



Where Faith
Comes To Life

THE CROSSROADS

WHY DO YOU STAY?

September 28, 2017
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Baptist Church of the Covenant

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On Tuesday of this past week, I visited with a group of chaplains. Bob Powell is supervising them through a unit of Clinical Pastoral Education. We met in a room at Tuscaloosa's Veteran's Hospital for an hour and a half. I was supposed to talk about Women in the Ministry, and so I told my story. When I mentioned that I had just celebrated fifteen years as the senior pastor of Baptist Church of the Covenant, I was asked, "Why do you stay?" I've been thinking about my answer.

I stay because I love the Church. I am still felled by stained glass; worn Bibles; parame-nts; empty patient sanctuaries; choir robes, organ music and candle wax. I love the Church because it is here where I am aware of larger purposes, and music can make my spirit soar. I love the Church because it is composed of imperfect people who strive to live in community. I love the Church because there are stories that can never be told anywhere but here. I love the Church because hope reigns, even in the face of death. I love the Church because it is only in pastoral ministry that you have the privilege of standing with people at the most important junctures of their lives: being born, baptized, marrying, in illness and in death.

But maybe their question had to do with why have I stayed at this particular church, this church we know and love as Baptist Church of the Covenant. I stay because I love the freedom you allow in the pulpit, trusting that through study and the inspiration of the Spirit, there just might be a Word. I stay because you are a people dedicated to serving and learning with integrity. I stay because you are generous in your support, financially and personally. I stay because we make every attempt to love one another through the good and the bad. I stay because of your dedication to reach out to the community, here and abroad, in order to make a difference in the world one life at a time. I stay because we focus on all the things upon which we can agree and make room for the things about which we cannot agree. I stay because I get to watch you practice grace upon grace. I stay because we are still having a good time! (smile)

Why do you stay? What is compelling to you about Baptist Church of the Covenant? Who will you tell? How will you show your love for the church?

With deep appreciation for the opportunity to serve alongside each of you, I am
Sincerely yours,

Sarah

BUSINESS MEETING RECONVENES
SUNDAY, OCTOBER 1
9:50 a.m.

— WORSHIP ANNOUNCEMENTS —



CANDLE KEEPERS VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Looking for an opportunity to volunteer your creativity to BCOC? Consider signing up to decorate the Peace Candle for Sunday Worship!

If interested, contact Dennis Hodtwalker at dhodtwalker.dh@gmail.com.

— WEDNESDAY NIGHT FELLOWSHIP —

- Oct. 4 Skills for Christian Living
- Oct. 11 Skills for Christian Living
- Oct. 18 Business Meeting – Adoption of budget
- Oct. 25 “How to have Civil Discourse in an Uncivil World,” J.L. “Vic” Dippenaar
- Nov. 1 “Civil Discourse,” Vic Dippenaar

— CHILDREN AND YOUTH —



ESCAPE ROOM OCTOBER 22 AT 5:30 P.M.

The 5th and 6th grade Class is invited to BREAKOUT Birmingham on Sunday evening, October 22.

Meet at BCOC at 5:30 p.m. or meet the group at Breakout at 5:45 p.m. Breakout is located at 2717 19th Place South, Homewood 35209. The cost for each player is \$15 (pay BCOC).

Complete the waiver [HERE](#). Adult chaperones are: Kristen Berthiaume, Patrick Chappell, Dennis Wilson, and Daniel Ingram.

— UPCOMING EVENTS —



SUNDAY, OCTOBER 8, 2017
5:00 P.M.

Walt Disney presents The BCOC Youth Variety Show on Sunday, October 8. BBQ dinner is at 5:00 p.m. and the show starts at 6:00 p.m. Please reserve your spot at dinner by signing up in the Fellowship Hall. We'd love for everyone to dress in tacky tourist/Disney attire, and kids are encouraged to wear Disney costumes. Sign up your variety act with [Patrick Chappell](#) by Wednesday, October 4.

For more information, email [Kristen Berthiaume](#). All proceeds benefit the BCOC Youth Group. See ya real soon!



ALABAMA CBF FALL GATHERING OCTOBER 22ND

Vestavia Hills Baptist Church

The Alabama CBF Fall Gathering will be held Sunday, October 22nd at Vestavia Hills Baptist Church in Birmingham. We will have workshops in the afternoon, dinner, and worship. Our keynote speaker will be CBF Executive Coordinator, Rev. Suzii Paynter.

PAINTBALL!
For Youth and Friends
Sunday October 22
3:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. with
supper afterwards
Watch email for more
details!



COMMUNITY SING
MONDAY, OCTOBER 9
7:00P.M.



With
Steel City Men's Chorus, Oakland Interfaith Gospel Choir, and members of the San Francisco Gay Men's Chorus

Join us here at BCOC for a FREE concert! All are welcome!

