

# THE ILLUMINATOR

A WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

Phone: 404-633-6103

Email: [hkesler@briarcliffbaptist.org](mailto:hkesler@briarcliffbaptist.org)

FAX: 404-315-9738

Web Site: [www.briarcliffbaptist.org](http://www.briarcliffbaptist.org)

Vol. XLVIII

December 18, 2011



No. 49

## FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

# Love



**December 18, 2011**

**“The Child:**

**Unto Us is Born a Savior”**

**Luke 2:1-7**

### OUR CHURCH PURPOSE

To actively proclaim the way of salvation and to nurture a community of faith through worship, evangelism, education and ministry in the name of Christ.

## CHRISTMAS OPEN HOUSE

Sunday, December 18

2:00 - 4:00 p.m.

at Scott Boulevard Baptist Church

2532 North Decatur Road; Decatur

The membership of Scott Boulevard would like to invite our entire church to come and meet them and join in some Christmas cheer! Our church plans to host them for something similar in January.

## CHRISTMAS EVE

Christmas Eve Communion Service

Saturday, December 24

5:00 p.m.

Carols, Candles and Communion



## CHRISTMAS DAY

Christmas Love Feast in Fellowship Hall

Sunday, December 25

10:30 a.m.

No Sunday School



## NEW YEAR'S DAY WORSHIP

Sunday, January 1

10:30 a.m. in the Sanctuary

No Sunday School



## WHILE THEY WERE SLEEPING



"And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field..."

It was an evening like any other. Ordinary men were doing an ordinary job. Shepherds were "keeping watch over their flock by night" (Luke 2:8)

Was it chilly? Were they tired? When angels appeared with news of a Savior, had the shepherds been talking about their troubles or sharing a good joke?

How quickly, how mysteriously, how unexpectedly an ordinary night became the turning point of human history. How remarkable that God chose to set His great rescue plan in motion when only a young couple was paying attention and only a few shepherds were awake.

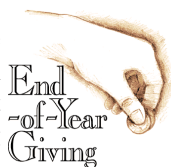
God's work is sometimes so secret we may wonder if He's there or if He cares. The Christmas story tells us that God works out breathtaking plans for our lives in the dark, while we're sleeping or



Please give to the 2011 Christmas Offering for Global Missions. Envelopes for both the CBF and SBC offerings are available in the sanctuary pew racks.

### 2011 CONTRIBUTIONS

Year-end, tax-deductible contributions received in the church office through December 31, 2011 will be posted to your 2011 Contribution Statement. You can mail your contributions to the church, but they must be postmarked on or before December 31. According to the IRS, any contribution received or postmarked after that date cannot be posted to your 2011 statement. The church office will be open until 4:00 p.m. on Thursday, December 29. Remember, the church office is not open on Fridays.



### MISSIONS POST OFFICE



The Missions Post Office, located in the sitting area outside the sanctuary is in operation through December 25. Please donate at least 25¢ per card “mailed.” All of the money collected from the post office will go to our Christmas Offering for Global Missions.

### MERGER DISCUSSION TEAM

At the December 13th Board of Directors meeting, the following people were appointed to serve on the Merger Discussion Team: John Cramer, Board President; David Sullivan, Pastor Search Team Chair; and Jean O’Callaghan, Deacon Chair.

### SCHEDULE CHANGES DURING THE HOLIDAYS

- No Sunday School on December 25 - Love Feast at 10:30 a.m.
- No Wednesday Night Supper or Activities - December 21 and 28
- Church Office Closed December 22, 23, 26 and January 2
- No Sunday School on January 1 - Worship at 10:30 a.m.
- No *Illuminator* for the weeks of December 25 and January 1

**May you have the Spirit of Christmas, which is Peace,  
The Gladness of Christmas, which is Hope,  
The Heart of Christmas, which is Love,  
The Gift of Christmas, which is Christ.**

-Ada Hendricks



**Merry Christmas!**

**The Briarcliff Baptist Church Staff:**

**Marc Burcham, Dock Hollingsworth, Helyn Kesler,  
Cindy Marshall, Diane Neuman, Sammy Skinner**

# FROM OUR ASSOCIATE PASTOR

Denise, Karen, Matthew, John, Jimmy, and I wish all of Briarcliff a very Merry Christmas. Our eventful year will once again be crowned with the celebration of our Lord's birth. Thank you to all of you for your prayers and support this year.

On Christmas Eve, we will enjoy a time of quiet, candlelit Communion. Christmas morning will see us in the Fellowship Hall as we celebrate our first ever Moravian Love Feast. This is a time of sweet fellowship and being together around the Christmas tree. I encourage you to bring a memory of Christmas past with you and share it with all gathered. Please bring some dreams of the future with you as well, ready to share.

I look forward to the upcoming year as it brings exciting things to think about and new things to do in the name of Jesus.

