

# Belmont Beacon

February 2010

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Can you describe your family in two or three words? Are you able to describe what you do at work in the same amount of space? What about describing your favorite team and why you are so passionate about them in one sentence or that same parameter of just a few words? Most of the time we are gratefully not limited to a set number of words in describing our world or our lives. For everyone, except that person who operates normally with one word answers, this can be a very difficult proposition.

What if you had to describe Christianity in one word? How would you do that? What if you were on a deserted island and had the opportunity to share the Christian story but communication was limited? What word would you use? Plenty of answers might be given: love, hope, peace, joy, faith, and forgiveness. One such word that could arguably make the list and top the list is the word grace.

Grace describes God's love on our behalf. When we speak of grace, we consider what God has done and is doing for creation and the reality that we cannot earn that favor. No matter how hard we work or how much we try, we aren't able to attain or improve our standing with God. We can't position ourselves to receive more grace. We live by the grace that God provides, and we have the daily opportunity to share grace with those around us.

We might describe our God or our faith with the word grace, and if we did, I imagine we might include the adjective "amazing" to go with it. In the final weeks of January and the first few weeks of February we will focus our worship celebration on



grace. The entire worship will center on this theme. The sermons will be about grace. Each Sunday during this special emphasis our sanctuary choir will lead our worship through singing different arrangements of that beloved hymn, "Amazing Grace."

One special activity we will share together will take place on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of February. During our Wednesday evening CrossRoads time, we will gather to watch the movie, "Amazing Grace." This film debuted a few years back and shares the story of William Wilberforce and his quest to stop the injustice of slavery in Great Britain. Wilberforce's journey includes his relationship with John Newton who wrote the hymn, "Amazing Grace." We will begin this event at 6:00 p.m. and snacks will be provided.

I look forward to our consideration of what grace means in our world and specifically in our individual lives. One place we can consider this is with the devastating earthquake in Haiti. I invite you to pray for those individuals affected, and also to give financially as you are able to this poor nation that is suffering through this disaster.

Our timing to focus on grace will lead us to the holy season of Lent that begins on Ash Wednesday, the 17<sup>th</sup>. We will share a covered dish meal that evening and then worship around the table by celebrating God's grace through communion and a somewhat traditional service of ashes. I am not sure exactly what a traditional service of ashes for a group of Baptists means. We might call that grace. I look forward to the coming days of receiving and living out God's grace together.

Blessings!



## Missions Moments at Belmont

Ever wonder why we promote eating at Cici's Pizza on the fourth Sunday of the month? Or what the "Smile Train" is all about? Or why that Christmas tree covered with mittens is out in the foyer every December? Or what we do with all those prayer shawls down at the front of the sanctuary several times a year? Or what we actually do for the homeless women when we host PACEM every November? A small number of you may be able to explain all of the above. But I have a feeling that most of you (like me) don't know much about most of them. Well . . . you are about to find out.

During worship on the third Sunday of every month during 2010, we are going to share something called "Mission Moments." This will be a brief explanation of each of the items listed above, plus several more. During the time Edie and I have been here at Belmont, we have found that our church family is involved in a large number of mission projects, more than many churches we know. But unfortunately most of these projects or ministries are carried out by the same people. And they have been going on so long that many of you don't remember, or haven't been told what they are actually all about.

I want to challenge more of you to get involved in one or more of these mission efforts. And to help you decide which ones appeal to you, we have devised "Mission Moments." God is moving in our midst. And he wants all of us to carry out Jesus' commission to take the gospel to the ends of the earth. You will recall that the "Great Commission" says we start at home, then throughout our state, nation, and the entire world. Will you take up Christ's challenge and direct order to spread the gospel? It is my hope that everyone at Belmont will become involved in at least one mission project or ministry in 2010!



To the church family  
and friends in Christ,

A Special thank you for all the thoughts, prayers, and transportation to the hospital for my sister, Barbara Cason during her recent illness.

Sue Wharam



Thank you so much for the thoughtful gift card from Anthropologie. Lance and I know exactly what we want for the house from there. Your heartfelt love and support is very much appreciated. Thank you so much for thinking of us as we start this new chapter of our life.

God bless,  
The Picketts



Thank you for the use of your church.  
Language of the Heart



Thank you once again for your prayers, cards, calls, and visits. Unlike my surgery in September (and the two hospitalizations that followed) I recovered from the heart surgery in December quickly and without any complications. Six months of medical problems was physically debilitating, but the outpouring of love and concern, and the many acts of kindness and assistance increased my faith more than I can describe. The difficulties are behind me. The love and joy will always be with me. Thank you. In Christ's love,  
Greg Johnson

February is usually a cold time of the year, but things are heating up here at Belmont!

The Church has a strong Deacon presence for 2010 with 15 Deacons on board and they are already on the move!

Your Deacons this year are:

Sharon Bower, Linda Breeden, Roy Brewer, Gladys Bryant, Mike Burton, Jim Carpenter, Shirley Haley, Charles Haney (Sr.), Greg Johnson, Barbara Lowery, Bruce Lowery, Bill Sampson, Rodney Thomas, Pat Walker and Linda Wilberger.

