

# *the* CrossRoads

November 22, 2007  
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## **Baptist Church of the Covenant**

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**Baptist Church of the  
Covenant**  
Where Faith Comes  
to Life

## Do Miracles Still Occur?

One day, I am going to do a sermon series on the questions that get asked in the privacy of my office. My best guess is that if one of you raises a question within those walls, that it is a question we all ask at one time or another. Recently, I had someone ask "Do miracles still occur?" Below is my answer.

Do you remember the story of the blind man beside the road that led from Jericho to Jerusalem? (Luke 18:35-43) Jesus was passing by. The crowd was stirred up. The blind man, sensing that something exciting was happening, asked what was occurring. Finding out that Jesus was passing by, he began to yell for Jesus to have mercy on him. Jesus stopped and had the blind man brought to him. He asked what He could do for the blind man. "Lord, let me receive my sight," he said. And immediately, because of his faith, the man received his sight. He then followed Jesus and glorified God wherever he went.

Just prior to this miracle story, Jesus is explaining to the disciples about his crucifixion and resurrection. Luke tells us "that they understood none of these things and did not grasp what he said." (18:34) The disciples could see, but did not understand. The blind man could not see, but understood. The blind man sees what the disciples cannot. Luke, then, is reminding us that there is more than one kind of blindness. Because we all have blind spots, Jesus helps us to see what we have never seen before. You know this to be true, for when the gospel begins to work in our lives, we begin to understand and see things that we have never seen or understood before.

\*For instance, we used to pitch our litter out of the car windows and ignore environmental causes. We no longer do this, because the gospel has been working on us and we understand better what it means to be God's stewards of the earth.

\*We used to drink our coffee and not be concerned about who grew it. We no longer do this, because the gospel has been working on us. We see the difference we can make in others' lives by purchasing Fair Trade coffee.

\*We used to make jokes about those different from us. We called them names and kept them at a distance. We no longer do this, because the gospel has been working on us to love our neighbors by seeing all the things we have in common. So we put our arms around the mentally challenged and welcome a Spanish speaking congregation to share our facilities.

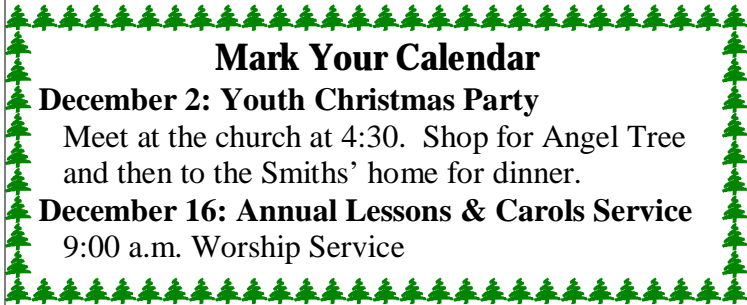
We are seeing things we never saw before, because the gospel is at work in us and so our blind spots are gradually disappearing. It does not happen overnight. We do not have perfect vision yet. But can I answer that miracles still occur? Yes, because I once was blind to many things, but through the witness of the gospel at Baptist Church of the Covenant, I can say that my sight is definitely improving! As we anticipate Advent and the celebration of a miraculous birth, my prayer is that we will remain open to the ways that the gospel continues to work in our lives, and that we will continue to grow in our understanding so that we can see things we never thought were possible before. With appreciation for the opportunity to serve alongside of you and witness the miraculous, I am

Sincerely yours,

*Sarah*

**BUSINESS MEETING NOVEMBER 28**

At the Business Meeting, the Staff Committee will present the job descriptions listed below. The jobs coordinate with the staff re-alignment that was approved in our Quarterly Business Meeting on October 24. Please review the job descriptions carefully before the meeting. There will also be an update from the Finance Committee and additional deacon nominees from the Nominating Committee.

