



# the *Crossroads*

June 24, 2010  
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## *Baptist Church of the Covenant*

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## *Baptist Church of the Covenant*

*Where Faith Comes  
To Life*

### *Community: A Place of Belonging*

In his book of essays, *God Laughs and Plays*, David James Duncan tells about a time when he was twelve years old and got caught playing *Hang on Sloopy* on the church's grand piano in the sanctuary. The man who caught him was "veiny with rage."

"This is God's house!" the man roared in Duncan's face.

"That was Ramsey Lewis's music," Duncan peeped in reply.

"Get out!" the man bellowed, seizing the boy by the scruff of his collar.

"Ok," Duncan said, and he left... and hasn't been back since.

After I read this story, I began to wonder how we would have handled this situation differently at Baptist Church of the Covenant. I venture to guess that most of us would have sat down, tapped our toes, sung along or even imitated King David and danced before the altar! I believe it is these sort of open responses to a variety of situations that make Covenant its unique welcoming self. It seems we are all willing to move over and make room...always room for one more.

My mother had this philosophy about Sunday lunch. If there was a visiting missionary or Baptist dignitary or student far from home in the morning service, she would invite them to join our family for lunch. I remember asking at the table one week where my chicken serving was! The table got quiet. My mother, red faced, said she must have left it in the kitchen. When she got up, she took her plate and mine. When she returned, my plate had chicken and hers did not. Gracious, unselfish hospitality!

While funerals and all the arrangements that come with them are sad and heavy times, I find that I am always surprised by the grace of our community as it extends encouragement and strength to the bereaved. Three funerals in one week's time must be some sort of record, yet you have been tireless in your care, prayers, and presence at these critical times of comfort. Your responses have reminded me of Elaine Pagels in her book *Beyond Belief*. Not a churchgoer, when Pagels and her husband are told that their two year old child is terminally ill, she went to a church and observed the congregation:

Standing in the back of that church, I recognized, uncomfortably, that I needed to be there...Here was a place to weep without imposing tears upon your child; and here was a ... community that had gathered to sing, to celebrate, to acknowledge common needs, and to deal with what we cannot control or imagine...Here is a family that knows how to face death.

The rock-bottom reasons for the church's existence is to be a community that can embrace life and death, the reverent and the irreverent, the old and the young, the joys and the sorrow. As I have watched you extend care and concern, I have been moved and find that I am deeply grateful for the ways you minister to one another as a witness to the resurrection. Thank you for enacting the hope that is ours as an Easter people who celebrate Life and Life abundant.

With gratitude for serving alongside each of you, I am

Sincerely yours, *Sarah*

## Update from June 16 Business Meeting

The following recommendation was made by the Master Plan Committee. The proposal was voted on and unanimously approved.

That Baptist Church of the Covenant immediately secure a loan and construct the playground, install the columbarium, complete associated work and paving of the University Boulevard parking lot, and retire the existing line of credit. This new loan and the payments on the \$140,000 promissory note / mortgage the church owes for Lot 1A are to be serviced by proceeds from all rental income funds (from both Cat Haven leases and parking space rental), funds in the designated playground account, and any further payments on existing pledges. Kathy Hollis, church treasurer, will negotiate this loan on behalf of BCOC.

Existing pledge payments will continue to pay off the Cat Haven mortgage, expected to be completed by September 2010.

The final Master Plan will be presented on August 4<sup>th</sup> with a vote by the church on September 15, 2010.

Todd Heifner, chair of the Finance Sub-Committee of the Master Plan Committee, reported that raising the funds for the Capital Campaign had been studied by the committee. There will be a 3 tiered goal for the campaign. The committee findings are that BCOC should be able to raise from \$800,000 - \$1,000,000 during the campaign. Also, the church should be able to borrow as much as \$300,000. Monty Hogewood will be Capital Campaign Chair.

### New Sunday School Class to begin August 22

Religious experiences are as varied as people are varied all because, it seems, the brain responds differently in each of us to religious stimuli. What's interesting is that brain scans are quite different when Buddhist monks, Franciscan nuns and Pentecostal "tongue speakers" enter into their forms of meditation. We really want to learn what science can tell us about measurable responses to meditative acts and why we seem to be unable to keep from thinking about God. "Left Brain/Right Brain Christianity" will study all this, hoping to gain a clearer understanding but you don't have to be a brain specialist to learn. Dr. Andrew Newberg has written extensively on this and one of his books will help us. Paul Hall will lead the class.



