

BRANCH'S BAPTIST CHURCH

3400 Broad Rock Blvd.
Richmond, VA 23234

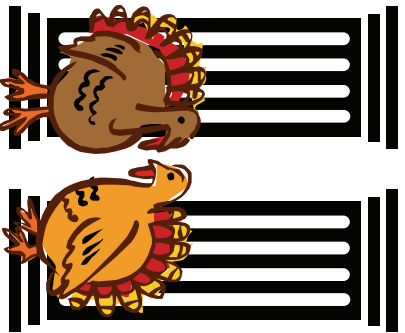
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Office Hours: Monday—Friday
9:00am-12:00pm, 1:00-4:00pm

The Columns



November 2011

Newsletter of Branch's Baptist Church

STAFF

Rev. Mat Brown, Pastor

Rev. Joe Edwards,

Minister of Youth & Child Development

Rev. Michael Gibson, Minister of Music

Rev. Dorryce Ann Rudd,

Minister of Visitation & Sr. Adult Ministries

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

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Sticky Zippers and Fireside Chats

by Mat Brown

I really enjoyed doing the “Fireside Chat” a couple of weeks ago. That venue really suits my personality. I much prefer to chat with a group of friends than preach to a congregation! Anyway, it was different and I have gotten lots of positive feedback. I think we will have to do that again sometime soon.

With any new undertaking, however, there were some glitches—like the zipper on my sweater getting stuck. Unfortunately, that interfered with my ability to communicate and the congregation’s ability to concentrate on what I wanted to say. So let me say here what I was trying to convey—“Thank you for the love, support, encouragement, kindness and grace you have shown to me and my family over these past five years! I have been a part of many churches and served as pastor of three of them. They have all been good but Branch’s Baptist Church is the best, most loving, generous and caring church of which I have ever been a part. I love being your pastor and I admire the way you welcome people and have care and concern for one another. Obviously your previous pastors did a great job preparing your hearts and teaching you how to love one another and your pastor. So, sincerely, thanks!

Another set of glitches might be called “what I didn’t say.” Some people took some of what I said to mean that there had been some complaints or objections. Another lady told me that because of what I said and the fact that I missed the next Sunday, she thought I was interviewing with another church. NOT SO! I have no plans of going anywhere else anytime soon. I was merely trying to address some questions and/or thoughts that I had heard expressed “through the grapevine”. I don’t know

of any widespread unhappiness or complaints. Did I mention how much I love being your pastor? So you are stuck with me until you can’t stand me anymore or the Lord directs otherwise.

Also under the heading of “what I didn’t say” come those things I meant to say but forgot to mention. For example, the Latinos who joined Branch’s are meeting for worship in Spanish at 11:00am on C Hallway. The plan is for their children and youth to begin participating in Sunday School and other activities. They are also GIVING! I encouraged them to designate their gifts until the first of the year because we do not have offering envelopes for them. Starting in January they are planning to give to our regular offering for the ongoing work of the church. They are enthusiastic about being a part of what God is doing here at Branch’s Baptist Church! I hope you are too!

One last thing. It is reported that a man once said to the young Dwight L. Moody, ***“It remains to be seen what God will do with a man who gives himself up wholly unto Him.”*** Moody replied, ***“Well, I will be that man.”*** As you may know, D.L. Moody went on to be one of the greatest evangelists who ever lived. I want to rework that statement to say, ***“It remains to be seen (in the 21st Century) what God will do with a CHURCH who gives itself up wholly unto Him.”*** Let us respond, ***“We will be that Church!”*** I would love to hear your thoughts so email me at mat.brown@branchs.org or send me a text to 387-3362. Grace and peace!

Music Crescendos

"My heart is steadfast, O God: I will sing and make music with all my soul."
Psalm 108 (NIV)

November will be another exciting month of great Christian music and worship here at Branch's.

Messiah Forty and the Praise Team directed by Rebekah Brown have added a refreshing music style to our Sunday morning worship. Everyone that likes to sing is welcome to come and join the Praise Team. They rehearse Wednesday's 6:30-7:30pm in the sanctuary. Contact Rebekah Brown for more information about joining the group.

