

THE ILLUMINATOR

A WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

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The Parable of the Mustard Seed

FEBRUARY 5, 2012

“God is Found in Little Things”

Matthew 13:31-33

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.

FROM OUR ASSOCIATE PASTOR

Last Sunday was the kind of day that makes me proud to be a Baptist. When we do our business, ask our questions, and give our observations and testimonies at an open microphone, in front of both members and guests, that is when Baptist polity shines at its best. When I shared that around the city Methodists and Presbyterians were saying, “I wish I could speak up like that,” I wasn’t kidding. Having served in Methodist and Lutheran, as well as Baptist, churches, and having friends in various districts and synods, I know that Baptists shape their future in more “hands-on” way than perhaps any other faith group. The Baptist bywords are FREEDOM and AUTONOMY.

Our local church autonomy means that there is no one to force us to do anything we do not want to do. WE say where we go, how we get there, and when. Of course, with this freedom comes responsibility - primarily the responsibility to **really know what’s going on**. So, it’s perhaps helpful to know that our merger team, empowered by Briarcliff Baptist Church in formal business session last November, to explore what a joint church venture would look like. They are doing splendid work, if you ask me.

So, please take the opportunity to avail yourself of as much information as you wish. Be reminded that you may call the church office and ask for the latest draft of the merger agreement (BUT REMEMBER, it is just a draft - a work in progress). And take the opportunity to make your thoughts known, or ask any question you want to. Always be encouraged by the fact that since we are brothers and sisters in Christ, we can speak the truth in love. That’s the Baptist way of things.

However, please be aware that when we spread rumors or untruths about anything, we are no longer exercising our Baptist freedom in the Kingdom of God. Frankly, when we do *that*, we’re working for the other side . . .

-Marc

COVERED DISH LUNCHEON NEXT SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 12



Please bring a large dish to share. The church will provide drinks. Please bring a main dish, vegetable, casserole, salad, dessert, etc. Our guests will be the members of Scott Boulevard Baptist Church. They will be joining us in Fellowship Hall at Noon for the lunch.

GRASSHOPPER BASKETBALL LEAGUE STILL GROWING!



Even though it is now February, our Grasshopper Basketball League for children continues to grow. We now have a total of 39 children registered - 25 from the local community and 14 from Huntington Terrace Apartments on Buford Highway. These children are sponsored by Whirlwind

Missions. Thirteen different area elementary schools are represented by these children. Our church provides round-trip transportation on our church van for the Whirlwind Missions children. We welcome contributions to the scholarship fund for these Whirlwind Missions children.

It is not too late for children to come and join in on the fun! Call the church office or come any Saturday morning to sign your child up or simply stop by the church on Saturday morning to watch.

FIRST SUNDAY CALL FOR FOOD PANTRY DONATIONS

This Sunday, February 5, please bring donations to the church for our Food Pantry. Items of food needed are: cans of soup, baked beans, canned fruits and vegetables, canned meats, boxes of saltine crackers, and small jars of creamy peanut butter and jelly.



YOUTH SUPER BOWL PARTY THIS SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 5

We will leave the church right after Praise Band Rehearsal (6:00) and head to Doug & Ginger Jamieson's home to watch the game.

Are you a Giant? Are you a Patriot?
We'll find out on Sunday!



ILLUMINATOR CHANGE

Please remember that beginning on February 26, *The Illuminator* and the Sunday worship bulletin will be combining into one publication. You will be able to pick it up on Sunday mornings or receive it via e-mail prior to Sundays. Please contact the church if you would like to be added to the e-mail list or need to continue to receive it by regular "snail" mail.

WINTER IS HERE!

Remember, our Clothes Closet needs clothing, shoes, boots, coats and jackets for the winter season - especially men's & children's! You can bring your donations to the church office on Sundays or Monday through Thursday from 9:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m. Ask your friends and family if they have anything they can donate as well. There are lots of people in need. What you might consider a cast-off might be exactly what someone else needs!



THANK YOU NOTE RECEIVED

Dear Friends,

Oh behalf of the Board of Directors at the Toco Hills Community Alliance, thank you for your gifts to this ministry during the past year. We appreciate you!

Your support gives the THCA the ability to provide assistance to those in need in our community in Northeast Atlanta. This past year we have been able to provide financial help to 1,137 families living in danger of eviction from their homes or having their utilities turned off. We would be unable to continue this badly needed assistance without help from faithful supporters like you.

Debbie Spearman

President, THCA Board of Directors



SANCTUARY FLOWERS

If you would like to provide flowers for the church on a specific Sunday during 2012, there are lots of dates still available. The flowers are sometimes a memorial to a loved one or given to honor a friend or relative on a special occasion. The cost for the flowers is \$75. Please call the church office at 404-633-6103 to check on the availability of the date you are interested in.



PRAYER CORNER

I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go; I will counsel you and watch over you. Psalm 32:8

We need only be obedient and in daily communion with God to realize that He has not left us alone to figure out how to live the Christian life. He has promised us guidance and nurturing companionship for the journey.

DATELINE

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 5

8:45 - 9:30 am Chapel Open for Prayer
9:15 - 10:45 am Library Open
9:45 am Sunday School
11:00 am Morning Worship
12:00 pm Cornerstone Class Lunch
12:00 - 2:00 pm Sunday Funday for Children
5:00 pm Praise Band Rehearsal
6:00 pm Youth Super Bowl Party at the Jamieson's

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 6

9:00 am LZ Aerobics
12:00 pm - 2:00 pm Spanish Language Class

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 7

9:00 am - 3:00 pm Food Pantry Open (while supplies last)
7:00 pm Board of Directors Meeting

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 8

9:00 am LZ Aerobics
9:00 am - 3:00 pm Food Pantry Open (while supplies last)
12:00 pm - 2:00 pm Spanish Language Class
7:00 pm Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 9

9:30 am - 12:30 pm Ceramics
12:00 - 2:00 pm Clothes Closet Open

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 10

9:00 am LZ Aerobics
Church Office Closed

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 11

9:00 am - 1:30 pm Grasshopper Basketball

FIRST SUNDAY - FEBRUARY 5, 2012

EXTENDED SESSION WORKERS

Debbie Gomez & Bangseh Akuchu

USHERS

Alex Coleman, Bill Rhodes, James Panter

AS OF JANUARY 12, WEDNESDAY NIGHT SUPPERS AND PRAYER MEETING HAVE BEEN TEMPORARILY SUSPENDED. WE WILL RE-EXAMINE OUR WEDNESDAY EVENING SCHEDULE IN THE SPRING.

BRIARCLIFF BAPTIST CHURCH
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Invite a Neighbor to Church

CHURCH STAFF

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

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Vital Signs

Through Sunday, January 29, 2012

Offering for the Week	\$6,265
Offering to Date	\$27,091

Bible Study	85
Worship Attendance	117