

November 2008



Blessings



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Pastor's column

A lesson from where we have been



Andy Blankenship

At our Annual meeting for Houston Baptist Association I was asked about the direction our church was going and if I was pleased with it. I would like to take this opportunity to answer that question now. It has been said that “you can’t know where you are going until you know where you have been.”

In the 10 months that I have had the privilege of being the pastor of Byromville Baptist Church, I have learned much about where we have been. I have heard stories of missions and ministry. There has been much talk of financial blessings that have been contributed in our church that have gone on to purchase vans, a fellowship hall, a prayer garden, furniture, communion sets, choir robes, landscaping and a pastorium. Financially, God has done much in providing for the men that have led this church over the past 175 years. I could go on with story after story of the wonderful things God has provided for our church in the past.

In casual conversation much has been revealed to me about the spiritual work that has taken place here as well. I have enjoyed the conversion stories that many of you have shared; stories of salvation at Vacation Bible School and Revival meetings. I love the fact that several of our members have been baptized in a creek!

I would love to know how many miles have been traveled by the Seasoned Saints. If there has ever been a group of people who enjoy going and having fun it is definitely this group. I would love to know how many verses have been memorized by our children who have gotten bookmarks over the years. I would love to know how many softballs have been hit, swings have been swung and cakes have been baked by our church.

I am very pleased with the direction our church is headed. If it is anything like the places we have been it will truly be exciting. Happy anniversary Byromville Baptist Church! I pray that the next 175 years will be better and brighter than they have ever been.

Because He Lives
Brother Andy



The power of a simple gift

Operation Christmas Child brings joy and hope to children in desperate situations around the world through gift-filled shoe boxes and the Good News of God’s love. Since 1993, more than 61 million shoe boxes have been packed, shipped, and delivered across the globe. People of all ages can be involved in this simple, hands-on missions project while focusing on the true meaning of Christmas—Jesus Christ.

Information on how to pack your shoe box and gift suggestions can be found on the bulletin board across from the nursery or the Samaritan’s Purse website at www.samaritanspurse.org. There is also a link to SP’s website on the church website. You can also find labels for your shoe box on the bulletin board.

National Collection Week is November 17-24 so please have your box(es) at the church house by November 16. Collection boxes will be located in the sanctuary near the outside entrance and in the hall just outside of the pastor’s office.

Former pastor Jeff Overton to preach at Homecoming November 2



Our year long celebration of 175 years will culminate with Homecoming Sunday on November 2. The schedule for the day will be as follows:

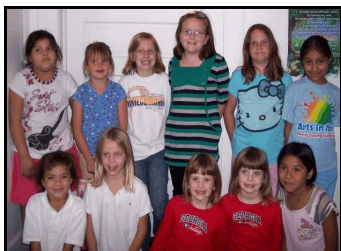
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| 10:00AM | Sunday School—take roll, pray and get name tags. |
| 10:30AM | Worship. |
| 12:30PM | Covered-dish lunch in Saliba Hall. Ham and fried chicken will be provided. |
| 1:30PM | Concert featuring Cheri and Courtney Overton, wife and daughter of Jeff. |

There will be no evening services.

Members, please take time to personally invite former members. Although invitations have been mailed, nothing is as effective as a personal contact from you. Also, since we are hoping for a crowd, members are requested to bring extra food.

About the cover

Elaine and Tim Phelps teach the Girls in Action (GAs) on Wednesday nights. Pictured on the cover is their class, which was 100 percent in attendance in October. Left to right (back row) they are Irma Moreles, Kate West, Grace



Musselwhite, Hannah Morrow, Mandy Smith, Vasti Vazquez; (front row) Shalexus McGullion, Tyler Brown, Sabrina Bowen, Samantha Bowen, Karen Gonzales.

