

December 2007



Blessings



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About the cover

BBC calls Andy Blankenship as new pastor

Pictured on the cover are our new pastor Andy Blankenship and his wife Mary Kathryn. Their six-month old daughter Cooper is pictured below.



Cooper Blankenship

Rev. Blankenship was ordained in 2004 at Richland First Baptist Church where he was serving as youth pastor. He most recently has been serving as youth pastor at Whitewater Baptist Church in Macon County. He is one history course shy of a B.S. in Leadership from The Baptist College of Florida.

His plan is to complete this course by next Spring and then enroll in Southeastern Seminary's online program.

More about our new pastor and his family will be published in the January *Blessings*. His email address is andyblovesthedawgs@yahoo.com (that in itself should tell you something about him).

Pantry shower on December 9

To help welcome our new pastor and family, the Women on Mission Night Group is hosting a pantry shower in Saliba Hall immediately following the 6:00 p.m. evening worship service on December 9. Light refreshments will be served.

December 12

Covered-Dish Supper 6:15 P.M.	Church Conference 7:00 P.M.
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CHRISTMAS IN THE PARK

Join friends and neighbors as we kick off the Christmas Season in Byromville at our 12th annual *Christmas in the Park* on December 1 at 6:00 p.m. in Groves Park on Main Street.

In addition to live entertainment, kids can get their picture made with Santa. Byromville Woman's Club will be selling goodies including sausage biscuits, hotdogs, soft drinks and hot chocolate. Several homemade cakes will be auctioned off as well.

Best of all, it's just a great time to reconnect with folks in the community and wish them a Merry Christmas. Don't be late—it's doesn't last long.

God.Born.

Merry Christmas

Christmas at BBC

Senior Adult Christmas Luncheon, December 1, 12:00 p.m., Saliba Hall

This annual event for senior adults in our community is hosted by the Women on Mission Night Group.

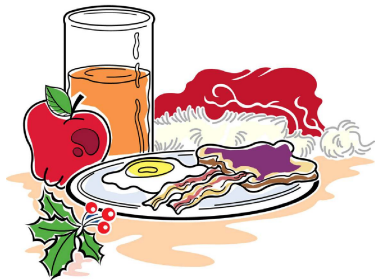


Toyland Concert, December 2, 6:00 p.m.

This fun event features local people sharing their talents as well as an opportunity for our children to take part in our corporate Christmas celebration.

But the main focus of our 18th annual Toyland Concert is the toys—toys that will be shared with the children in our community who might otherwise not receive anything for Christmas. That's why we ask everyone who comes to please bring a new toy.

A time of fellowship and refreshments in Saliba Hall will follow the concert.



Churchwide Breakfast, December 15

As their Christmas present to the church, the Brotherhood will host a breakfast for everyone on December 15 at 8:00 a.m. in Saliba Hall.

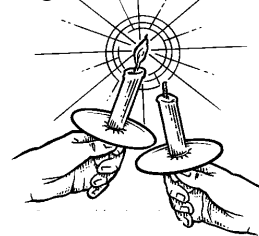
Live Nativity and Birthday Party for Jesus, December 20, 7:00 p.m.

The children will be staging the nativity scene from 7:00–7:30 p.m. in the church yard. Then there will be a birthday party for Jesus in Saliba Hall at 7:30 p.m. for all children.



Caroling, December 21

The tentative plan is to start early (around 5:30 or 6:00 p.m.) and visit area nursing homes and a few shut-ins and maybe eat supper in Perry or Cordele. Please sign up on the bulletin board across from the nursery if you are interested in participating in spreading Christmas cheer in this way. Please don't let the fact that you're not a singer prevent you from joining us—it's really about the visiting, not the singing. Another thing, this is a great ministry to bring your kids along with you. The folks we visit really enjoy seeing the children.



Candlelight Communion Service, Dec. 23

A favorite of many, this annual service includes the Christmas story and the Lord's Supper and concludes with a candlelight ceremony.

Small group parties

Check the calendar for Sunday School class and other small group Christmas parties.



For God so loved the world that He gave...