Birmingham Hospitality Network will be at BCOC July 25 through August 1. The sign up sheet is on the bulletin board in the Fellowship Hall. Contact Ann Wade ([annfish123@bellsouth.net](mailto:annfish123@bellsouth.net) or 529-2917) or Linda Martin ([LMarin322@aol.com](mailto:LMarin322@aol.com) or 601-0747) with questions or to volunteer

## "Hooked on a Book"

July 17

Visit the Scholarship Book Fair in the Fellowship Hall during Coffee Fellowship this Sunday. Please purchase books to be given to SouthTown children at "Hooked on a Book" on July 17 and for your family. There are also Spanish books that may be purchased for Corita Blanco to take to the children in The Shalom Baptist Church.

The Education Committee is also collecting basic school supplies for K-5th graders to be given at "Hooked on a Book." We are collecting crayons, pencils, paper, folders, glue, scissors, pencil pouches, hand sanitizer and boxes of tissue. Please drop off school supplies in the Fellowship Hall AND sign up to help with "Hooked on a Book" at BCOC for SouthTown children on Saturday morning, 8:30-11:30 a.m., July 17.

## CHILDREN & YOUTH

### BCOC Youth Events

#### PASSPORT

PASSPORT for 7th-12th grades will be at Mercer University, Macon, GA, June 27-July 2. The cost is \$225 per participant. Youth going are: Jessica Briggins, Sarah Gardner, Melaina Grantham, Anna Beth Mann, Bailea McNiell, Stephanie Parnell, Cate Reynolds, Dan Shelton, Michael White, Bianca Zapata. The chaperones are: Laura Gilmour, Drew Lasater, Valerie Burton. Please send mail to: Camper Name & Church, PASSPORTmissions and Week 3, Mercer University, 1400 Coleman Avenue, Macon, GA 31207-0001. Write campers early so the mail will arrive on time.

**Micah Martin (807-5292) and Parker Smith (427-2177) are going to PASSPORT Kenya July 30 - August 10.**

They are working hard to raise funds for their mission trip. Please consider them when help is needed around your property, home, office, etc. **Jimmy Hawley and Daniel Ingram** will also be going as adult leadership. **We will receive mail for these four in the church office**

### Children's Activities

#### PASSPORTkids!

PASSPORTkids will be in Crossville, TN, July 11 - 14. Contact Valerie Burton, [vburton@bcoc.net](mailto:vburton@bcoc.net) or 328-0644, for more information. The 3rd - 6th graders who are currently registered are Katy Grace Bateman, Luke Foster, Matthew Gardner, Graham Heifner, Davis Mann, Sumner Martin, Alyssa McNiell, Eleanore Yarbrough, and Alex White with chaperones, Frank McCrory and Nancy Yarbrough.

## PRAYERS & CELEBRATIONS



**At Home**  
Gene Brill  
Lois Tisdale  
Marie McKinley

**Lakeshore**  
Wynell King

### Highlands Rehab

Lindy Keeney  
Jerry Martin

### Hong Kong

Jerry and Ruth Moye

### Indonesia

Ken Hinton



Don Yates, a charter member of BCOC, died June 22. We extend our sympathy to his wife, Ann, and all of the family.

Don's Memorial Service  
Friday, June 25, 2:00 p.m. in the sanctuary.  
The family will receive friends following the service.

Malissa Hamilton, a member of BCOC, died June 23. We extend our sympathy to her husband, Ray, and all of the family.

Malissa's Memorial Service  
Sunday, June 27, 4:00 p.m. in the sanctuary.  
The family will receive friends following the service.

Bob Litton, member of BCOC, died June 16. We extend our sympathy to his wife, Lovell and all of the family.



### June

27-Lois Tisdale  
28-Jonah Derrick  
29-David Groom  
Alex White

2-Jimmy Kelley  
Ricky Stricklin  
3-Eleanore Yarbrough  
6-Owen Grooms

### July

7-Rick Mitchell  
Deidre Gunn  
8-Joy Bonnie  
9-Jeremy Belcher

## FINANCIAL REPORTS

### Week of June 13

Budget	\$7,588.30
Building Fund	\$570.00
Rogers Fund	\$80.00
Cuba	\$140.00
BHN (Ellen Dossett's book)	\$275.00

### Week of June 20

Budget	\$6,625.08
Building Fund	\$607.50
Rogers Fund	\$145.00
Latin American Fund	\$120.00
Playground/Columbarium	\$55.00
Bread for the World	\$25.00
Gardner Mission Fund	\$30.00
Organ Fund	\$170.00
Cuba Partnership	\$130.00

### Year to Date Figures through May 2010

YTD Receipts - \$236,129.83  
YTD Expenditures - \$249,905.75  
YTD Budget Requirements - \$252,405

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

## UPCOMING EVENTS



**June 30** -The Advent Conspiracy.

**There are no Wednesday night activities during July.**

### Cine en Casa

#### Join us for Friday Flicks Cuban-style!

Movie "Buena Vista Social Club"  
At the home of Judy Bridgers, 2221 English Village Lane, 879-0365  
Movie to begin at 7:30 p.m.  
Please RSVP to Judy Bridgers, 879-0365 or Peggy San-derford Ponder, 591-8551 or Bridget Rose, 823-8431  
Bring a snack or beverage to share!