OFFICE ANNOUNCEMENTS

celebrating
50
years

BCOC is beginning to look forward to a celebration honoring our fiftieth anniversary in November 2020. If you would like to be a part of a team to help plan an event to mark this important milestone, please contact [Carol Dean](#), or [Josey Windham](#).

October Birthdays

Mary Ellen Caughran 10/3
Selena Belew 10/3
Gina Deavers 10/4
Sarah Young 10/5

Bill Caughran 10/10
Winter Fortune 10/10
John Yarbrough 10/12
Matthew Gardner 10/12

Congratulations

Congratulations to Trey and Kelly Adams on the birth of their son, Clyde "Cort" Simpson Adams, IV. Cort was born on Wednesday, September 20. He weighed 8 lbs 11oz. Mom and baby are home happy and healthy.

MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES



FAMILY PROMISE

OCTOBER 8 - 15

Mark your calendars! BCOC will host Family Promise the week of October 8 - 15. We need greeters, meal preparers, food items for breakfast and lunch and overnighters. Please contact [Rebecca Richardson](#), [Carol Dean](#), [Allan Burton](#), or [Linda Martin](#) if interested. Thank you in advance for your help!



TAKE WHAT YOU NEED

FOR SOCKTOBER: Socks, lip balm, cough drops



PRAYER CONCERNS



HOME

Harvey Love
Jill Blach
Esther Gardner
Ann Yates
Mark Lasseter
Mike Baswell
Cheryl Pathasema

Bob Powell, Cottondale Christian Church, Cottondale, AL
Shalom Baptist Church
Corita Blanco
Boca de Mariel, Cuba
Elizabeth Lott, St. Charles Avenue Baptist Church, New Orleans, LA

CHURCH BUSINESS

WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 17

General Fund \$10,805.00
Building Fund \$441.00

WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 27

General Fund \$5,965.04
Building Fund \$191.00

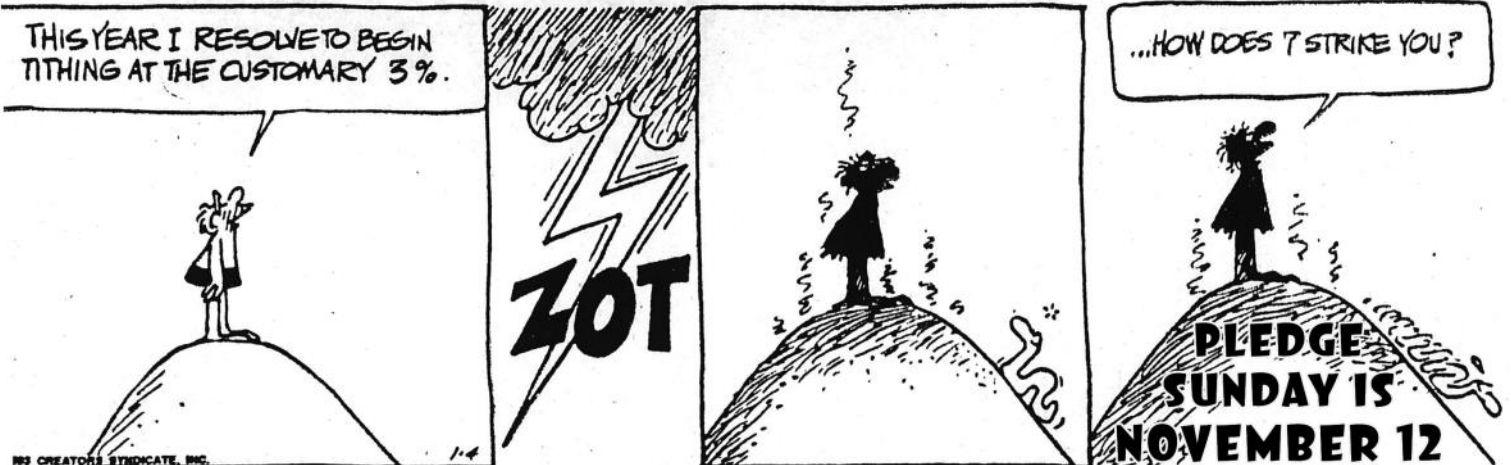
General Fund Gifts needed each week to meet the 2017 Budget: \$13,791.00

The indebtedness of the church is \$534,009.11

with sympathy

Sympathy is expressed to Pam Baggett and Carol Johnson in the death of Pam's father. Also to Susan and Paul Richardson in the death of Susan's father, Robert Chapman.

