



July 8, 2010
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**Baptist Church
of the Covenant**

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**Baptist Church of the
Covenant**

*Where Faith Comes
To Life*

the Crossroads

A Pilgrimage to the Holy Lands

When you read this article, I will have arrived in the Holy Lands. This amazing opportunity was given to me and 17 other ministers from the Birmingham area by McAfee School of Theology in Atlanta through the Cousins Foundation. It seems that Mr. Cousins enlisted a McAfee professor to accompany him and his wife to the Holy Lands in order to have a personal guide. The experience was so profound that Cousins determined that this should be a pilgrimage that all ministers take before they reach the age of 55 and who have had, as a minimum, 5 years of pastoral experience. It was his philosophy that such a time of reflection and renewal would enrich any pastors' ministry, thus benefiting his/her church and that such renewal might keep pastors in their positions for longer tenures. McAfee has contacted me three years in a row. For one reason or another, I could not go. This year, however, I applied and was granted the opportunity.

We fly into Tel Aviv and are taken to a Catholic retreat center that is literally on the shores of the Sea of Galilee. After one week there, we will be taken to another Catholic retreat center that is on the old wall of the city of Jerusalem. This will serve as our base for the second week.

Our schedule will be about the same everyday. We will eat breakfast, have a devotional led by one of the professors accompanying us, and then we will have a morning experiencing the sacred space referenced in the devotional. After a late lunch, we will have afternoons for guided reflection, rest and recreation. (Imagine swimming the Sea of Galilee every after-

noon!) After supper, we gather for group reflection, worship and prayers. During the day, we will practice spiritual disciplines like silence, prayer, journaling, guided and unrestricted reflection. The purpose of our trip is to make a pilgrimage...not to debate the authenticity of sites or mid-eastern politics (in fact, these are strictly forbidden). This pilgrimage is to be a "retreat on the move," or "a visit to a holy site as an act of religious devotion in order to deepen faith and clarify a spiritual calling."

Our sites in Galilee will include Capernaum, Mount of Beatitudes, Nazareth, Bethlehem, Caesarea Philippi, Megiddo. Within the city of Jerusalem, we will walk the Temple mound, Garden of Gethsemane, Mount of Olives and the Stations of the Cross. We will also take a trip to the Dead Sea and Masada.

I am perfectly confident that while I am away Valerie Burton and Dan Lawhon can handle any challenges that arise. While I will be in prayer for them and for you as you minister together, I hope that you will voice a prayer on my behalf as well.

While I am disconnecting from the pace that is normally mine, pray that I will be open to the changing winds of God's Spirit as I journey to new spaces that are beyond "normal, everyday" experiences. As I enter sacred spaces, may an encounter with the Sacred continue to renew and grow the spiritual geography of my soul.

With appreciation for this opportunity to continue to learn, I am

Sincerely yours,

"Hooked on a Book"

July 17

Thank you for your support of the Book Fair. We had the best sale ever! We sold a total of \$1939.65 in books, making us eligible for a 55% credit for additional books! In other words, in addition to the books that were donated for SouthTown and the Cuba partnership, we were able to select additional books totaling \$1066, using our credit!

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.

VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED to help with "Hooked on a Book" at BCOC for SouthTown children on Saturday morning, 8:30-11:30 a.m., July 17. Please sign up in the Fellowship Hall.

CHILDREN & YOUTH

Children's Activities

PASSPORTkids!

Our children will leave after worship on Sunday for PASSPORTkids in Crossville, TN. They will return on Wednesday, July 14. The 3rd - 6th graders attending are Katy Grace Bateman, Luke Foster, Matthew Gardner, Graham Heifner, Davis Mann, Sumner Martin, Alyssa McNeil, Eleanore Yarbrough, and Alex White with chaperones, Frank McCrory and Nancy Yarbrough.

BCOC Youth

PASSPORTKenya July 30 - August 10
Micah Martin and Parker Smith are going to PASSPORTKenya along with Jimmy Hawley as their chaperone. Daniel Ingram will go as adult leadership with PASSPORT. Please bring mail for all four to the church office.

Bring mail for the
Missionaries!



