

BRANCH'S BAPTIST CHURCH

3400 Broad Rock Blvd.
Richmond, VA 23234

Office: 276-5000

Fax: 675-0759

Website: www.branchs.org

Office Hours: Monday—Friday
9:00am-12:00pm, 1:00-4:00pm

STAFF

Rev. Mat Brown, Pastor

Rev. Michael Gibson, Minister of Music

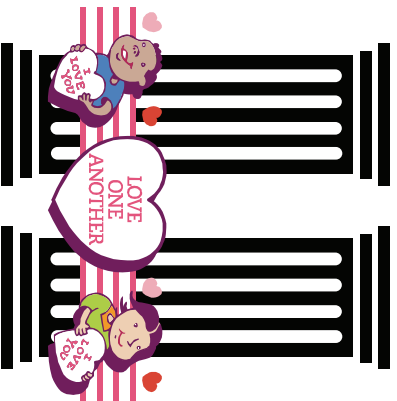
Rev. Joe Edwards,

Rev. Dorryce Ann Rudd,

Minister of Youth & Child Development

Minister of Visitation & Sr. Adult Ministries

The Columns



February 2012

Newsletter of Branch's Baptist Church

Branch's Baptist Church
3400 Broad Rock Blvd.
Richmond, VA 23234

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

The Incarnational Church (part 2)

by *Mat Brown*

In my last article I talked about John 20:21 when Jesus appears to his disciples on Resurrection Day and he gives them this commission: **“As the Father has sent me, I am sending you.”** Since Jesus is the Incarnation of God, we, the church, are to be the Incarnation of Jesus Christ in our world. Symbolically we are His body! And Jesus sends us into the world to BE good news wherever we go!

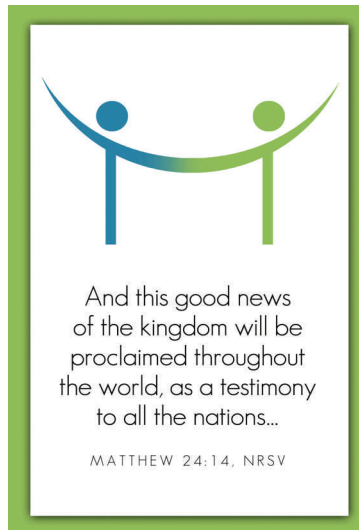
In practical terms being Incarnational means two things. I talked about welcoming the strangers who come among us in my previous article. Now I want to address the second ramification of being Incarnational: We are sent out to do God’s mission in our world. Let’s use another allegory. Suppose you have a friend who has to go visit her Aunt Maude who lives in a house that is clean on the inside but the outside looks old, spooky and unkempt. As you walk up to the house you say “I’m scared to go in there.” Your friend says, “Well, it looks scary but Aunt Maude is nice and she makes the most scrumptious concoction she calls “Dream Cream” (an ice cream like desert). So you go in and sure enough; the Dream Cream was worth the risk! You are overcome with joy. It is so good! So you and your friend start going to Aunt Maude’s house every Sunday (and sometimes on Wednesday nights) for some of Aunt Maude’s “Dream Cream.” After awhile you think to yourself, “I’d like to share this with my friends.” Let me ask you—would it

be necessary for you to bring your friends to Aunt Maude’s spooky house in order to share the Dream Cream with them? Is there another way?

Well of course there is another way! What if Aunt Maude taught you how to make Dream Cream! It is a simple recipe but you have to have someone show you the special ingredients and explain the steps in order for the mixture to come out right. Now, since you know the recipe; what if you had your friends over to your house and made some Dream Cream for them? More than that, what if you taught them how to make Dream Cream and they could go and have other friends over? You get the picture. Well, friends, in case you didn’t get the parable let me explain. To many people the Church is like Aunt Maude’s house and they are afraid to come in. So, let’s find other ways to get the Dream Cream (the Gospel) to our friends. Maybe we

could invite them over to our houses to celebrate friendship. As the opportunities arise, we give them a taste (just a spoonful at first) of the Dream Cream.

In the words of Jesus, “as you are going make disciples of all nations...” We have something worth sharing with those around us. Just think, your friends and family can have the same joy and peace that you have through Jesus Christ. Let’s be incarnational to those around us—let’s BE good news to them!



