
The Banner

November 2009

Brandt Oaks Baptist Church
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Greensboro, NC 27455

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Anna Tipton and I recently attended a meeting in which I sat in on a workshop entitled "Seven Things Your Pastor Wishes You Knew, But Is Afraid to Tell You." The session was led by Rev. Bill Wilson, a longtime pastor who recently became the executive director of The Center for Congregational Health, in Winston-Salem.

Here are the seven things dealt with in the topic above:

1. "It's not your pastor's fault, but he or she didn't learn EVERYTHING in seminary he needed to know about ministering." Young pastors, especially, are ready to serve you, but are not "finished products." Be patient with your pastor.
2. "Every pastor must learn to choose his or her guilt." For example, which should take priority-your pastor's family or his church family? He or she may feel guilty about choosing one over the other. To every church I have pastored, I told them this: "My priorities are these-God first, my family second, the church third." I never felt guilty about these priorities, and my churches readily accepted my priorities.
3. "Be kind if you have a criticism." If the shoe were on the other foot, wouldn't you want your pastor to be kind in his criticism of you? Criticism, if coupled with kindness, can be very helpful to a pastor.
4. "Please have some realistic expectation for the pastor's family." His or her spouse is not called to be an associate pastor, and the "preacher's kids" should not be expected to be angels.
5. "Please err on the side of generosity." This includes paying your pastor a salary you can be proud of, and remembering him or her on his birthday or wedding anniversary.
6. "Your pastor loves you, but he or she may not like you sometimes." Ouch! But isn't this realistic? I'm certain Jesus loved His disciples, but the Scriptures clearly show His disapproval of their actions at times. And, this works both ways: you may love your pastor, but at times don't like what he or she does or says. This is okay - but remember point 3 above!
7. "Your comfort is not your pastor's primary concern." It is not his or her job to keep you happy at all times (which is impossible anyway). Any pastor who tries to do this will never get anything of significance done.

In my forty-five years being a pastor, I think there is a lot of truth in this list. Why not keep this list, and pull it out from time to time, to refresh your memory about some very important things in church/pastor relations.

Rev. Welborn



From Your Deacons.....

The deacons have completed interviews with the nominees submitted for deacon election by the church body. We are happy to let all know that we will recommend two nominees and they have accepted their names to be on the ballot. The situation is a little different than in years past as we have had two deacons to resign, and thus, the standard term of three years will instead be one for two years with Randy Stinson as the candidate, with no opposition, and a one year term by Jim Albright, the candidate with no opposition.

We are thankful these men have stepped up in the church's time of need to accept the nomination as deacon candidates. If elected, both men (along with other candidates) will be eligible to serve for a three year term, after a one year absence of deacon service.

The church vote for the deacon election will be November 8th, and we, as the body of deacons, would like to see every member come out and vote the day of the deacon election.

Pray for the nominees as well as the deacon body. This is a crucial time for Brandt Oaks Baptist Church so I am asking all to commit to giving of your time, talents and tithes as we move forward into the future of serving our Lord.

In Christ,

Lynn Johnson, Deacon Chair

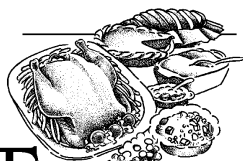
Fall Festival at Church

The youth of our church are planning a time of fun and games, together with popcorn and snow cones, **Saturday, October 31, noon to 4:00 pm.**



There is no charge, so spread the word, and plan to bring any child you know.

Church-wide Thanksgiving Dinner November 22



Thanksgiving

What a great fellowship we have every year as we gather after worship on the Sunday closest to Thanksgiving Day to share a wonderful meal together.

Plan now to attend the worship service **November 22**, bring family and friends, and contribute your favorite dish or dishes to the meal.

Jim Albright, Fellowship Committee chair, will prepare a turkey or two. Ham will also be provided.

Pastor Search Committee Report

This committee, consisting of Bob Via, chair, Matt Albright, Sara Musick, Beth Brock and Angela Tipton has met three times to date, and is making good progress. Their next meeting is November 8, following the worship service.