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Minister of Adult Education &amp; Community Ministries</b></p> <p>Full-time</p> <p><b>Position Overview</b> To provide support and direction to the adult education and ministries programs of the church. To assist the pastor with other general needs of the church.</p> <p><b>Essential Job Functions</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* Collaborate with the Education Committee and adult educational leaders to determine goals and needs of the adult educational ministry</li> <li>* Develop and implement a strategy for meeting the needs of adult education, including budget planning</li> <li>* Recommend appropriate Christian education curriculum, resources and materials for adults</li> <li>* Assist the Education Committee with SS leader recruitment, as well as support and training of such leaders</li> <li>* Lead in planning special educational events such as School for Christian Living, retreats and conferences</li> <li>* Work with the Ministries Committee and ministry leaders to coordinate ministries and church mission trips</li> <li>* Provide support and direction for existing ministries, and identify needs for initiation of new ministries, including budget planning</li> <li>* Enlist and train membership so that financial assistance to those who seek it from the church can be provided effectively</li> <li>* Engage in continuing education twice each calendar year</li> <li>* Assist with worship leadership</li> <li>* Assist pastor with pastoral visits</li> <li>* Meet with the Council on Mission and the deacons</li> <li>* Preach and lead adult studies as requested</li> <li>* Perform other duties as assigned by pastor or Staff Committee</li> </ul> <p><b>Requirements</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* Awareness of adult education needs</li> <li>* Interpersonal and communication skills</li> <li>* Administrative abilities equal to the scope of this position</li> <li>* Ability to delegate</li> <li>* Understand and support the mission of Baptist Church of the Covenant</li> </ul> <p><b>Other Skills/Abilities</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* A team player</li> </ul>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Minister to Preschoolers, Children &amp; Youth</b></p> <p>Part-time</p> <p><b>Position Overview</b> To provide educational oversight for preschoolers, children and youth.</p> <p><b>Essential Job Functions</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* Select appropriate Sunday School and mission literature for preschoolers, children and youth (p/c/y)</li> <li>* Assist the Education Committee with the enlistment of workers for SS and missions education for p/c/y</li> <li>* Provide on-going training for leaders of p/c/y</li> <li>* Coordinate Wednesday evening programming for p/c/y</li> <li>* Provide support, encouragement and counsel to parents of p/c/y</li> <li>* Plan, promote and coordinate monthly activities for children, grades 1-6</li> <li>* Plan, enlist workers and coordinate an annual VBS</li> <li>* Coordinate events with the whole church staff and churchwide calendar</li> <li>* Oversee paid workers in the nursery</li> <li>* Work with youth leaders</li> <li>* Meet with Council on Mission</li> <li>* Participate in Worship services on a regular basis</li> <li>* Attend weekly Staff meetings</li> <li>* Other duties as assigned by pastor or Staff Committee</li> </ul> <p><b>Requirements</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* Awareness of developmental needs of different ages</li> <li>* Interpersonal and communication skills</li> <li>* Administrative abilities equal to the scope of this position</li> <li>* Ability to delegate</li> <li>* Understand and support the mission of Baptist Church of the Covenant</li> </ul> <p><b>Other Skills/Abilities</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* A team player</li> </ul>
 <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Mark Your Calendar</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>December 2: Youth Christmas Party</b> Meet at the church at 4:30. Shop for Angel Tree and then to the Smiths' home for dinner.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>December 16: Annual Lessons &amp; Carols Service</b> 9:00 a.m. Worship Service</p>	

## FINANCIAL REPORTS

### Week of November 11

Budget	\$9,524
Bldg/Property Purchase	295
Rogers Fund	105
Youth Activities	40
Orphanage	550

### Week of November 18

Budget	\$5,700
Bldg /Property Purchase	290
Youth/Passport	100
Gardner Building Fund	100
Orphanage	100
Rogers Fund	3