Music Crescendos

by Mike Gibson

Sing praises to the Lord, enthroned in Zion; proclaim among the nations what he has done. Psalm 9:11

February is a wonderful month right in the middle of winter when it is fairly cold weather. Our hearts are warmed by the word "love." When we think of this month we usually think about the theme of love as we focus our attention on February 14th, St. Valentine's Day. If you know the history of St. Valentine then you would want to remember this honorable saint from church history. But we are also called to remember the love of God for each one of us—how he sent his son, Jesus, to be the savior of the world.

This is going to be another exciting month of music ministry here at Branch's, so try to be a part of every worship service. The Chancel Choir has begun rehearsing for the new Easter cantata "Near the Cross". This is a beautiful cantata that tells the story of Christ's death, burial and resurrection. More singers are invited to come and join us. We will have a special

Lunch and Easter cantata rehearsal February 12th at 12:15pm beginning in the Old Fellowship Hall with lunch and moving to the Lola Clifford Music Room for rehearsal.

Reflections (senior adult choir) continues to rehearse on Mondays at 10:30-11:30am. I would like to invite new singers to come and join us for this season of music. We have a great time of fellowship each Monday morning. The choir will be singing soon for the morning worship service and we also present special music outside the church. Call me at 231-3318 if you need more information about becoming a Reflections Choir member.

Kid's Worship time continues on Wednesday's 6:30-7:00pm in the children's music room. Parents with children ages 4 through 12 years old are encouraged to bring them to this fun time of music and worship.

Hope you have a most blessed month.



Are you confused about preparing for retirement emotionally? Should you retire? Is aging less than you had hoped for or do you not understand what is happening to a family member that is aging? If you can say yes to any of these or many more questions, come join us as we discuss

Billy Graham's latest book, Nearing Home. The discussion will start Wednesday evening, February 1st at 6:30pm (room to be announced). Your discussion will be encouraged by Dorryce Ann Rudd. The group is open to *everyone* and your friends. A signup sheet will be in the office or call 276-5000. You may get your own book or purchase one through the church for \$10.

Deacon Ministry

The following are words from an unknown author entitled Dream Big—“If there were ever a time to dare, to make a difference, to embark on something worth doing, it is now...You owe it to yourself to make your days count”.

Knowing what we are supposed to do with our lives is important. As believers we are all called to share the message of Jesus Christ with our families, with our neighbors, and with the world. After His resurrection Jesus addressed his disciples:

But the eleven disciples proceeded to Galilee, to the mountain which Jesus had designated. When they saw Him, they worshiped Him; but some were doubtful. And Jesus came up and spoke to them, saying, “All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name

by Gail Harris, chair

of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I command you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.”

Matthew 28:16-20 NASB

Christ's great commission applies to Christians of every generation, including our own. Jesus commanded His disciples to become fishers of men. We all must do likewise, and we must do so today. The time is now. Be bold. Let us make our days count. Tomorrow may indeed be too late.

Please join the deacons in prayer that God would help us all to be bold and to let our days be filled with ways that add to the kingdom and the glory of God.

Love
One Another



Branch's Senior Adults

Thursday, February 23rd @ 10:30am

Come to our next meeting in Kincheloe Hall



Let's brave the cold winter weather and join your friends in Kincheloe Hall for our next meeting. Warm friends and fine food will greet you and a super program featuring meteorologist **Jim Duncan** top off our day. I'm looking forward to it. How about you? See you there!



Thank you to everyone who came to our first Outreach meeting on January 12th! We are forming an Outreach Team to focus on reaching our community as we are directed in **Matthew 28:19-20**. God has called us *ALL* to reach out to those who don't know Jesus as their Lord and Savior and I ask you *ALL* to consider that call in your personal lives and as members of Branch's Baptist Church. God has HUGE plans for this community and we have the exciting opportunity to be a part of His plans!

Please consider how you can get involved with Outreach here at Branch's:

- **WE NEED EVERYONE TO PRAY FOR OUTREACH!**
- You can join the Outreach Team
- You can sign up at the Welcome Center to receive Outreach updates and prayer requests by email
- You can sign-up at the Welcome Center to go on prayer walks out into the community

Outreach is and should be a part of every aspect and ministry of Branch's and we need your help in accomplishing this. If you can't join the Outreach Team, please come to any of the meetings advertised in the bulletins and share ideas about how the ministry you are involved in could impact the community around Branch's.

Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship. ² Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.

Romans 12:1-2

Thank you and feel free to contact Rachel Contreras at 804-405-1325 or contrerarts@gmail.com



The Coppridges thank the church family for the prayers and support during Eddie's recent hospitalization.



February 21st

**Karen Collins WMU
@ 10:30am
in Kincheloe Hall**

**Mary Saunders WMU
@ 6:45pm
to Chippendale Ret. Cnt.**



Lottie Moon Christmas Offering

Branch's Goal: \$12,000
collected: \$11,618



remember
our
homebound

Doris Ferguson
birthday ~ 1/17

Alyce Reid
birthday ~ 1/31

Odell Brown

David Coaker

Mr. Waverly Orange
birthday ~ 2/7

Barbara Neblett
birthday ~ 2/9

Mabel Condrey
birthday ~ 2/13

Dorothy Creery
birthday ~ 2/18

In case of inclement weather, Branch's will post an announcement on local TV affiliates if activities are cancelled. The office may be closed as well so please call before stopping by.



We are updating our email list. Please send an email to office@branchs.org even if you think we already have your address.

FINANCIAL REPORT

For the Month January 2012

Budget Req'd thru 01-15-12	\$	30,462
Actual Budget Rec'd thru 01-15-12	\$	30,892

Year to Date January 15, 2012

Budget Required	\$	30,462
Actual Budget Received	\$	30,892

Branch's Baptist Church Condensed Financial Budget Year-to-Date as of December 2011

<u>Account Description</u>	Actual YTD	Budget YTD	Over/(Under) Budget YTD
Regular Offering	516,939	567,466	(50,527)
Expenditures:			
World Programs	44,654	48,862	(4,208)
Personnel	283,289	310,718	(27,429)
Educational Ministries	19,822	28,170	(8,348)
Service Ministries	25,223	34,187	(8,964)
Building & Equipment	109,377	128,615	(19,238)
Debt Retirement	16,614	16,614	(0)
Miscellaneous	496	300	196
Total Expenditures	499,474	567,466	(67,992)
Net Surplus/(Deficit)	17,465	0	17,465

FEBRUARY *activities*

Wednesday, February 1 ~ activities

Thursday, February 2

Friday, February 3

Saturday, February 4

Sunday, February 5 ~ services

3pm ESL class ~ KH

Monday, February 6

7pm Deacons Mtg. ~ CR

Tuesday, February 7

Wednesday, February 8 ~ activities

Thursday, February 9

Friday, February 10

Saturday, February 11

Sunday, February 12 ~ services

12:15pm Cantata Lunch/Rehearsal

3pm ESL class ~ KH

Monday, February 13

10am Personnel Cmte.

Tuesday, February 14 ~ Valentine's Day

Wednesday, February 15 ~ activities

Columns Deadline

Bon Secours Care-A-Van

Thursday, February 16

Friday, February 17

Saturday, February 18

Sunday, February 19 ~ services

Monday, February 20 ~ Presidents' Day

Tuesday, February 21

10:30am K. Collins WMU

6:45pm M. Saunders WMU ~ Chip. Ret. Cnt.

7pm Finance Cmte. ~ CR

Wednesday, February 22 ~ activities

Ash Wednesday

Thursday, February 23

10:30am Sr. Adults ~ KH

Friday, February 24

Saturday, February 25

Sunday, February 26 ~ services

Monday, February 27

Tuesday, February 28

Wednesday, February 29 ~ activities



Mondays

10:30am Reflections Choir

Tuesdays

1:30pm Adult Fitness

2:30pm Coffee & Prayer w/ Pastor ~ CR

6:30pm Festival Ringers

Thursdays

9am Computer Class

SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

Sunday Services

9:15am Prayer Time

9:45am Sunday School/Bible Study

11:00am Worship Service

Wednesday Activities

5:30pm Family Supper

6:30pm Kids Worship, Praise Team

Youth, Prayer Meeting,

Festival Ringers, Broad Rock Café

7:30pm Chancel Choir, FWFriends

**Deadline for the March
issue of The Columns is
February 15th.**