

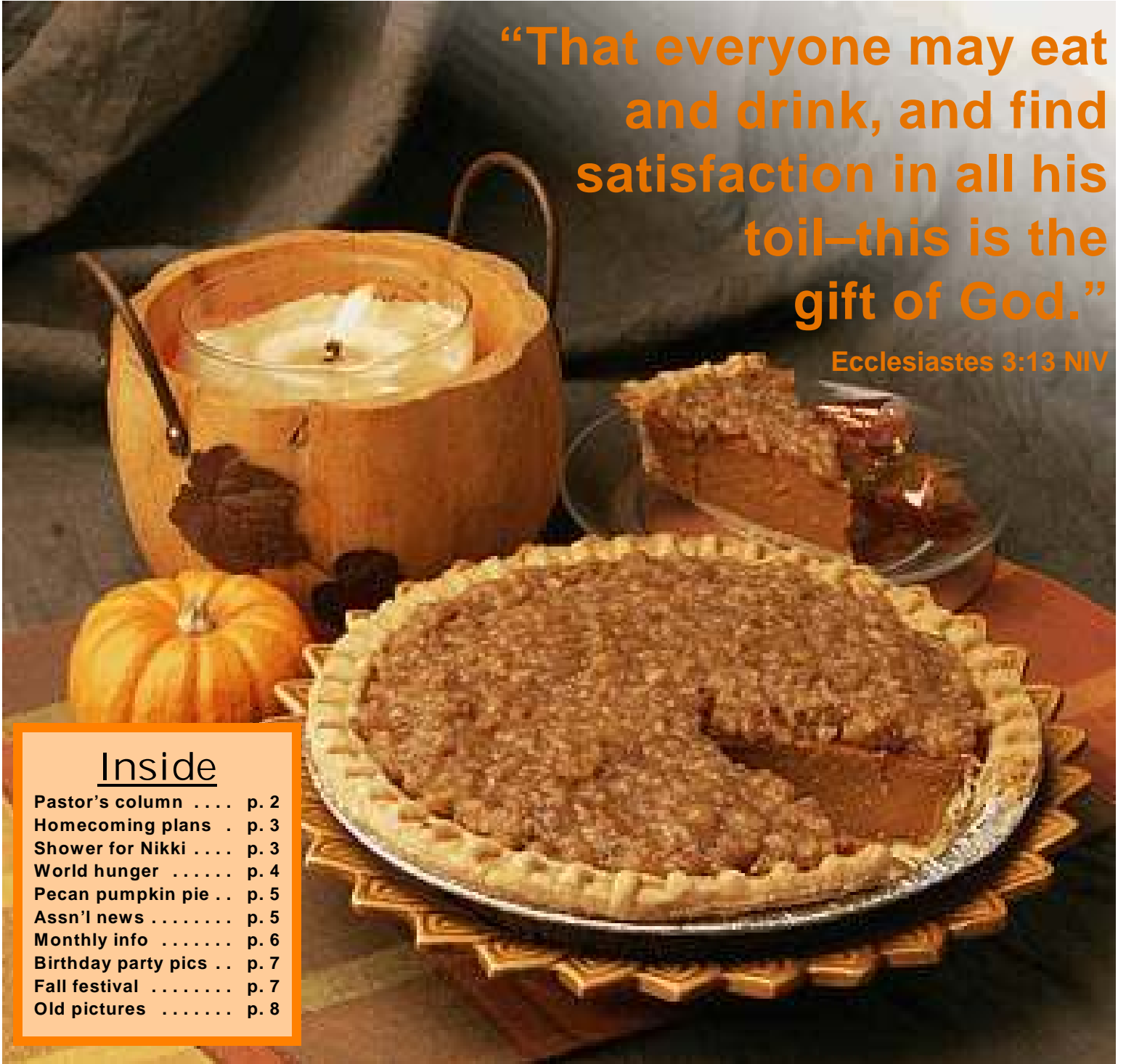
October 2008



# Blessings

“That everyone may eat  
and drink, and find  
satisfaction in all his  
toil—this is the  
gift of God.”

Ecclesiastes 3:13 NIV



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Pastor's column

## Families with swords



Andy Blankenship

"I need you to pray for me. Samantha has decided she doesn't want to be married anymore."

"We got married right out of college and I guess we really didn't know each other well enough to stay together."

Just the night before I sat down to type this little article my mom told me about some friends of mine from Webster County. When someone asked Missy why she was leaving Spence she said, "I just thought that when we got married I would fall more in love with him." When asked about getting pregnant with their daughter her response was similar. She said, "I guess I was hoping that a baby would bring us closer together but it didn't."

