

The First Baptist Messenger

Established 1836

Dr. Fred A. Malone, Pastor

**Volume 2011
No. 4**

APRIL

Issue

“The Strife is O’er”

by Giovanni P. da Palestrina, c. 1525-1594

adapted by William H. Monk, 1823-1889

“Where, O death, is your victory? Where, O death, is your sting?” The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. But thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.. -- I Corinthians 15:55-57

The thrilling news from the empty tomb is that life has triumphed over death! This message dispels our fears and gives us the sure hope that because Christ lives, we shall live also (John 14:19). Alleluia!

This inspiring Easter hymn, written originally in Latin around 1605, first appeared anonymously in a Jesuit collection, *Symphonia Sirenum*, published in Cologne, Germany, in 1695. It was more than one hundred fifty years after its writing, however, before this hymn was used by English-speaking churches. In 1859 the translation was made by Francis Pott, an Anglican minister. The music is an adaptation from the “Gloria Patri,” published in 1591 by Palestrina, the great sixteenth century Catholic composer and director of the performing choir at St. Peter’s church in the Vatican. This musical arrangement was made by Dr. William H. Monk for inclusion in the well-known Anglican hymnal *Hymns Ancient and Modern*, 1861 edition. In making this musical adaptation from Palestrina’s work, Dr. Monk used the first two phrases, repeated the first phrase and added original alleluias for the beginning and end. (*Alleluia* is a Latin form of the Hebrew *Hallelujah*, which means “praise the Lord!”). It is interesting to note the interplay between the statements of fact related to Christ’s resurrection that are contained in the first half of each stanza and the personal response to these factual truths as expressed in the last half of each stanza, concluding with the jubilant, “Alleluia!” [Information taken from *Amazing Grace* by Kenneth W. Osbeck]

Chorus: Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! (Sung at the beginning of each verse)

*The strife is o’er – the battle done, the victory of life is won;
The song of triumph has begun: Alleluia!*

*The pow’rs of death have done their worst, but Christ their legions hath dispersed;
Let shouts of holy joy outburst: Alleluia!*

*The three sad days have quickly sped, He rises glorious from the dead;
All glory to our risen Head! Alleluia!*

*He closed the yawning gates of hell; the bars from heav’n’s high portals fell;
Let hymns of praise His triumphs tell: Alleluia!*

*Lord, by the stripes which wounded Thee, from death’s dread sting Thy servants free,
That we may live and sing to Thee: Alleluia!*

FROM THE PASTOR'S HEART

"Are You a Devoted Christian?"

Act 2:41 *So then, those who had received his word were baptized; and that day there were added about three thousand souls.*

Act 2:42 *They were continually devoting themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.*

(On this 175th anniversary year of FBC, Clinton, I am reprinting this column I wrote in 2005. It is still my "plan" for the church. I have been encouraged since then with God's blessing upon our church. We have seen many young people come to Christ, an increased spirit of love and graciousness in the church, other precious families brought into our fellowship, and an increased effort of evangelism by members to family and friends in the flow of life. However, this is a year of remembering the "building blocks" of a true church. So, I am reprinting this column to encourage us all (including myself) to excel still more. May the Lord Jesus Christ help us!)

"Sometimes when I read the obituaries, I come across this phrase: "He was a devoted Christian." But what is a "devoted Christian?" Acts 2:42 describes such a person as one who "continually devotes themselves" to certain priorities in their life. Fresh from the joy of sins forgiven in Jesus Christ, these early Christians restructured their lives with "the building blocks" of the Christian life. These four "building blocks" form the priorities of the Christian life and are the God-ordained means of building a healthy and growing church of the Lord Jesus Christ.

When I came as your pastor over 12 years ago, I had a dream. A dream of a church where every member is faithful to simple obedience to the Acts 2:42 "building blocks" which enable a church to mature over the years:

- (1) *devoted* to the Apostle's teaching in Sunday School, morning worship and evening worship on the Lord's Day,
- (2) *devoted* to fellowship with each other in loving hospitality and service,
- (3) *devoted* to faithful attendance to the breaking of bread in unity at each Lord's Supper service, and
- (4) *devoted* to the church prayer meetings on Wednesday night.

These are biblical priorities and necessary building blocks to learning God's Word, praying for His blessing on the church, and creating a loving church family.