Associational news

Our pastor to be featured speaker at youth rally at Drayton Church Nov. 8

Drayton Baptist Church will host an associational youth rally on November 8 from 5:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. Supper will be served. Our pastor will be the featured speaker, and the Cordele First Baptist praise and worship band will lead the worship time. Bring a chair. Drayton Church is located at 2515 River Road.

Penia Church to host Brotherhood November 3

Mike Flowers will be the featured speaker at this quarter's associational Brotherhood meeting on November 3 at Penia Baptist Church, 3738 Old Penia Road, Cordele. Rev. Flowers is the Director of Camp Kaleo, the Royal Ambassadors camp just south of Forsyth. Supper will be served at 6:30 p.m, and the meeting will immediately follow.

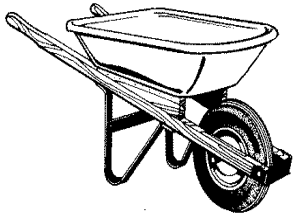


**Turn clocks back
before you
go to bed
Saturday,
Nov. 1
because
Daylight
Savings
Time ends
Sunday,
Nov. 2.**





NEWSBRIEFS



Work Day set for Saturday, Nov. 1

Come help get the church grounds spruced up for Homecoming. Work will begin around 9:00 a.m.

Baby shower tea for Jennifer Thomas

All the ladies are invited to a baby shower tea for Jennifer Phillips Thomas and Baby on November 9 from 2:00–4:00 p.m. at The Eagles Nest, 200 East Union Street, Vienna.

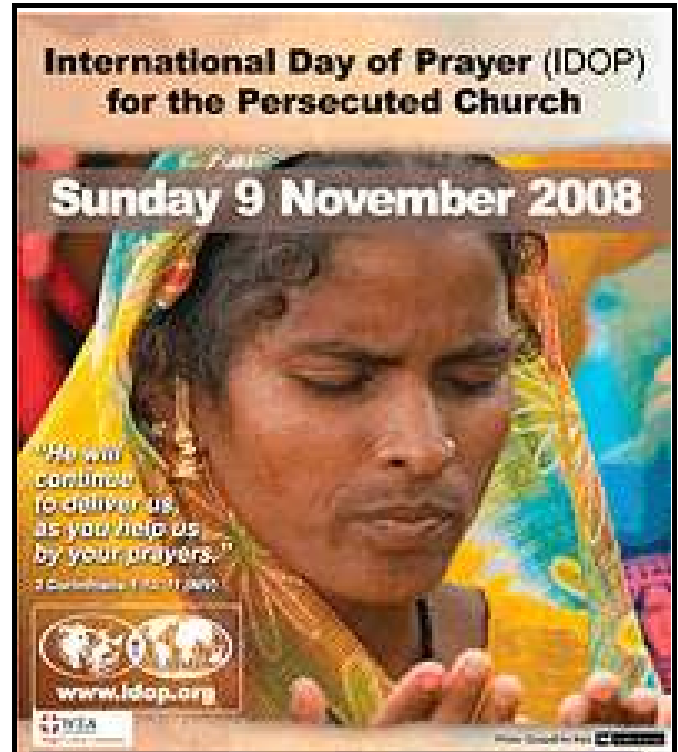


Joint Thanksgiving Service, Nov. 23

Our Methodist friends will host this year's annual service, and our pastor will be preaching. Service begins at 7:00 p.m.

Brotherhood to begin study of James

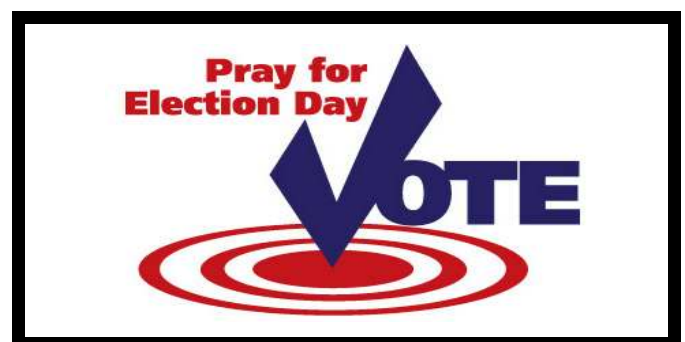
The monthly Brotherhood Breakfast will be November 15 at 8:00 a.m. in Saliba Hall. Following breakfast, the pastor will lead in a study of the book of James. All men and older boys are invited.