These three cases are just a small portion of the marriages that are falling apart or already have fallen apart in the past year.

What happened to the deep desire and passion for a family to succeed? Whatever happened to "till death do us part?" I will tell you what this pastor thinks. Our society and culture is losing its will to fight. It is much easier to throw in the towel and move on than it is to stay in a marriage and work.

I used to have this dog when I was growing up; we named her Spunky because she had so much energy. Spunky loved to be outside her cage; running free and mostly getting into our neighbors trash. When it came time to put her back in the cage she fought and fought with vigor. She simply refused to go in her cage. As she got older it became painfully obvious that she was on her last leg when she stopped fighting back when we tried to put her in the cage. Many marriages are like my old dog; men and women who just roll over and let their family die. To be quite honest the whole

thing makes me sick to my stomach and it makes me angry. But I will say the crumbling relationships around me have awakened within my soul this deep desire to fight to the death, if need be, for my wife and my daughter.

Let me take you to a passage of scripture that I preached from several months ago. It is Nehemiah 4:13 which says, "Then I stationed men in the lower parts of the space behind the wall, the exposed places, and I stationed the people in families with their swords, spears and bows." The context is simple. Nehemiah was leading the nation in the rebuilding of the wall around Jerusalem and there was adversity to that work; other nations were trying to stop the work by waging war with the people. I love Nehemiah's strategy here! He didn't send the men off while the women and children stayed behind; he sent them out as a family to fight. I believe the application is simple. We are to handle this adversity in our nation by fighting as a family. Our marriages would stay together if husbands and wives would fight together and not with each other. Our children would be growing in Christ and faith if fathers would stand in the gaps and fight fearlessly for their homes.

My challenge for you all this month is to examine your families to see what your strategy is for fighting off Satan and this world. If you don't have one, pray and seek God's direction and come up with one. Figure out where the exposed places are in your family so that fathers can stand in the gap. Understand what the culture is trying to tear down in your family and then get together and fight! God give us Christian homes is the old hymn that I pray would become our battle cry.

Because He Lives  
Brother Andy



**Operation  
Christmas Child**  
A PROJECT of SAMARITAN'S PURSE

Don't let it slip up on you. Deadline for shoe boxes is November 16. For more information go

**May I have your  
attention please?**



**Homecoming has  
been moved to  
November 2**

Our year long celebration of 175 years will culminate with Homecoming Sunday on November 2. This event was originally scheduled for November 9, but last month in a special called conference the church voted to change it to November 2.

The schedule for the day will be as follows:

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

There will be no evening services.

Members, please take time to personally invite former members. Although invitations are being 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.

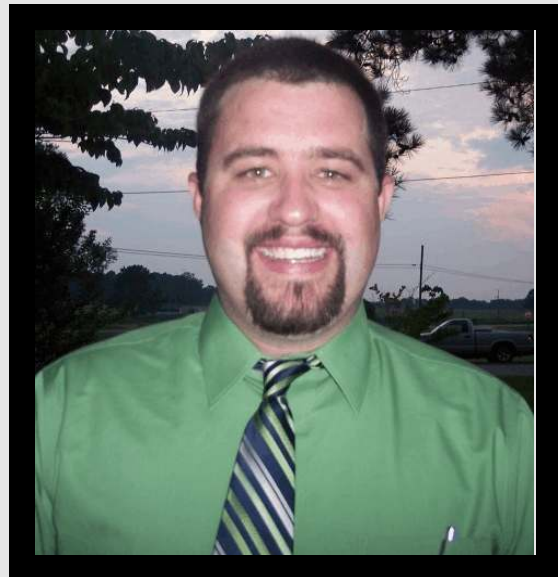
# Bridal shower for Nikki Howell Gaultney



All the ladies are invited to a bridal shower tea for Nikki Howell Gaultney on October 5 from 2:30 to 3:30 p.m. in Saliba Hall. Nikki and Justin were married on June 19 and live in Oglethorpe.

For your information: Nikki's bathroom is sky blue, and her kitchen colors are red and black.

We love  
and appreciate  
our pastor!



Thank you  
Brother Andy  
for all you do.



## October is World Hunger Month—give food and money



**Globally, more than 850 million people in the world go hungry.**

In developing countries, 11 million children die each year where 6 million is from hunger-related causes. Every day, almost 16,000 children die from hunger-related causes—one child every five seconds.