I believed then and still believe now that faithfulness to those building blocks is the primary means God has ordained to grow a church spiritually and numerically. I am committed to this plan as God's will for me and for each one of you. I know that many of you are devoted to these building blocks as well. But I ask all of you: **are you committed to this plan?**

Each week I pray many hours for the church and each member as I prepare each message, thinking how to apply it to each of your lives one by one. This is God's will for my life. Yet when I come to a service or prayer meeting

and see that some of you are absent for reasons other than sickness, real emergency, or work which could have been planned another time, it grieves me that you have missed God's Word prepared for you and fellowship together.

Sometimes I weep over you, praying that God will awaken you from spiritual sleep. I do not take the road of checking up on you each week to come for Brother Fred's encouragement. But I do believe that if you love Christ, you will make every effort to build His church by devoting yourself faithfully to all the meetings. I believe this is God's will for you from which every other thing in your life flows out. These things are basic building blocks of a life based upon God's priorities. If Christ died to build His Church, if He is at every meeting with His sheep, shouldn't you be there as well?

For those of you who do not attend the teaching of God's Word in Sunday School, Morning worship, and evening worship faithfully, I want you to know that I pray each week that you will. And I will continue to do so as long as I am your pastor. And I pray each week that you will see the importance of attending prayer meeting where we pray for others' salvation, for healing of the sick, and for holy lives. And I will continue to do so as long as I am your pastor. Because I believe that this is God's will for you before you plan anything else in your life. And I will continue to believe and pray for that as long as I am your pastor.

So, you can see my concern. "The will of God" for me, and for each of you, begins with a love for Christ and a faithful commitment to His Church, so that we can learn how to live in His will in all of our life. Those who will not devote themselves to God's will, so clear in Scripture, should not have a good assurance that everything is OK in their Christian commitment:

Mat 7:21 "Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who *does the will* of My Father who is in heaven.

If we are to be a church that is an example to other churches, and build a Christ-centered fellowship of love and service, and see every member grow strong in the knowledge of Christ and His will, and be an honorable witness to Jesus in this fallen world, then every member must be faithful to the building blocks. Any member that is unwilling to do that weakens the whole church as well as their own faith.

I know a strong mature church which has done this for 50 years. They have committed themselves to faithfulness as members from the beginning and have seen the fruit of it in their children and children's children. They have no gimmicks and gadgets to build the church. They just committed together to be an honor to Christ in these basic things. And God has blessed them. I desire us to be a church like that.

In all love, I have to ask: **are you committed to this plan?** The early church was so committed. Strong and useful churches in history have been so committed. And I believe that our spiritual strength and witness as a people of God is directly proportioned to this kind of commitment to Christ's church. *Will you join my plan?"*

--Pastor Malone



ARBCA Missionary Focus

BTC Aims to Stir Up Next Generation:

John Giarrizzo writes:

Building Tomorrow's Church (BTC) is an annual conference designed to encourage young adults of Reformed Baptist churches across the country to become active members in their local churches. The BTC is geared toward anyone between the ages of 18 and 30-something, single or married, who desires to help build up the body of Christ. This yearly conference was the brainchild of my son, David Giarrizzo, who, at the age of 23, began formulation thoughts for such a ministry.

There were various reasons that seemed to warrant such a conference. Primarily, David was troubled to see some of his old friends from high school drifting away from the churches in which they were raised. Some denied the faith and left church altogether. Others exchanged the church of their parents for the church of their college friends. Still others embraced the "bigger is better" idea and joined the consumer-driven church in town with the Saturday services, varied programs, rock-n-roll bands, and multi-media presentations. He wondered how some of his friends could change churches so suddenly for reasons that seemed so superficial.

"How can we encourage those currently being raised in Reformed Baptist churches to stay there and to embrace the faith of their fathers?" he pondered. As more young adults left Grace Covenant to join non-reformed churches, David's desire intensified for a conference that would be reformed, relational, and real.

When the ARBCA General Assembly came to Mesa, AZ, in 2007, David was granted permission to explain the concept of this conference to the gathered delegates. After receiving advice and encouragement from many of the delegates, David developed a steering committee to help set a course for promoting a conference of national proportions. Working closely with our elders, the BTC committee took the necessary steps in securing the date, speaker, and location for its inaugural 2008 conference. The theme for the opening year, "Helping Young Adults Find Their Place Within the Body of Christ," still serves as the purpose of each year's conference. Since the first conference, we have been blessed to receive reports from pastors to the effect that many of the attendees came back with a newfound zeal for the church. They returned to become official members in their churches, to organize Bible studies, or to get serious about their own personal walk with Christ. Thus, this conference is not just a passing emotion, but it has been translated into practical service in the local church.

