

November 2009

Blessings



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Pastor's column

Truly thankful



Andy Blankenship

After searching the internet for the better part of my morning for a quote to spark an article for this month's *Blessings*, I finally found one. It comes from the brilliant mind of Jonathan Edwards. On the subject of being thankful in a way that most honors God Edward's said, "True gratitude or thankfulness to God for his kindness to us, arises from

a foundation laid before, of love to God for what he is in himself; whereas a natural gratitude has no such antecedent foundation. The gracious stirrings of grateful affection to God, for kindness received, always are from a stock of love already in the heart, established in the first place on other grounds, viz. God's own Excellency."

What I believe Edwards meant by this was, gratitude that is pleasing to God is not first a delight in the benefits God gives (though that is part of it). True gratitude must be rooted in something else that comes first. Namely, a delight in the beauty and excellence of God's character. Any other form of thankfulness is not God-honoring at all. To illustrate, I would invite each of you to put yourself in the position of gift-giver to me. You would not be honored if I thanked you often for your gifts to me but had no deep and natural regard for you as a person. You would feel insulted, no matter how much I thanked you for your gifts. If your character and personality did not give me joy in being around you, then you would just feel used, like a tool or a machine to produce the things I really love. The same is certainly true of God! If we are not captivated and/or held captive by His goodness, holiness and sovereignty then all our gratitude and thanksgivings are empty and vain.

Therefore, since Thanksgiving is almost upon us and Christmas is right around the corner, my challenge for all who read this fantastic publication (thank you Brenda) is to live a life of true thanksgiving; to be satisfied and worshipful with the character and goodness of God as your foundation and His amazing gifts second. This is the way we can show our church

family and our community the Christ we so dearly love and serve; A Christ that is Lord of all; a Christ that is absolutely perfect yet He died like the vilest of criminals. We can show them a Savior whose existence is enough as opposed to some sort of "Celestial Santa Claus" that has come to just give us whatever our heart desires. The world has enough teaching like that!!

I look forward to putting this little mini-sermon to practice on November 22 in Groves Park as we have our first Community Thanksgiving Service. I pray God would be magnified and exalted in our little town for His glory and His glory alone! I will see you there.

Because He Lives
Andy

Pastor to preach revival at Dooling Church

Our pastor Andy Blankenship will be preaching a revival at Dooling Baptist Church November 9-11. Services begin each night at 7:00 p.m.



Daylight Savings Time ends Sunday, Nov. 1 so remember to set your clocks back one hour before you go to bed Saturday night.

Community Thanksgiving Service to be held Nov. 22 in Groves Park



Our traditional "Joint Thanksgiving Service" has expanded this year to a "Community Thanksgiving Service" which will be held in Groves Park. There will be special music, and the speaker will be Mary Ann Braswell, pastor of the Byromville United Methodist Church.

To shield us from inclement weather, we will have a huge tent, which will sit over a hundred people. Time for this special service is to be announced.

Everyone in the community is invited.

Persecuted: Not Abandoned

International Day of Prayer for the Persecuted Church

We are hard pressed on every side, but not crushed, perplexed, but not in despair; persecuted, but not abandoned, struck down, but not destroyed

November 8, 2009

Youth Rally

November 7 at 7:00 PM
Sharon Baptist Church
100 Sharon Church Road
Cordele

Message by Matt Stephens

Music by Forever Changed

Pizza Supper At 6:30 PM

Bring Your Friends!

Sponsored by Houston Baptist Association

Order your poinsettias for December's poinsettia tree



The flower and decorating committee is placing a "poinsettia tree" in the sanctuary during December. (This is a structure with poinsettias arranged on it in a tree or triangle shape.) The poinsettias will be white wrapped in purple foil.

The committee is asking people to purchase the poinsettias. You may purchase them in honor or memory of someone. Simply complete the forms which will be available at the church house the first Sunday in November, attach your money and place in the offering plate. The price of the poinsettias was unavailable at press time, however, it will be announced on November 1 and will be posted on the website.



Need help in choosing the good and rejecting the bad?

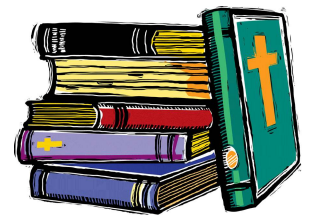
Could you use some help in selecting entertainment for yourself and your family? Check out Ted Baehr's MOVIEGUIDE at movieguide.org. (There's also a link to the site on our church's website.)

MOVIEGUIDE was founded in 1985 by Dr. Baehr to inform and educate the public about the influence of the entertainment media and about how to train their families to become media wise so they can choose the good and reject the bad.

"It's hard for people to believe we want them in heaven if we don't want them in our living room."
—Ralph Neighbor



Recommend reading from our pastor



Spiritual Leadership: Moving People On To God's Agenda by Henry & Richard Blackaby

Hard to Believe: The High Cost and Infinite Value of Following Jesus by John MacArthur

Family Driven Faith: Doing What It Takes to Raise Sons and Daughters Who Walk with God by Voddie Baucham, Jr.

What He Must Be...if he wants to marry my daughter by Voddie Baucham, Jr.