In essence, hunger is the most extreme form of poverty, where individuals or families cannot afford to meet their most basic need for food. Hunger manifests itself in many ways other than starvation and famine. Most poor people who battle hunger deal with chronic undernourishment and vitamin or mineral deficiencies, which result in stunted growth, weakness and heightened susceptibility to illness.

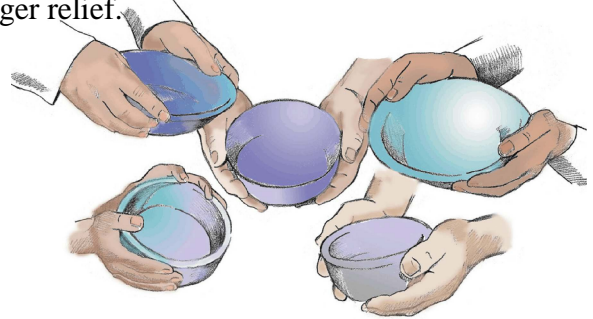
Countries in which a large portion of the population battles hunger daily often lack the social safety nets we enjoy, such as soup kitchens, food stamps and job training programs. When a family that lives in a poor country cannot grow enough food or earn enough money to buy food, there is nowhere to turn for help.

**More than 37 million Americans are food insecure, hungry or at risk of hunger!**

It is estimated that 9 million people, including 3 million children, live in homes that experience hunger—where meals are frequently skipped or individuals go without food for a whole day. [U.S. Department of Agriculture, Household Food Security in the United States, 2007]

The Southern Baptist World Hunger Fund was created to be a support for those in need. By utilizing the missionary force we already have in place, Hunger Fund money is instrumental in meeting both physical and spiritual needs. Every dollar of the Southern Baptist World Hunger Fund is used for hunger relief.

Unless designated otherwise, 80 percent is used for international hunger relief and 20 percent for US hunger relief.



Over \$1.2 million in domestic hunger funds was distributed to 2,200 hunger ministries in North America in 2007. Over 3.5 million meals were fed to the hungry in North America with Domestic Hunger Funds. The Gospel was shared with over 560,000 people, at their point of need. There were over 35,000 professions of faith through hunger ministries.

Special World Hunger Offering envelopes will be available at the church house or you may simply mark your check “for world hunger”.

### Food collection for local needs

As has been our custom for the last few years, we will be collecting canned and packaged food for local hunger needs this month. We have been dividing the collected food between the Dooly County Department of Family and Children’s Services (DFCS) and the associational food ministry. However, because the associational food ministry is in the process of regrouping, all the food we collect will go to DFCS this year.



All kinds of canned and packaged foods are needed, except green beans and corn. Collection boxes will be at the church house.

**Will Jesus be able to say of us, “I was hungry and you gave me something to eat” (Matt. 25:35 NIV)?**

*On the cover*

## Pecan pumpkin pie



1 Pastry pie shell, 9" uncooked

### Layer of Pumpkin

3/4 cup canned pumpkin

2 tablespoons light brown sugar, packed

1 large egg

2 tablespoons of sour cream

1/8 teaspoon ground cinnamon

1/8 teaspoon ground nutmeg

### Layer of Pecan

3/4 cup light corn syrup

1/2 cup light brown sugar, packed

3 large eggs

3 tablespoons butter (unsalted), melted and cooled

1 1/3 cup pecans

2 teaspoon vanilla

1/4 teaspoon grated lemon rind

1 1/2 teaspoon lemon juice

1/4 teaspoon salt

Prepare pie shell for pecan pumpkin pie. Keep chilled.  
Preheat oven to 425 degrees.

Whisk the following ingredients together until smooth: pumpkin, about 2 T brown sugar, 1 egg, sour cream, cinnamon and nutmeg.

In another bowl, combine corn syrup, about 1/2 cup brown sugar, 3 eggs, about 3 T butter, vanilla, lemon rind, lemon juice and salt. Stir in pecans.

Spread the pumpkin layer into the pie shell, then carefully spoon the pecan mixture over it. Bake in a preheated 425 degree F. oven for 20 minutes, then reduce to 350 degrees F. for 20-30 minutes more. The filling will puff slightly, but the center will not be completely set. Cool on a rack.

Serve warm or at room temperature. Reheat pecan pumpkin pie in a preheated 350 degree F. oven for 10 to 15 minutes.

*Associational news*

## Brother Charlie's Thrift Store now in Helping Hand Building

The store is open on Thursday through Saturday from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. The ministry is accepting clothing, appliances, furniture, bedding, home decor, bicycles and computers. All donations are tax deductible. Contact the associational office at 229-273-4127 for more information.

