



Where Faith
Comes To Life

THE CROSSROADS

TOTE BAG TITHING

By Ginger Frost

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Baptist Church of the Covenant

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Tithing has been a part of my life since I got an allowance (a massive \$2.25 a week, thank you very much) back when the earth was cooling and I was in middle school. I kept the \$2 and put the quarter in the offering plate every week. I did not think about it much then, and I still do not. It is a habit, and I can truthfully say I never missed the money.

Given my attitude, I have never thought my tithing was much of a virtue; it is just something I do. When I do think about it, I focus more on the good the church does - especially feeding, housing, and ministering to our neighbors. When Christ censured those who did nothing for the hungry, the thirsty, the imprisoned, the sick, and the naked in Matthew 25, he condemned lack of action in every way. Though I am not generous enough with my time, I can, at least, say my financial help makes a difference in people's lives.

As you can tell, this is the standard "You should give to the church because it does good things" column, and you should. If an eleven-year-old girl whose parents give her a lousy \$2.25 a week can do it, you can. But I realize you may need more incentive, so I have one story to share. When I was in graduate school (the earth had cooled a bit by then), I was friends with the other British history Ph.D. candidate, Joanne. Joanne was a Lutheran, so we had both our love of Britain and our love of Christ in common. One day, though, she got a bee in her bonnet about PBS and began harassing all those relaxing in the student lounge, shaming them into giving. I have nothing against PBS, but she was embarrassing everyone. As each person entered, she began a spiel: "You know, if you watch the programming, you should give! Being a member only costs \$10 a month! Even graduate students can afford it! And you get a tote bag! [Brandishes tote bag with "Mystery!" on the side in a vaguely menacing manner.] I'm a member, and I give. DO YOU??"

As she interrogated the other grad students, they shuffled their feet, stared at the ceiling, or eyed the exit. We lived on \$6,000-\$8,000 a year, and even \$10 a month mattered (my miserly allowance had clearly prepared me for grad school). But I was not concerned. When Joanne got around to me and demanded, "I give every month to PBS...DO YOU?" I looked her right in the eye. "No," I said. "I don't give to PBS, since I give 10% of my income to my church...DO YOU???" Needless to say, I was never asked about PBS again. Joanne shuffled her feet, stared at the ceiling, and then sidled out the exit. (And, before you ask, yes, later, when I got an actual salary, I gave to PBS. I still have the tote bag.)

And my conclusion from this story? If the fact that the church does wonderful things in our community is not enough of a reason to give, remember this: you will have a full-proof response to any PBS-obsessed Lutherans who wander into your life.

Sadly, BCOC does not give tote bags as prizes. However, it does give many other things to us, our families, and Southside. So-be thoughtful. Be prayerful. And be generous. Because, you know, Joanne was right. If you view the programming, you should help pay for it. (And stop eyeing that exit!)

WORSHIP ANNOUNCEMENTS

PLEDGE SUNDAY

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 12, 2017

Don't forget this Sunday is Pledge Sunday. Come prepared to offer your pledge during the service.

— WEDNESDAY NIGHT FELLOWSHIP —

- Nov. 15 "Thanksgiving," Pastor Sarah
- Nov. 22 No Activities, Thanksgiving Holidays
- Nov. 29 Vesper Service with Zack Graves
- Dec. 6 Vesper Service with LaMon Brown
- Dec. 13 Business Meeting

VESPER SERVICES

NOVEMBER 29 AND DECEMBER 6

Wednesday nights will provide two nights of Vesper Services. November 29 will feature Eleanore Yarbrough on the flute and Zack Graves will give his testimony. Tim Liptak will provide the music on December 6, and LaMon Brown will give his testimony.



HELP DECORATE BCOC FOR CHRISTMAS!

Want a fun way to spend time with your church family?
Need last minute service hours?
Just really love cider and cookies?
Have strong opinions about the placement of wreaths?

Have we got an opportunity for you!

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 1, 6:00 P.M.
SATURDAY, DECEMBER 2, 10:00 A.M.