### YTD – October 2007

YTD Receipts - \$401,210.57

YTD Expenditures - \$421,014.76

YTD Budget Requirements - \$463,195.80

**I love Pledge Day at Covenant.** I am always inspired by watching our members come forward to express their love and support for this church. Entering a few check marks and some numbers on a piece of paper may seem like a simple, even trivial, act. But a pledge card is a tangible way to commit ourselves to the spiritual and financial health of this congregation. If you have already turned in a pledge card, thank you for helping to ensure that the work of Covenant can continue in 2008. If you have not yet turned in a pledge card, please consider doing so. Having an indication of the congregation's intended giving helps us to be better stewards of the church's finances. We wish for each of our members the joy and satisfaction of participating in sustaining and extending Covenant's ministry in the next year. Sincerely, Morgan Ponder, Treasurer

<b>Pledge Cards Received</b>	<b>113</b>
<b>Percentage Pledged</b>	<b>72%</b>
<b>Pledged Amount</b>	<b>\$417,550</b>
<b>2008 Budget</b>	<b>\$576,011</b>

Pledge Cards are available in the Fellowship Hall & Foyer.



**Orders for poinsettias**, to adorn our sanctuary during the upcoming Advent Season, may be placed by completing the envelopes provided in the Fellowship Hall. Please be sure to write clearly your loved ones' names that you wish to place flowers in honor or memory of. The poinsettias will be red this year. The cost will be \$17.00 payable to the church. **Orders and payment must be received in the church office by Nov. 25.**

### Birmingham Boys' Choir

30th Annual Christmas Concert

Tuesday, Dec. 4th, 7:00 p.m.

Mountain Brook Baptist Church

Come and hear four of our own BCOC boys: Graham Heifner, Sumner Martin, Alex White, Michael White

**The Church Office will be closed for the Thanksgiving Holidays.** Sarah Shelton is on call. In case of a pastoral emergency, please call 482-6280.



### At Home

Jo Grantland  
Michael Clark  
Bill Stonecypher  
Mary Hines  
Margaret Ward  
Linda Scott  
Wynell King  
Joy Bonnie  
William Lovechia  
Delores Lovechia

### Trinity

Bryce Sandlin

### Mexico

Rosalia Marquez

### Rehabilitation and Healthcare

Jerry Martin  
2728 South 10th Avenue, 35205

### Hong Kong

Jerry and Ruth Moye

### Peace Corps, Benin, West Africa

Charles Reeves



### November

26-Mandy Johnson  
Sharon Chappell  
Sumner Martin  
27-Rebecca Richardson  
Micah Martin  
28-Bob Duffy  
Peggy Sanderford Ponder  
30-Cindy Ponder

### December

2-Parker Smith  
3-Gail Hill  
Mark Kelly  
6-Anna Li Bateman  
7-Judy Bridgers  
Alreema Pryor  
8-William Lovechia  
Gay Litton  
Faith Kiptoo

### CUBA TRIP

A tentative date for a mission trip to Cuba has been set for March 12 - 19. **Should you be interested in going** please let Todd (424-0600, todd@heifner) or John Duke (328-0644, jduke@bcoc.net) know **by November 28.**

### Want an Alternative to the Mall this Christmas?

**Visit the BCOC Fair Trade Fair!**

**Sunday, December 9,**

**During Coffee Hour in the Fellowship Hall**

*Sojourns* will be offering many fairly traded gift items for everyone on your list.

**Fair trade advocates for a fair and living wage to artists, artisans and producers and provides revenue to promote social and economic development for communities.**

**Fair trade advocates for democratic management of artist cooperatives.**

**Fair trade advocates for environmentally friendly and sustainable products**

**Fair trade does not support forced or child labor.**

Sponsored by the Peacemongers Sunday School Class

### Saturday Morning Driver Needed

We are in need of someone to help with our grocery ministry on the second Saturday morning of each month; specifically, we need someone to drive our handicapped accessible bus. We drive several elderly people from Highland Manor to the store on Saturday mornings at about 9:30 to get groceries. We are usually done by 11:00 or shortly after. This would therefore involve about a two hour commitment one Saturday a month. If you would be willing to help with this important ministry, please contact John Duke as soon as possible.