## Association collecting items for Children's Home

The association is collecting the following items for the Children's Home in Baxley:

Bottle or canned fruit juices (apple, orange or grape)

Canned creamed corn

Canned lima beans

Canned potatoes

Sauces (i.e. Teriyaki, BBQ)

Please bring these items to the church house by Oct. 19 or the associational office in Cordele by Oct. 23. There will be a receptacle for these items in the connecting foyer.

## Vienna First to host annual meeting

Vienna First Baptist Church will host the 178<sup>th</sup> annual meeting of Houston Baptist Association on October 21 at 3:00 p.m.



## Sign up for flowers

A new list to sign up to place flowers in the sanctuary has been posted on the bulletin board across from the nursery.



<b>Schedule of Volunteers for October</b>					
Please remember it is up to <b>you</b> to arrange coverage if <b>you</b> are unable to serve on your scheduled day.					
<b>Date</b>	<b>Flowers</b>	<b>Nursery AM</b>	<b>Nursery PM</b>	<b>Deacon of the Week</b>	<b>Ushers</b>
Oct. 5	Elaine Phelps	Monica/Clint Payne	Vicki/Steven Lamberth	Jimmy Lockerman	Mark Smith Quint Smith
Oct. 12	Elaine Phelps	Patricia/Joe Kent	Brenda/Jimmy Lockerman	Arthur Roney	William Preston Monta Averill
Oct. 19	Michelle Kitchens	Laura/Keith Lamberth	Paula McKinley Marsha Taylor	Mark Smith	Arthur Roney Mark Peavy
Oct. 26	Open	Paula/Mark Smith	Katrina/Kyle West	Frank Thompson	Bob Latimer Kyle West

### September Stats

#### Sunday School—Bible study for all ages

Senior Adults	14
FBIC	11
CIA	5
VOC	12
Young Adults	10
Older Youth	2
6 <sup>th</sup> , 7 <sup>th</sup> & 8 <sup>th</sup> Graders	3
3 <sup>rd</sup> , 4 <sup>th</sup> , & 5 <sup>th</sup> Graders	6
1 <sup>st</sup> & 2 <sup>nd</sup> Graders	7
Older Preschoolers	3
Younger Preschoolers	3
Nursery	4
General Officers	5
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>85</b>

#### Wonderful Wednesdays

Adults	34
Youth	10
Older Children	8
Younger Children (Children in Action)	14
Preschoolers (Mission Friends)	8
Nursery	4
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>78</b>

### Financial Summary

#### August receipts

General offerings	\$9,367.34
Special—Hailey Barrett/Steven Jones Fund	500.00
Interest from CD	<u>1,051.84</u>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>10,919.18</b>

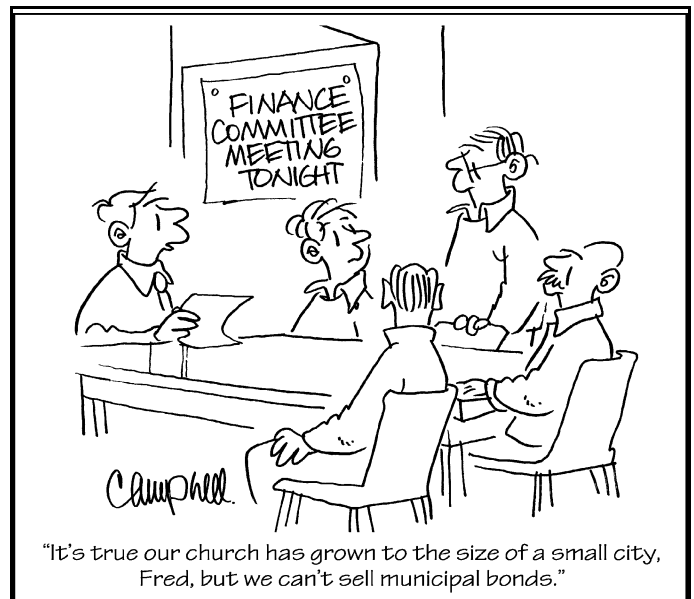
#### August disbursements

General expenses	8,3764.64
Stove	76.35
Furniture for pastor's office	1,237.72
Revival	450.00
Hailey Barrett/Steven Jones	1,000.00
Youth	1,389.63
Local missions	800.00
Cooperative Program	1,296.22
Houston Baptist Association	<u>540.09</u>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$15,164.65</b>

### Understanding the doctrine of election

A 19th-century preacher was once asked to explain the doctrine of election. He said: "Well, brethren, it is this way: The Lord is always voting for a man, and the devil is always voting against him; then the man himself votes, and that breaks the tie.