Join us for decorating BCOC for the season! Cookies and cider will be provided. Contact [Dennis Hodtwalker](#) or [Mona Simmons](#) if interested.

UPCOMING EVENTS

THANKSGIVING POTLUCK

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 19

11:30 A.M.

The annual Thanksgiving Potluck will be after Sunday School on Sunday, November 19. Bring a dish to share!

ORDINATION OF TAYLOR BELL

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 26

9:00 A.M.

Reception to follow.

BCOC ANNUAL ALTERNATIVE GIFT MARKET

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 12

During Coffee Fellowship and after Sunday School



Get your Christmas shopping completed early while knowing you are helping to provide a living wage for artists, artisans, and producers from around the world!

Featuring products from Sojourns Fair Trade and Work of Worth.

YOUTH

WINTER YOUTH SUMMIT JANUARY 12 - 14 IN HUNTSVILLE

This is a great winter retreat sponsored by Alabama, Tennessee and Georgia CBF. We expect to have 500+ youth attend this year. The cost will be \$150.00. **Your \$50 deposit is due ASAP to hold your spot.** The balance is due by December 15. The retreat takes place at First Baptist Huntsville. Groups stay in the Embassy Suites nearby. Save the date. Send your deposit! Write WYS in the memo of your check to BCOC or pay online.



MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES

TAKE WHAT YOU NEED

FOR NOVEMBER: travel size tissues, lotion

REFUGEE INTEREST GROUP OF ALABAMA

NOVEMBER 12, 2:00 P.M. – 4:00 P.M.

The Refugee Interest Group of Alabama will be meeting at BCOC on and we would love to invite any BCOC members interested in our work to attend!

Dr. Wakar Uddin will share a presentation about the Rohingya Refugee Crisis in Burma (Myanmar). Dr. Uddin is Professor of Plant Pathology at Pennsylvania State University and is also Director General of the Arakan Rohingya Union.

3RD SUNDAY FOOD DRIVE

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 19



Please help others have food for Thanksgiving by bringing pantry items Sunday, November 19 for the 3rd Sunday Food Drive ministry to support Greater Birmingham Ministries. Pantry needs include canned vegetables, beans, fruit, meat and soup, as well as cereal, flour, sugar, jelly, pasta, peanut butter and rice. Collection boxes will be in the sanctuary lobby and alley

lobby by the elevator. In October, BCOC members gave 442 items for the GBM food pantry.

GBM TOY DRIVE

NOVEMBER 5 – DECEMBER 8

It's that time again – time to find the favorite wassail recipe, dig out the Christmas card list and . . . oh yes, shop for Christmas toys for Greater Birmingham Ministries.

As we have for many years, BCOC will collect toys for the many children served each Christmas by GBM. Our focus will be on items for children ages 10 – 12. These include, but are not limited to: basketballs, footballs, skateboards, board games, craft sets, new clothing (especially sports related), gift cards, etc.

Bring items to BCOC Sundays or Wednesdays beginning Sunday, November 5, until Sunday, December 8. Please leave them in the Bock Mayes Ministry Center or give them to Carol Dean. The children thank you in advance for the generosity with which you always give.

OFFICE ANNOUNCEMENTS

UPCOMING OFFICE CLOSURES

VETERANS' DAY, FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 10 – Dan Lawhon is the minister on-call in case of emergency.

THANKSGIVING HOLIDAYS, NOVEMBER 22-24 – The office will close at 12:00 p.m. on November 22 and will reopen Monday, November 27. Sarah Shelton is on-call in case of emergency.