Sign Up in the Fellowship Hall Labor Day Retreat September 3 - September 6

A special Beach Retreat celebrating our 40th Anniversary in November is being planned and you don't want to miss it! The theme is Fellowship or "Companerismo." Pasto Corita Blanco, from our sister church in Cuba, is the retreat leader. You can look forward to Cuba-inspired activities, games and more! Sign-up sheets are available in the Fellowship Hall. The cost is \$90 per person (3 years old and above) and \$20 per child (2 years old and under; babies eating food provided by parents/guardians are free). It includes room accommodations, all food beginning with Saturday's breakfast and ending with Sunday's breakfast, and activities/educational opportunities.

Other cost and room considerations:

- * \$25 Pre/Post Retreat Room Charge: If you would like to come early or stay later, rooms can be reserved at \$25 per day per person.
- * \$40 for folks staying at other locations but participating in retreat activities and dining.
- * Non-Members Welcome: BCOC welcomes family and friends of members or regular BCOC attendees. Rooms will be assigned to BCOC members/regular visitors first and then will be offered to family and friends of BCOC.
- * \$20 Late Registration Fee: We must pay the Retreat before we arrive so any participant turning in their money after August 28 will incur a \$20 late registration fee.
- * Family Discount: All families (Mother/Father/Guardian/Children) staying in one room will pay no more than \$360.
- * Retreat Scholarships: Retreat scholarships are available. For information on how to receive one, please contact Valerie Burton.

ALL PAYMENTS DUE BEFORE WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 25 TO AVOID A LATE FEE

LEFT BRAIN/RIGHT BRAIN CHRISTIANITY

There has long been a tug between science and religion. No theologian worth his/her salt will give in to the notion that all things can be known, that there is a bedrock equation that can explain all experience. Of course, scientists are of the opinion that only those things which can empirically verified are real. We really must hand it to scientists though because they keep on trying to pry open the doors of understanding and we really ought to applaud their untiring efforts. In a new class to begin on August 7, led by Paul Hall, interested persons will delve into the nexus of what happens in our brain when we have religious experiences. We plan to have a real, preserved human brain to see. We won't become med students but we will try to understand better about the brain and religion being so intimately intertwined.

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.

*Baptist Church of the Covenant's
Fortieth Anniversary Celebration
November 7, 2010, Noon,
The Harbert Center*

PRAYERS & CELEBRATIONS



At Home
Gene Brill

Hanover House
Wynell King

FairHaven Rehab
Lois Tisdale

Highlands Rehab
Lindy Keeney
Jerry Martin

Hong Kong
Jerry and Ruth Moye

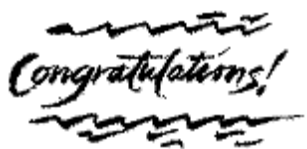
Indonesia
Ken Hinton



July

11-Chuck Green
12-Cynthia Wells
Andrew Evans
14-Wallace Davis
Jill Blach
Alea Bondarenko

15-Rod Davis
17-Mary Davis
Rodney Van Dyke
18-Louise Andrews
19-Keith Young
20-Jerry Grantland
21-Marshall Burton



Sherri & Dan Lawhon have been selected to receive the "2010-11 Encore Award," Belmont School of Music's outstanding achievement award recognizing graduates of their classical program.

FINANCIAL REPORTS

Week of June 27

Budget	\$9,731.35
Building Fund	\$607.50
Organ Fund	\$500.00
Rogers Fund	\$1,635.00
Playground/Columbarium	\$143.00
Passport Kenya	\$250.00
Cuba Partnership	\$90.00

Week of July 4

Not available.

Year to Date Figures through June 2010

YTD Receipts -	\$279,325.12
YTD Expenditures -	\$290,748.09
YTD Budget Requirements -	\$302,889.48

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

UPCOMING EVENTS



There are no Wednesday night activities during July.

astor Sarah will travel to Israel July 5 through July 2. Please be in prayer for her as she travels. Fisher Humphreys will preach July 11 and Valerie Burton will preach July 18.



Blueberry Picking & Picnic Lunch at the Lasseter's Farm Saturday, July 24

Jewayne and Janice Lasseter have invited all church members and their families to enjoy a morning of blueberry picking and a picnic lunch. We will pick blueberries from 8:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. The picnic will be at 11:30 a.m. Please bring a side dish or dessert to share as well as your own chairs, portable tables and picnic blankets. Fried chicken, drinks and plates/utensils will be provided.