The Kid's Worship time, Wednesdays 6:30-7:00pm, is in need of more children (preschool to age 13) to participate. They will present special music for the December 4th White Christmas service at 6:00pm.

The Joyful Ringers Handbell Choir is making some changes. Current members will be meeting Tuesdays at 7:30-8:15pm in the handbell room. A beginners class will be announced at a later date for ages 12 years and up. Call Mike Gibson at 231-3318 if you are

by Mike Gibson

interested in joining as a beginner. Right now I am taking a survey to see if there is enough interest in the Joyful Ringers continuing as a beginner handbell group. Judy Clarke is their current director.

The second Christmas cantata rehearsal and pizza/salad lunch will be Sunday, November 13th at 12:15pm in the Old Fellowship Hall. This is for Chancel and Reflections choir members, their family, guests and new choir members. They will be presenting the Christmas cantata "Hark the Herald" on Sunday, December 11th at 11:00am. It is not too late to join us.

Branch's is having a Thanksgiving Worship Service, Tuesday, November 22nd at 7:00pm in the sanctuary. The Chancel Choir will be singing favorite Thanksgiving hymns and choruses. Plan now to come and worship with us.

May you have a most blessed month.

CANTATA Rehearsal



**November 13th
@ 12:15pm**

and Pizza/salad lunch

in the Old Fellowship Hall. This is for Chancel and Reflections choir members, their family, guests and new choir members. Sign up in the choir room.

Deacon Ministry

by Gail Harris, chair

I recently saw a young person with a tee shirt that read "I DON'T GO TO CHURCH" on the front. I could not believe my eyes. I thought, why would anyone want to advertise that! Fortunately I also got the opportunity to see what was on the back and it read "I AM THE CHURCH". Praise the Lord that this young person already realizes that church is not just a building. It begs the question in regards to how do we see the church? What do we visualize when we think of Branch's Baptist Church?

Jesus said of Himself, "I am the light of the world" (John 8:12). In Matthew 5:14-16 Jesus declares that His followers were "the light of the world". As we approach a season of Thanksgiving we have much to be grateful for. God has given us salvation through His Son, Jesus Christ. We have a spirit filled church, with a community that very much needs to have our light shine upon them. God is leading folks to Branch's Baptist and it is an awesome opportunity we have to build relationships and grow in Christ together.

Rachel Contreras is now serving as the Outreach Leader. It is her desire to build an Outreach Team that would allow for many to participate in outreach within our community and beyond. Please consider using your gifts in this capacity.

Let us continue to lift one another up in prayer as we seek God's will in each of our lives. May you find encouragement and may your faith be strengthened as you pray for one another, for our church, for our community, and for our staff. May our light **S.H.I.N.E.** for Christ.

Share His Incredible News Everywhere



Branch's Senior Adults

Thursday, November 17th @ 10:30am

Come to our next meeting in Kincheloe Hall



Our agenda includes: elections, celebrating Thanksgiving through our support of the food pantry and honoring our veterans. An entertaining program featuring **Jonathan Austin** will be followed by a traditional roasted turkey and all the trimmings. I can't wait to see you there. Bring a friend!

Lotte Moon Banquet November 20th

speaker ~ Brad Womble

MENU

pork tenderloin
macaroni & cheese
green beans
jello salad
dinner rolls
desserts/beverages

\$5 adults
\$3 children
\$15 family max



HIS HEART HIS HANDS HIS VOICE

Lotte Moon Christmas Offering

week of prayer

December 4-11

Branch's Goal: \$12,000

make checks payable to Branch's WMU
Limit 100 people ~ deadline November 16

Thank You!

Beth Kahl and family thanks Branch's for the cards, support, prayers and visits following the passing of her mother-in-law, Arline Kahl.

Linda Bowers thanks the church family for the meals, cards, calls and prayers while she was out.

Judy Boatwright thanks everyone for kindnesses shown following her surgery.

