



the **Crossroads**

April 29, 2010
Vol. 17, No. 9



Baptist Church of the Covenant

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**Baptist Church of the
Covenant**

*Where Faith Comes
To Life*

A Journey of Belonging

The journey I have undertaken in preparation for our 40 Days of Belonging has profoundly stirred my thinking, feeling, researching, and questioning about this topic. Initially, I was eager to answer the following: Is it wrong to feel the need to belong? Is this a natural desire for each of us? Immediately I began to understand that this desire is a basic human need; an expression of our humanity. It is God-given, and a part of our need to be loved. First and foremost, we belong to God. In this 40 day journey as a church community, we will explore the need to satisfy our belonging to God and will address the question: What does it mean to belong to God?

In 1943, renowned psychologist, Abraham Maslow, developed a theory on the hierarchy of human needs; the third layer constituted love and belonging. Maslow claimed that “humans need to feel a sense of belonging and acceptance and to love and be loved by others. In the absence of these elements, many become susceptible to loneliness, social anxiety, and clinical depression.” The Shriver National Center of Community of Caring connects the values associated with belonging to those of friendship...caring, respect, responsibility and trust. “Friends respect and honor each

other, and trust and believe in one another. Friends are loyal to each other and happy to be around one another.”

In the midst of this journey, I realized that we must first understand our own desire to belong and address our own internal barriers to belonging. Can we really belong if we are afraid to be known? Once we face our strengths, needs, and fears, we can more effectively extend ourselves to others both within and outside of BCOC to foster a community of connection and caring. It is a known fact that we cannot give away what we do not have or understand. For example, we are more likely to love well if we were loved well in our formative years. When our spiritual, emotional, and thought processes are integrated, we are more likely to act in ways that are congruent, consistent, and genuinely caring.

Throughout this journey, I have come to understand belonging as a deeply personal and dynamic process, and one in which we must fully participate if we desire it. Please join us as we begin the journey of addressing the complexities of belonging, amidst our own and each other’s strengths, gifts, and brokenness.

Gayle Watts

“We took sweet counsel together, and walked into the house of God in company.”
Psalm 55:14

“Now therefore you are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellow-citizens with the saints, and the household of God.”

Ephesians 2:19



CHILDREN & YOUTH

Children's Activities



Camp BCOC, May 28 - May 30

YMCA Hargis Retreat

Children who have completed Kindergarten thru 6th grade are invited to Camp BCOC for a weekend of building friendships around the campfire and growing their relationship with Christ through a fresh encounter with God's love. Cost is \$65.00 for the first child in a family and \$50 for siblings. Scholarships available.

Friday Night Camp-out at the Hendersons' on June 11! Preschoolers and children's families are invited to camp-out. Arrive anytime after 2 p.m.

**PASSPORTkids! Crossville, TN,
July 11 - 14, 3rd - 6th grades**

BCOC Youth Events

Sunday, May 16 is Graduation Sunday. The graduates will be recognized in the service. Coffee Fellowship will be a reception honoring our graduates.

Tuesday, June 15 ROAD TRIP! Youth will go to the Atlanta Braves Game, (to include Stone Mountain or another Atlanta attraction). Time of departure is TBD. We will return to B'ham way past our bedtime that same night. Cost is about \$30 plus meals.

Sunday evening, September 19 - Talent Show
Save the Date!

PASSPORT

**Mercer University, Macon, GA, June 27-July 2
7th - 12th Grades, \$75 deposit will reserve your place**

Senior Saunterings

On Sunday, May 30, the Senior Adults will have a pot-luck luncheon following Sunday School in the Fellowship Hall.

Reservations due May 13 for Senior Adult trip to Helen Keller's Home, *The Miracle Worker* play and Hallelujah Trail, June 18-19. The trip will include a visit to the Helen Keller Home, the play *The Miracle Worker*, and the Hallelujah Trail-three historic churches in Tuscumbia or nearby. The bus will leave the church at 8 a.m. on Friday and return by 4:00 p.m. on Saturday. The cost for the play and home tour is \$14 due to Jack Brymer prior to the trip. The cost of the hotel, (approximately \$50), 2 lunches, 1 dinner and gratuity for the bus driver will be the individuals responsibility. A sign-up sheet is in the Fellowship Hall. Contact Mary Hines (956-0839) or Jack Brymer (901-2989) if you have questions

40 Days of Belonging – May 9 through June 20

“To be chosen as the Beloved of God is something radically different. Instead of excluding others, it includes others. Instead of rejecting others as less valuable, it accepts others in their own uniqueness. It is not a competitive, but a compassionate choice” (Henri Nouwen's *Life of the Beloved*). The following are opportunities to explore how we as a faith community, create a sense of belonging for ourselves and for others:

Wednesday, May 19 & 26, Conversations on Belonging Bridget Rose and Gayle Watts will facilitate table conversations on what it means to belong - how we find our own place as well as reach out to others - using Henri Nouwen's *Life of the Beloved*. Youth will join adults.