### Tournament Game

**Monday, June 28, 9:00 p.m.**

Games are played at West Homewood Park.  
*Go Big Mama's Allstars!!!!*



**The Church Office will be closed on Monday, July 5, for the 4th of July holiday. Valerie Burton will be on call. In case of a pastoral emergency call 482-6280.**

*Pastor Sarah will travel to Israel July 5 through July 22. Please be in prayer for her as she travels. Fisher Humphreys will preach July 11 and Valerie Burton will preach July 18.*



Join us for the Kate Campbell Concert on Thursday, July 15, benefitting our Cuba Missions and Corita Blanco trip to Birmingham. Come to Moonlight on the Mountain, 585 Shades Crest Road. The doors open at 6:30 p.m., and the show will begin at 7:00 p.m. Admission is \$15.

### Senior Saunterings

On July 16, the Senior Adults will saunter to the Barber Museum and Motorsport Track. Following the tour, they will have lunch at Irondale Café. Sign up in the Fellowship Hall. Contact Mary Hines (956-0839) or Jack Brymer (901-2989) if you have questions.

**Mark your calendar for the  
Labor Day Retreat  
September 2 - September 6.  
Sign up sheets will be in the Fellowship Hall soon!**

**Deacon of the Week: Carol Johnson 205-668-6589**

**Youth at PASSPORT Sunday-Friday**

**Sunday, June 27**

Helpers Pickup - Faye & Jerry Allen  
 9:00 a.m.- Morning Worship: PASSPORT Commissioning,  
 Ordination of Jill Holley  
 Lobby Monitor - David Hoefelman, David 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  
 Youth leave for Passport  
 10:30 a.m. - Sunday School  
 Helpers - Cindy Ponder  
 Sack Lunches - Youth  
 Building Lockup - Jimmy Hawley  
 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, June 28**

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

**Tuesday, June 29**

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

**Wednesday, June 30**

12:00 noon - Overeaters Anonymous  
 5:00 p.m. - Covenant Ringers (Quartet only)  
 5:15 p.m. - Wednesday Fellowship Supper  
 Menu: Fried Chicken, Green Beans, Yellow Corn, Potato  
 Casserole, Cookies and Brownies  
 Clean Up: Tex Hawley, George Crear  
 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: Allan Burton  
 7:15 p.m. - Adult Choir Rehearsal      Choir Lockup: John Hollis

**Thursday, July 1**

5:30 p.m. SouthTown Leadership Planning Meeting

**Friday, July 2**

3:00 p.m. - Youth return form PASSPORT

**Saturday, July 3**

9:30 a.m. - Saturday Morning Grocery Ministry  
 David Groom, Brian Berthiaume  
 7:00 p.m. - Encuentro con Dios Hispanic Church Prayer Meeting  
 Stone Building

**Deacon of the Week: David Litton 205-945-7460**

**Sunday, July 4**

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: Stephanie Parnell, Lauren Snyder, Lindsey Young  
 10:00 a.m.- Coffee Fellowship - Hoefelmans, Yarbroughs  
 10:30 a.m. - Sunday School  
 Helpers - Bill Smith  
 Sack Lunches - Travelers  
 Building Lockup - Patrick Chappell  
 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, July 5**

**Church Office Closed for 4th of July Holiday**

Valerie Burton is on call.  
 Call 482-6280 in case of a pastoral emergency

**Pastor Sarah leaves for Israel**

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

**Tuesday, July 6**

1:00 p.m. - Staff Meeting  
 5:30 p.m. - Master Plan Meeting  
 6:30 p.m. - Exchange Club Parenting Class

**Wednesday, July 7**

12:00 noon - Overeaters Anonymous

**No Wednesday Night Activities in July**

**Saturday, July 10**

9:30 a.m. - Saturday Morning Grocery Ministry  
 Betty Bock, Tim Liptak, Ann Dunlap  
 6:00 p.m. - Encuentro con Dios Hispanic Church Prayer Meeting  
 Stone Building



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