September 2, 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

Stewardship - There is Strength in Numbers

There is strength in numbers. This applies to a family of two as well as a church family of 250. The strength comes from being able to carry one another and rely on one another when the need arises. It means having people to help you when you need it, such as providing child care or bringing food. Stewardship is the giving of ourselves and our resources; it is a regular, normal, daily endeavor.

Strength in numbers also means that by each person giving what they can individually, the giving in total adds up to a much greater amount. Greater resources mean greater possibilities for the church and its missions and ministries. At BCOC our resources support a larger community. Stewardship is the careful and responsible management of the resources that God has given each of us.

Strength in numbers also means having a group with various individual opinions that makes the group decision making process stronger. Vision and discernment of the choices available become clearer as different possibilities are heard and debated. Stewardship embodies cooperative planning and wise management of resources.
I believe that God knows my heart. I find true pleasure in giving when my heart is right and I feel in synch with God. This happens when I acknowledge God's grace and give out of love and gratitude. One of the personal commitments of each church member is that one will give sacrificially of one's money as a tangible expression of a wholehearted self-giving stewardship of all of life, with the tithe as a guide. The thinking is that generosity that comes from the heart can be transformational for the giver as well as the receiver. Stewardship is the giving of ourselves and our resources with joy and gratitude.

As church treasurer this year, I have seen more of the business side of making the church operate. I have seen firsthand that it is important to make a commitment, a pledge to the church as to the amount you are willing and able to give toward the operating budget for the year. It helps the church plan and know how much money is available for its programs and operating needs. I understand more fully that the church has obligations; mortgage payments, bills and staff salaries. I have also seen how important it is to keep those commitments and pay our pledges on time.

During the month of September, you will be asked to make a pledge toward the operating budget for 2011. Please be in prayer and thoughtfully consider the amount that you are willing to give. During September after all the budget requests from the departmental managers and the pledges for 2011 have been turned in, I will present the results to the church. Our goal is to have a balanced budget before we start 2011. There is strength in numbers.

Kathy Hollis
Treasurer

Labor Day Retreat
This Weekend!
September 3 - September 6

Hoping for good weather and safe travels for all participants as Pastor Corita Blanco, from our sister church in Cuba, leads the retreat. The theme is Fellowship or "Compañerismo."

40 Days of Missions Pulpit Guest

Rosalie Hunt, former missionary to China, will be our pulpit guest on Sunday, September 6. Join us for worship, communion and stories from the mission field as we celebrate 40 Days of Missions.

See your Missions Bookmark in the Sunday Bulletin for ideas in sharing God's love.

Minister on Call
Labor Day Weekend
Dan Lawhon
Call 482-6280

Samford Holley-Hull Lecture
BCOC sanctuary

Wednesday, September 8, 6:30 p.m.
Dr. Gail O'Day

"The Gospel of John and the Theology of Friendship: Jesus as Friend"

Please see the Crossroads 8-19-2010 for other times and topics of this lecture series.

40 Days of Celebration

Following 40 Days of Missions, the next 40 days will be full of celebrations as we approach our anniversary on November 7. Please be sure your calendars include Wednesday nights, Oct. 6, 13, 20 and 27 as Eljee Bentley walks us through our history. Don't forget that Trunk or Treat takes place on Halloween on Sunday, October 31! The schedule on our anniversary, November 7 will be: worship at 9:00 a.m., playground dedication at 10:30 a.m., coffee fellowship until 11:15 a.m., luncheon at The Harbert Center at 11:30 a.m., and a quieter gathering at 3:00 p.m. as the Columbarium is dedicated. Worship will include communion, pledging the Capital Campaign and special anthems by the Covenant Choir with instrumental accompaniment. There will be no Sunday School on Anniversary Sunday. Childcare for infant-3 years old will be provided at BCOC.

Exciting News!

Construction began on the Playground / Columbarium August 19! There will be no parking in the front parking lot until completion at the end of October. A groundbreaking ceremony will be held following worship on September 29.

Columbarium

With the rising cost of bronze, costs of columbarium niches need to increase. Beginning January of 2011, the cost of a single niche will increase from $450 to $650. The cost of a double niche will increase from $750 to $1000. You may pre-purchase niches in order to reserve a location of your choosing. The Columbarium Policies and Reservation Forms are available in the church office and on the website.

We will have a Dedication Service on Anniversary Sunday, November 7, at 3:00 p.m. If you would like to have your name plate in place, please check with the church office.

