



# THE BEACON

## Upcoming Dates

January 7  
Young Adult New Year's  
Party - 5:00 PM

January 8  
Youth Meeting

January 9  
Deacon's Meeting  
7:00 PM

January 10  
Wallace Group

January 16  
Duke Group

January 18  
Quarterly Business  
Meeting - 6:45 PM

January 19  
Community Senior Adult  
Dinner

January 22  
Youth Meeting



Actor and director Woody Allen once said, "If you want to make God laugh then tell him your plans." As we begin a new year we may already be making plans for the upcoming months. Most of us have already obtained a 2012 calendar and begun writing in events and occasions on the blank pages. Yet, while there are certain dates we know something is planned, most life is lived not knowing what the day may bring. Hopefully there will be more good days than bad days. Ultimately, however, we just don't know what the year will bring. There is a lot of truth in Woody Allen's statement. While we may make plans for the year, God is still the one who holds the future in his hands.

The good news for us is that God does have a plan for our lives. Our lives are not simply a string of unrelated events tied together, but rather God is seeking to make his will a reality in our lives. This doesn't mean that all of life is perfect as God has to work with what the world gives God. Yet, God is able to take the good and bad that comes with life and use them to fulfill his ultimate purpose. God is indeed like the potter at his wheel as the Bible describes. God is shaping and molding us into the vessels that he desires. God has a vision of what he wants most for us. The apostle Paul would write in his letter to the Romans, "We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose." God's purpose is for our good and for our well being. God desires to give us that "shalom peace" where life is fulfilling, complete, and whole.

As we begin 2012 we do not know what tomorrow holds. We do, however, know who holds our tomorrows. God is actively working in our lives and world to bring about his ultimate purpose for all of creation. We simply have to live in faith, trusting in the one who loves us most. May 2012 be filled with the hope and promises of life anchored in the unfailing presence of our God.

Philip

## Clint's Corner

Last month we joined the heavenly host, saying, "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!" The idea of peace on earth is a common sentiment at Christmas. It's also a beautiful sentiment, a hope-filled greeting that we share with one another throughout the season. But peace on earth and good will toward mankind can too easily begin and end as a "seasonal sentiment," something we take out around the first of December, stamp it on a Christmas card, and then tuck it away until next December.

Isaiah's vision of peace on earth suggests a more active role for us. The prophet proclaims, "They shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks." These words have become associated with international peacekeeping efforts, and were the inspiration for a sculpture that stands in the north garden of the United Nations Headquarters in New York. Isaiah goes on to say, "Nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more."

With Christmas behind us and a new year ahead of us, we can ask ourselves, "Just how serious are we about bringing peace on earth?" In the days of Isaiah the sole purpose of swords and spears was to take the life of another. Plows and pruning hooks, on the other hand, were used for planting and harvesting...sustaining life, not taking it. There is another sculpture at the United Nations building, a sculpture of a gun that has had a knot tied in the barrel. The message is clear. I realize that guns are a treasured possession of many Americans, but their purpose, whether used offensively or defensively, is for the taking of life. Is it possible to load our closets with guns and at the same time be dumbfounded as to why there is no peace on earth?

Maybe we, as an individual or nation, are not ready to take that pistol out of the closet and pound it with a sledge hammer. Maybe we never will be. Maybe we need to begin on a smaller scale with the conversion of a different kind of weapon...our words. Perhaps we can commit ourselves to using words that build up instead of tear down, words of encouragement instead of words of anger, words of comfort rather than words of anxiety. If we can pound a word of hatred into a word of friendship and understanding, there just may be hope for us yet. "Happy New Year" is the sentiment today, but just how "new" are we willing to make it?



### Wednesday Nights in January

Choose from one of our two new Bible study and discussions groups.



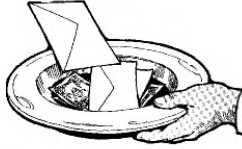
*The Gospel According to Harry Potter  
and*

*Where is God When It Hurts?*

*(Studies begin at 6:45 P.M.)*

### Budget Report Through December 18

Budget :                   \$41,484  
 Given to Date:           \$37,960  
 Variance:                 -\$3,524



#### **Contributions were made to the Ministries Endowment in memory of:**

*Clara and Robert Hagan,  
 Tommy and Sherrie Wellton,  
 Myra Moss Alexander, and  
 Norman B. Wood, Jr.*

#### **Contributions were made to the Properties Endowment in memory of:**

*Billy Wells and Russell Ernest Lowery*

### **Lottie Moon Offering Update**

*Church goal: \$ 6000.00*

*Given to date: \$ 5642.50*

***A special thanks to all who have contributed***

### January Birthdays

- 2: Lynn Corker  
 5: Roger Harler  
 6: Alexis Rae Wang  
 9: Robert Bledsoe  
 10: Virginia Jordan  
     Dorothy Blackburn  
 12: Jean Priddy  
     Betty Stowell  
 15: Billy Walker  
     George Hall  
 16: Emily Tribble  
 17: Peggy Williams  
 18: Tina O'Mary  
 20: Amanda Blankenship  
 21: Ruth Carter  
     Shannon Cooper  
     Joyce Robinson  
     David Bell, Jr.  
 30: Steven Hancock

### Anniversaries

- 20: Karen and Kenneth Jarrell  
 24: Bill and Evelyn Berry

### **Snow Closing Information**

If the church would have to close this winter due to inclement weather, then that announcement would be called into the local TV news stations as well as a message left on the church answering



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**A Steadfast Fellowship of Grace**

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We're on the web at:  
[www.pinestbaptist.com](http://www.pinestbaptist.com)

Happy New Year from  
**Pine Street Baptist Church**

**Oregon Hill Baptist Center - Christmas Ministry Update**

**RBA Christmas Store:**

Thanks to the many members of Richmond Baptist Churches like Pine Street Baptist who contributed to the RBA Christmas Store through donations of gifts, money, and time. Because of your generosity a total of 276 low income families were able to receive gifts for approximately 614 children!

**OHBC Children's Christmas Store:**

On Saturday, December 10th, 35 elementary age children were able to pick out free gifts for their family members. Thank you to those who donated gifts and to the Acteens from Second Baptist Church who hosted the event here at the Oregon Hill Baptist Center for the 14th year in a row!