Pastor Jon Hueni of Grace Fellowship Church in Bremen, Ind., wrote the following regarding the spiritual investment it has been for their church to support the BTC: *The twenties are not an age that generally finds young adults well-rooted in church life. In fact, statistics show that even those who grew up in church are leaving the church in large numbers during this decade of their lives. How refreshing to find a conference for young adults whose mission is worn on their sleeve: Building Tomorrow's Church. The first year it was held we offered financial assistance to any of our young adults desiring to go. They came back with a contagious vision and love for the church as Christ's chosen bride. The following year they returned with a desire to faithfully use their gifts to serve in the church. And this year their burden widened to bring the gospel to the lost outside the church. Each year we have offered scholarships and each year the number attending has increased. And each year, our conviction has deepened that this is some of our best invested money for the building up of Christ's church...*

This year's conference date has been set for July 29-Aug. 1, and will be held at United Christian Youth Camp in Prescott, AZ. The intended topic is "The Need for Godly Men and Women in the Church," emphasizing what the Bible describes as biblical manhood and womanhood. The speakers for this year's conference are Pastor Mark Chanski of the Reformed Baptist Church of Holland, MI, and Pastor David Dykstra, of Grace Covenant Baptist Church in Willis, TX.. We ask you to keep the BTC and its planning in your regular prayers. Also, take a moment to visit www.buildingtomorrowschurch.com to stay informed of upcoming events. If you have any questions, feel free to email David or the BTC committee at buildingtomorrowschurch@g.mail.com.

News from the Brennans – Matthew, Barbara, Simon and Timothy – IRELAND

Matthew writes:

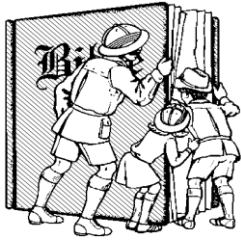
Hello from Clonmel! The Christmas evangelistic efforts went very well with our being surprised by those who turned up for the Carol Service. David Shedden gave a gospel presentation that was well –received. We do hope that some of the people who came might be willing to come again.

The economic situation continues to bring much fear as many people have lost their jobs and are in arrears with their mortgages and the very real possibility of becoming homeless. We do not know how the present economic situation will play out in this year; signs are not good.

There is an election to take place for a new government in February or March. This has happened because the present government has lost the moral authority to govern and the junior partners in the coalition have announced they will no longer support the government after February. However, we do know who is in full control of our churches and our countries.

We expect to have David Shedden working with the church for the best part of 2011 and would ask for your prayers that he would work well with the church as well as strategically in the community. We tried a series of special talks in a local hotel at the end of last year with no positive outcome, so we need to know how best to reach the community and the surrounding areas.

While reading Daniel 6, I was struck by the spiritual routine of Daniel. These spiritual routines he maintained over many years even at times when to do so could put his life at risk. It is the routine Christian life that God honors, the routine private devotions, the routine church services, the routine preaching. I pray that the routine spiritual devotions of your life and churches will become the time that God manifests Himself. The God of Daniel is our God too!!!



Book Room Review

Advice to a Young Christian: On the Importance of Aiming at an Elevated Standard of Piety

by Jared B. Waterbury

From the cover of the book:

