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The Colors Of Christmas at First Baptist

DECEMBER 05TH 2012 BY STAFF WRITER

The Colors Of Christmas at First Baptist

Dexter, Missouri - This weekend, a real Christmas treat lies in store for the communities around Dexter as "The Colors of Christmas" transforms the sanctuary of First Baptist Church of Dexter into a celebration of the Christmas season. A holiday delight, the stage will glisten with the colors of the holidays while the joyous sounds of music will fill your hearts.

The musical is directed by Maria Chamberlain and performed by the many talents of the First Baptist Church adult choir. The presentation will bring to you the story of Christmas to life by the elegant and simplistic use of many colors throughout the program.

Final preparations and the final polish has been placed on the performance this Wednesday evening as the group held a dress rehearsal.

You will be amazed as the holiday show will deliver the story of the Savior, Jesus Christ. The stage will be filled with drama and banners, as the choir performs traditional selections ranging from "White Christmas" to "Silent Night" and "Jingle Bells" to "The Messiah's Medley".

Many will recall the days of yesteryear as Maria and First Baptist Church would host a week long presentation of a Christmas pageant. Those events are remembered by many throughout the Midwest as the most exceptional two act presentations filled with fun, laughs and meaning. Act one would offer the joys and traditions of a typical American Christmas, while act two would present the life of Jesus Christ from birth to Crucifixion.



A new creation each year, the pageant always brought anxious guest to be amazed by the work of the First Baptist Church, Don Kennedy's effects and Maria's talent for bringing everything together for a special evening.

The Colors of Christmas is certain to deliver the same meaning of the Season while you enjoy the beautiful sounds of Christmas. Make your plan to join others in the community to get your holiday season started right.

There is no charge for admission to the program. The Colors of Christmas is a gift of love from the members of First Baptist Church of Dexter to the communities of the area.

The musical will be performed this Saturday and Sunday evening, December 8th and 9th at the First Baptist Church in Dexter, Missouri. Performances will begin at 7:00 PM.

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KDEX "Coats for Kids"

NOVEMBER 28TH 2012 BY UNKNOWN

KDEX

Written by

Jessica Snider, SMT Writer

Today the annual KDEX "Coats for Kids" campaign got underway. The program is very active every year and helps many people in need during the holidays.

The Stoddard County Gospel Mission is very low on goods this year and as always, could use your help! It doesn't take long or even much effort, and you could majorly affect a whole family's life this winter.

Classes at Central Elementary School in Dexter are collecting coats, which will be distributed by the Stoddard County Gospel Mission. The "Coats for Kids" campaign will run through December 20th.

The classes have turned things into a competition in order to motivate kids to bring in new or good used coats for donation. The winning classes at Central Elementary will receive Pizza Hut pizza parties.

Not only can you help by donating coats, but canned goods are also being collected. The Stoddard County Gospel Mission will also distribute the cans that are collected. Both the cans and coats which are collected by people throughout the community will be evenly distributed to people who are less fortunate around the area.

</images/Jessica's Pics/canned goods.jpg>

This is just one of the many ways you can get involved to help people in the community. It doesn't take much to take a look through your closet or the pantry to find something you don't plan on using. Maybe it's a coat you've outgrown or extra canned food in the pantry; either way, you're sure to change someone's life with this small gesture.

Not only can you drop the coats and cans off at Central Elementary School, but Harps in Dexter will also be available for drop off.

Never forget how blessed we truly are and also remember there are people who have never had the feeling of being warm through the winter season. With your simple, kind

gesture, you will extend love into many hearts this season.

You still have about three weeks left until the KDEX “Coats for Kids” campaign comes to an end for 2012. This program has been going on for over fifteen years and has touched many lives throughout the community.

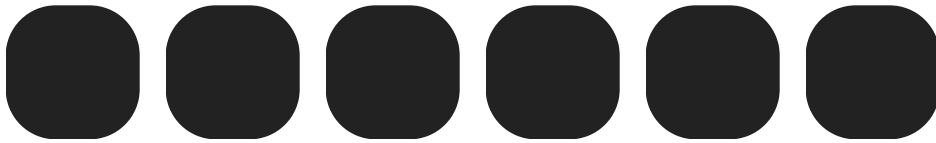
If you plan on donating coats or canned goods, remember you can donate to Central Elementary School or also Harps, both are located in Dexter.

Not only will you feel good about your gesture, but you will put a smile on many faces who are in need this year!

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Spread the Love: Stuff A Truck

NOVEMBER 27TH 2012 BY UNKNOWN

Spread the Love: Stuff A Truck

*Written by
Jessica Snider, SMT Writer*

While the Thanksgiving holiday has just come to a close, many of us could still be full from all the food that was partaken it. Okay, probably not still full, but most people definitely had enough to eat!

Have you ever stopped to wonder how many people around this area didn't get a meal for Thanksgiving? Not only just on Thanksgiving, but some people right here in our own community don't even get regular meals.

We often take for granted how lucky we are. Even if you're someone who recognizes that there are needy people all around us, maybe you're wondering how you can help this year.

Although it is very sad that things like this happen, fortunately, there is a very easy way you can get involved! It has been announced that the Stoddard County Mission is very low on food. This is awful to hear about, but even worse right here close to the holidays.

If you're someone who wishes to help, you have a big chance to get involved tomorrow. The Modern Woodmen Youth Clubs will be stuffing a truck for the Stoddard County Mission.

The "truck-stuffing" will take place from 3:15-4:00 P.M. tomorrow, November 28th. The event will be held at the Town and Country Supermarket in Bloomfield.

The Youth Club asks that you stop by and help fill the truck in any way you possibly can! The club will also have a table set up inside Town and Country.

