

December 2009

**UPCOMING
EVENTS**

Saturday, December 5

Children's Choir Practice,
10 AM – 12 PM

Young at Heart Christmas
Party, 11:00 AM

Clinton Nursing Home
Christmas Service, 6:30 PM

Thursday, December 10

Bradford Oaks Nursing
Home Christmas Service,
6:30 PM

Saturday, December 12

Children's Choir Practice,
10 AM – 12 PM

Master Clubs Christmas
Party, 12 PM – 2 PM

Bethlehem Star Performance,
6:00 PM

Sunday, December 13

Hispanic Church, Sixth
Anniversary

Bethlehem Star Performance,
6:00 PM

Wednesday, December 16

Children's Christmas Play,
7:15 PM

Friday, December 18

RU Christmas Party

Saturday, December 19

Deaf Ministry Christmas
Party, The Kerwood's,
1:00 PM

Sunday, December 20

Hispanic Christmas Meal,
Sara Greathouse Hall,
12:30 PM

Thursday, December 24

Christmas Eve Service, 6:00 PM

Thursday, December 31

New Year's Eve Service,
6:00 PM

Independent Baptist Church

HIGHLIGHTS

FROM OUR PASTOR



**Michael Creed
Pastor**

1 Thessalonians 5:18, *In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you.*

I am thankful for each of you and the great month of November that passed so quickly. I trust you had an enjoyable Thanksgiving and that you were able to spend it with family and friends.

Missions Sunday was on November 22. After the service, I noticed the camaraderie of our church family. It is a blessing to see the joyful fellowship and kindness of our members. I am so thankful for the excellent spirit in our church. It is a great testimony of the love of Christ shining through your lives.

I am also thankful for Mrs. Flowers filling the position of Heart-to-Heart Director. She stepped right into the position and has faithfully coordinated efforts to assist church families. I praise the Lord for church members who are willing to be used.

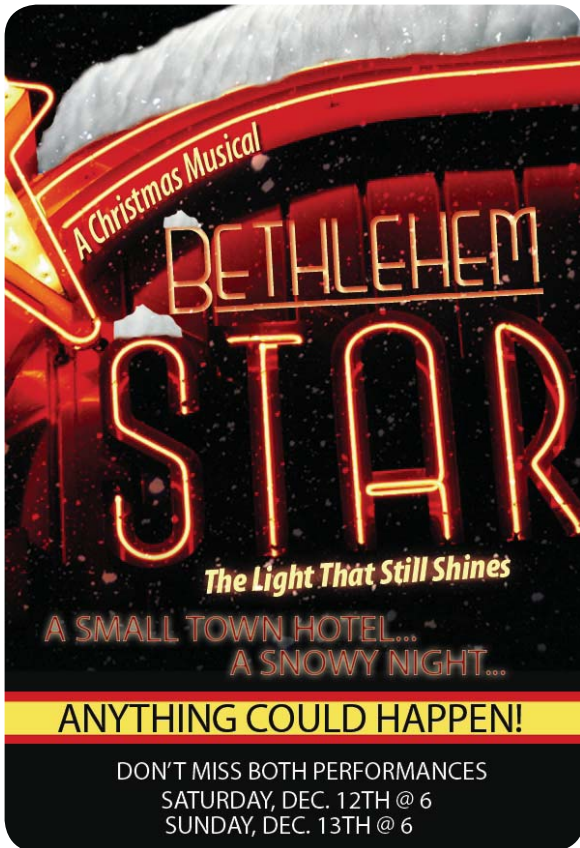
The Thanksgiving service and meal went very well. I appreciate those who helped with the set-up, cooking, and serving of the meal, as well as the clean-up afterward. You all contributed toward a smoothly-run, enjoyable dinner.

Now, as we look forward to the month of December, I encourage you to remain faithful to our services and to your ministries. We have several special days planned for the month including: Two performances of our choir musical, *Bethlehem Star*, one on Saturday, December 12, at 6:00 PM and one on Sunday, December 13, at 6:00 PM; a special Christmas Eve service on Thursday, December 24, at 6:00 PM, and a New Year's Eve service on, Thursday, December 31, at 6:00 PM. I encourage you to invite as many unsaved people to the musical as you can. It is certain to be an excellent program, and the Gospel will be presented after both performances (please let Michael know about places he can display posters to advertise the musical). I also encourage you to attend the New Year's Eve service. We will be introducing our themes for 2010 and sharing exciting plans for the year to come.

I look forward to Christmas every year, and I hope you do as well. Despite all the busyness, stay faithful; make time for your family; serve the Lord with gladness; and expect God to do something special, just for you. I also urge you to pray for souls, for each other, for me and my family, and for the leadership of the church. Let's finish 2009 victoriously *Through Christ*, and let's pray that God will protect and guide us through the year ahead.



SPECIAL SERVICES AND EVENTS



Christmas and New Year's Eve Services

Christmas and New Year's are always wonderful times of celebration at the church. This year, as we look forward to these special days, we will be moving our mid-week services from December 23 to December 24 for Christmas Eve and from December 30 to December 31 for New Year's Eve. Services will start at 6:00 PM on both evenings, and on New Year's Eve, we will have a potluck dinner following the evening service.

There is no better way to celebrate the Savior's birth and the beginning of a new year than to be in God's house with your family.

BIBLE STUDY HOUR

By Steve Corbett, Sr.