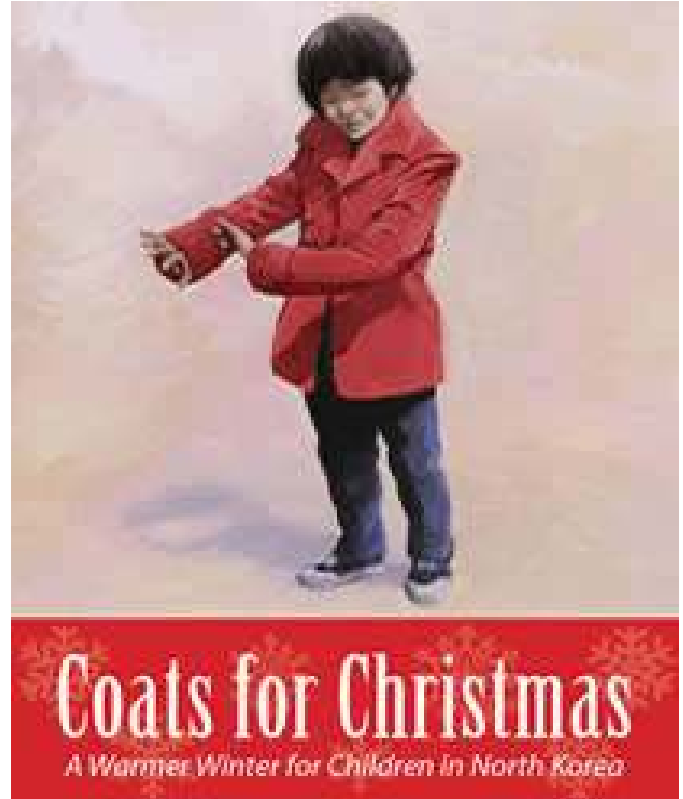
Listed here are several opportunities to follow God's example of giving. See page 3 for two more giving opportunities—the Toyland Concert and Caroling.

Gifts for Pinehill residents

This year's suggested gifts are:

Flannel shirts sizes XL and up
 White t-shirts sizes XL and up
 White socks
 Deodorant
 Men's belts sizes 36 and up
 Sweaters: Women's sizes 36 and up
 Men's sizes 40 and up
 Sweat shirts sizes XL and up
 Women's button or snap front cotton dusters
 sizes 2X and up
 Men's white handkerchiefs
 Men's adjustable caps
 Men's and women's hoods

Please wrap your gift **and** write on the outside exactly what is inside. Bring gifts to the church house by December 16. There will be a collection box in the connecting foyer.



In response to the current disaster caused by severe flooding in August, Georgia Baptists are trying to collect 10,000 coats for children in North Korea. Coats must be new; heavy for harsh winter conditions; dark shades of red, green, blue, gray, black, brown; no logos. Made in the USA is preferred. Sizes 3 months to children's size 12. Please bring coats by December 22. Go to www.gabaptist.org for more information.

TELL ME!
the story of Jesus

Lottie Moon
 Christmas Offering
 National Goal
 \$165 Million
 BBC Goal
 \$2,000



Week of Prayer for LMCO
 and International Missions
 December 2-9, 2007

Prayer guides and offering envelopes will be available at the church house.

American Cancer Society Relay for Life

\$5 will purchase a light bulb in memory or in honor of a loved one. The lights will be displayed on a big Christmas tree located at the pond just west of Byromville near B&P Fertilizer from Dec. 15–Jan. 15. Contact Robin Peavy at 478-433-5135 or 229-938-2275 to purchase or for more information.

Blood drive December 26, Saliba Hall

Give life. Give blood. Call Robin Peavy to sign up as soon as possible. Time is 12:00–5:00 p.m.



Schedule of Volunteers for December

Please remember it is up to **you** to arrange coverage if **you** are unable to serve on your scheduled day.

