



## **Valley Baptist Church Newsletter November 2007**

### **From the Pastor's**

To My Dearly Beloved VBC,

A few weeks ago I had the privilege of attending a "Hymn Sing." It was held on a Friday evening in the home of a local Christian friend. Several families were gathered in this home for the purpose of Christian fellowship and the singing of hymns. It was so much fun. But I kept having this thought, "Boy, these people should come to our church. We sing like this every week!"

I have had numerous such experiences lately that have reminded me of the unique church God has been crafting at Valley Baptist Church. I am so thankful to be your pastor at this time and I am equally thrilled that my family has the privilege of being a part of this fellowship at this time. I thank God for calling me to VBC. It is a privilege to work with Brother Bobby and the deacons (I am very thankful to have Brother Bobby here to step into our music leadership along with his ministry to children, teenagers, young adults, families, and more).

**Lottie Moon International Missions Offering:** The time is approaching for us to begin contributing to the annual Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for International Missions. The Lottie Moon offering makes up 50% of the Southern Baptist International Mission Board's annual budget. Also, 100% of the Lottie Moon Offering goes directly overseas. I am asking you now to give beyond your means to spread the Gospel around the world.

Pray with me about the possibility of prayer groups meeting around the area during the week. For many of you, making it to prayer meeting on Wednesday is not possible, but you might be able to make it if it were in a home near you. Pray with me and give me feedback.

Pray with me also about missions and serving our community. Ask God to show us when and where to go on an overseas trip or a trip within our homeland. Also, ask God to show us how we can serve in our community in a way that will give Him glory.

Thankful to be your pastor,

*Ronny*

## ❖ VBC Family & Music

**Sunday, November 11<sup>th</sup> is our Harvest Party.** Along with games, the bouncy house, and other fun we would like to have a chili cook-off and a pie contest (any kind of pie will do). If you would be **willing to make a pot of chili or a pie**, even if you don't want to be in a contest, please sign-up in the foyer or let Kelly Menne or the church office know as soon as possible so we know where we are with food for that evening.

### **Events coming in December and January:**

**December 16<sup>th</sup>** – Sunday morning we are going to have a special Christmas service. There will be scripture reading, singing, some testimonies about Christmas, and a Christmas story. I hope you will join us and bring a friend or two. **If you have a special memory of Christmas or a testimony about the meaning of Christmas** talk to me about how we might use that on the 16<sup>th</sup> or maybe at some other time before Christmas.

**December 21<sup>st</sup>** – Friday evening from 6:00 pm – 9:00 pm we are planning to have a **Live Nativity**, in front of the church. I need volunteers to help build and set-up a shelter, be in the nativity scene, hand out tracts to those stopping to see the live nativity, help with hot chocolate, cider, and coffee, and help clean-up. We were amazed at how many people stopped to see the live nativity last year, and we would like to be prepared to reach out to them and share the truth about why we celebrate Christmas. Please let me know quickly, if you are willing to help.

**Starting in January**, we are planning to offer the **IBLP Financial Freedom Seminar**. After talking with several people, we have decided the best way to do the seminar is to meet once a week. The seminar has 20 sessions. We are still looking for the best day and time to offer the seminar and would appreciate any input you have. We could offer the seminar on Sunday evening, Wednesday evening, both Sunday and Wednesday evening, or another time during the week. I believe this seminar can be life-changing for individuals as well as our church. Pray about it and let me know what you think.

*Bobby*

### *Count Your Blessings*

Written by Bennie Ben Wright

Thanksgiving is a time for remembering our blessings, a time for remembering how good God is, a time for remembering and being truly thankful for our blessings and not just for the turkey.

The American Thanksgiving originated with William Bradford. Bradford, who arrived on the Mayflower, was elected governor of the Plymouth Colony in 1621. He was reelected several times and served until 1645.

Despite a scant harvest in 1621, Governor Bradford designated a day for the colonists to offer thanks.

George Washington proclaimed the first national Thanksgiving Day in 1789. Prior to this, individual colonies held Thanksgiving celebrations on the days designated by their individual governors.

During President Lincoln's tenure, he designated August 6, 1863, as the national Thanksgiving Day observance. He did this at the constant urging of Sarah Josepha Hale.

The date was changed several times, but in 1941 Congress proclaimed the fourth Thursday of November as the American annual Thanksgiving Day observance. This was done by a joint resolution adopted by the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives and signed by President Franklin D. Roosevelt. They selected this date to prevent Thanksgiving from falling so close to Christmas.

Thanksgiving Day is best when celebrated, if possible, in the company of family and friends with whom we can reminisce about past blessings and experiences.

When I was a small boy growing up on our farm, we never had turkey on Thanksgiving or Christmas. This does not mean we were underprivileged. On the contrary, we had something better.