Many brothers and sisters in Christ in more than sixty nations do not have the full freedom to confess Jesus as Lord and Savior in our world. Just to give you two examples: when you read this some two thousand Christians are in prison in Eritrea and thousands have lost their homes in India as a result of anti-Christian attacks. More than 100 million Christians face disinformation, discrimination and persecution only because they want to follow Jesus Christ. And they are your brothers and sisters! They easily feel alone—in the jungle, in a hiding place or in a prison.

For specific prayer requests visit www.idop.org/prayerrequests.

Remember those in prison as if you were their fellow prisoners, and those who are mistreated as if you yourselves were suffering. Hebrews 13:3





Farmer John's Favorite Pumpkin Bread

Rich spice flavors shine in this tender, cakelike bread. You can store this bread airtight at room temperature up to three days or freeze up to three months.

- * 2 cups all-purpose flour
- * 1 1/4 cups firmly packed dark brown sugar
- * 1 cup granulated sugar
- * 1 cup coarsely chopped walnuts or pecans
- * 1/2 cup raisins
- * 1 1/2 teaspoons baking soda
- * 1 1/2 teaspoons ground cinnamon
- * 1 1/4 teaspoons ground nutmeg
- * 3/4 teaspoon salt
- * 3/4 teaspoon ground cloves
- * 1/2 teaspoon ground allspice
- * 1/2 teaspoon ground ginger
- * 3 large eggs
- * 1 3/4 cups Mashed Pumpkin
- * 3/4 cup vegetable oil

Preparation

1. Preheat oven to 350° (325° convection).
2. In a large bowl, mix flour, brown sugar, granulated sugar, nuts, raisins, baking soda, cinnamon, nutmeg, salt, cloves, allspice, and ginger until well blended.
3. In another bowl, whisk together eggs, Mashed Pumpkin, and oil until well blended.
4. Add wet ingredients to flour mixture and stir just until well blended. Pour equally into two oiled 8 1/2-by 4 1/2-inch loaf pans (with 2 2/3-cup capacity each).
5. Bake until bread pulls from pan sides and a wooden skewer inserted in center of thickest part comes out clean, 50 to 60 minutes. Let bread cool in pans on a rack for about 15 minutes. Cut around outside edges of bread and invert onto racks. Cool thoroughly.

Looking ahead to December

December 2008						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

Gifts for Pinehill

A Christmas wish list for the Pinehill residents will be posted on the bulletin board across from the nursery this month. The list will also be on the church website.

Senior Adult Christmas Luncheon

The annual Senior Adult Christmas Luncheon will be December 6 at 12:00 noon. This year's event is looking to be great—one you don't want to miss seniors!

Christmas in the Park, December 6

Another annual event always on the first Saturday of December is a great time for our community to come together and kick off the Christmas Season in Byromville. Be sure to be there at 6:00 p.m. so you won't miss Santa Claus.

Attention Seasoned Saints

Pat and Ronnie Hatcher and Louise Kirksey have planned a great time at Golden Corral in Cordele on December 6. The church van will leave Byromville at 6:00 p.m. Instead of buying a new gift, please bring a \$10 gift card for the Children's Home. Also, bring a "recycled gift" to exchange—something you already have but don't want or need anymore.

Toyland Concert, December 7

Our annual Toyland Concert will be the first Sunday in December at 6:00 p.m. Remember, you have to bring a toy to get in. All the toys collected will be distributed to children in our community who might not otherwise receive any gifts for Christmas.

Sunday School parties

Please let newsletter editor Brenda Lockerman know when your Sunday School Class Christmas parties will be so we can include them in the calendar in the December issue of *Blessings*.



