



PHOTO/PAUL WILLIAMS III

Puppets are the stars in Friendship Baptist Church's puppet ministry.

## Puppets help spread the Gospel

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Center. "We would like to be more of an outreach ministry and go to some nursing homes and perform for them," Kelly said. "We hope that more people will call on us to help minister to people."

There are rewards to being a puppeteer. "One of the most rewarding things is to have a child's parent come up to you

after Sunday worship and say, "Oh, I understand that you did a presentation last week and my child was telling me all about the word faith and what it means," Toliver said. "The puppeteers say that it helps them to see that they are getting God's message across."

"It is something about puppets, saying something or doing something, that helps

kids to remember a message," Jones said. "Puppets can also get away with saying and doing things that humans can't do," Toliver said. "Controversial or personal issues can be discussed by puppets."

Fleming said, "Kids and adults can sometimes identify better with a puppet better than they can with people."

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