Directions: 357 Mountain Drive, Remlap, AL 35133. Phone: (205)943-712. Alternate Phone: (205)305-2382. From I59N, take Tallapoosa Street/Hwy 79 exit. Go north on highway 79 for 11-12 miles to its intersection with highway 75 at Pinson. Continue on Highway 79 another 9.3 miles. At Mr. Willie's Restaurant sign, turn right between it and Selfville Church of Christ. Then turn right onto Spunky Hollow Road and go .3 miles to Mountain Drive (a sharp turn, directly across from Grace Community Church). Turn right onto Mountain Drive and go .3 mile to 357 Mountain Drive on left (long white driveway fence).



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. The bus will leave at 9:30 a.m. Contact Mary Hines (956-0839) or Jack Brymer (901-2989) if you have questions.



Birmingham Hospitality Network will be at BCOB July 25 through August 1. The sign up sheet is on the bulletin board in the Fellowship Hall.

Contact Ann Wade (annfish123@bellsouth.net or 529-2917) or

Linda Martin (LMarin322@aol.com or 601-0747) with questions or to volunteer.

Deacon of the Week: Carol Dean 205-823-1536

Deacon of the Week: Carol Johnson

Children at PASSPORTkids Sunday-Wednesday

Sunday, July 11

Helpers Pickup - Bill Smith, Rod Davis
 9:00 a.m.- Morning Worship: Fisher Humphreys preaching
 Lobby Monitor - David Litton, Laura Gilmour
 Ushers, Greeters & Offering - Monty Hogewood, Jean Thomason,
 Lynn & David Groom, Karen Stephens, Ron Garza, Sara Hoover
 Worship Care: Kelly Mitchell, Sarah Gardner, Marnie Fisher-Ingram,
 Daniel Ingram
 10:00 a.m.- Coffee Fellowship - Monty Hogewood, Carol Watson
 10:30 a.m. - Sunday School
 Helpers - Bill Smith
 Sack Lunches - Peacemongers
 Building Lockup - Allan Burton
 11:00 a.m. - Bethlehem Baptist Church Worship, Sanctuary
 11:30 a.m. - Deacons Meeting
 1:30 p.m. - Encuentro con Jesus Worship, Sanctuary
 3:30 p.m. - Encuentro con Jesus, Fellowship Hall

Monday, July 12

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

Tuesday, July 13

BCOC - Stone Building, a polling place
 1:00 p.m. - Staff Meeting
 6:30 p.m. - Exchange Club Parenting Class

Wednesday, June 14

12:00 noon - Overeaters Anonymous
 PASSPORTkids return around 5:00 p.m.

No Wednesday Night Activities in July

Thursday, July 15

6:30 p.m. - Caffé C with Kate Campbell

Friday, July 16

9:30 a.m. - Senior Adults to Barber Motorsports

Saturday, July 17

8:30 a.m. - "Hooked on a Book"
 AKA Meeting, Sanctuary & Fellowship Hall
 9:30 a.m. - Saturday Morning Grocery Ministry
 Sharon & Patrick Chappell
 7:00 p.m. - Encuentro con Dios Hispanic Church Prayer Meeting
 Stone Building

Sunday, July 18

Helpers Pickup - Mamie & Rodney Van Dyke, Becky Belcher
 9:00 a.m.- Morning Worship: Valerie Burton preaching
 Lobby Monitor - Andy McNeil, Rick Mitchell
 Ushers, Greeters & Offering - Rosalia Davis, Carol Johnson, Kell
 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,
 Mamie & Rodney Van Dyke
 10:30 a.m. - Sunday School
 Helpers - Bill Smith
 Sack Lunches - Children
 Building Lockup - Allan Burton
 11:00 a.m. - Bethlehem Baptist Church Worship, Sanctuary
 11:30 a.m. - Finance Sub-Committee
 12:30 p.m. - COM
 1:30 p.m. - Encuentro con Jesus Worship, Sanctuary
 3:30 p.m. - Encuentro con Jesus, Fellowship Hall

Monday, July 19

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

Tuesday, July 20

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

Wednesday, July 21

12:00 noon - Overeaters Anonymous

No Wednesday Night Activities in July

Saturday, July 24

9:00 a.m. - Blueberry Picking at the Lasseter's Farm
 9:30 a.m. - Saturday Morning Grocery Ministry
 Ellen Dossett, Connie Bowers, Bonnie Jenkins
 11:30 a.m. - Picnic Lunch at the Lasseter's Farm
 6:00 p.m. - Encuentro con Dios Hispanic Church Prayer Meeting
 Stone Building