Currently they are working on bringing the church history up to date, assessing who we are, and seeking input from members and friends as to where they feel God wants the church to go in the future.

This committee asks for your continued prayers.

Submitted by Rev. Welborn





Be a Part of the Gift!
The Brandt Oaks Living Nativity ... December 13-14

Believe it or not, the Christmas season is fast approaching and preparations for our Brandt Oaks’ gift to the community, The Living Nativity, are now under way. The Nativity is always a great time of fellowship and just plain fun as we come together as the church family and present this special gift of love. You won’t want to miss it! There are four outdoor scenes depicting the nativity story with recorded music and narration, live “actors” and live animals. Each scene requires lights, props, staging and costuming, in addition to our hospitality station that provides refreshments for our guests.

The Brandt Oaks Living Nativity is scheduled for Sunday, December 13th and Monday, December 14th from 6:30-8:00 pm each night.

There are more than 30 roles to fill over both nights as well as 15+ crew positions. It takes the WHOLE church family to make this story come alive, so please PRAY and consider how you will be a part of it. It is a great way to get into the holiday spirit! Look for the Cast and Crew signup sheet in the church foyer and let us know what your part in the Nativity will be. In addition to the main characters, we always need shepherds and angels to fill the fields and the heavens!

On **Monday, November 9th**, we’ll be holding a meeting at 7 pm to inventory costumes, sets, props and supplies and plan the Nativity. Please plan to join us, lend a hand and make suggestions to make this the best Living Nativity ever!

Then on **Saturday, Dec 5th**, we need some muscles to assemble the stable and put up lights. So we need as many people as possible to help on that day as well.

Ask anyone who has been a part of this ministry, and they will tell you they received a very special blessing by being able to share this story with folks who come to see it. So pray about how you will be a part of this special ministry and join us at the meeting on November 9th. If you would like to get more information or make suggestions, please contact Mary Via at 282-8002 or 337-8608. Be a Part of the Gift!

Submitted by Mary Via

Deacon Contact Information

Your deacons are here to assist the pastor in serving and ministering to you in whatever way you may require. Please do not hesitate to call on one of us whenever you may have a need.

Greg Apple	336.668.2021 (H)
Lynn Johnson, Chair	336.282.0305 (H); 336.324.8789 (C)
Anna Tipton, Secretary	336.638.6489 (H)
Mary Via, Vice-Chair.....	336.282.8002 (H); 336.337.8608 (C)

December Banner Deadline is Thursday, November 19
Be sure to get your articles in to the church office on time!



Stewardship Report for Brandt Oaks Baptist Church

Wednesday, October 21, 2009

The Stewardship Committee has been keeping a close watch on the church financial condition throughout the summer and into the fall months. While maintaining a general equilibrium for most of the third quarter of the year, we have recently experienced a reduction in the level of giving and the dollar amount of the unrestricted cash reserve of the church over the last 1 ½ months. Stewardship wishes to be proactive as possible in maintaining the financial health of Brandt Oaks Baptist Church.

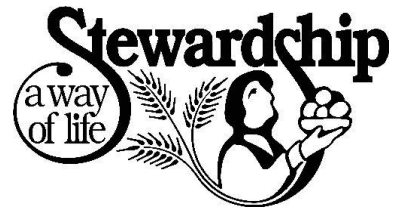
The first three weeks of October demonstrate this reduction in giving. Our budget giving for the first three weeks has totaled \$1,631.00. This is an average of \$543.66 per week. Our basic financial obligation to cover JUST the church mortgage and part-time Pastor is \$550.00 per week. Any additional obligations for electricity, gas, water, insurance, office expense, cleaning, etc. are NOT included in this basic amount, yet they must be paid as well.

This report is offered as encouragement to the membership to prayerfully consider their tithes and gifts to God, Christ, and the Church.

The membership of Brandt Oaks can be reassured that the Stewardship Committee will make decisions concerning finances of the Church to be the most cost-saving, efficient, and careful that it possibly can during these difficult times. With the prayerful help of the congregation through time, talent *and resources*, we will be able to maintain our current financial condition without any form of interruption or change.

