



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*

The House of Belonging

David Whyte has written a beautiful poem entitled "The House of Belonging." He lists the things that have helped him reach a state of contentedness with himself... of feeling comfortable in his own skin. So he recognizes that such practices as prayer and reflection, the morning's light, a candle's brave flame against the darkness, the quiet, and the easy rhythm of breathing while sleeping all contribute to his inward peace. While Whyte talks about belonging to "adult aloneness" as a part of his personal claim on his identity, I would venture to say that many of us have "found" ourselves because of the privilege of belonging in a community. I am thinking, of course, of the church - the community found with people of faith.

Personally, I cannot extricate my life from the life of the church community. My soul is imprinted with thousands of fingerprints that began in the Cradle Roll of Ensley Baptist Church and continues on to this day at Baptist Church of the Covenant. The community of Saints has held me hostage through prayer, braved calling out my gifts, and although not perfect, nurtured me along with enough Bible stories and memorized scripture so that I could brave the dark while remembering Jonah in that fish's stomach all the while muttering to myself, "What time I am afraid, I will trust in Thee."

My ethic of living in community was formed by the verses memorized as a preschooler that included being kind, tenderhearted and forgiving, and to love another. As an adult, I have taken to heart Jesus' challenge that the world will know we belong to Him by the ways we love one another. It always compels me to seek out Paul's familiar words to another congregation whose desire was to create a place of belonging for all when he said:

Love is patient and kind; love is not jealous or boastful; it is not arrogant or rude. Love does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice in

wrong, but rejoices in the right. Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never ends. (I Corinthians 13:4-8a)

So as we consider our part in creating this community of belonging, I am wondering:

* Who told you the stories of faith? To whom are you repeating them? * Who encouraged you during a difficult time? Who are you encouraging? * Who prayed for you? For whom are you praying? * Who created a safe space for your questions? Who have you moved over for to share sacred space? * Who gave you permission to doubt? Who needs your permission? * Whose presence lent you courage? Who stands in need of borrowing some courage? * Whose faith in your abilities led you to believe in God's movement in your life? Who needs encouragement to believe that God can use them? * Whose simple welcome warmed you? Who might you welcome? * Who took notice when you were missing? Who is missing now of which you need to take notice?

Whyte concludes with:

This is the bright home
in which I live,
this is where
I ask
my friends
to come,
this is where I want
to love all the things
it has taken me so long
to learn to love.
... There is no house
like the house of belonging.

With gratitude for our house of belonging, I am

Sincerely yours,



CHILDREN & YOUTH

Children's Activities

Camp BCOC, May 28 - May 30

YMCA Hargis Retreat

Please pray for 46 children, youth and adults who will "Meet God on the Mountain" at Camp BCOC.

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

\$60 deposit due by June 1

BCOC Youth Events

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 Birmingham way past our bedtime that same night. Cost is about \$30 plus meals.

PASSPORT

**Mercer University, Macon, GA, June 27-July 2
7th - 12th Grades, \$225 per participant.**

Micah Martin (807-5292) and **Parker Smith** (427-2177) are working hard to raise funds for their **PASSPORT-Kenya** experience later this summer. Please consider them when help is needed around your property, home, office, etc.

The Education Committee is preparing "Hooked on a Book" (a literacy fair) with SouthTown on July 17. The Scholastic Book Fair will be Sunday, June 20 through Sunday, June 27. They are also collecting bus school supplies: crayons, pencils, paper, folders, glue, scissors, and pencil pouches. Please drop them off in the collection box in the Fellowship Hall.

Senior Saunterings

On Sunday, May 30, the Senior Adults will have a potluck luncheon following Sunday School in the Fellowship Hall. All are welcome but you must bring a dish to share!

On Thursday, June 3, the seniors will saunter to the Botanical Gardens. Following a guided tour, we will have lunch in the Garden Cafe. A signup sheet is available in the Fellowship Hall.

On June 18-19, the Senior Adults are taking an overnight trip to the Helen Keller Home, to see the play The Miracle Worker, and to visit the Hallelujah Trail. 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:

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. Contact Jean Thomason, 822-6743 or jeanwayne@charter.net, if you know of a member to be included.

Saturday, June 12, Salt Shakers

"We are chosen, blessed, and broken so as to be given." Henri Nouwen claims that a meal together is the most beautiful expression of our desire to be given to each other in our community. Please join in this memorable evening (Saturday June 12th) that will culminate our forty days of belonging. This coming Sunday is the deadline to sign up for Salt Shakers. All host homes and participants will be notified by email or letter of your Salt Shakers group no later than June 6. If you have not received your information by that date, please contact Gayle Watts at 807-8387.

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.

Who has a Favorite Christmas Story?

December 26 will fall on a Sunday. We would like to do a service of carols, scriptures and testimonials/stories. Do you have a particular Christmas that was meaningful to you? When did the real meaning of Christmas consume your heart? Contact the pastor if you are willing to share it during the service on December 26.

