
The Banner

DECEMBER 2009

Brandt Oaks Baptist Church
4600 Lake Brandt Road
Greensboro, NC 27455

Phone: 336-282-2683
Email: brandtoaks@earthlink.net
Website: www.brandtoaks.org



“It’s the most wonderful time of the year!” so goes the song. For most people Christmas is the most wonderful time of the year--with Christmas pageants, homes decorated beautifully, caroling, special Christmas programs on radio and TV, and oh yes, shopping (ugh!). Good feelings abound all around

However, for some people this year Christmas will not be so good. There are many reasons for this, so I will not try to list them. If you are in this group, be assured I care about you, and your church cares about you. Please call on us if we can do anything to make your Christmas better.

Perhaps it’s good that the economy is down this year, and that people are cutting back on their spending. This gives us the opportunity to place more importance on the spiritual, rather than the material, values of life.

Elsewhere in this Banner you will read about the many opportunities your church offers this year to help you enhance the spiritual side of Christmas. Things like the weekly worship service (with carols, lighting of the advent wreath candles, and a Christmas message every Sunday), giving to a needy family through the Angel Tree ministry, the Living Nativity pageant December 13 and 14 and the Christmas Eve service of Candles, Carols and Communion.

You may not be able to participate in all of these, but you will be spiritually uplifted by taking part in as many as possible.

“For unto us a child is born...” (Isaiah 9:6). Thank you, God!

Merry Christmas!

Terry

Our Advent Wreath

Each year in the worship services leading up to Christmas Day, we light the candles on the Advent Wreath. Each of the five candles represents a different aspect of the coming of Christ into our world.

The following families will light the Advent Wreath candles this year:

November 29 – The Manuel Cediel Family
December 6 – The Charles Musick Family
December 13 – The Ron Heater Family
December 20 – The Bob Via Family
December 24 – The Morris Brock Family

Churchwide Christmas Dinner

As per tradition, we will gather on the last Sunday before Christmas (December 20) at 5:30 P.M. for a great time of fellowship and celebration of Christ's coming.

Meats and drinks will be provided. Bring your favorite salad, vegetable or dessert and Make plans to attend this wonderful occasion.

Let's Go Caroling

For several years we have visited nursing homes in the area and serenaded their residents with carols of the season.

Join your fellow church members and friends Wednesday December 16, as we go caroling at Loyaltan nursing home and Blumenthal's (if we have time), 7:00 – 8:00pm.

Christmas Eve Service Of Candles, Carols and Communion

This informal service lasts only forty-five minutes and consists of Candles, Carols and Communion. Someone will read the Christmas story from the Bible. The Brock family will light the Christ Candle on the Advent Wreath, we will sing several carols, observe the Lord's Supper and conclude by singing "Silent Night," while each person holds a small lighted candle.

You are encouraged to bring the entire family to this service. Invite friends to attend with you.

Pastor's Christmas Messages:

December 6 – Christmas Is a Time For Celebration

December 13 – Christmas Is a Time For Salvation

December 20 – Christmas Is a Time For Reconciliation

Rev. Welborn

The Living Nativity – Our Gift to Greensboro!

It's almost here! One of our church's most important annual ministry events is The Living Nativity, which will take place on **Sunday, December 13th and Monday, December 14th from 6:30 – 8 pm each evening**. This is a great time of fellowship and fun as we share the amazing story of our Savior's birth with our community. We will also be collecting donations of canned goods that will make an immediate and direct impact on those in need through the Greensboro Urban Ministry Food Bank.

Many in our church family have been busy preparing "behind the scenes" already. Many have already signed up for roles in the cast and crew positions for both nights. If you have not found your role yet, please look at the display in the church foyer and then sign up on the casting sheet. **If your schedule permits, we need everyone to be willing to participate on BOTH evenings to ensure that all cast and crew positions are filled.**

If you would like to bake a batch or two of cookies for our refreshment table, please contact Susan Welborn and let her know (656-0573).