There are seven Deacon Ministry Teams this year:

Bereavement and Prayer Shawl Ministry, Celebrations Ministry, Food Ministry, Homebound Ministry, Hospital Visitation Ministry, Outreach and New Member Ministry and Small Jobs and Transportation Ministry.

You will be hearing much more about these teams and what their Ministries are all about as the year unfolds. The Celebrations Ministry will be hosting the Valentines Banquet this year; this will be a great time for all...more information will be provided as the time approaches. Your Deacons will also be supporting Loads of Love this year. Be sure to stay tuned for more information on this exciting adventure.

If you have any questions about your Deacons or need assistance in any way please contact me or any of your Deacons for this year.

It's going to be a great year for Belmont and its Ministries!

Mike Burton  
Deacon Chair 2010

## NOMINATING COMMITTEE – 2010 POSITIONS

As of 1/10

The Nominating Committee would like to report that in our January business meeting, the church voted on the following slate for the team and committee positions:

Praise and Worship Team: (responsibilities: music support, audio-video services, Lord's Supper preparation, sanctuary preparation, baptism preparation, church ushers) - **Jeannette Durham, Alvin Sprouse, Willie Bowers, Audrey Thompson**

Spiritual Growth Team: (responsibilities: Bible study ministry, children's ministry, youth ministry, library, nursery and preschool-age ministries) - **Becky Bowers and Shirley Haley** (team co-captains), **Linda Breeden** (Bible Study Coordinator), **Melanie Anderson** (Preschool-age Ministries Coordinator), **Pam Ingalls**

Caring Ministry Team: (responsibilities: benevolence, visitation coordinator, prayer ministry) - **Virginia Brewer** (team captain), **William Sampson, Janet Shiflett**

Friendship Ministry Team: (responsibilities: food services, recreation activities, new members): **Tina Smith** (team captain), **Frances Cason, Dot Hunt, Virginia Gibson, Jackie Shiflett, Crystal Cochran**

Missions and Outreach Team: (responsibilities: pub. relations, organized evangelism, website, worship styles, missions): **Barbara Lowery** (team captain), **Martha Lynch, Jim Carpenter, Ashley Lowery, Linda Wilberger**

Ministry Support Team: (responsibilities: properties, van maintenance and use, nominating committee, personnel committee, audit committee): **Sharon Bower** (team captain), **Rodney Thomas, Jonathan Lowery, Bruce Lowery, David Gentry**

Personnel Committee: **Ann Haney** (Committee Captain), **Roy Brewer, Gladys Bryant**

Audit Committee: **Mike Burton** (Committee Captain), **Charles Haney, Jr., Dorothy Saunders**

Finance Team: (responsibilities: stewardship and counting group): **Larry Breeden** (team captain), **Randy Melton, Diane Grubbs, Charles Haney (Sr.), Pat Walker, Financial Secretary – ex officio, Church Treasurer – Bill Sampson**

### **Other:**

Director of the Women's Missionary Union (WMU) - **Jeannette Durham**

### **Church Officers:**

Clerk – **Gladys Bryant**

Assistant Clerk – **Linda Wilberger**

Treasurer – **Bill Sampson**

Assistant Treasurer – **Virginia Brewer**

Trustees – **Roy Brewer, Rodney Thomas, Gladys Bryant**

Church Historian – **Jeannette Durham**

Thank you all for serving God's church!

There are still positions which need to be filled. In brief, we still need help with organizing the flowers/decoration of the sanctuary, organizing and providing the food for gatherings, making repairs and other decisions about the church property, calling members to see whether they will volunteer for various positions, and counting the money contributions to the church. If someone from the Nominating Committee has not spoken with you, please talk to Ann Haney, Pat Walker, or Arlene Knight.

Preparing this year's budget for the church was difficult, given these uncertain economic times. The church certainly has ample obligations to meet and missions to pursue. It can be daunting to put a dollar figure on our needs and wishes. As we follow our dreams and goals, we can't lose sight of the importance of taking care of our own. The Personnel Committee and the church struggled with these issues at the business meeting, trying to balance the goals of showing our gratitude to our employees, being a good steward of the moneys that the church collects, and stepping out in our faith in God's providence. After much healthy discussion, the church decided that although we couldn't commit to an increase in the staff's salaries at this time, we would compromise by providing an extra bonus to the staff in January. The church, including the Personnel Committee, hopes that the staff will recognize the love and thanks intended in this gesture and forgive us for not being able to reward them financially more for all their hard service.

BELMONT BAPTIST CHURCH  
830 Monticello Avenue  
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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



# Valentine's Day Spaghetti Luncheon



February 14, 2010

12:15 p.m.

Cost: \$5.00 per person

\$2.50 children 12 and under

Help jump start our Loads of Love ministry.

Please bring laundry products: detergent, softener, bleach, etc.

Entertainment: Faithful Praise