

BETHANY HIGHLIGHTS

December 2013

Ben's Pen

December can be an expensive month. We buy gifts and decorations. We host and attend parties. Our utility bills usually go up due to weather. And we also like to give to global mission's offerings and charities. Sometimes we forget about our church budget. December does mark the end of our budget year and we have some work to do to meet our budget needs. I encourage you to give generously to family, friends, the needy, and Bethany Baptist Church. Christmas is a time of giving. Let us celebrate the season with our gifts this year.

Advent and Christmas is one of my favorite times of the year. I love the music, the parties, the family gatherings, and the worship. I recall events past, from Santa at my house to time spent with now deceased relatives. Primarily, I remember hearing the story of the loving God who gave his only Son for me and you. I still am astonished that I was that important to God, especially since He knew the ultimate cost as Mary and Joseph struggled to find lodging that first Christmas night in Bethlehem. What am I giving this Christmas? I am not referring to gifts or money. I am not recalling what I did that Sunday morning in December some 40 plus years ago when I slipped down that aisle at Lakeview Baptist Church. I am asking what am I giving to God this Christmas? It is a vital question.

In Christ's Love,

Ben

Our December **Business Meeting** is scheduled for December 3rd at 7:00 p.m. The 2014 budget and the avenue for funding of the replacement furnace are among the major items on the agenda.

WMU: Our collection of underwear for youngsters will wrap up on December 1st. There is a dire need for underwear for children up to size 14. The collection box is in the Education Building. Our annual stocking drive also concludes on December 1st. Please be sure and get in your donations.

Our Baptist Men have a food tree in the sanctuary, but it needs some ornaments. Some cans of beans, corn, meats, fruits and other food items would look great on the tree. Can you help out with some canned food to help spruce up our "Christmas" tree? All the items will be given to a local food bank.

Our annual Christmas musicals are coming up. The Children's cantata *Fear Not Factor* is scheduled for December 15th at 5:00 p.m. Come check out the kid's hard work. It is sounding good. The adult choir will present their music on December 22nd as a part of our morning worship. Music is a great way to celebrate Christmas. Join us for our special music and our Christmas hymns this month.

Do you have any new or gently used shoes you are not wearing anymore? Our children's missions will begin collecting these shoes in January 2014. These shoes will be donated to Soles4Souls next spring, but you can start setting them aside now. You will not see much publicity at Bethany until next year, but your unwanted good shoes of all sizes are needed in poverty stricken areas around our world. If you have any questions check out, www.giveshoes.org or talk to Ben or Susan Thomas.

The January 2014 *Highlights* article deadline is December 17th.

BETHANY BAPTIST CHURCH

Rev. Ben Thomas, Pastor

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December 2013

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 ADVENT 1	2	3 Business Meeting 7:00 pm	4 Bible Study 10:00 am	5	6	7
8 Sunday School 10:00 am Worship 11:00 am Choir Rehearsal 12:30 pm Children's Choir 5:00 pm ADVENT 2	9 Men & WMU Supper @ Angela's 6:30 pm	10 PRIME TIMERS 12 NOON	11 Bible Study 10:00 am	12 Deacons 7:00 pm	13	14 Children's Cantata Dress Rehearsal 10:00 am
15 Sunday School 10:00 am Worship 11:00 am Choir Rehearsal 12:30 pm CHILDREN'S CANTATA 5:00 pm ADVENT 3	16	17	18 Bible Study 10:00 am	19	20	21
22 Sunday School 10:00 am Worship 11:00 am Open House @ Pastor's 4 – 6:00 pm ADVENT 4	23	24 CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE 5:30 pm	25 CHRISTMAS	26	27	28
29 Sunday School 10:00 am Worship 11:00 am	30	31				

December Birthdays

1 – Janice Hockaday	15 – Beverly Gilbert
2 – Alberta Johnson	18 – Maggie Steckler
6 – Sue Acors	19 – Mark Marshall
12 – Polly Proffitt	22 – Zachary Newman
12 – Caleb Newberry	31 – Loretta Smith
14 – Stephen Morris	

December Anniversaries

None known

If you have some birthdays or anniversaries that we do not get posted, please let us know.

Healthcare Center Prayer List:

Grace Anderson	Nell Durrett
Scarlett Blanton	Violet Henshaw
Brenda Cannon	Douglas Jones
Bobby Carnahan	

Deacons

Alice Allen	(804) 448-3292
Al Baker	(804) 448-3345
Danny Lee	(540) 582-8213
Emmitt Marshall	(540) 582-5381
Harry Newman, chairman	(804) 448-1502

Deacon of the Month:

Danny Lee

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 ... *Were the whole realm of nature mine, that were a present far too small; Love so amazing, so divine, Demands my soul, my life, my all!* Isaac Watts