This is a great and easy way for those who wish to get involved but aren't sure what they can do to help. Stuff A Truck is a wonderful thing and it will affect a lot of people right here in the community throughout this holiday season.

Help spread the love and stuff a truck!

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Share the Warmth

NOVEMBER 21ST 2012 BY BETH FARRAH

Share the Warmth

Girl Scout Missouri Heartland Service Unit 675 of Dexter is holding a "Share the Warmth" clothing drive. You can participate in the drive by bringing anything that is able to keep you warm in the cold weather, such as: gloves, blankets, socks, hats, coats, scarves, or other pieces of clothing that are often used during the winter. They are asking for new clothes, not previously worn or dirtied, so that the recipient will get newer and cleaner items.

The adult items that are collected will be given to local nursing homes all over Stoddard County and will be greatly appreciated by the people receiving these particular items. The items that are for the children will be donated to children in need, children's homes, and public schools across the county. With cold weather creeping in and winter coming close, it is important that each child has a coat to keep them warm, even if their family is not able to afford it.

The clothing

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drive will be held on December 1st from nine o'clock in the morning until noon at the Girl

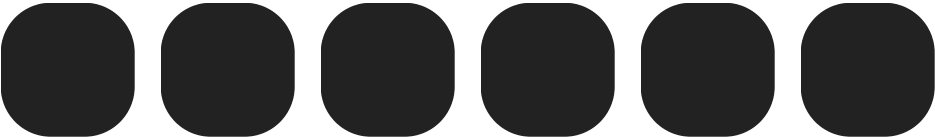
Scout's Office in Dexter. Be sure not to miss the fun festivities taking place after all the donations are collected. You can stick around and play games, make arts and crafts, eat snacks and baked goods, and grab a cup of hot chocolate or other warm drink.

This is a great way to reach out to the community but it is an act that will need a lot of support. We hope that you can come out and support the Girl Scouts so that this will be a very successful and helpful event.

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Veterans Day Event at BEC

NOVEMBER 13TH 2012 BY STAFF WRITER

[Veterans Day Event at BEC](#)

*Article By SMT Writer
Aleshia Flowers*

Dexter, Missouri - The annual Veterans Day event held at the Bearcat Event Center transpired Monday, November 12th. Each year the ceremony is sponsored by the Daughters of the American Revolution. Members of the general public and the entire Dexter Public Schools student body were in attendance. The event pays tribute to local and national veterans as well as serves as an opportunity for today's youth to become more aware of the role veterans play in each American's life.

When attendees entered the room, flashing photographs of veterans were on display. The program began with a presentation of the colors by Dexter Boy Scout Troop 200 and the Pledge of Allegiance by Lieutenant Colonel Cliff Manlove, USAF Retired.

Several distinguished speakers addressed the crowd through the presentation. Da Airman Darryl LaPierre, American Legion Post 59 Commander, spoke of his military experiences in the "chrome dome" flying "hot" planes by the poles in Alaska.

When Dr. Roger Alsup asked LaPierre to explain to the crowd why he chose to serve in the armed forces, LaPierre noted his love of freedom, love of country, and love of service were his driving forces. LaPierre stated that four of the city's police officers and one of the city's firefighters were retired military. He noted that over six thousand veterans reside in Stoddard County. These men and women are proud to continue serving the public beyond the terms of their enlistment.

Scott Rybodt directed the DHS Band in a medley entitled "A Tribute to the Armed Services." The medley included the theme song of each branch of the armed forces and veterans as well as enlisted military stood in honor while their respective anthem was in tune.

The Sisler-Eskew-Parker Monument Wreath Presentation to Delois Gales, American Legion Auxiliary member, was conducted by Dr. Tom Sharp, Dexter Schools Superintendent. The assembly concluded with a moment of silence for the playing of "Taps" and retiring of the colors.

The active participation of the student body in the events leading up to yesterday's ceremony allowed students to gain appreciation for the armed services. Students in various grade levels participated in several activities designed to accentuate the Veterans Day program.

June Lawrence, the art teacher at Central Elementary, along with Sheila Alsup, representative for the American Legion Auxiliary, hosted a fifth grade poster contest. Applicants were asked to design an all-original poster representing Veterans Day.

SPC Katie Alsup addressed each classroom with details regarding the competition. Katie lent knowledge of the history and importance of US Veterans. Alsup states, "It is amazing to see the hard work the kids put into their posters. For some students, the poster contest has allowed them to explore the history of veterans in their own family. I feel it is important to instill gratitude and respect for our veterans at a young age."

While each fifth grade student participated, only a select few works of art were chosen as honorable mentions. One winner from each classroom was then selected as a winner. Classroom winners were announced at the event; recipients were as follows: Hayden Hillis, Spencer Warren, Jayden Cato, Sebastian Conner, Shay Baker, Ann Marie Long, Rebecca Trough, and Netee Patel.

Eighth graders prepared for the Veterans Day event by participating in an essay contest. Melinda Sweeny, eighth grade teacher, assisted in organizing the essay competition. Each student was asked to write an essay in the theme "Freedoms I Enjoy Most." Maci Urhahn was awarded second place for her submission and Kelly Ash was given third place for her composition.

However, the essay written by Olivia Sitze entitled "Freedom of Assembly" stood out above the crowd, winning first place. Sitze was asked to read her amazing essay at the Veterans Day ceremony. Many were moved by her thoughtful words of gratitude for the freedoms American veterans had given her. Sitze will continue on to be a contender in the state wide essay contest.

Programs such as these allow our youth to better understand the commendable role American veterans play in ensuring our protection and freedom. We look

forward to next year's event!

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