Don't Waste Your Life by John Piper

God Is The Gospel: Meditations on God's Love as the Gift of Himself by John Piper

The Knowledge of the Holy by A. W. Tozer

The Normal Christian Life by Watchman Nee

These books along with many others are available for checkout in your church media library. Please follow the checkout procedure when borrowing media and return it in a timely manner.

Not what we say about our blessings, but how we use them, is the true measure of our thanksgiving.

—W. T. Purkiser

WHO'S MISSING?

WHOSE MISSION?

Give to reach those still missing from God's family.

2009 National Goal: \$175 million
LOTTIE MOON CHRISTMAS OFFERING®
Week of Prayer: November 29 - December 6

Our Church Goal: \$2,000

imb | imbangoffering.com

Who's Missing?

Even after 2,000 years of Christian influence, more than 1.5 billion people are still missing out on the opportunity to hear the Gospel. They are hidden behind cultural, physical, political and language barriers to a Gospel witness. Many of the world's people missing from God's family live in concentrated pockets of lostness. The pockets we are focusing on in 2009 comprise:

- ◆ About 40 nations and 700 languages
- ◆ 34 percent Muslim
- ◆ 32 percent Hindu
- ◆ 13.5 percent Animist
- ◆ 6 percent Buddhist
- ◆ 6 percent unknown religion
- ◆ 4 percent nonreligious/other

Although there is a small percentage of Christian, the rest are a mix of ancestor worshipper, shamanist, Jewish, Taoist and Sikhist. About 80 unreached people groups still have no contact with the outside world.

Whose Mission?

The Bible says the lost are living in darkness, alienated from God and without hope in the world. But our obedience will give them hope. God calls every church and every believer to be on mission with Him to break down the barriers. Learn the ways you can be on mission to help bring a lost people into God's family.

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

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.

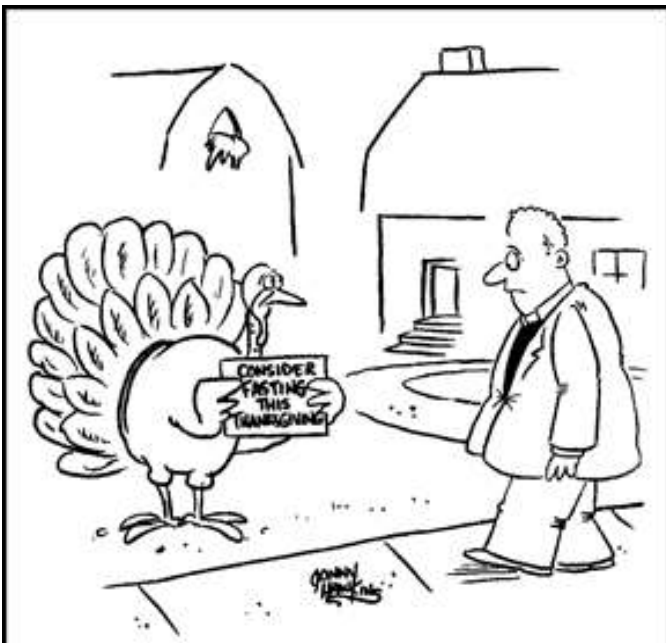
Date	Flowers	Nursery for Sunday School	Nursery for Morning Worship	Deacon of the Week	Ushers
Nov. 1	Flower Committee	Rhonda Youngblood	Laura/Keith Lamberth	Arthur Roney	Mark Smith Quint Smith
Nov. 8	Flower Committee	Sharon Thompson	Kimberly/Ryan Godfrey	Mark Smith	Monta Averill William Preston
Nov. 15	Flower Committee	Jill Brannen	Terri Gregory Michelle Kitchens	Frank Thompson	Mark Smith Arthur Roney
Nov. 22	Flower Committee	Mary Kathryn Blankenship	Robin/Mark Peavy	Curtis Lamberth	Bob Latimer Kyle West
Nov. 29	Flower Committee	Kimberly Godfrey	Vicki/Steven Lamberth	Jimmy Lockerman	Clinton Brannen Ronnie Hatcher

October Sunday School Stats

Senior Adults	11
FBIC	12
CIA	3
VOC	9
Young Adults	8
Older Youth	3
6 th , 7 th & 8 th Graders	2
3 rd , 4 th , & 5 th Graders	6
1 st & 2 nd Graders	7
Older Preschoolers	3
Younger Preschoolers	5
Nursery	0
General Officers	3
TOTAL	72

Financial Summary

<u>September receipts</u>	
General offerings	\$10,935.34
Mail Box Club	90.60
Memorials	1,060.00
State Missions	150.00
TOTAL	12,485.94
<u>September disbursements</u>	
General expenses	11,137.81
Mailbox Club	100.00
Church plant support	100.00
Benevolence	400.00
Local missions/evangelism	200.00
Cooperative Program	1,176.32
Houston Baptist Association	452.43
TOTAL	\$13,566.56



Josh Peavy graduated from the South Georgia Technical College Law Enforcement Academy in Americus last month. He is currently seeking employment with an area law enforcement agency.



Deadline for your Operation Christmas Child shoe boxes is November 15. Decorated boxes and *How To Pack A Shoe Box* brochures are available in the FBIC classroom. You can continue to decorate your own box. Please use a standard size shoe box and follow OCC's guidelines for packing your shoe box. For more information go to www.samaritanspurse.org/index.php/occ.



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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