CHURCH BUSINESS

WEEK OF OCTOBER 29

General Fund \$15,820.00

Building Fund \$152.00

WEEK OF NOVEMBER 9

General Fund \$19,918.31

Building Fund \$457.00

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

The indebtedness of the church is \$531,453.93



BIRTHDAYS

Lynda Grooms II/9

Vincent Petix II/11

JoNell Comegys II/12

Carol Johnson II/14

Katie Sheehan II/14

Sarah Wilson II/15

Billy Wood II/15

Marie McKinley II/18

Zelma Pattillo II/18

Frank McCrory II/18

Patsy Love II/19

Elaine Rasco II/20



PRAYER CONCERNS



HOME

Maci Collins

Frank Casey

Mary Ellen Caughran

Bob Powell, Cottdonale

Christian Church,

Cottdonale, AL

Shalom Baptist Church

Corita Blanco

Boca de Mariel, Cuba

Elizabeth Lott, St.

Charles Avenue Baptist

Church, New Orleans

with sympathy

Sympathy is expressed to Nancy Moody & Delane Tew in the death of Nancy's mother, Louise Moody. Also to Angela Moore in the death of her mother.

WEEK OF NOVEMBER 12

DEACON OF THE WEEK: DANIEL INGRAM, 205-568-0525

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 12 – PLEDGE SUNDAY

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 Monitor* – Melanie Lanier, Jeff Barton

9:00 a.m. – Morning Worship

Greeters, Ushers & Offering – Monty Hogewood, Paula Heifner, Jean Thomason, Matt & Karen Stinnett, Bob Duffy

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 – Kathy Grissom, Susan Richardson

Helpers Class – Brian Berthiaume

Building Lockup – David Hoefelman

11:30 a.m. – Deacons

2:00 p.m. – Refugee Interest Group of Alabama, BMMC

5:00 p.m. – Family Craft Night

5:00 p.m. – Youth Music

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 13

9:30 a.m. – Staff Meeting

12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m. – Overeaters Anonymous

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 15

Check Signers – Larry FitzGerald, Morgan Ponder

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, "Thanksgiving"

6:30 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. – Preschool Music

6:30 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. – Children in Action

Building Lock-up – Debbie Sumrall

7:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. – Adult Choir

Choir Lock-up – Joe Dixon

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 18

9:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. – Saturday Morning Grocery Ministry
Brian Berthiaume, Susan Jackson

WEEK OF NOVEMBER 19

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

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 19

Helpers Pickup – Esther Gardner, Becky Belcher

8:30 a.m. – *Lobby Monitors* – Mark Burge, Rick Mitchell

8:30 a.m. – 9:15 a.m. – *Alley Door Monitors* – Jill Holley, Ann Elizabeth, McInvale

9:00 a.m. – Morning Worship

Greater Birmingham Ministry Food Drive

Greeters, Ushers & Offering – Kelly Mitchell, Jenny Smith, Bill & Faith Stockton, Sharon Chappell, Elaine Stephens

Worship Care – Sue Shaddix, Pat Brown, Faye Allen, John Burge

9:00 a.m. – 10:15 a.m. – *Glass Lobby Greeters* – Scott Russell

10:00 a.m. – *Coffee Fellowship* – Cindy Goodwin, George Crear

10:30 a.m. – Sunday School

Offering Counters – Pat Hawley, Sue Shaddix

Helpers Class – Brian Berthiaume

Building Lockup – David Hoefelman

10:30 a.m. – Covenant 101 – Melissa Evans, John Hollis

11:30 a.m. – Thanksgiving Potluck

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, NOVEMBER 20

9:30 a.m. – Staff Meeting

12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m. – Overeaters Anonymous

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 22

Office Closes at 12:00 p.m.

No Wednesday Night Fellowship Activities

Check Signers – Larry FitzGerald, Morgan Ponder

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 23 – THANKSGIVING

Office Closed – Sarah Shelton on-call

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 24

Office Closed – Sarah Shelton on-call

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 25

9:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. – Saturday Morning Grocery Ministry
Brian Vaughn, Jeff Barton

Worship, November 12
Sermon by Sarah Shelton
"Right On Time"

First Reading Joshua 24:1-3a,14-18
Second Reading I Thessalonians 4:13-18
Third Reading Matthew 25:1-13

Worship, November 19
Sermon by Sarah Shelton

First Reading Psalm 23
Second Reading I Thessalonians 5:1-11
Third Reading Matthew 25:14-30