Date	Flowers	Nursery	Deacon of the Week	Ushers
Dec. 2	Louise Kirksey George Massey/Paula Smith	Paula/Mark Smith	Jimmy Lockerman	Ronnie Hatcher Jeff Witmer
Dec. 9	Pat Hatcher	Kimberly Godfrey Terri Gregory	Arthur Roney	Jimmy R. Hendrix Clinton Brannen
Dec. 16	Martha Hill	Jill Brannen Sharon Thompson	Mark Smith	Frank Thompson Daniel Thompson Matthew Youngblood
Dec. 23	Debra Walling-Preston	Vicki/Steven Lamberth	Frank Thompson	Jimmy L. Hendrix George Massey
Dec. 30	Debra Walling-Preston	Amy/Anthony Burch	Curtis Lamberth	Mark Smith Quint Smith

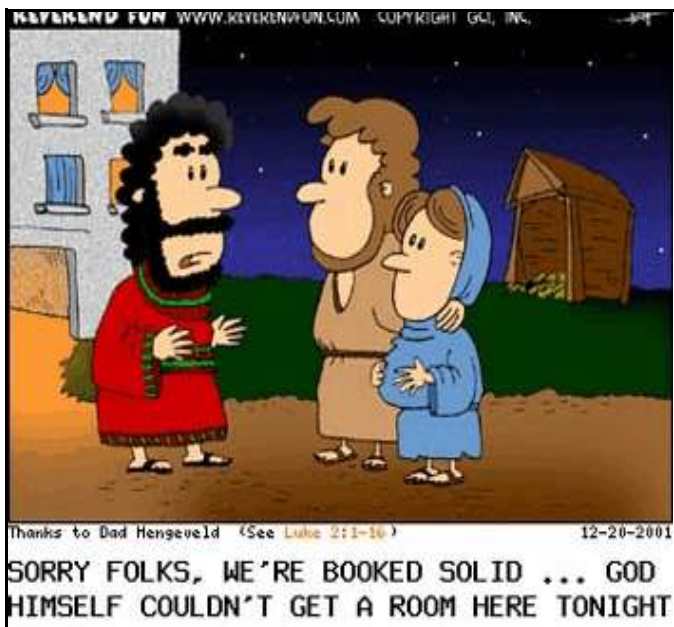
November Sunday School Stats

Senior Adults	12
FBIC	9
CIA	10
VOC	6
Berean	3
Young Adults	4
Older Youth	5
6 th , 7 th & 8 th Graders	5
3 rd , 4 th , & 5 th Graders	7
1 st & 2 nd Graders	5
Older Preschoolers	6
Younger Preschoolers	7
Nursery	2
General Officers	6
TOTAL	84

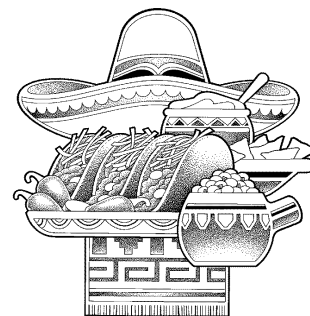
Financial Summary

<u>October receipts</u>	
General offerings	\$8,623.32
Pastorium improvement fund offering	500.00
Memorials	100.00
World Hunger offering	81.50
Special (Stove)	150.00
TOTAL	9,454.82

<u>October disbursements</u>	
General expenses	2,999.49
Stove	113.79
State missions	465.00
Pastorium work	4,268.68
Cooperative Program	1,448.55
Houston Baptist Association	72.31
Filadelphia Church	100.00
TOTAL	\$ 9,463.23



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Attention Youth!

Trip to Walk Through Bethlehem for youth Dec. 16

All youth (grades 6-12) will not want to miss the trip on December 16 to Shirley Hill Baptist Church's *Walk Through Bethlehem*, a spectacular interactive production featuring the Town of Bethlehem on that first Christmas night.

The church van will leave the church house at 4:00 p.m. After experiencing *Walk Through Bethlehem*, the group will eat supper at Stevie B's in Warner Robins.

Contact Robin Peavy at 478-433-5135 or 229-938-2275 for more information.

Pictured below at Providence State Park are (left to right) Joshua Gauthier, Brittany Kidd, Kellie Rigsby, Chris Streets, Joel Garcia, Austin Langford and Summer Thompson. Also making the trip on November 10 were Patricia Kent, Vicki Lamberth and Robin Peavy.



Christmas funny

Our youngest daughter Nancy was almost four. My wife and I and our four older children had tried to prepare Nancy for Christmas by talking with her about the real meaning of Christmas and why the family celebrated it. Nancy had a wonderful Christmas with a lot of presents and toys. A few days later, she was talking with her older sister about what a great Christmas she had and said, "I sure hope Joseph and Mary have another baby."

