

Christmas *in focus*

SOUTH BAPTIST CHURCH NEWSLETTER | DECEMBER 2018

What Are You Doing With What God Has Entrusted to Your Care?

A Few Thoughts Following Our Recent Revival Meeting with the Everson Family.

Brother Ben Everson has said for many years, “My overwhelming desire is to encourage as many people as I can. God has given me a stewardship of my musical gifts, and I take that responsibility seriously.” And I want to say that this is exactly how I would describe our recent meetings ... “encouraging!” Ben has been an encourager of mine personally for many years as a friend since childhood. Ben, Amanda, and their family were so very encouraging as they interacted with everyone throughout the week. And their music is encouraging in so many ways.

It was also encouraging to have Pastor Mike Reece and the people of First Baptist Church join us throughout the week. But the perhaps the most encouraging thing for me during these meetings was the sweet simplicity of the truth of God’s Word that Ben encouraged us with during the messages he shared!

I’m sure that there are a number of things that could be shared about how God spoke to our hearts, but I’ll share just one.

On Tuesday night Ben spoke on the Judgement Seat of Christ from

1 Corinthians 3. As he very clearly explained the passage, he shared this definition for the idea of our “work” as Christians. He said (my paraphrase) - *We do not work in order to get saved. Indeed, we cannot work in order to get saved. Rather our work is what we do with what God has given to us. On the day that we stand before Jesus at the Judgment Seat of Christ, we will give an account of what we have done with what God has given to us – time, energy, resources, opportunities, talents, spiritual gifts, etc. Only that which has been done for Christ and His glory will remain. Then what remains will become our offering of worship which we will cast at the feet of Jesus to say, “Thank You!*

My heart was convicted about how much I have wasted on myself and my desires. And my prayer following these meetings is that I would not waste another minute, opportunity, ability or relationship, but rather that I would make them all count for God’s glory!

What are you doing with what God has given to you?

Church Events

- Dec 1 – Men’s Prayer Breakfast
- Dec 1 – Decorating for Christmas
- Dec 5 – Women’s Coffee Connection
- Dec 6 – Christmas Banquet
- Dec 15 – Deacon Meeting
- Dec 16 – Strategic Planning Meeting
- Dec 17 – Released Time Bible Class
- Dec 19 – Women’s Coffee Connection
- Dec 23 – Christmas Program
- Dec 27 – GSRM Chapel Service
- Dec 30 – Care Group Fellowship Night

Celebrating Advent

The Christmas season is full of activity: decorating trees, office parties, the arrival of guests, baking cookies, wrapping gifts, singing carols, and last-minute shopping.

Yet, in the midst of all the hustle, there lies a very simple story. Although simple, this story dramatically changed the world. It invites each of us to engage in the events that unfolded over 2000 years ago as we remember the amazing gift presented to humankind on that first Christmas morning.

Rather than rushing ahead to Christmas, let's slow down a bit and appreciate the Advent season. Advent is a time of

anticipation, preparation, and expectation. Although we commonly think of the days leading up to Christmas as the close of our calendar year, the Advent season is the beginning of the Christian year, ushering in the birth of Jesus on Christmas Day.

Traditionally, each week of Advent has a specific theme: Hope, Love, Joy and Peace. As we move ever closer to Christmas Day, we can focus upon these important themes and how Jesus offers each of them to us. Every Sunday in December we will be taking time in our services to pause and remember what each of these

themes mean as we celebrate Christmas and the reality that they are ours, because of Immanuel – “God With Us!”

So, let us take time from the typical busyness of Christmas to slow down and reflect upon the truth of the Christmas celebration. In this season may we be reminded not only of the arrival of Jesus as a baby and Savior of the world, but of the truth that He is coming again to rescue and redeem all who place their faith in Him.



“Advent is a time of anticipation, preparation, and expectation.”

Outreach.com “Ideas, Activities and Prayer for Advent Season.”

Christmas Ministry

The Christmas season provides our church with one of the greatest opportunities to reach our community with the life changing message of the Bible! After all the story of Christmas is the greatest story ever told – God's son, Jesus Christ, was born in order to provide the greatest gift for all man-kind – salvation! We want to celebrate the real meaning of Christmas at our church and we want to share that message with as many people as possible this Christmas season! One of the ways that we desire to accomplish this is through our annual Christmas Program

which is scheduled for Sunday, December 23 at 6:00 pm. We are asking for the help of our church family in two specific ways in order to have the greatest impact possible:

1. Consider giving a special financial gift to help cover the expense of a mailing we have prepared to reach over 2,500 homes in our community.
2. Make a commitment to help us personally invite as many people as possible. We will be providing 500 Christmas invite cards to be distributed by our church family!

Care Group Fellowship Nights

Our Care Groups Ministry was developed out of desire that every member of our church would be cared for and connected and that no one would slip through the cracks. Every member of the church has been assigned to a group which is led by one of our church deacons. Care Group Fellowship Nights will take place on the 5th Sunday nights throughout the calendar year, with our first activity taking place Sunday, December 30, 2018. Be on the look out for more information as it becomes available and be prepared to get plugged in with your group!

New Ministry Opportunities

1 Thessalonians 5:11 *Therefore encourage one another and build one another up, just as you are doing.*

Through our Fellowship Groups at South we are seeking to provide a setting in which we can encourage all our church family in spiritual growth, fellowship, and serving others. These meetings include prayer, fellowship, and the discussion, planning, and organizing of service opportunities. We are encouraging all our church family to take advantage of these opportunities and get plugged in with a group!



Men's Prayer Breakfast

First Saturday of Every Month

8:00 am
South Baptist Church

Bring your son(s) and friends!



CARE GROUP Fellowship Nights

5th Sunday Nights



Women's Coffee Connection

8:30 am

1st & 3rd Wednesday each Month

Populace Coffee
810 Saginaw St.