We have started our new series on Elijah and Elisha, and it is proving to be an exciting study! We anticipate the following lessons this month: *The Vineyard of Naboth* (December 6); *Go, Enquire of Baal-zebub* (December 13); a special Christmas lesson (December 20); and *I Will Not Leave Thee* (December 27). Please be faithful to the Bible Study hour and bring a friend along! **See insert for a list of all Bible Study groups and classes.**

HEART-TO-HEART

By Grace Flowers

The Heart-to-Heart Ministry gives help to our immediate church family and offers many opportunities to serve. Heart-to-Heart meets every other month, unless an emergency meeting is called. Meetings usually take place on the third Sunday of the given month following the evening service.

October and November were busy months for the ministry. Heart-to-Heart provided thirteen meals to six families affected by surgeries, illnesses, a new baby, and a death in the family. During those months, many prayers were offered, numerous get well and sympathy cards were sent, and food items were collected for a needy person in the deaf ministry. In addition, we also had a special Barnabas project where we gave gift cards to a church family. The following is a testimonial from that family: ***"Dear Heart to Heart Ministry, We cannot express to you how grateful we are for the blessing and encouragement you have been to our family! Your kind and generous gifts have been such a help. Thank you from the bottom of our hearts for your thoughtfulness toward us. We pray that the Lord richly blesses each of you for blessing others! Thank you."***

YOUNG AT HEART

By Rick Dove

God has greatly blessed our class with people who want to serve God and the church. Whenever there is a need in the ministry, it seems that one or more of you step up to meet the need. Thank you for being a blessing. For those who are still working, thank you for serving despite busy schedules. For those who are retired, thank you for remaining focused on God. Retirement from God and the church is not in the Bible, so keep serving every day.

Our Christmas party is scheduled for Saturday, December 5, at 11:00 AM in Sara Greathouse Hall. Please bring a salad and a dessert; we'll provide the rest. We will be exchanging gifts, so men, please bring a man's gift, and ladies, please bring a lady's gift. We look forward to seeing you there!

NEW MEMBERS

Baptism:

Joseph Ward
 Matthew Bryan, Jr.
 Lynn Franceschetti

TREMENDOUS TEENS

By Jim Stroud

December is here, and with December comes the best of all holidays - Christmas!

On December 18, we are looking forward to a wonderful evening of caroling and shopping, and later in the month, we are anticipating an exciting time at Omni Night. We will leave the church at 2:00 PM on December 28, and we will return at 8:00 AM on December 29; the cost is \$35.00 per person.

As you go about buying gifts for Christmas, don't forget to save money to add to our Teen Missions Bank. We will be presenting our offering to the missionaries on Monday during the Missions Conference in January.

In addition to the Missions Bank, please remember to set aside \$175.00 for Snow Camp, January 25-29.

Finally, please continue to pray for Daniel Skinner who is recovering from knee surgery, for Danielle and Dennis Harris in the loss of their father, and for all the teens who have exams this month.

THANK YOU

By Rick Dove

I had a great birthday last month! I thank everyone who celebrated the day with me and who showed me such kindness. God has been very gracious to me for these sixty-one years, and I look forward to the time I still have left to serve the Lord. As Paul wrote in Philippians 3:13-14, *Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind . . . I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.* Thank you again for your love and kindness.

SCHOOL NEWS

INDEPENDENT BAPTIST ACADEMY

Christmas is almost here! As you set aside time to remember Christ's birth, please plan on joining us for our K4 Christmas Play on Thursday, December 17, at 11:30 AM. The children have worked hard, and they are sure to warm your heart.

In addition to the Christmas play, please mark Monday, February 15, on your calendar as well. On that day, we will be presenting our Grandparents' Day Program at 10:00 AM, and we will be having an open house for potential new students and their parents. If you know someone who is looking for a school, please invite them to come and meet our teachers and see our facilities.

Read-a-Thon is coming to an end; time is running out to be a blessing to the academy. If you would like to give a personal gift or if you own a business and need a tax write-off, please consider making a contribution.

INDEPENDENT BAPTIST BIBLE COLLEGE

It is hard to believe this semester is almost over and that a new semester is about to begin. Registration for the new semester is on Monday, January 4, at 7:00 PM, in Sara Greathouse Hall, and classes begin on Monday, January 18. Classes for the new semester include: *Homiletics, Pentateuch, Bible Doctrines Overview, Effective Writing, Biblical Languages (Greek) and Prayer.* Please pray that God will lead people to attend the college as Brother Dove continues to present the school to area churches.

As we continue to strive to see the college grow, we may soon be introducing modular classes. Modular classes are classes that are taught by a guest instructor on a specific topic for a specified number of days (usually a week). Such classes would allow us the benefit of receiving instruction from well-qualified teachers who would not normally be available for a full semester. Please pray as we continue to move forward with our plans.

THE BOOKSTORE

By Jim Flowers

As you go about doing your Christmas shopping, please remember to stop by the church bookstore following any regular church service. We have a great selection of items that would make great gifts for anyone on your Christmas list. We have many types of books including reference books (*Strong's Concordance, Matthew Henry's Commentary*, and others); books on family; books on doctrine; books about missionaries who gave their lives for Christ; and even a book written by a former IBBC student. In addition, we also have plaques (some written by David Long); clothing items; and a great selection of music. We look forward to seeing you!

SURRENDERING SELF THROUGH CHRIST



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