll collect from NOW through the Spring.

Your change can make a change in the life of a child.

WMU Meetings

- 1:00PM Monday, November 7th-Nonie Gravitt Meeting
- 10:30am Tuesday, November 8th-Eva Saunders Meeting
- 7:00pm Thursday, November 10th- Sisters Serving Christ
- 10:30am Saturday, November 19th-Devotions at South Boston Manor



Remember to turn your clocks **BACK**
 one hour before bedtime
 on **Saturday, November 5th**.
 Daylight Savings Time **ends**
 at Midnight.

Beginning **Thursday, November 3rd** a new Bible Study will be held from **9:15am to 10:30am**. **"Standard Time Bible Study"** will be held every Thursday (with a few exceptions) until March 8, 2012. Please check the enclosed calendar insert for November holiday Schedule for this Study.

Daniel Trusiewicz, pastor in Poland and director of the Indigenous Mission Project (IMP) with the European Baptist Federation, will be the guest speaker during Ash Avenue's **Evening Praise and Worship** on **Sunday, November 6th**.



FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 11TH
THANK YOU!!



Dear Friends of the ministry:

Thank you so much for your gift to **Little Life**. When you give a gift to this ministry you offer each of us- staff, board and volunteers- a healthy dose of encouragement. Through your thoughtfulness, hearts are being touched and lives are being saved.

Thank you again. We appreciate you!

Carol Slaughter, Executive Director
Little Life Pregnancy Center



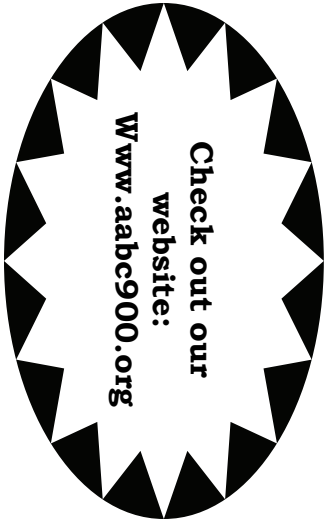
Volunteers needed to decorate the church for the holidays! We'll gather in the sanctuary at **10:00am Saturday, November 26th**.



Properties Contacts for November
Mike Harris & Jerry Crenshaw

Deacons of the Month for November
Joe Boutwell & Jerry Crockett

November van contact
Is Jay Camp.



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