

Calvary Baptist Church of Bastrop

December 2009

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

What a year in which to be thankful! We have more unemployed than anytime in my life. We have more soldiers on foreign soil than anytime I remember. We as a country are further in debt than ever. Prices are higher. We have more church members with serious illnesses, wayward children, and other crises than I have ever experienced. Thank God we are in His hands!

I am truly thankful that in all we face that our Lord not only walks with us but when we need it cares us through these days. I am thankful that with all the stresses we face God still provides opportunities for us to serve Him by serving others. I am thankful that just when it seems that a test is all I can see, God sends someone to report that there were seventeen residents at the nursing home service and the worship leader did an excellent job. I am thankful that God is working in and through each of you.

I am thankful that my mother is no longer suffering and I can truly say that while I mourn losing her I rejoice that she is in heaven where I will one day join her. The Lord was gracious in strengthening me to preach her funeral, and gave other special people to honor her and Him in that service.

Again, what a year to be thankful! May we each count our blessings and tell about them to someone.

May God bless you,

Pastor Richard

December Birthdays

December 3rd: Warren McCullough, Briona Miller, Hannah Wells

December 5th: Kelly Jones

December 11th: Jonnie Turner

December 14th: Ellen Hurst, Tom Spence

December 16th: Emma Henderson, Nathan Henderson, Joy Phillips

December 18th: Sue Otteros, Vernon Ruble

December 20th: Larry White

December 22nd: Judy Johnson, Jody Lathan

December 23rd: Bonnie Woehl

December 24th: Bettie Drake

December 26th: Denise Ashley

December 28th: Wanda Womack

December 29th: Donna Stilp, Carlene Tomlin

December 30th: Martha Mathison

December 31st: Tom Nagle



December Anniversaries

December 17th : Harold & Debbie Owen

December 18th: David & Elaine Lawler

December 22nd: James & Joy Phillips

December 27th: John & Johnnie Turner

December 30th: Jim & Judy Mannin

November 2009 Numbers of Interest

All numbers are as of 11/23/09

Monthly Budget Requirement	\$21,585.53
Giving for November 2009	\$21,300.40
Building Fund - year to date	\$3,467.00
Bibles for Bangladesh - year to date	\$949.00
Sunday School Avg. Attendance	108
Worship Service Avg. Attendance	129
New Members this Month	1
2009 New Members	28
2009 Baptisms	1

Deacons of the Week

11/29- 12/5: Brent Leisure 979-229-3806
12/6 - 12/12: Pat Carroll 581-3932
12/13-12/19: Glen Wilkinson 303-1317
12/20 - 12/26: Mike Witte 985-5330
12/27- 1/2: Steven Newman 281-2752

Youth Department

Recently, I was watching a show that films the daily lives of a family of six. The parents had given the youngest a cell phone. There were rules like homework had to be done, no texting after a certain time and having to give the phone up to the parent whenever they asked. This young man broke all the rules within the first 24 hours. He lost the phone for a day or so. Then he broke the rules again and the phone was taken again for a week. The big surprise was when the phone bill came. This young man had over 8,000 text messages. That is a little over 380 messages a day. Just for the texting on the bill was a little over \$2800. (Dad must not have gotten unlimited messaging, something that would have been wise with 4 teenagers in the house.) They had to sit the boy down and try to teach him about responsibility. In a world pushing our teens in so many directions, we need to teach our teens about Absolute Truths. Help them to understand that the world offers smoke and mirrors, distortions of the truth and promoting wrongs that one could experience temporal happiness. My encouragement along with the gifts your teens receive this year, that as parents we give them a gift of truth. Lets set some time aside to talk and share with our teens. Take advantage of teachable moments. They will be adults a lot sooner then we expect. Passing on moral truths can be a gift that last a lifetime.

One Who is Blessed with the Gift of Christmas,

TJ

Coming up:

*Youth Christmas Party at Shahan's House, 6 pm on December 5

*Bob Smiley, Morning Service on December 6.

* Deadline for Mania Marathon, December 9, \$33

*Mania Marathon December 31.

Children's Department

“Unto us, a child is given”

What a precious gift! There has not been, nor will there ever be a greater gift. God sent His Son into this world. His Son would walk among us. He would heal the sick, both physically and spiritually. He would teach us about love, grace, and mercy. He would ultimately give us His Life, that we might have eternal life.