BCOC members are invited to join Encuentro con Dios Hispanic Church on Saturday June 5 for a revival night at 7:00 in the Sanctuary followed by refreshments in the Fellowship Hall.

SAVE THE DATE for the Host Celebration Reception and Silent Auction to benefit BHN on Thursday, July 29. Doors open at 6 p.m., live auction at 7:15 p.m. Linda Martin and Ann Wade will be selling tickets, \$25 each.

PRAYERS & CELEBRATIONS



Highlands Rehab

Lindy Keeney
Jerry Martin



June

At Home

Bob Litton
Gene Brill
Don Yates

Tanzania

Don & Esther Gardner

Hong Kong

Jerry and Ruth Moye

Indonesia

Ken Hinton

1-Marnie Fisher-Ingram
Kristen Berthiaume
2-Ashli Fortune
3-Michael Brogan
Ashley Gilbert
5-Michael Childs

7-Betty Norris
Dan Shelton
Sarah Gardner
8-Trinity Martin
9-Mary Oswald
10-John Burge

FINANCIAL REPORTS

Week of May 16

| | |
|------------------------|------------|
| General Fund | \$8,021.08 |
| Building Fund | \$538.00 |
| Rogers Fund | \$330.00 |
| Youth Scholarship | \$225.00 |
| Passport Kids | \$100.00 |
| Passport Youth | \$150.00 |
| Organ Fund | \$235.00 |
| Latin Am. Mission Fund | \$150.00 |

Week of May 23

| | |
|---------------------|-------------|
| Budget | \$11,384.56 |
| Building Fund | \$832.50 |
| Rogers Fund | \$295.00 |
| Organ Fund | \$50.00 |
| Youth | \$137.61 |
| Playgnd/Columbarium | \$25.00 |
| Bread for the World | \$202.50 |

Year to Date Figures through April 2010

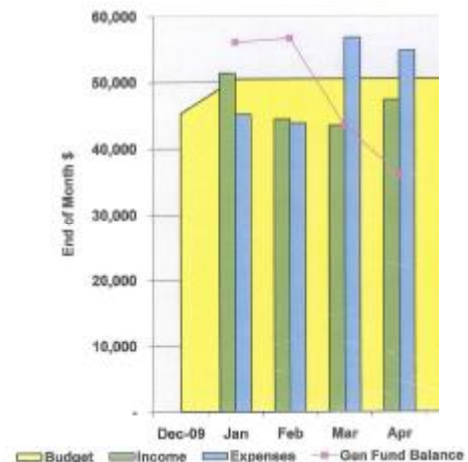
YTD Receipts - \$186,584.17
YTD Expenditures - \$200,438.92
YTD Budget Requirements - \$201,926.32

General Fund Gifts needed each week to meet the 2010 Budget: \$11,650

A Summertime Reminder

Summertime provides most of us with a different pace and attitude. We gather a little more with friends and family around the pool or at the lake or at the beach. We pull out the grill and throw on the hamburgers while the watermelon is chilling in the "ice box!" All of these are good and wonderful things. In fact, it is our hope that you will adjust your schedule to create many opportunities for rest and relaxation. However, may we add one request? While you are away on vacation, do not forget that the church continues to function, thus creating a need for operating expenses. Please remember to send your tithes and offerings even if you are away. You are so very generous. Thank you for your constant support shown in your physical presence and in your monetary gifts.

2010 General Fund Summary



For Your Information

The Church Office is closed, Monday, May 31, for Memorial Day. Sarah Shelton is the minister on all. In case of a pastoral emergency, please call 82-6280.

Next Wednesday, June 2, the Organ Study Committee, facilitated by Joe Dean, will lead a "panel discussion."



Many of you have been asking about how to purchase Ellen Dossett's new book: Love at First Light: The Story of a Shelter for Homeless Women and Children. We will make an opportunity for you to purchase books, signed by the author, on Sunday June 6th, during coffee fellowship time following morning worship. If you buy your book at BCOC, a portion of the proceeds will go to our own Birmingham Hospitality Network budget. The book can also be purchased through First Light's website, Firstlightshelter.org.

Cine en Casa

Join us for Friday Flicks Cuban-style! Throughout the month of June we will offer screenings of movies to immerse us in Cuban culture and prepare us for Corita Blanco's visit in August. The first showing will be the documentary "90 Miles" at Bart and Lynda Grooms' on June 4 at 7:30 p.m. Other "home theaters" will include Rod Davis (June 11), Kit and Todd Heifner (June 18), and Judy Bridgers (June 25). Bring a snack or a beverage to share; the films and fellowship are free, but donations will be accepted to help cover expenses related to Corita's visit and to support our ongoing ministries in



NEXT GAMES

June 3: 7:00 p.m.
June 10: 6:00 p.m.