Sunday, May 23, Pentecost

Join us for worship as we remember and celebrate the gift of the Holy Spirit – the Helper promised to the disciples by Christ before His ascension; the Spirit which unifies and empowers us to be community.

Sunday, June 6, Communion

Not only will communion be served in worship, but deacons will also serve homebound members and other members unable to participate

Saturday, June 12, Salt Shakers

We will conclude our forty days of belonging with Salt Shakers. This event will take place simultaneously in members' homes on the evening of Saturday, June 12. Host homes are needed! If you would like to host 6-10 members in your home and prepare the meal for the meal, please sign the sheet in the fellowship hall by Sunday, May 30. If you would like to participate, (includes preparing a dish and traveling to the host home), please sign the form by May 30. Matches will be made after May 30, and each member will be notified.

Additionally, on Wednesdays and Sundays throughout the 40 Days, special pre-addressed BCOC note cards will be available for you to write to members who are not able to worship regularly with us or to others you may wish to offer a word of support or encouragement.

PRAYERS & CELEBRATIONS



At Home

Bob Litton
Gene Brill

St. Vincent's

Don Yates

Mexico

Grace Marquez

Highlands Rehab

Lindy Keeney
Jerry Martin

Tanzania

Don & Esther Gardner

Hong Kong

Jerry and Ruth Moye

Indonesia

Ken Hinton



May

17-David Shelton

18-Paul Hall
Elaine Childs

20-Jack Brymer
Judy Anderson
Connie Bowers

21-Margo Fallin

21-Sally McElroy

25-Daniel Mitchell

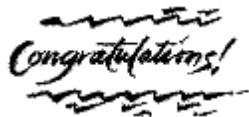
26-Angela Ferguson

29-Tim Mann

Kit Heifner

Grant Gilmour

To Carly Glidewell,
recipient of the Bradley Award,
6th Grade Annual Reading Award
at Cherokee Bend School



FINANCIAL REPORTS

Week of May 2

Budget	\$16,596.08
Building Fund	\$3,559.15
Rogers Fund	\$1,167.06
Organ Fund	\$1,590.00
Playgrnd/Columbarium	\$511.80
Nursery Workers	\$20.00

Week of May 9

Budget	\$9,175.88
Building Fund	\$727.50
Gardner Fund	\$50.00
Gardner - Jedida	\$115.00
Organ Fund	\$650.00
Playgrnd/Columbarium	\$591.00

Year to Date Figures through April 2010

YTD Receipts - \$186,584.17

YTD Expenditures - \$200,438.92

YTD Budget Requirements - \$201,926.32

New Candidate for Membership

Patsy Burke

3416 Crossings Way

Birmingham 35242

205-995-4486

Mary Jane Walker

2405 Magnolia Cove Road

Birmingham 35243

205-995-9992

For Your Information



NEXT GAMES

May 20: 7:00 p.m.

May 27: 6:00 p.m.

Games will be played at Homewood Park.

The 2nd Annual BCOC Golf Tournament made \$1,435 which will go to the Cat Haven Mortgage!!

Thanks to Pam Baggett and Carol Johnson for all their hard work!

Sunday Worship May 16, 9:00 a.m.

Recognition of Graduates

Texts: Psalm 97; Revelation 22:12-14, 16-17, 20-21;
Acts 16:16-34

When the Preacher's in Prison

Sarah Shelton, preaching

Christ Care Missions, May 16

Noon, Jean Thomason's home

1410 Lantana Drive, 822-6743

The Education Committee is preparing for the "Hooked on a Book" with SouthTown in August. Please look for information about the Book Fair and School Supply Collection in June.

The PeaceMongers' Sunday School Class has begun a study of capital punishment using Dr. Robert L. Baldwin's book *Life and Death: Seeking the Truth about Capital Punishment* as the text. Dr. Baldwin is a Birmingham physician. He, along with several other speakers, including members of BCOC, will speak to the issue as the study progresses over the next few weeks. A schedule will be posted on the church's website.

Many of you have asked how you can help Ann and Don Yates. A site has been set up to coordinate meals. The site is www.takethemameal.com and the password is "dony". If you have any questions, please contact Judy at williamfbridgers@bellsouth.net or 879-0365.