Schedule of Volunteers for November

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

Date	Flowers	Nursery AM	Nursery PM	Deacon of the Week	Ushers
Nov. 2	Flower Committee	TBA	No service	Curtis Lamberth	Ronnie Hatcher Jeff Witmer
Nov. 9	Flower Committee	TBA	TBA	Jimmy Lockerman	Frank Thompson Daniel Thompson Matthew Youngblood
Nov. 16	Flower Committee	TBA	TBA	Arthur Roney	Mark Smith Quint Smith
Nov. 23	Flower Committee	TBA	Service at Methodist Church	Mark Smith	Jimmy L. Hendrix George Massey
Nov. 30	Flower Committee	TBA	TBA	Frank Thompson	William Preston Monta Averill

October Stats

Sunday School–Bible study for all ages

Senior Adults	12
FBIC	13
CIA	4
VOC	8
Young Adults	9
Older Youth	2
6 th , 7 th & 8 th Graders	3
3 rd , 4 th , & 5 th Graders	8
1 st & 2 nd Graders	6
Older Preschoolers	4
Younger Preschoolers	6
Nursery	4
General Officers	4
TOTAL	80

Wonderful Wednesdays

Adults	35
Youth	9
Older Children	6
Children in Action (Boys grades 1-3)	7
Girls in Action (Girls grades 1-3)	11
Mission Friends (Preschoolers)	10
Nursery	5
TOTAL	83

Enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise; give thanks to him and praise his name. For the Lord is good and his love endures forever...

Psalm 100:4,5a

Financial Summary

September receipts

General offerings	\$8,312.28
State Missions Offering	475.00
Special–mosquito nets	420.00
Special–stove	<u>157.25</u>
TOTAL	9,364.53

September disbursements

General expenses	6,876.47
Stove	57.26
Local missions	200.00
Cooperative Program	1,022.56
Houston Baptist Association	<u>426.07</u>
TOTAL	\$8,582.36





Basketball was a big hit at the Fall Festival on October 25. About 115 people enjoyed the games, food and fellowship.



Matthew Youngblood overlooks the food collected last month for local hunger needs, which will be distributed by the Dooly County Department of Family and Children's Services. An additional 100 or so packaged/canned food items were collected for the Children's Home in Baxley as well.

Is That My Problem?

Rescue those being taken off to death, and save those stumbling toward slaughter. Proverbs 24:11

There's an enormous difference between your life and that of a non-Christian. Beyond treating others in a basically moral way, non-Christians really only have

one responsibility--themselves. Unless they choose otherwise, they're under no obligation to do anything more than just get through life as best they can.

Christians, on the other hand, have a much greater obligation to those around us. We are to share the love of Christ with others. But that's not always an easy thing to do. Sometimes we're so busy with our own concerns, we don't take time for other people's needs. It's possible to become so preoccupied with ourselves that we don't even notice the hurting person right next to us.

According to this proverb, however, the "I'm too busy" excuse doesn't hold weight with God. If we'll just open our eyes, we'll see the struggling people all around us, headed for disaster unless someone tells them about God's salvation. We might like to think it's none of our business, but God says it is. He has placed us in the midst of a hurting world so we can share Christ's love with those who desperately need it.

Let God lead you out of your comfort zone so you can help someone else. Ask the Holy Spirit to open your ears and your eyes so you can hear God's prompting and see the needs all around you. Make the effort to get involved.

How have you been impacted by someone who thought more of others than himself? Read Up: Matthew 5:14-16, Acts 20:22-27



These folks represented BBC at the 178th Annual Meeting of Houston Baptist Association on October 21 at Vienna First Baptist Church. The are ((left to right): Pastor Andy Blankenship, Sally Averill, Mary Lizzie Lamberth, Curtis Lamberth, Martha Hill, Jean Latimer, Elizabeth Taylor, Bob Latimer, Brenda Lockerman.



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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