—Donald W. Dugan

Kids, sign up for the live nativity ASAP



If your child wants to participate in the live nativity on December 20, please let Robin Peavy know as soon as possible as there are a limited number of roles available. This is for kids in grades 5 and under. Parents please have your child at the church house by 6:15 p.m. to get dressed for the live nativity.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY
Jesus!

All children are invited to the birthday party for Jesus which will begin at 7:30 p.m. in Saliba Hall.



Ayden and Carson have a new brother

Garlan Ray Godfrey was born November 8 weighing 7 pounds. Congratulations to parents Kimberly and Ryan as well as grandparents Terri and Tracy Gregory, great grandmother Mary Beth Reed and great great grandmother Lucy Thompson.



Give, so she can hear

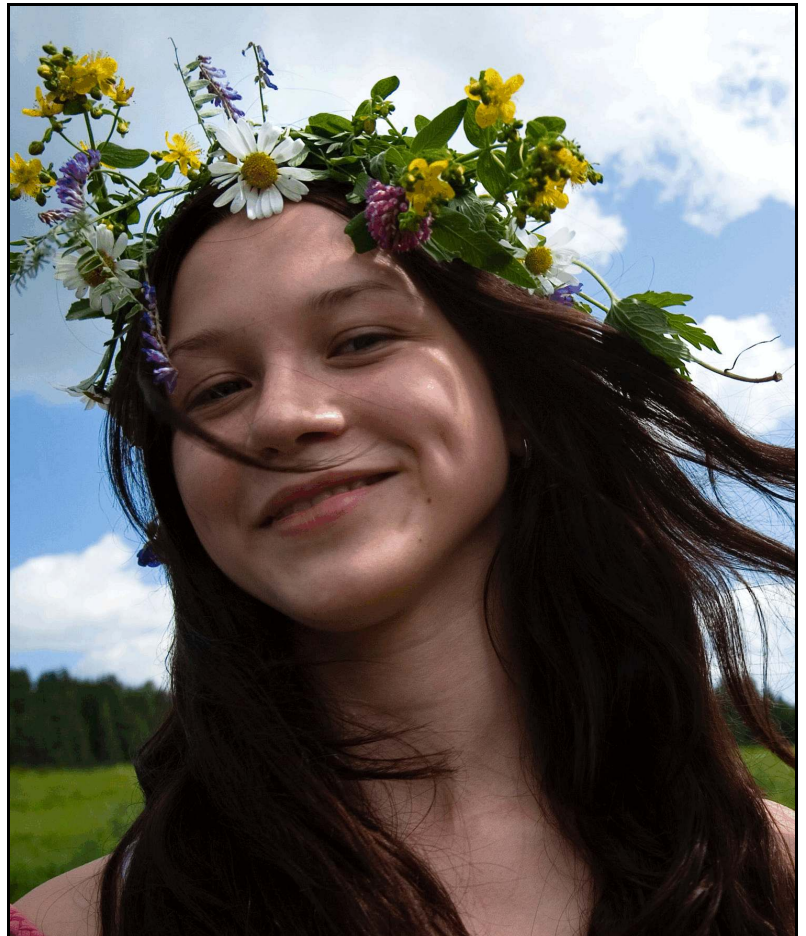
It's a simple story. Yet the most powerful ever told: the story of Jesus. Do you remember the first time you heard—and believed?

Now, imagine no one had ever told you. How would your life be different? It's an eternal reality for the world's 1.6 billion souls with little or no access to the Gospel.

But there is hope.

From the Soviet Union's fall to record Lottie Moon giving, God has blessed Southern Baptists with unprecedented opportunity to carry the news of Christ's sacrifice to the ends of the earth. New missionaries are answering His Great Commission call, but their opportunities to share are limited without churches' continued commitment to give.

This year, won't you give generously to the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering so the lost can hear that same, simple story that changed your life?



Blessings is published monthly by Byromville Baptist Church. Send news items and/or comments to Editor Brenda Lockerman at POB 217, Byromville, GA 31007, email to brendalockerman@windstream.net or call 478-433-2791.

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