Deacon of the Week: Leigha McLendon 514-1970

Sunday, May 16

Helpers Pickup - Faye & Jerry Allen, Becky Belcher
 9:00 a.m.- Morning Worship - Recognition of Graduates
 Lobby Monitor - Andy McNiel
 Ushers, Greeters & Offering: Rosalia Davis, Carol Johnson, Kelly Mitchell, Peggy Sanderford Ponder, Connie Bowers, Jenny Smith
 Worship Care: Susan Richardson, Katie Ponder, Mamie Van Dyke, Daniel Evans
 10:00 a.m.- Coffee Fellowship - Joyce Mitchell, Ann Dunlap, Van Dykes
 10:30 a.m. - Sunday School
 Helpers - Patrick Chappell
 Sack Lunches - Youngsters
 Building Lockup - David Goodwin
 11:00 a.m. - Bethlehem Baptist Church Worship, Sanctuary
 11:30 a.m. - Finance Sub-Committee
 12:00 noon - Christ Care Missions, Jean Thomason's home
 12:00 noon - Labor Day Retreat Planning Meeting
 12:30 p.m. - COM
 1:30 p.m. - Encuentro con Jesus Worship, Sanctuary
 3:30 p.m. - Encuentro con Jesus, Fellowship Hall

Monday, May 17

12:00 noon - Overeaters Anonymous
 7:00 p.m. - Internationals

Tuesday, May 18

1:00 p.m. - Staff Meeting
 6:30 p.m. - Exchange Club Parenting Class

Wednesday, May 19

12:00 noon - Overeaters Anonymous
 5:00 p.m. - Covenant Ringers
 5:15 p.m. - Wednesday Fellowship Supper
 Menu: BBQ Pulled Pork, Coleslaw, Baked Beans, Potato Salad, Cookies & Brownies
 Clean Up: Betty Bock, Dennis Wilson, Jo Grantland
 5:45 p.m. - School Age Children, Mission & Music
 6:00 p.m. - Preschoolers 3 years old - K, Mission Friends
 Youth Music
 Bethlehem Baptist Bible Study
 6:15 p.m. - Prayer Time & Roundtable discussion on Belonging - Youth will join the adults.
 6:30 p.m. - Preschool Music Time Lockup: Todd Heifner
 7:15 p.m. - Adult Choir Rehearsal Lockup: Chuck Rogers

Saturday, May 22

9:30 a.m. - Saturday Morning Grocery Ministry
 Sharon & Patrick Chappell
 6:00 p.m. - Encuentro con Dios Hispanic Church Prayer Meeting

Deacon of the Week: Jean Thomason 822-6743

Sunday, May 23

Helpers Pickup - Faye & Jere Allen, Drew Lasater
 9:00 a.m.- Morning Worship - Dedication of Jack Gunn
 Children's Choir to sing, Covenant Ringers to ring
 Lobby Monitor - David Hoefelman, Dave Wilson
 Ushers, Greeters & Offering: Marcella Dale, Susan Richardson, Shirley Brymer, Marie McKinley, William Lovechia, Mary Oswald
 Worship Care: Connie McCrory, Jasmine Martin, Faye Allen, Drew Lasater
 10:00 a.m.- Coffee Fellowship - Jean Thomason, Shirley Brymer
 10:30 a.m. - Sunday School
 Helpers - Patrick Chappell
 Sack Lunches - Dialogue, God's Lighthouse
 Building Lockup - David Goodwin
 11:00 a.m. - Bethlehem Baptist Church Worship, Sanctuary
 1:30 p.m. - Encuentro con Jesus Worship, Sanctuary
 3:30 p.m. - Encuentro con Jesus, Fellowship Hall

Monday, May 24

12:00 noon - Overeaters Anonymous

Tuesday, May 25

1:00 p.m. - Staff Meeting
 6:30 p.m. - Exchange Club Parenting Class

Wednesday, May 26

12:00 noon - Overeaters Anonymous
 5:00 p.m. - Covenant Ringers
 5:15 p.m. - Wednesday Fellowship Supper
 Menu: Sliced Turkey Breast, Gravy, Mashed Potatoes, Baby Carrots, Tossed Salad, Rolls, Cookies and Brownies
 Clean Up: Carol Dean, Betsy Weidenbach, Eleanor & Rick Traylor
 5:45 p.m. - School Age Children, Mission & Music
 6:00 p.m. - Preschoolers 3 years old - K, Mission Friends
 Bethlehem Baptist Bible Study
 6:15 p.m. - Prayer Time & Roundtable discussion on Belonging - Youth will join the adults.
 6:30 p.m. - Preschool Music Time Lockup: Todd Heifner
 7:30 p.m. - Adult Choir Rehearsal Lockup: Patrick Chappell

Friday, May 28

3:00 p.m. - Children to Camp BCOC at Hargis Retreat Center

Saturday, May 29

Children at Camp BCOC
 9:30 a.m. - Saturday Morning Grocery Ministry
 Ellen Dossett, Connie Bowers, Bonnie Jenkins
 6:00 p.m. - Encuentro con Dios Hispanic Church Prayer Meeting



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