Green Springs Ministry Center

The Green Springs Ministry Center needs **corn, juice and baked beans**. A box for collected items is located in the Fellowship Hall. Volunteers are needed to work in the Food Bank on Wednesday mornings, once a month from 9:00 a.m. until noon. Call Mamie Van Dyke for more information 945-7197 or 566-6818.

New Candidate for Membership

Stephen Bailey
P. O. Box 290255
Birmingham 35229
317-407-2305

Danielle Brown
P. O. Box 290340
Birmingham 35229
205-441-1352

Danny Dickerson
2021 10th Avenue South, #818
Birmingham 35205
205-504-4671

Emily Eddings & Caitlin Sandley
918 30th Street South, Apt. 8
Birmingham 35205
205-910-9707 / 205-305-7820

Ann Carol Mann
Anna Beth Mann
4628 Summit Cove
Birmingham 35226
205-834-8987

PRAYERS & CELBRATIONS

At Home
Gene Brill
Margaret Ward
Delane Tew

Fairhaven
Orbie Medders

Highlands Rehab
Jerry Martin

Mobile
Amy Woodward

Hong Kong
Jerry and Ruth Moye

Indonesia
Ken Hinton

For Kit and Todd Heifner and family in the death of his grandmother, Lillian Farrington.

September

5-Harvey Love
6-Sonya Lane
Denise Gardner
9-Marcella Dale
Ronald Williams
Elaine Peterson
Stevie Hoven
10-B. J. Melton
11-Errol Norris
13-Bill Bennett
Catherine Keeney
14-Mamie Van Dyke
Bart Grooms
Matthew Childs
15-Tura Davis
Connie Hogewood

FINANCIAL REPORTS

Week of August 22	
Budget	$7,533.08
Building Fund	$2,465.00
Organ Fund	$550.00
Choir Robe Fund	$50.00
Playgrnd/Columbarium	$242.00
Rogers Fund	$80.00
Cuba Partnership	$20.00
Sack Lunches	$25.00

Week of August 29	
Budget	$7,284.62
Building Fund	$1,172.50
Rogers Fund	$120.00
Organ Fund	$1,348.00
Baby College	$1,000.00
Cuba Partnership	$50.00
Playgrnd/Columbarium	$713.00

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

From the Treasurer

Back to school and back to normal schedules after a good and relaxing summer vacation feels good! Just a reminder to please consider "catching up" on pledges made for the church's operating budget.

Pledge Sunday Date Changed to September 26

Pledge cards will be mailed the second week of September. Please prayerfully complete your pledge card and return it at the worship service on Pledge Sunday, September 26, 2010 or mail it to the church office before Pledge Sunday. The Finance Committee will not develop a proposed budget until after pledges are received.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Corita Blanco will be our pulpit guest on September 12.

Senior Saunterings

On Wednesday, September 8, the Senior Adults will visit the Hoover Crescent Islamic Center (HCIC) in Hoover. The bus will leave the church at 9:30 a.m. and return about 2 p.m. after lunch at the FishLips Seafood and Grill in Hoover.

On, Friday, September 17, the Senior Adults will visit the U.S. Space & Rocket Center in Huntsville. The bus will leave the church at 8 a.m. and return at 5 p.m. The admission fee will be $30 or $22 if we have 15 or more going. It includes the choice of a movie and a hamburger box lunch. (We will collect a gratuity for the bus driver.)

BCOC Youth Events

- **Sunday, Sept 19** - Talent Show
- **Fall Retreat!** Friday - Sunday, Oct 8 – 10
  Daniel and Marnie Ingram leading.
- **Nov 14** - Youth-Parents-BCOC Youth alumns
  Flag Football -- Soup-er Bowl!
- **Nov 21** - Save the Date! Youth choir will sing
  with Kyle Matthews; time and place TBA.

September 8
Holley-Hull Lecture, Gail O'Day

September 15
Vote on Master Plan
Joe Dean, Moderator
Joyce Mitchell, Parliamentarian

September 22
Committee Chairs present 2011 Budget requests
Morgan Ponder, Moderator

September 29
Miscellaneous Business

Hold the Date!
November 7th 2010
BCOC Celebrating 40 Years and Beyond
Details coming soon