Mama would kill an old hen, and we would have chicken and dressing. She gathered sage from the sage bushes in our yard and mixed it in the dressing. I have eaten many kinds of food and have enjoyed them, but no one has ever been able to rival Mama's chicken and dressing. I can almost taste it now.

Count your blessings this Thanksgiving Day. They are probably more numerous than you realize. Then on bended knees offer sincere thanks to the Great Provider.

*Bennie Ben Wright is retired and lives in Greensboro, North Carolina. He enjoys reading, writing, and playing with his grandson, Adam. This article is courtesy of Mature Living Magazine.*

## *Caleb Club*

Caleb Club meets the second Tuesday of every month for a time of games, fellowship, and a pot-luck lunch. Games start at 10:00 am and lunch is served at 12:00 noon. This has traditionally been for our Seniors but everyone is welcome.

Caleb Club also goes to Jake's Deli and has breakfast the third Wednesday of every month. They meet at Jake's at 9:00 am and again everyone is welcome to come.

**Church Office Hours Change:  
Monday - Thursday 8:00am-2:00pm,  
closed for lunch from 12:00-1:00**

## ❖ **Women's Ministries**

Our November meeting will be **Saturday, November 17th at 10 a.m.** in the fellowship hall. We will be **making Thanksgiving gifts** for the members of the Sunday School class at Life Care. **Bring a salad, main dish, or dessert and stay for a potluck lunch.**

**Thank you** to all the ladies who attended the shower for our church kitchen. We received an assortment of items from our wish list to properly equip our kitchen.

**We will be adopting a family through YCAP again this Christmas.** More information will follow after I receive the names of the family members and their wish lists.

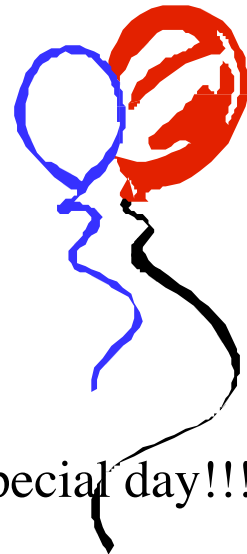
**Christmas Gifts for Life Care**

It is not too early to donate money toward Christmas gifts for the patients at Life Care. Each year gifts are purchased for the members of our Sunday School class there. If you would like to help, mark your donation Life Care Christmas and drop it in the offering plate.

*Carol*

**\*November Birthday's and Anniversaries\***

November 1	Kathy Cooksey
November 4	Mark Menne
November 6	Matthew Hampshire
November 7	Kezia Richmond
November 12	Emily Menne
November 13	Karina Hampshire
November 16	Molly Smith
November 19	JoAnn Gamble
November 21	Joanne Williamson
November 22	Nickolas Hampshire
November 27	Trey Richmond



Have a GREAT ***“Jesus Loves You!”*** special day!!!!

*Women's Prayer Time*

Every Thursday, 10:30 am,  
at the Cooksey's  
All women and girls are welcome to  
come for a time of prayer

**Upcoming Events**

November 3	Baby Shower for Priscilla Johnson, 1:30 pm in the fellowship hall at VBC
November 4	Daylight Saving Time ends
November 5	Quilting – 6:30 pm
November 7	Finance Committee Meeting – 5:30 pm Business Meeting – 6:30 pm

November 11	Evening Service – 5:00 pm Harvest Party -- @6:00 pm
November 13	Caleb Club Lunch – 10:00 am
November 13-14	Northwest Baptist Convention
November 17	Women’s Ministry Meeting – 10:00 am
November 19	Quilting – 6:30 pm
November 21	Caleb Club Breakfast – 9:00 am, Jakes NO Evening Service
November 22-23	Church office closed for Thanksgiving

# INVESTING IN TOMORROW

<b>New Parsonage Small Loan:</b>	<b>\$49,600.00</b>
<b>Given to Date:</b>	<b><u>\$16,811.89</u></b>
<b>Balance on small loan</b>	<b>\$32,788.11</b>

Pray and ask God to guide us in the area of finances. Ask Him to provide what we need to retire the debt we have. Also, pray and ask God what He may want you to give to retire this debt. **Our goal is to retire the small loan by the end of 2007.**

If we have omitted anyone, please let us know, so that we may recognize your birthday and/or anniversary in future newsletters. If you are a newcomer, please let the church office know, so that we can be sure to recognize your birthday and/or anniversary as well.

	<p><b>Has your home address, phone number, or your e-mail address changed? PLEASE keep us posted!</b></p> <hr style="width: 50%; margin: auto;"/>
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***Check out the church website:  
[www.macvalleybaptist.org](http://www.macvalleybaptist.org) or [www.macvalleybaptist.com](http://www.macvalleybaptist.com)***



*I hope these give you  
a laugh or two!*

CHURCH OF THE COVERED DISH by Thom Tapp