—Arthur Tonne



## Women On Mission host birthday party at Pinehill



These pictures are from the birthday party at Pinehill Nursing Center on September 16 which was hosted by the Women on Mission Day Group. They served vanilla ice cream, homemade pound cake, cheese balls and soft drinks. The WOM day and night groups host other parties at Pinehill during the year also. If you would like to help, contact WOM leaders Jill Brannen and/or Mary Ellen Wilkes.

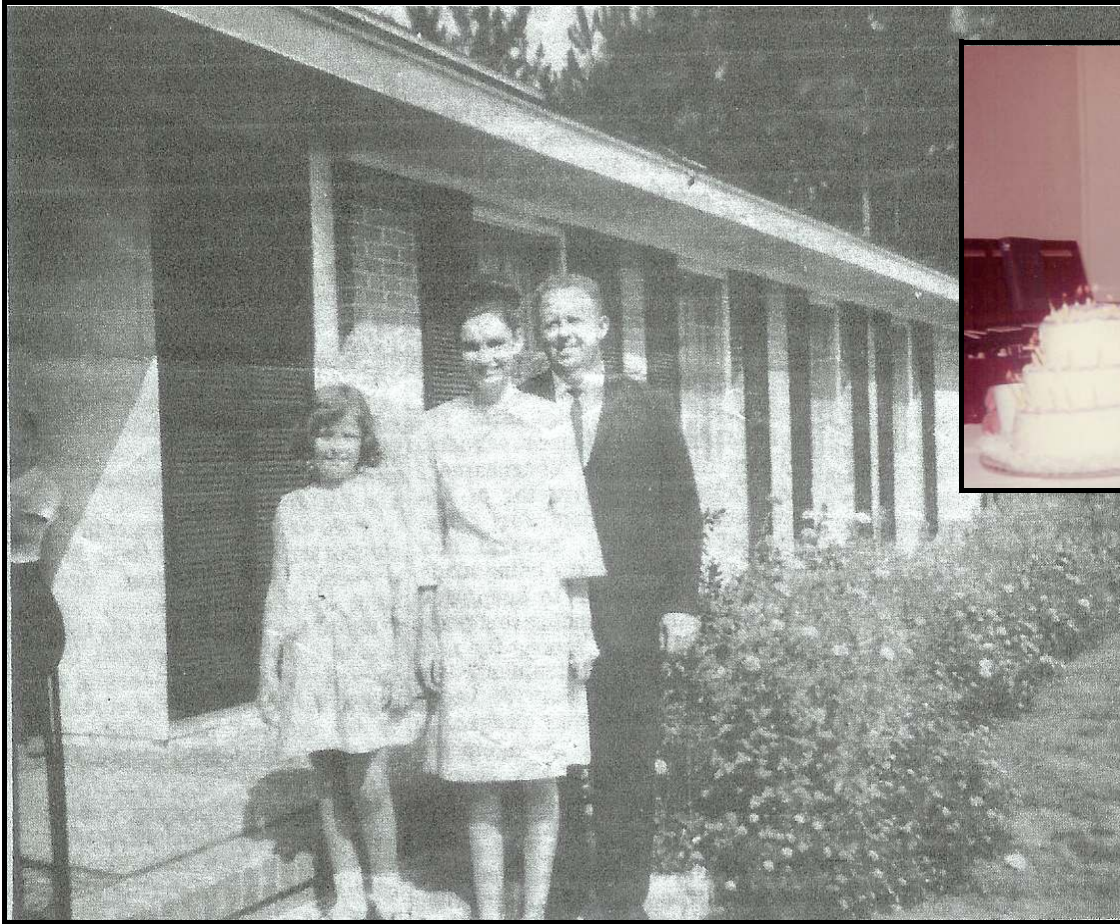
# Fall Festival

October 25  
4:30 PM

Something For Everyone  
Bingo and cake walk for adults  
Games and prizes for kids

Supper at 6:00 PM.  
Hamburgers, hotdogs,  
all the trimmings, dessert.

Hayride at 6:30 PM



**Above:** In 1969, Pastor Cecil Becham on his 40<sup>th</sup> birthday.

**Left:** In August 1967 shortly after the pastorium was built, Debra, Carolyn and Cecil Becham.

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](mailto:brendalockerman@windstream.net) or call 478-433-2791.

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