

Pine Street Baptist Church
A Steadfast Fellowship of Grace

December, 2012



THE BEACON

Upcoming Dates

December 5

Family Worship - 6:45 pm

December 6-7

RBA Christmas Store

December 8

VIP Trip

December 11

Wallace Group - 10:00 am

December 13

Humphrey Home Christmas
Party

December 15

OHBC Children's Christmas
Store - 1:30-3:00 pm

December 16

Christmas Sunday School
Brunch - 9:45 pm
Choir Cantata- 11:00 am

Youth Christmas Party

December 17

Duke Group

December 19

Family Fun Night - 6:45 pm

December 20

Senior Dinner - 6:00 pm

December 23

Candlelight Communion - 5:00 pm

December 26

Holiday Dinner for Humphrey Home

Dear Friends,

Andy William's well known Christmas song, "It's the Most Wonderful Time of the Year," is a favorite during the Christmas season. It is played regularly on the radio throughout the month of December. The warm and memorable lyrics remind us that "It's the hap-happiest season of all." Christmas can indeed be a happy time of the year. From the playing of Christmas music, holiday lights, delicious recipes, family gatherings, and beautiful worship services, Christmas gives us the opportunity to celebrate once again the birth of Jesus.

However, Christmas is much more than the "hap-happiest season of all." Rather, Christmas is a time of transformational joy that is not limited to one month of the year. Rather the miracle of Christmas and the coming of God into the world in Jesus offers to all an opportunity not simply for a happy face, but a heart filled with the joy of heaven. Christmas reminds us that the Light of the World now shines brightly for all of creation. While sadness and sorrow are still part of the landscape of our lives, Christmas is able to bring hope even in such a landscape. The prophet Isaiah prophesized rightly when he said,

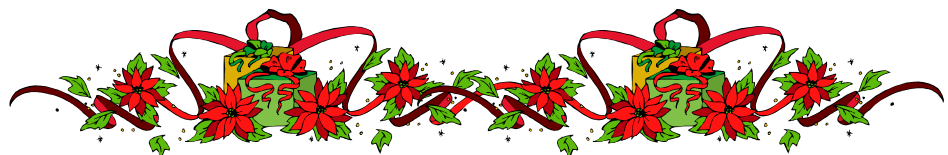
*"Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain shall be made low;
the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain.
Then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all the people
shall see it together."*

God can change our present reality and even bring joy and hope back to hearts with rough places of grief, sadness, guilt, and pain. God's glory in Jesus is a life altering event which has the power to change us eternally.

It is my hope that we will all experience the transformational power of Jesus Christ this holy season. It is a wonderful time of the year, but it is so much more. It is the moment in which eternity broke into our lives healing our pasts, renewing our present, and empowering us for the future. May God bless you this Christmas as we acknowledge his birth in our world and in our hearts.

Merry Christmas,

Philip



Clint's Corner

Christmas Transformation

A few weeks ago my oldest daughter asked me to review what she had written for an Advent Devotional Booklet. Her writing began with a quote from Ruth Haley Barton: *Our transformation is never for ourselves alone.* It is always for the sake of others. I liked the use of this quote, and I respectfully offered some suggestions for her devotion in general. Being the intelligent, strong-minded individual she is, she respectfully declined most of my suggestions. But my respectfully submitted suggestions live on in this month's Clint's Corner.

Mary heard the call of God, and was chosen to be the vessel that would conceive and carry the Son of the Most High. With a responsibility that could not be fully grasped, Mary had been called to be the mother of Jesus the Messiah. At this point Mary had several options open to her for responding to God's call. With her reputation and personal relationships at risk, she could have chosen to travel down the road of fear, apathy, and anger. But by replying, "Here I am, the servant of the Lord," Mary chose instead an attitude of humility and service. The impact of her choice would not only bring joy to Mary and Joseph, but joy to the world for years to come.

Each day we are called to follow God, and the ways in which we respond to this call not only impacts our lives personally, but also the lives of those around us. Like Mary, our compliance to God's will in our lives is also a willingness to be transformed. This transformative experience is not meant to be some precious stone cloistered within our individual lives, but a divine joy that prompts us to carry the love, hope, and peace of God outward for the benefit of others. Merry Christmas.

Dear Pine Street Family,

Thank you so much for the beautiful recognition service, lovely reception, and generous gift on the occasion of my 40th anniversary at Pine Street Baptist Church. I am so grateful to have been a part of this church family and to be privileged to serve God in such an amazing place. I have been blessed by this fellowship in many ways and at many times. I have learned how to be a better person and how to share the love of God in all that we do. Thank you for all that you have done for me!

In His Name,
Linda



CHRISTMAS STORE VOLUNTEERS



The Richmond Baptist Association Annual Christmas Store will be held on Dec. 6 & 7 @ the South Richmond Baptist Center location (700 E Belt Blvd). Families in need who have registered in advance are able to pick out brand new toys & clothes for their children for a donation of \$5 per child.

Volunteers are needed in several areas:

Donate items (please place in boxes around church building by Wednesday, Dec 5th)

Sort & Organize items at the store location on Dec. 3- 4 (9AM – 2PM) Dec. 5 (9AM – Noon)

Assist Shoppers on Dec 6 or 7 to pick out gifts for children or carry items to car. (9AM-2PM)

Clean & Pack Up items at conclusion of store on Dec. 7 (2:00 PM – 3:00 PM)

Please sign up on the church bulletin board or contact Jennifer Turner (648-1353) if you would like to assist with sorting, organizing, assisting shoppers or clean up as described above.