Week of September 5

Deacon of the Week: Bob Duffy 205-967-8286

Sunday, September 5

Labor Day Beach Retreat

Helpers Pickup - Tex Hawley, Mary Helen Dixon, Joe Dixon
9:00 a.m.- Morning Worship: Rosalie Hunt, pulpit guest
Lobby Monitor - David Goodwin, David Litton
Ushers, Greeters & Offering - Deacons
10:00 a.m.- Coffee Fellowship: Hoefelmans, Connie Hogewood
10:30 a.m. - Sunday School
Helpers - Patrick Chappell
Sack Lunches - Group effort by adults present, please
Building Lockup - David Goodwin
11:00 a.m. - Bethlehem Baptist Church Worship, Sanctuary
1:30 p.m. - Encuentro con Jesus Worship, Sanctuary
3:00 p.m. - Nominating Committee
3:30 p.m. - Encuentro con Jesus, Fellowship Hall

Monday, September 6

Church Office Closed for Labor Day
Dan Lawhon on call - 482-6280

12:00 noon - Overeaters Anonymous

Tuesday, September 7

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

Wednesday, September 8

9:30 a.m. - Senior Adults to Hoover Crescent Islamic Center
12:00 noon - Overeaters Anonymous
5:00 p.m. - Covenant Ringers
5:15 p.m. - Wednesday Fellowship Supper
Menu: Char-Grilled Pork Tenders, Roasted New Potatoes, Yellow Corn, Green Bean Casserole, Cole Slaw, Rolls, Lemon Pie
Clean Up: Larry FitzGerald, Mamie & Rodney Van Dyke
5:45 p.m. - Bethlehem Baptist Bible Study
6:00 p.m. - School Age "Faithprints"
6:00 p.m. - Preschoolers Mission Friends and Music
6:00 p.m. - Youth Gathering
6:15 p.m. - Prayers & Announcements
6:30 p.m. - Samford Holley-Lecture by Gail O'Day, Sanctuary
6:30 p.m. - Children's Choir
Lockup: Todd Heifner
7:15 p.m. - Adult Choir Rehearsal Choir Lockup: Chuck Rogers

Saturday, September 11

9:30 a.m. - Saturday Morning Grocery Ministry
Betty Bock, Tim Liptak, Ann Dunlap
7:00 p.m. - Encuentro con Dios Hispanic Church Prayer Meeting
Stone Building

Week of September 12

Deacon of the Week: Paul Hall 205-967-1908

Sunday, September 12

Helpers Pickup - Bill Smith, Rod Davis
9:00 a.m.- Morning Worship: Corita Blanco, pulpit guest
Lobby Monitor - David Litton, Laura Gilmour
Ushers, Greeters & Offering - Monty Hogewood, Jean Thomason, Lynne & David Groom, Karen Stephens, Ron Garza, Sara Hoover
Worship Care: Carol Dean, Sarah Gardner, Daniel Ingram, Marnie-Fisher Ingram
10:00 a.m.- Coffee Fellowship: Monty Hogewood, Carol Watson
10:30 a.m. - Sunday School
Helpers - Patrick Chappell
Sack Lunches - Travelers
Building Lockup - David Goodwin
11:00 a.m. - Bethlehem Baptist Church Worship, Sanctuary
11:30 a.m. - Deacons Meeting
JIF Meeting
1:30 p.m. - Encuentro con Jesus Worship, Sanctuary
3:30 p.m. - Encuentro con Jesus, Fellowship Hall

Monday, September 13

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

Tuesday, September 14

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

Wednesday, September 15

12:00 noon - Overeaters Anonymous
5:00 p.m. - Covenant Ringers
5:15 p.m. - Wednesday Fellowship Supper
Menu: Fried Chicken, Green Beans, Yellow Corn, Potato Casserole, Cookies and Brownies
Clean Up: Betsy Weidenbach, Shirley & Jack Brymer
5:45 p.m. - Bethlehem Baptist Bible Study
6:00 p.m. - School Age "Faithprints"
6:00 p.m. - Preschoolers Mission Friends and Music
6:00 p.m. - Youth Gathering
6:10 p.m. - Prayer Time & Announcements
6:15 p.m. - Business Meeting to vote on Master Plan
6:30 p.m. - Children's Choir
Lockup: Todd Heifner
7:15 p.m. - Adult Choir Rehearsal Choir Lockup: Patrick Chappel

Friday, September 17

8:00 a.m. - Senior Adults to Rocket & Space Center in Huntsville

Saturday, September 18

8:30 a.m. - AKA meeting, Sanctuary & Fellowship Hall
9:30 a.m. - Saturday Morning Grocery Ministry
Sharon & Patrick Chappell
6:00 p.m. - Encuentro con Dios Hispanic Church Prayer Meeting
Stone Building

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