Having watched "Christmas Carol" twice over the last couple of weeks, I am reminded that it was said of Scrooge that if anyone knew how to keep the Spirit of Christmas alive, he did. Dickens goes on to say, "May that also be said of us, and all of us."

I hope the Spirit of Christmas empowers you with the hope and joy of Jesus. So, Merry Christmas . . . and may God bless us everyone!

-Marc



## SANCTUARY FLOWERS - 2012

The flowers for the Sanctuary on Sundays are sometimes a memorial to a loved one or given to honor a friend or relative on a special occasion. If you would like to reserve a date for flowers in 2012, complete the form below, circle the day you are requesting and drop it in the offering plate, mail it to the church office or call the church office. The cost is \$75.00 and checks should be made payable to **Briarcliff Baptist Church**.

January 1 8 15 22 29

July 1 8 15 22 29

February 5 12 19 26

August 5 12 19 26

March 4 11 18 25

September 2 9 16 23 30

April 1 8 15 22 29

October 7 14 21 28

May 6 13 20 27

November 4 11 18 25

June 3 10 17 24

December 2 9 16 23 30

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

In Honor \_\_\_\_ In Memory \_\_\_\_ of: \_\_\_\_\_

# DATELINE

## SUNDAY, DECEMBER 18

9:30 - 10:45 am  
9:45 am  
11:00 am

Library Open  
Sunday School  
Morning Worship

## TUESDAY, DECEMBER 20

9:00 am - 3:00 pm Food Pantry Open (while supplies last)

## WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 21

9:00 am - 3:00 pm Food Pantry Open (while supplies last)  
No Wednesday Night Supper or Activities

## THURSDAY, DECEMBER 22

Church Office Closed

## FRIDAY, DECEMBER 23

Church Office Closed

## SATURDAY, DECEMBER 24

5:00 pm Christmas Eve Communion Service

## SUNDAY, DECEMBER 25

10:30 am Christmas Morning Love Feast

## MONDAY, DECEMBER 26

Church Office Closed

## WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 28

No Wednesday Night Supper or Activities

## SUNDAY, JANUARY 1

10:30 am Morning Worship (No Sunday School)

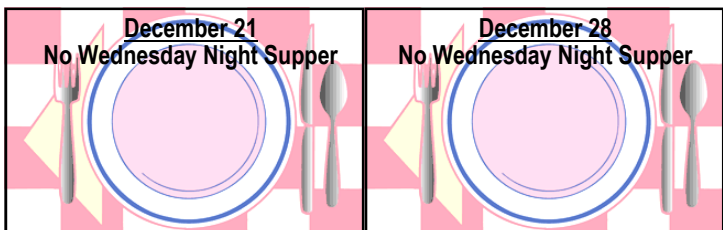
THIRD SUNDAY - DECEMBER 18, 2011  
EXTENDED SESSION WORKERS  
Lois Miller & JoAnn Williams  
USHERS  
Carl Rakestraw, Debbie Gomez  
Bill Spinks, Virginia Spinks

### PLEASE REMEMBER

ALL Wednesday Night Supper Reservations MUST be made by  
NOON on Tuesday of that Week, no exceptions.

Thank you for your cooperation.

Adults: \$6 • Children thru age 9: \$3 • Family Max: \$19



Serving Line Open from 5:15 - 6:00 p.m.

**BRIARCLIFF BAPTIST CHURCH**  
3039 Briarcliff Road N.E.  
Atlanta, Georgia 30329  
404.633.6103  
www.briarcliffbaptist.org



**CHRISTIAN SYMPATHY TO:**  
Jorge Delcid on the death  
of his brother.



**THE SANCTUARY FLOWERS**  
on Sunday, December 18  
are given to the glory of  
God in honor of Eugenia  
and Bill Bullard's 50th wedding  
anniversary.

**CHURCH STAFF**

Interim Pastor	Dock Hollingsworth
Associate Pastor	Marc Burcham
Organist	Cindy Marshall
Pastor Emeritus	Glen Waldrop
Church Office	Helyn Kesler
Finance (Tuesdays Only)	Diane Neuman
Custodian	Sammy Skinner

The Illuminator of Briarcliff Baptist Church is published weekly, except Christmas and New Years, by Briarcliff Baptist Church, 3039 Briarcliff Road, N.E., Atlanta, Georgia 30329. Phone 404-633-6103.  
POSTMASTER: Please send address changes to: Briarcliff Baptist Church, 3039 Briarcliff Rd., Atlanta, Georgia 30329.

## Vital Signs

**Through Sunday, December 11, 2011**

Offering for the Week	\$4,098
Offering Needed for the Week	\$7,519
Offering to Date	\$325,677
Budget Offering Needed to Date	\$375,950
Difference	(\$50,273)

**Bible Study**

**81**

**Worship Attendance**

**119**