Houses started setting up there Christmas decorations and stores putting out Christmas merchandise back in October. Most places not using “Christmas” because it offends many. The gift of Christ lost in the mix of the secular society. Our children exposed to all of this. We have a task in hand. We must teach our children about the specialness of Christ's birth and death. We must pass on the truth to the next generation. We must stop in the hustle of the Christmas Holiday and share our Lord's incredible love.

Merry CHRISTmas,

TJ

A Few Items

Big thanks to everyone that contributed to Operation Christmas Child. We had a total of 33 boxes that were delivered to the Samaritan Purse drop-off center. It is such a unique experience to minister to children who will be blessed by your generosity.

Children and Youth will be providing the music for the Sunday Morning service on 20th. They are practicing on Sunday evenings at 6 pm. We need more help. All children and youth are invited to participate.

Sunday the 20th, the children will have a “Happy Birthday, Jesus birthday party. All children are encouraged to be there.

December 2009

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3	4	5
Every Sunday		10:00 A.M. Staff Mtg 3:00-9:30 Olan Mills Photos	10:00 A.M. MOPS 3-9:30 Olan Mills Photos 6:30 P.M. Prayer Service/ Youth & Children's Activities	10am & 7:00 P.M. Gift of Grief 2:00-8:30 Olan Mills Photos	Ladies Trip to Marble Falls	Manferd Christmas Party 6 P.M. Youth Christmas Party
9:30 A.M. Sunday School 10:50 A.M. Morning Worship 6:00 P.M. Evening Worship			7:30 P.M. Deacon Meeting			
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Bob Smiley- A.M. svc Birthdays and Anniversaries Lords Supper 12:00 noon Youth Lunch 4:00 P.M. Choir Practice		9:30 A.M. W.M.U 10:00 A.M. Staff Mtg 10:00 A.M. Missions	6:30 P.M. Prayer Service/ Youth & Children's Activities			Christmas Parade 1 P.M. Deacon Party
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
Fellowship Meal 4:00 P.M. Choir Practice Advisory Meeting		10:00 A.M. Staff Mtg 12:00 Senior Adult Luncheon & Dominos	10:00 A.M. MOPS 6:30 P.M. Prayer Service/ Youth & Children's Activities	10am & 7:00 P.M. Gift of Grief	7:00 P.M. Christmas Musical	7:00 P.M. Christmas Musical
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
Kid's Musical Mission Group- Lost Pines 7:00 P.M. Christmas Musical		10:00 A.M. Staff Mtg. 10:00 A.M. Missions	No Services	Christmas Eve Service	Holiday- Office Closed	
27	28	29	30	31		
Business Meeting		10:00 A.M. Staff Mtg. 10:00 A.M. Newsletter Folding	6:30 P.M. Prayer Service/ Youth & Children's Activities	Youth- Mania	Holiday- Office Closed	

Women's Missionary Union

IMPORTANCE OF PRAYING FOR MISSIONS

Week of Prayer for International Missions

November 29 – December 6, 2009

As we enter into December and our collection of the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for International Missions, I ask that you pray our church will meet it's goal for this offering. But more importantly, I ask that you remember the many missionaries serving far from their own homes and families. Sending encouraging notes to missionaries is fine, but labored specific prayers are much better! There are so many ways you can pray targeted, strategic prayers for all missionaries, but it takes a little effort on your part. Here's how we are asked to pray for missionaries.

Health—Sickness and illness are very real dangers to overseas living. Sometimes a hospital may be hours or days away. Pray for the missionary family to be protected from illness.

Language and Culture—You can't share the gospel if you don't speak the language. You cannot understand how to share the gospel if you do not know the host culture. The language can be learned, but the nuances of communication are greatly influenced by worldview.

Relationships—Overseas living can be very lonely. It can be unbearable if you don't have anyone to share life with. Marriage relationships can be strained. The missionary needs friends and he needs his family relationships to be healthy as well.

Children—Many missionaries are raising their children overseas. Schooling opportunities can vary wildly from the best international schools to home-schooling. Overseas schools can be a dangerous place for American children. Parents are often overwhelmed with issues regarding children and education.

Boldness—It is very easy to be overwhelmed with culture differences, language barriers, and the stress of daily life overseas. Many missionaries struggle with balancing ministry with family and job responsibilities. Opportunities can be easily missed due to lack of confidence in the language or other distractions.