Alma Hunt
Branch's Goal: \$1500
Collected: \$1749

Rally Day
Goal: \$20,000
Collected: \$10,752

Daylight Savings Ends
Sunday, November 6th



remember to turn your
clocks back one hour

A VOICE FROM THE GRAVE

Did you know we have several past pastors buried in our cemetery? The Rev. Dr. Howard Arthur, served from 30's to 40's, Rev. Joseph Cosby, 40's & 50's. Rev. Moffit Booker, 50's & 60's, Rev. Dr. John Kincheloe, 60's & 70's. Rev. Dr. James Sorrell, 70's & 80's. There are several other ministers buried in the cemetery and I'll have more info on them later.

now collecting for

White Christmas



Put your donations of non-perishable goods in the labeled boxes in each Sunday School room. We need enough to serve 15 families.

Suggestions: fruit juices, pancake mix and syrup, Bisquick, cranberry sauce, canned gravy, stuffing mix, canned fruit or vegetables, Christmas candy, tuna, canned meat, soups, cereal, oatmeal, powdered milk, spaghetti and sauce, peanut butter, jelly, dry or canned beans, corn bread mix, cake mix, frosting.



**remember
our
homebound**

Evelyn Samuel
birthday ~ 11/3

Janice Gurley
birthday ~ 11/28

Mildred Woodson

Pauline Vencill

FINANCIAL REPORT

For the Month October 2011

Budget Req'd thru 10-23-11	\$	43,652
Actual Budget Rec'd thru 10-23-11	\$	36,715

Year to Date October 23, 2011

Budget Required	\$	447,433
Actual Budget Received	\$	406,520

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

<u>Account Description</u>	Actual YTD	Budget YTD	Over/(Under) Budget YTD
Regular Offering	369,805	425,600	(55,795)

Expenditures:

World Programs	32,080	36,647	(4,567)
Personnel	218,708	233,039	(14,331)
Educational Ministries	15,880	21,128	(5,248)
Service Ministries	17,640	25,640	(8,000)
Building & Equipment	83,602	96,461	(12,859)
Debt Retirement	12,460	12,461	(1)
Miscellaneous	280	225	55
Total Expenditures	380,651	425,601	(44,950)

Net Surplus/(Deficit)	(10,846)	(1)	(10,845)
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NOVEMBER *activities*

Tuesday, November 1

Wednesday, November 2 ~ activities

Thursday, November 3

Friday, November 4

Women's Get-Away @ EE (Fri.-Sat.)

Saturday, November 5

Sunday, November 6 ~ services

Daylight Savings Ends

Monday, November 7

7pm Deacons Meeting

Tuesday, November 8

Wednesday, November 9 ~ activities

Thursday, November 10

Friday, November 11

Veterans Day

Saturday, November 12

Sunday, November 13 ~ services

12:15pm Cantata lunch & rehearsal

Columns Deadline

Monday, November 14

10am Personnel Cmte.

Tuesday, November 15

10:30am K. Collins WMU

Wednesday, November 16 ~ activities

Bon Secours Care-A-Van

Thursday, November 17

10:30am Sr. Adults ~ KH

Friday, November 18

Saturday, November 19

Sunday, November 20 ~ services

12:15pm Lottie Moon Banquet

Monday, November 21

Tuesday, November 22

7pm Thanksgiving Service

Wednesday, November 23 ~ NO activities

Thursday, November 24 ~ Thanksgiving

office closed

Friday, November 25

office closed

Saturday, November 26

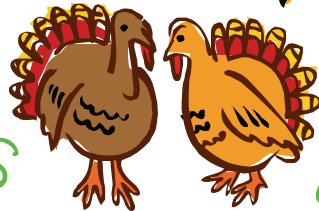
Sunday, November 27 ~ services

Monday, November 28

8am-4:30pm LifeLine Screening

Tuesday, November 29

Wednesday, November 30



Mondays
11:30am Reflections Choir

Tuesdays
1:30pm Adult Fitness
2:30pm Coffee & Prayer w/ Pastor ~ CR
6:30pm Festival Ringers
7:30pm Joyful 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 December
issue of The Columns is
November 13th.**