Children's Christmas Store & Party

December 15, 2012

1:30-3:00 PM

All children ages 3-12 are invited to attend the Oregon Hill Baptist Center annual Christmas Store! This is the place where you can get cool gifts for your parents & siblings. Come and browse and then take your selections to the gift-wrapping station. Parent and children enjoy yummy refreshments while you wait. AND it is all FREE!! Arrive anytime between 1:30 & 2:45, no appointment necessary.

If you would like to DONATE new or "like-new" items for our children to choose from then just give them to Jennifer Turner.

Winter Clothing Items Needed

Men's Long Johns, Adult Knit Gloves & Hats, Adult Sweatshirts,
Blankets & Adult Sleeping Bags

These items are greatly needed to assist our homeless neighbors as the cold winter months are upon us. If you are able to donate any of these items please give them to Jennifer or place them by her office door. Thank you in advance for your assistance.





Martin's Cash for Causes

Pine Street will be participating in the *Martin's Cash for Causes* program as a means to build the general fund of the church. Gift cards are available for purchase on Sunday mornings and Wednesday nights to be used for your shopping purchases at Martins. There is no expiration date on the cards and the cards are swiped just like a credit card until they are used up. The church receives 5% of the card's value for participating in the program. Contact Terry Donohue if you have questions.

Worship in January and February

During the months of January and February the church will be worshipping in the fellowship hall on the first floor. The church approved at its last business meeting a Church Council recommendation that in order to cut back on heating expenses during the winter that we worship in the fellowship hall.

This will be a trial experiment for this coming winter to see what kind of savings we have.

We hope that the closer arrangements will also help with the worship experience.

Inclement Winter Weather Policy

During the winter months it becomes necessary at times to alter our Sunday and Wednesday schedules because of inclement weather. When a decision is made to close the church for snow and ice an announcement will be placed on the church answering service as well as the web site. In addition, the local news stations will be contacted with our information.



Thank You

A special thank you to all who helped provide Thanksgiving meals for the Humphrey Home residents and for our homeless neighbors.



Budget Report Through November 18

Needed to Date: \$23,919
 Given to Date: \$23,327
 Variance: \$1,592

**Contributions were made to the
Properties Endowment in memory of:***Billy Wells***Contributions were made to the
Ministries Endowment in memory of:**

*Carl Groome,
 Clara and Robert Hagan*

My Church Family,

Although I have thanked some of you personally for your many prayers following my shoulder replacement, I now take this opportunity to thank all of you for your beautiful cards, phone calls, visits, and prayers. God has truly blessed members of Pine Street Baptist with a loving church family.

My love to all,
 Norma Mallory

Dear Church Family,

I would like to thank everyone for their love and support during Cliff's illness and passing. Your expressions of love mean so much. Thank you to Philip for his visits and for Cliff's funeral service.

God Bless,
 Bessie Wharam

December Birthdays

- 3: Nancy Jernigan
 Terry Donohue
 Della Smith
- 4: Flynn Townsend
- 5: Debbie Thacker
- 7: Diane Pinder
- 9: David Johnston
- 10: Belinda Alvis
- 12: Karen Jarrell
- 15: Mike O'Donnell
- 18: Mary Wright
 Dot Wood
- 22: Charles Hairfield Jr.
 Elizabeth Shifflet
- 23: Zora Garretson
- 27: Chris Lail
 Michael Jernigan
- 28: Linda Johnston
 Claudia Neal
- 29: Mindy Herring

Anniversaries

- 29: Allen and Susan Townsend

Christmas and Holiday Schedule

*No Wednesday activities on December 26th and January 2nd
 Church Office Closed—December 24-25, January 1-2*

**Pine Street Baptist Church
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400 South Pine Street
Richmond, Virginia 23220

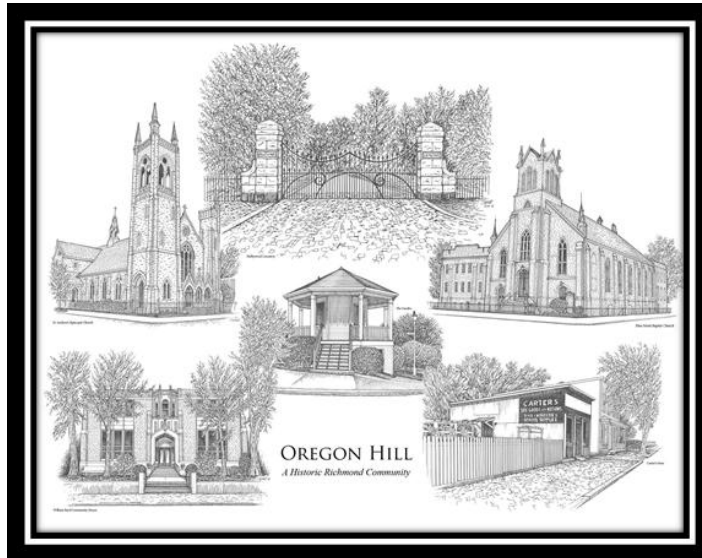
Phone: 804-644-0339
Fax: 804-788-4195
E-mail:
info@pinestbaptist.com

Nonprofit
Organization
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
RICHMOND, VA
Permit No. 2138

**We're on the web at:
www.pinestbaptist.com**

Christmas Candlelight Service
Sunday, December 23 at 5:00 pm

**The Perfect Christmas Gift:
Oregon Hill Prints - \$30**



Pick up one for a friend of Oregon Hill or even for yourself. Prints are available by contacting the church office or through the church's website at **www.pinestbaptist.com**.

The 22" X 17" suitable-for-framing print, features 6 newly commissioned illustrations of Oregon Hill icons