During the Week of Prayer and our months of collection for the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for International Missions, I ask that you remember that those whom we have sent are just regular people with regular problems. They are not "super spiritual" because they have been appointed as missionaries. Pray for them as you do our pastor. Pray for them as you do your children. Pray the peoples of the world that their eyes may be opened to the truth of the gospel. Pray that the Lord of the harvest would send workers into His harvest. In this way, God will truly "bless the missionaries."

Thank you,

Kathy Watson, WMU

2010 Church Photo Directory

Photo sessions will be:

Tuesday 12/1 3:00-9:30 P.M.

Wednesday 12/2 3:00-9:30 P.M.

Thursday 12/3 2:00- 8:30 P.M.

Volunteers are needed for the following areas:

- Design/ Planning
- Hostess for each night of photography
- Telephone calls to schedule and remind members

Please see Christi Leisure if you are willing to volunteer in one of these areas.

THE GIFT OF GRIEF ACCEPTANCE

& RECOVERY SUPPORT GROUP

Meets each 1st & 3rd Thursday, 10:00 a.m. or 7:00 p.m.

Jesus said, "Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted."

Matthew 5:4

THREE QUESTIONS: I often ask the following three questions during support group sessions:

- 1. What's lost?** Identifying their losses enables me to determine the most appropriate method to assist the grieving since people grieve differently for different loved ones. Adult children expect their elderly parents to die eventually, whereas parents who lose children often protest that such a loss is not natural. Sudden, especially tragic, deaths are more difficult to accept because of the lack of preparation. Some deaths are so wrenching that the resulting grief may become complicated and prolonged.
- 2. What's left?** This requires considering all one's blessings: the remaining loved ones, friends, good health, the knowledge that the lost one no longer suffers, the assurance that we'll meet again in heaven. Persons suffering the depths of sorrow may find some comfort in remembering how much good is still left in their lives.
- 3. What's next?** When the bereaved one reaches a state of acceptance (i.e., "my life has changed forever; now what can I do to make the rest of my life meaningful?"), he is ready for reorganizing and reinvesting his life. This period may become the most fulfilling and rewarding time of life; for those who grieve healthfully are stronger and wiser and more appreciative of life's blessings.

Blessings in His Name,

Loretta A. Hennard, BS, CT

Bereavement Facilitator

Ladies' Ministry Council

This is such a busy month! The trip to Marble Falls to see the lights will be fun on December 4th. I hope everyone who wanted to go was able to sign up. This will be our first outing on the bus and we are thankful to Frank Jones for driving. It will be fun to have a family fellowship time as we drive and enjoy the decorations.

There are many upcoming events. Please note those of interest to you below and watch for additional information on each event soon.

There will be a ladies' conference at Highland Lakes February 26 – 27, 2009. The cost is \$69 for the conference which includes lodging and meals. There will be a signup sheet for this conference in January. See Kathy Watson for details.

Extraordinary Women Conference in Austin, March 12 and 13, 2010 at Shoreline Christian Church. We need to sign up for the Super Early Bird rate of \$49.00 by January 15th. The cost increases to \$89 at the door, so we want to take advantage of the savings. We want to encourage everyone to sign up and will have the signup sheets available for the month of December in the church Foyer. This is a very inexpensive conference with wonderful speakers and musicians and we won't have any lodging expenses. For more information please visit the website, www.ewomen.net.

January 4th we will begin our ladies' evening Bible Study again. We are going to try something old and something new. We will move the study back to Monday night (something old) and we will study Max Lucado's book, Facing Your Giants. I can order the books online so contact me soon if you are interested in me obtaining a book for you. But it is not necessary to purchase the book to participate in the Bible Study. (I anticipate the books will be between \$7 and \$9 and the study guide will be about \$6)

We will have a Ladies' Night Out on January 28th, location to be announced later.

We are also beginning to plan our Valentine's Banquet, February 13, 2010. Please mark your calendars so you can participate in the "Reflecting His Love" banquet. We have secured wonderful entertainment and anticipate a great evening of fun! We anticipate that tickets will be \$15 each. We are asking that those who wish to participate sign up during the month of January and we will contact those signed up to collect the money and give you the tickets you have requested. Watch for the signup sheet after Christmas.

The Ladies' Ministry Council wishes you and your family and very special Christmas filled with love and laughter and, most importantly, a growing relationship with the Savior whose birth we celebrate.