

BETHANY HIGHLIGHTS

December 2012

Ben's Pen

The Hallmark Channel started their Christmas movie barrage well before Thanksgiving this year. As we complain about how the retailers seem to move Christmas back earlier every year let us stop for a minute. Am I not supposed to carry the love of God to my world 365 days a year? Why am I so upset that some movies come on a few days or weeks before I expected them? Could it be that I bottle up the Christ of Christmas to my calendar and do not want to share him year round?

Susan, Elizabeth, William, Caroline, Jonathan and I hope you will come by our house, 9808 Poplar Forest Road, on Sunday, December 23 from 4:00 to 7:00 p.m. Our house is open to you. Join us.

Merry Christmas, Ben

Christmas music is in the air. We will sing many of your favorite hymns in worship this month and we will also have several special events that highlight the music. On Sunday, December 9 the Deacons are hosting a soup and sandwich lunch right after worship. After the food a number of individuals will go **caroling** and you are invited to join them. The annual musical cantata by our children & youth choir will be on December 16. Worship with us as we encounter *The First Leon* at 5:00 p.m. in the sanctuary. The adult choir will present their Christmas **cantata** in the morning worship hour on December 23. And on **Christmas Eve** we will worship with hymns and Scripture beginning at 5:30 p.m. as we celebrate the newborn King. Worship the coming Messiah with us in our music this month.

We have a Christmas party of you. The Baptist Men and their spouses will gather at Angela's at 6:30 p.m. on December 3 for a time of fellowship and food. On December 12 the PRIMETIMERS will celebrate with a Christmas meal at 12 noon at the church. And on December 18 our Woman's Missionary Union will meet at the Four Seasons at 6:30 p.m. for good food and fellowship. At publication time the exact scheduling of SS class celebrations were not finalized, but should be soon.

Our December business meeting is scheduled for December 11 at 7:00 p.m. There are several items on the agenda, including the 2013 church budget.

There are multiple opportunities to share our blessings with our community and the world. Our Food Tree is a terrific chance to help out the local food bank. Every ornament (can) helps. Did you decorate a tree this year? Here is a chance! Our WMU is once again sponsoring the Underwear drive in conjunction with our local Salvation Army. New underwear for children ages 2-16 is in great demand. Can you help? Annually we have a Christmas offering for missions. This year is no different. There will be additional information each Sunday about some of the great needs and opportunities that our financial gifts go to minister to this year. Use the specially marked envelopes in the pew racks and prayerfully support our partners around the world as they share the love of God in many ways.

The January Highlights article deadline is December 18.

BETHANY BAPTIST CHURCH

Rev. Ben Thomas, Pastor

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Bethany Baptist Church

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December 2012

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
30 Sunday School 10:00 am Worship 11:00 am	31					1 Men meet at McDonalds @ 8:30 am
2 Advent 1 Sunday School 10:00 am Worship 11:00 am Children/Youth Choir 5:00 pm	3 Men's Supper 6:30 pm @Angela's	4	5 Bible Study 6:30 pm CIA 6:30 pm Choir Rehearsal 7:30 pm	6	7	8
9 Advent 2 Sunday School 10:00 am Worship 11:00 am Lunch & Caroling 12:30 pm C/Y Choir 5:00 pm	10	11 Business 7:00 pm	12 PRIMETIMERS 12:00 pm Bible Study 6:30 pm Choir to BGHCC 6:30 pm	13	14	15 Children & Youth Choir Dress Rehearsal 10:30 am
16 Advent 3 Sunday School 10:00 am Worship 11:00 am Musical 5:00 pm <i>The First Leon</i>	17	18 W.M.U. 6:30 pm @ Four Seasons January Newsletter Deadline	19 Bible Study 6:30 pm Choir Rehearsal 7:30 pm	20 Deacons 6:30 pm @ Bobby Orrock's	21	22
23 Advent 4 Sunday School 10:00 am Worship 11:00 am Open House @ Pastor's Home 4:00 – 7:00 pm	24 Christmas Eve Worship 5:30 pm	25 CHRISTMAS Office Closed	26 Office Closed	27	28	29

December Birthdays

1 – Janice Hockaday	15 – Beverly Gilbert
2 – Alberta Johnson	15 – Maggie Steckler
6 – Sue Acors	19 – Mark Marshall
12 – Polly Proffitt	22 – Zachary Newman
12 – Caleb Newberry	29 – Nancy Montgomery
14 – Stephen Morris	31 – Loretta Smith

December Anniversaries

None Known

Healthcare Center Prayer List:

Scarlett Blanton	Bobby Carnahan
Ruby Bullock	Nell Durrett
Brenda Cannon	Violet Henshaw

Deacons

Alice Allen	(804) 448-3292
Al Baker	(804) 448-3345
Dickie Bettis	(540) 898-0122
Lora Faulconer	(540) 582-6820
Danny Lee	(540) 582-8213
Harry Newman	(804) 448-1502
Bobby Orrock (Chair)	(804) 448-3914

Deacon of the Month: December

Dickie Bettis (540) 898-0122

The mission of Bethany Baptist Church is to make a positive impact for Jesus Christ with people who live in our community by sharing the message of eternal life through Jesus Christ and by growing together as the family of God.

Just a thought...for all eternity.

And the Word became flesh and lived among us...

John 1:14a