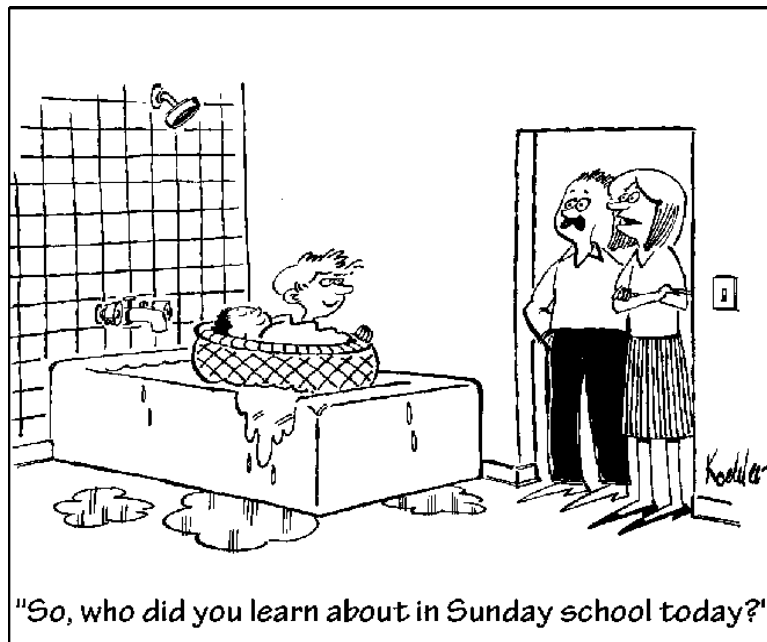
"This precious book was originally released in 1827 by an anonymous author simply called A Village Pastor with an outstanding introductory essay by Archibald Alexander. It went on to be one of the best selling books by the American Tract Society. It was also published in the UK by the Religious Tract Society of London where it became very popular."

Pastor Murray Wilson, Trinity Reformed Baptist Church, Baltimore, MD, writes: "Years ago, my wife 'found an old book' for me at a flea market. It was an 1843 printing of Advice to a Young Christian. Since that day, I have loved this sweet little volume and have hoped that someone would reprint it! It has often been useful to me as a devotional prod toward my spiritual duties. I've read snippets in family worship and in prayer meetings, and I've shared portions with guests around the table on Lord's Day afternoons. Originally penned as private letters by a pastor to a young woman in his charge, these brief chapters are striking in the warm and winsome care that the writer shows for the eternal prosperity of his young reader. Fellow pastors will also be challenged by the extent of this man's effort toward the well being of a single young lamb 'until Christ be formed' in her (Gal 4:19). May these very pastoral encouragements once again achieve the author's 'ardent prayer' that they may comfort and edify many."

Jared Bell Waterbury, clergyman, born in New York City, August 11, 1799; died in Brooklyn, NY, December 31, 1876. He graduated from Yale in 1822, studied two years in Princeton Theological Seminary, and was licensed to preach in 1825. In that year he was an agent for the American Bible Society, and from 1826-29 he was pastor of the Congregational Church in Hatfield, MA. He was pastor of Presbyterian churches in Portsmouth, NH, from 1829-32, and in Hudson, NY, in 1833, of the Bowdoin Street Congregational Church in Boston, from 1846-57, and of the Central Church in Brooklyn NY, in 1859. Subsequently he served as city missionary there until his death

[You may purchase this book from our Book Table for

\$10.00]



Newsbytes and Announcements



Congratulations to :

Angelle Roddy, a National Merit Finalist! Angelle has been at First Baptist her entire life, and has been a faithful member since her conversion in 2008. She is the daughter of P.R. (one of our deacons) and Kevin Roddy. Angelle is a senior in her parents' homeschool, and will graduate in May. She plans to attend Southeastern University in Hammond, LA, in the fall.



Report on Somalia:

By almost every evaluation, Somalia is the most lawless country in the world. Decades of war and anarchy have left hundreds of thousands dead and have traumatized the entire East African region. More than 3.5 million Somalis are living as refugees in neighboring countries, and 1.1 million more still live within Somalia's borders but have been displaced from their homes. The work of missions has been limited, and the environment dangerous for aid workers. A few missionaries have been able to witness, and some Somalis have accepted Christ as a result, but the native Somali church has been driven underground—some believers have been martyred and others have been targeted for execution. Estimates place the number of Somali Christians at no more than 500, or less than .005 of the population. **Pray for:** Christian aid workers, for their safety and for their tactful witness; Ministries to have an impact and for viable churches to be planted in Somalia; Christian radio, one of the only ways to bring the truth to much of the area. [*Church Around the World – April 2011*]



Freedom Threatened in Somalia:

In other news from Somalia, Islamist insurgents have banned unrelated men and women from shaking hands, speaking, or walking together. Residents of the southern Somali town of Jowhar said that the al Shabaab insurgents threatened to whip, imprison, or execute anyone found breaking the recent edicts. Jowhar resident Hussein Ali says he will no longer greet women he knows for fear of punishment. Student Hamdi Osman reports that gunmen are searching buses for improperly dressed women or women traveling alone. She says she was once beaten for wearing traditional Somali dress instead of the long, shapeless black robes favored by the fighters. The insurgents have already banned women from working in public, leaving many families completely destitute. In a year in which Islamic militants from the al Qaeda-linked al Shabaab group killed more underground Christian leaders, civilian Muslims also claimed at least one victim. A 17-year-old Somali girl who converted to Christianity from Islam was shot to death last fall in an apparent “honor killing.” Nurta Mohammed Farah had fled her village to live with relatives after her parents tortured her for leaving Islam. Sources said they strongly suspected that the two unidentified gunmen were relatives or acting at their behest. Nurta's parents had severely beaten her and regularly shackled her to a tree after she embraced the Christian faith and had taken her to a doctor who prescribed medication for her “mental illness,” but none of this had any effect in swaying her from her faith. [*Church Around the World – April 2011*]



Religious Teaching Banned in Daycare:

Canada: Starting in June, daycare centers in Quebec that teach faith to children will lose government funding. Cultural values can be taught but religious values cannot, leading some religious leaders in Quebec to complain that the process will be too subjective. Christmas trees and cultural traditions are still allowed, said Quebec Family Minister Yolande James, but religious crafts, role-playing games, and songs are banned, including Sabbath observances at Jewish daycares. The government currently pays \$40 per day for each child sent to daycare, and parents pay \$7 per child. [*Christianity Today – March 2011*]



Courts Fell More Memorial Crosses:

After a legal battle lasting more than two decades, The Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals ruled that a war memorial cross in California is unconstitutional. The 43-foot cross erected in 1913 on Mount Soledad, “sends a strong message of endorsement and exclusion,” said Judge M. Margaret McKeown. Meanwhile the Tenth Circuit Court of Appeals ruled that the Utah Highway Patrol Association cannot place crosses along the highway to memorialize fallen troopers. The crosses imply state endorsement of a faith, according to the court's unanimous opinion. [*Christianity Today – March 2011*]



Wave of Christian Converts Arrested:

Iran: About 75 Christians were arrested in Tehran in a series of raids on Christmas Day and in following weeks. Tehran's governor, Morteza Tamaddon, promised more arrests and called the Christians a corrupt foreign influence. Those arrested are primarily converts from Islam and evangelicals seeking to convert Muslims, rather than the Armenian Christians and Catholics more common in the Islamic republic. According to religious freedom observers, more than 200 Iranian Christians have been arrested since September, when an appeals court upheld the death sentence of evangelical pastor and Muslim convert Youcef Nadarkhani, the first death penalty for apostasy in decades. [*Christianity Today – March 2011*]

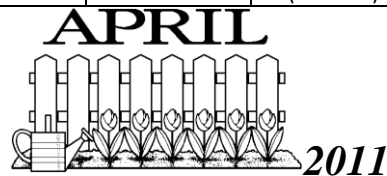


Churches May Gain Same Rights as Mosques:

Egypt: A potential law under discussion in Egypt, first proposed in 2005, would give churches the same legal rights as mosques. Churches currently need presidential approval and security clearance to construct buildings, and permission from local authorities to make repairs – a complicated process that means many churches go unrepaired. Muslims do not need permits to build or repair mosques. There are 2,000 churches and 93,000 mosques in Egypt. [*Christianity Today – March 2011*].

On the Lighter Side: The Sunday School teacher asks: "Now, Johnny, tell me frankly do you say prayers before eating?" "No, ma'am", little Johnny replies, I don't have to. My mom is a good cook."