To that end, the Stewardship Committee acknowledges that the economic times of our nation, state, community and indeed our own members have been adversely affected as of late. We understand that times are uneasy, yet our responsibility and our calling to be an effective tool for God and the spreading of the Good News continues to be as important if not more so during these times.

Respectfully submitted,
Bob Via
Chair, Stewardship Committee



From Our Interim Pastor

Elsewhere in this Banner you will see a letter from Bob Via, chair of our Stewardship Committee. It concerns the financial crisis our church currently faces.

Unless our offerings rise considerably soon, it will be necessary to tap into our Unrestricted Cash Reserve, which could be depleted fairly in a short time.. We don't want this to happen.

Like Bob, I realize several of our members have been out of work for a long time, and others have had their income plateaued or reduced. These situations, no doubt, have affected our offerings income.

It behooves, then, all of us who have a steady income to look at the level of our giving. Probably most of us could give somewhat more than we currently do. Together, these offerings increases would make a big difference.

Someone once said, "Don't give until it HURTS, give until it FEELS GOOD."

I ask you to pray for God's will in this matter, and to respond as God leads you.



CELEBRATING 400 YEARS OF BEING BAPTIST

Hispanic Baptist Beginnings and Development

The organization of Baptist churches by ethnic groups exploded in the last few decades, especially among Hispanic Baptists. In 2009, about 1,200 congregations affiliate with the La Convencion Bautista Hispana de Texas (The Hispanic Baptist Convention of Texas).

The origins of Hispanic Baptists in the United States may be traced back to the late nineteenth century when Baptist churches were organized in Laredo, Texas. John O. Westrup instigated this work in 1880 as a Southern Baptist missionary to Mexico. Westrup frequently crossed into Texas to preach to Mexicans living in Laredo, but his ministry was cut short when he was murdered during a trip to Coahuila, Mexico. His work was continued by his brother, Thomas, who baptized the first convert in 1881. By 1910, over two dozen Hispanic congregations had been planted throughout Texas.

Donato Ruiz was one of the leaders who helped to nurture the development of Hispanic Baptist work in Texas. Born in Mexico in 1882, Ruiz began teaching school at the age of eighteen. His school was in a rural area, and on weekends, he traveled back to his hometown of Nieves. One weekend, while visiting in his sister's home, Ruiz was introduced to a Baptist preacher. Ruiz responded to the preacher's invitation to follow Christ, and that same day, the new convert and the preacher went to a nearby river, and Ruiz was baptized.

Ruiz joined a Baptist church and soon felt called to preach. He studied in the seminary in Saltillo and pastored several churches in Mexico, and then in 1910, during the Mexican Revolution, Ruiz was imprisoned. Upon his release, he moved first to Los Angeles and then in 1920 to Texas, where he pastored numerous churches, including a twenty-year pastorate in San Angelo. Ruiz also helped establish the West Texas Baptist Bible Institute, served as a Southern Baptist home missionary, and attended the first meeting in 1910 of the Mexican Baptist Convention of Texas, serving as its president in 1936.

In 1990, the Mexican Baptist Convention of Texas changed its name to the Hispanic Baptist Convencion. Because of the leadership of Baptists such as Ruiz, the convencion has initiated strong partnerships, organized education programs, and spread the gospel. Next year, in 2010, the convencion will observe its 100th anniversary by celebrating the past and casting a new vision for the future.

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Nursery Caregivers for November



Sunday Worship

November 1: Susan Welborn & Randy Stinson
November 8: Kelli Free & Lynn Johnson
November 15: Angela Tipton & Morris Brock
November 22: Mary Via & Jim Albright
November 29: Kathy Heater & Steve Tipton

Thank you for caring for our little ones!

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

November 03 Katie Heater
03 Lee Johnson
04 Ryan Whitehurst
10 Jared Young
13 Daniel Barnett
15 Bryant McCorquodale
16 Bailey Borka
22 Danny Hunter
26 Melissa Cheek
29 Jeff White
30 Bill Hammond



HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

November 1 Doug & Pam McClenny

Please notify the church office of any omissions or errors.