Another important date for you to mark on your calendar is **Saturday, December 5th**. This is our "heavy" workday when we will do most of the preparations for the event. Getting the stable put together, stringing the outdoor lights, getting the scenery and props prepared, testing the sound equipment, getting the costumes organized, etc. We will meet at the church at 10 AM and we hope to have everything finished by 1 pm. We need EVERY able body to help on December 5th ...and we will be sure to have refreshments to keep us in the Christmas spirit!

Above all, pray for our church and how the Living Nativity will impact our community for Christ. If you have never been a part of this event before, you will experience a blessing for the Christmas season like none other. Brandt Oaks' Living Nativity has become a Christmas tradition, not only for the folks in our church who faithfully participate, but also for all of the Greensboro families who come to see it year after year.

Just as the star that shone over Bethlehem, may God let Brandt Oaks be that beacon for the love of Christ through our gift of The Living Nativity.

Poinsettias

During the Advent Season at Brandt Oaks, we take the opportunity to remember our loved ones with beautiful poinsettias in our sanctuary. If you would like to purchase a poinsettia in memory or in honor of someone special, please fill out the information on the sign up sheet located in the church foyer before Wednesday, December 9th. The cost for each poinsettia this year is \$8.65, which you can put in a separate envelope and place in the offering plate. You will be able to take the poinsettia home with you after the Christmas Eve worship service.

From Your Deacons.....

Dear BOBC family:

On November 22, this past Sunday, we had the installation of Jim Albright and Randy Stinson to carry out the remaining terms of two deacon positions that needed to be fulfilled according to our constitution and by-laws. The worship service and installation was conducted by Pastor Terry Welborn. We are so very grateful that these two men have stepped up to serve the Lord and our church at this time in our church's life when we need a boost of revitalization. It was good to see the turn out of people to come to worship and also support Jim and Randy. Randy will serve as deacon 20 months and Jim eight months. As my recollection, both will be eligible to be candidates for a three year term as deacon after a one year absence from serving as deacon. Randy and Jim have served as deacons at BOBC in the past.

Pray for our newly elected deacons as they serve our Lord and our church. Continue to pray for our entire body of deacons as we work together to serve God. I am looking forward to serving with our newly elected deacons and feel we are a stronger body as we serve Brandt Oaks Baptist Church . May we receive strength as we approach the holidays and may the holidays and what they mean to us renew all of our spirits so we will be even more enabled to serve, fellowship, minister to this community, and lift each other up as brothers and sisters through Christ.

Happy Thanksgiving, and as we approach the birth of our Savior, I am wishing a blessed and Merry Christmas to all.

Lynn Johnson

Deacon Chair

P.S. We would like for everyone at BOBC to participate in some way in our "Living Nativity" this year. We always need the nativity characters, and folks to help with costumes, refreshments made (and/or served), ushers to direct guest to restrooms, etc. There will be fewer spills if kids get their hot chocolate cups filled 60% and adults 75%. See the sign up sheet in the foyer. For details, and such, see Mary Via, director.

Change of address

Please change the address for Steve and Angela Tipton to:
465 Pleasant Grove Church Road
Thomasville, NC 27360. 336-476-299

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.

Jim Albright.....336.282.0763(H) 336.210.31199(C)
Greg Apple..... 336.668.2021 (H)
Lynn Johnson, Chair 336.282.0305 (H); 336.324.8789 (C)
Randy Stinson..... 336.228.7753(H)
Anna Tipton, Secretary 336.638.6489 (H)
Mary Via, Vice-Chair..... 336.282.8002 (H); 336.337.8608 (C)

January Banner Deadline is Thursday, December 17
Be sure to get your articles in to the church office on time!



Nursery Caregivers for December



Sunday Worship

December 6: Susan Welborn & Randy Stinson
December 13: Kelli Free & Lynn Johnson
December 20: Angela Tipton & Morris Brock
December 27: Mary Via & Jim Albright

Thank you for caring for our little ones!

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Please notify the church office of any omissions or errors.