Games will be played at Homewood Park.

Deacon of the Week: Marnie Fisher-Ingram 565-3363

Sunday, May 30

Helpers Pickup - Tex Hawley, Ellen Dossett
 9:00 a.m.- Morning Worship, New Member Presentation
 Lobby Monitor - Mary Helen Dixon, David Henderson
 Ushers, Greeters & Offering - Youth
 Worship Care: Julie Burge, Linda Martin, Allison Hawley,
 Denise Gardner
 10:00 a.m.- Coffee Fellowship - Brian Berthiaume, Mary Oswald,
 Carol Watson
 10:30 a.m. - Sunday School
 Helpers - Patrick Chappell
 Sack Lunches - Storytellers
 Building Lockup - David Goodwin
 11:00 a.m. - Bethlehem Baptist Church Worship, Sanctuary
 11:30 a.m. - Senior Adults Pot-luck Luncheon in the Fellowship Hall
 12:00 noon - Camp BCOC returns to the church
 1:30 p.m. - Encuentro con Jesus Worship, Sanctuary
 3:30 p.m. - Encuentro con Jesus, Fellowship Hall

Monday, May 31

Labor Day - Church Office Closed
 Sarah Shelton on call, 482-6280

Tuesday, June 1

BCOC Stone Building a Polling Place
 1:00 p.m. - Staff Meeting
 6:30 p.m. - Exchange Club Parenting Class

Wednesday, June 2

12:00 noon - Overeaters Anonymous
 5:00 p.m. - Covenant Ringers
 5:15 p.m. - Wednesday Fellowship Supper
 Menu: Pasta Bar, Italian Green Beans, Tossed Salad, Italian Bread,
 Lemon Ice Box Pie
 Clean Up: Larry FitzGerald, Mamie & Rodney Van Dyke
 6:00 p.m. - Preschoolers 3 years old - K, Mission Friends
 School Age Children - Cuba Connection
 Bethlehem Baptist Bible Study
 6:15 p.m. - Prayer Time & Organ Study Committee Panel Discussion
 6:30 p.m. - Preschool Music Time
 Lockup: Joe Dean
 7:15 p.m. - Adult Choir Rehearsal Lockup: Morgan Ponder

Thursday, June 3

10:00 a.m. - Senior Adults to Botanical Gardens & lunch

Saturday, June 5

9:30 a.m. - Saturday Morning Grocery Ministry
 David Groom, Brian Berthiaume
 7:00 p.m. - Encuentro con Dios Hispanic Church Revival Night
 Sanctuary & Fellowship Hall

Deacon of the Week: Carol Johnson 668-6589

Sunday, June 6

Helpers Pickup - Tex Hawley, Mary Helen & Joe Dixon
 9:00 a.m.- Morning Worship, Communion
 Lobby Monitor - David Litton, David Goodwin
 Ushers, Greeters & Offering - Deacons
 Worship Care: Kelly Mitchell, Kristen Berthiaume, Lindsey
 Young, Peggy Sanderford Ponder
 10:00 a.m.- Coffee Fellowship - Hoefelmans, Yarbroughs
 10:30 a.m. - Sunday School
 Helpers - Cindy Ponder
 Sack Lunches - Pathways
 Building Lockup - Jimmy Hawley
 11:00 a.m. - Bethlehem Baptist Church Worship, Sanctuary
 11:30 a.m. - Multi-Committee Potluck Lunch
 12:30 p.m. - Deacons' Meeting, Education Committee,
 Ministries Committee, Staff Committee
 3:30 p.m. - Encuentro con Jesus, Fellowship Hall

Monday, June 7

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

Tuesday, June 8

1:00 p.m. - Staff Meeting
 5:30 p.m. - Master Plan Committee Meeting in the Fellowship Hall
 6:30 p.m. - Exchange Club Parenting Class

Wednesday, June 9

12:00 noon - Overeaters Anonymous
 5:00 p.m. - Covenant Ringers
 5:15 p.m. - Wednesday Fellowship Supper
 Menu: Beef Tips with Rice, Steamed Broccoli with Cheese Sauce,
 Black Eyed Peas, Cole Slaw, Rolls, Cookies and Brownies
 Clean Up: Shirley & Jack Brymer, Betsy Weidenbach
 6:00 p.m. - Preschoolers 3 years old - K, Mission Friends
 School Age Children - Cuba Connection
 Bethlehem Baptist Bible Study
 6:15 p.m. - Prayer Time & *The Advent Conspiracy*
 6:30 p.m. - Preschool Music Time
 Lockup: Joe Dean
 7:30 p.m. - Adult Choir Rehearsal Lockup: Cobb/Liptak

Friday, June 11

2:00 p.m. - Children & Families Friday Night Campout at the
 Hendersons'

Saturday, June 12

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



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