B.C. BY JOHNNY HART



DEACON OF THE WEEK: MARK BURGE, 205-447-4255

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 1 – COMMUNION

- Helpers Pickup* – Pat Hawley, Mary Helen & Joe Dixon
- 8:30 a.m. – *Lobby Monitors* – Bob & Pam Patterson
- 8:30 a.m. – 9:15 a.m. – *Alley Door Monitor* – Suzanne & Mike Martin
- 9:00 a.m. – Morning Worship
- Greeters, Ushers & Offering* – Deacons
- Worship Care* – Connie McCrory, Eljee Bentley, Will Martin
- 9:00 a.m. – 10:15 a.m. – *Glass Lobby Greeters* – Brent Cotton & Tom Austin
- 10:00 am. – *Coffee Fellowship* – Brent Cotton & Tom Austin, Frank McCrory
- 9:50 a.m. – Business Meeting
- 10:30 a.m.. – Sunday School
- Offering Counters* – Jenny Smith, Ronald Williams
- Helpers Class* – Bill Smith
- Building Lockup* – David Hoefelman
- 11:30 a.m. – Education Committee
- 11:30 a.m. – Staff Committee
- 5:00 p.m. – Youth Music
- 6:00 p.m – 6:30 p.m – Snack Supper
- 6:30 p.m – 7:30 p.m. – Youth Bible Study

MONDAY, OCTOBER 2

- 9:30 a.m. – Staff Meeting
- 12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m. – Overeaters Anonymous

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 4

- Check Signers* – Frank McCrory, Kristen Evans
- 5:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m. – Adult & Preschool Dinner (FH), Handbells
- 5:30 p.m. – 6:00 p.m. – Dinner – Children
- 5:45 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. – Leadership Learning Academy
- 6:00 p.m. – 6:30 p.m. – Children's' Choir
- 6:00 p.m. – 6:30 p.m. – Mission Friends
- 6:15 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. – Prayer, Announcements, "Skills"
- 6:30 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. – Preschool Music
- 6:30 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. – Children in Action
- 7:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. – Adult Choir
- Choir Lock-up* – Bill Caughran

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 5

- 10:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. – "Psalms and Prayer," Room 203

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 7

- 9:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. – Saturday Morning Grocery Ministry
Tim Liptak, Lisa Whitman

DEACON OF THE WEEK: ALLAN BURTON, 205-410-4771

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 8

- Family Promise*
- Helpers Pickup* – Bill & Suzann Smith
- 8:30 a.m. – *Lobby Monitors* – Robby King, David Litton
- 8:30 a.m. – 9:15 a.m. – *Alley Door Monitors* – Melanie Lanier, Jeff Barton
- 9:00 a.m. – Morning Worship
- Greeters, Ushers & Offering* – Monty Hogewood, Bob Duffy, Jean Thomason, Matthew & Karen Stinnett, Paula Heifner
- Worship Care* – Carol Dean, Leigha McLendon, Julie Burge, Katy Grace Bateman
- 9:00 a.m. – 10:15 a.m. – *Glass Lobby Greeters* – Allan Burton
- 10:00 a.m. – *Coffee Fellowship* – Bill & Faith Stockton, Carol Watson
- 10:30 a.m. – Sunday School
- Offering Counters* – Frank McCrory, Susan Richardson
- Helpers Class* – Bill Smith
- Building Lockup* – David Hoefelman
- 11:30 a.m. – Deacons
- 5:00 p.m. – BBQ Dinner
- 6:00 p.m – Youth Variety Show

MONDAY, OCTOBER 9

- Family Promise*
- 9:30 a.m. – Staff Meeting
- 12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m. – Overeaters Anonymous
- 7:00 p.m. – Community Sing, BCOC Sanctuary

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 11

- Family Promise*
- Check Signers* – Frank McCrory, Kristen Evans
- 5:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m. – Adult & Preschool Dinner (FH), Handbells
- 5:30 p.m. – 6:00 p.m. – Dinner – Children
- 5:45 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. – Leadership Learning Academy
- 6:00 p.m. – 6:30 p.m. – Children's' Choir
- 6:00 p.m. – 6:30 p.m. – Mission Friends
- 6:15 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. – Prayer, Announcements, "Skills"
- 6:30 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. – Preschool Music
- 6:30 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. – Children in Action
- 7:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. – Adult Choir
- Choir Lock-up* – John Hollis

THURSDAY,

- Family Promise*
- 10:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. – "Psalms and Prayer," Room 203

SATURDAY,

- Family Promise*
- 9:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. – Saturday Morning Grocery Ministry
John Hollis, Pat Hawley

**Worship, October 1
Sermon by Sarah Shelton**

First Reading Exodus 17:1-7
Second Reading Matthew 21:12-15, 23-32

**Worship, October 8
Sermon by Sarah Shelton**

First Reading Exodus 20:1-4, 7-9, 12-20
Second Reading Philippians 3:4b-14
Third Reading Matthew 21:33-46