Week of November 25

**Deacon of the Week: Malcolm Marler 256/287-2040**

**Sunday, November 25**

VSP Pickup - Ellen Dossett  
9:00 a.m. - Morning Worship  
Lobby Monitor - Walker Grooms  
Ushers - Daniel Evans, Bill Bennett  
Greeters - Janet Goodwin, Rachel Krech  
Offering - Owen Grooms, William Lovechia  
Preschool - Connie McCrory  
Offering Counters - Marvin McConaghy, Cindy Ponder  
10:00 a.m. - Sunday Morning Coffee Fellowship - George Crear  
10:30 a.m. - Sunday School  
Preschool 1 & 2 - Linda Martin, Marsha Henderson  
Preschool 3 - Julie Burge  
Preschool 4 - Denise Gardner, Kit Heifner  
VSP - David Wilson  
Sack Lunches - Youngsters  
Building Lockup - Allan Burton  
6:00 p.m. - Hispanic Bible Missionary Church

**Monday, November 26**

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

**Tuesday, November 27**

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

**Wednesday, November 28**

12:00 noon - Overeaters Anonymous  
5:30 p.m. - Fellowship Supper  
Menu: Beef Tips with Rice, Steamed Broccoli with Cheese Sauce,  
Black Eyed Peas, Cole Slaw, Rolls, Cookies and Brownies  
Clean Up: Joe Dixon, Ellen Dossett, Eleanor Traylor, Rick Traylor  
6:00 p.m. - Business Meeting  
Lockup: Jimmy Hawley  
7:15 p.m. - Covenant Choir Rehearsal  
Choir Lockup: Tex Hawley

**Saturday, December 1**

9:30 a.m. - Saturday Morning Grocery Ministry: David Groom  
10:00 a.m. - Memorial Service for Sandra Márquez Landaeta  
12:00 noon - Worship Committee to decorate the sanctuary

Week of December 2

**Deacon of the Week: Mike Martin**

**Sunday, December 2**

VSP Pickup - Elaine Peterson, Tex Hawley  
9:00 a.m. - Morning Worship, First Sunday in Advent  
Lobby Monitor - Don Yates  
Ushers - Deacons  
Greeters - Deacons  
Offering - Deacons  
Preschool - Jill Holley, Katie Ponder  
Offering Counters - David Henderson, Pam Baggett  
10:00 a.m. - Sunday Morning Coffee Fellowship - Chuck Rogers  
10:30 a.m. - Sunday School  
Preschool 1 & 2 - Linda Martin, Marsha Henderson  
Preschool 3 - Julie Burge, Eleanor Traylor  
Preschool 4 - Denise Gardner, Kit Heifner  
VSP - Liesl Ward  
Sack Lunches - Dialogue  
Building Lockup - David Goodwin  
11:45 a.m. - Education Committee  
Staff Committee  
1:30 p.m. - Music Search Committee  
4:30 p.m. - Youth Christmas Party  
6:00 p.m. - Hispanic Bible Missionary Church

**Monday, December 3**

12:00 noon - Overeaters Anonymous  
3:00 p.m. - Capital Campaign Communications Committee

**Tuesday, December 4**

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

**Wednesday, December 5**

12:00 noon - Overeaters Anonymous  
5:30 p.m. - Fellowship Supper  
Menu: Char-grilled Chicken Breast, Squash and Zucchini Sauté,  
Almond Rice, Tossed Salad, Rolls, Peach Cobbler  
Clean Up: Jack Brymer, Susan Richardson  
6:00 p.m. - Ellen Patterson, Intern for Pastoral Ministry, leading  
Adult Bible Study  
Lockup: David Henderson  
7:15 p.m. - Covenant Choir Rehearsal  
Choir Lockup: Rick Traylor

**Saturday, December 8**

9:30 a.m. - Saturday Morning Grocery Ministry: Liesl Ward



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