					1 (El.Phares)	2 (K. Roddy)
3 LORD'S DAY Fellowship Meal 1:30 Afternoon Worship Lord's Supper (P.R. Roddy)	4 ARBCA General Assembly in Calif. This week (J. Rogers)	5 Ladies' Evening Bible study @ Suzanne Daniel's - 6:30 (W.Sager)	6 6:30 Pr. Mtg. PraiSing Him (B.Schindler)	7 (D.Sevier)	8 Church Work Night from 4:00 – 10:00 pm. (M. Singletom)	9 (M. Sloan)
10 LORD'S DAY Morning Worship Fellowship Meal Men's Theo. Class @ 4:45 Evening Worship (G. Alexander)	11 (M. Smith)	12 Family Life Fellowship 6:30 @ Malone's (H. Spolar)	13 6:30 Pr. Mtg. PraiSing Him (A. Town)	14 9:30 a.m. Ladies Bible Study (M. Vargo)	15 (B. Walker)	16 (F. Walker)
17 LORD'S DAY Morning Worship 10:45 Fellowship Meal Evening Worship 6:00 (G. Alexander)	18 (B. Andrews)	19 Ladies' Evening Bible study @ Suzanne Daniels - 6:30 (W. Andrews)	20 6:30 Pr. Mtg. PraiSing Him (C. Axsom)	21 (M. Axsom)	22 (A. Barnett)	23 (N. Town Bennett)
24 LORD'S DAY Morning Worship 10:45 Fellowship Meal Evening Worship 6:00 (D. Blades)	25 (R. Boudreaux)	26 (J. Brewer)	27 6:30 Pr. Mtg. PraiSing Him (J. Bryant)	28 9:30 a.m. Ladies Bible Study Deacon's Mtg. @ 6:30 (J. Carline)	29 (M. Carline)	30 (W. Carruth)



S	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
---	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----

Please pray for the families in () !

APRIL BIRTHDAYS:

3 – Anna Schindler
4 – Daniel Fudge

11 – Floyd Daniel
12 – Fred Malone

20 – Trish Schindler
25 – Elizabeth Schindler

9 – Andrew Singleton
 9 – Chad Owens
 10 – Sarah Smith

14 – Adelyne Owens
 16 – Philip Johnstone
 19 – Bobbie Walker

29 – Jennifer Dighton
 30 – Eleanore Hurst


Children's Corner




FIX YOUR EYES ON JESUS

Remembering Jesus' life, death and resurrection helps us live with gratitude every day.


Use the picture and number code to fill in the blanks for Hebrews 12:2-3, NIV.



1. Jesus 5. cross
 2. weary 6. endured
 3. endured 7. scorning
 4. opposition 8. shame



1. Jesus 5. perfecter
 2. lose 6. him
 3. pioneer 7. faith
 4. sinners 8. hand



1. eyes 5. right
 2. us 6. grow
 3. joy 7. God
 4. heart 8. throne

"... fixing our _____ on _____, the _____ and
 _____ of _____. For the _____ set before _____
 he _____ the _____, _____ its _____, and
 sat down at the _____ of the _____ of _____.
 Consider _____ who _____ such _____
 from _____, so that you will not _____
 and _____." HEBREWS 12:2-3, NIV

Answer: "...fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. For the joy set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. Consider him who endured such opposition from sinners, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart." Hebrews 12:2-3, NIV

HOT CROSS BUNS

Make this traditional Easter recipe to remember how Christ gave his life for you.

What you need:

- 1 can (12 oz.) evaporated milk
- 1 stick (½ cup) butter, melted
- ½ cup sugar
- Pinch of salt
- 1½ Tablespoons yeast
- 1 egg, beaten
- ½ teaspoon cinnamon
- ½ teaspoon nutmeg
- 5 cups flour
- Icing
- An adult to help

What you do:

1. In large bowl, combine the first eight ingredients.
2. Stir in flour, one cup at a time, to form soft dough. Knead on a floured surface until smooth and elastic (about five minutes).
3. Place in a greased bowl, turning once to grease top. Cover and let rise until doubled (about one hour).
4. Knead out air bubbles. Form six two-inch balls.
5. Place two inches apart on a greased cookie sheet. Cover and let rise until doubled (about 30 minutes).
6. Bake at 375 degrees until golden (13 to 15 minutes). Cool on wire racks.
7. Add icing in a cross shape. Enjoy!

---“Let the little children come to Me.”

Where We Meet

12329 Jackson Street
Corner of Jackson & Church St.
Clinton, LA 70722

Visit our website:
www.fbcclintonla.com

When We Meet

Sunday Schedule

9:30 a.m. - Bible Study
10:45 a.m. - Morning Worship
12:15 p.m. - Fellowship Meal
6:00 p.m. - Evening Worship

Wednesday Schedule

6:30 p.m. - Bible Study & Prayer Meeting
Children - “PraiSing Him”

First Baptist Church

12329 Jackson Street
PO Box 552
Clinton, La. 70722
www.fbcclintonla.com

Dr. Fred A. Malone, Pastor
Church: (225) 683-5153
FAX: (225) 683-4768

Non-profit Organization
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit No. 5
Clinton, LA 70722

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED