

THE COMMUNICATOR

Cedar Heights Baptist Church 201 E Belt Line Road, Cedar Hill, TX 75104

Volume 27, Issue 12

972-291-4600

December 2017

Email: cedarheightsbapt@sbcglobal.net

Web: www.cedarheightsbaptist.org

A note from our pastor

It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas, even though as I sit to write this article, I'm looking at 73°F outside without a cloud in the sky. But regardless of the weather, Suzanne and I have our Christmas tree up and stockings hung on our mantle, and Christmas music fills my car as I drive down the road. I believe I've mentioned this before, but I really love Christmas! It's always been a very special time of year for me for a number of reasons.

First of all, this time of year is special because of all of the wonderful memories that I have of family get-togethers through the years. Though our family continues to change, as some graduate to a Christmas celebration around the throne of God, it's exciting to think of the memories yet to be made. With each year, Suzanne and I have had to run to Hobby Lobby to add another stocking to the mantle as our family continues to grow.

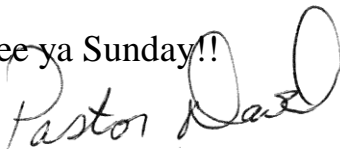
This time of year is also special because it gives us an opportunity to think about how we can share what God has given us to His work around the world. We are part of a huge missionary network that is reaching out to people in all parts of the globe. We have the ability to join in the work monthly through our giving, but particularly through the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering. Please pray that the Lord will direct you to an amount that He wants you to give toward our goal of \$1,000.

This time of year is also special, as it gives Suzanne and me a wonderful opportunity to find just the right gifts that will make our children and grandchildren smile. We save all year so that we can enjoy shopping with a large enough budget to surprise our kids. Already, we have found some sure-fire smile-makers, and we can't wait until the day that the gifts are opened. Personally, I enjoy our older grandkids getting to the age where we can buy them gifts that I get to enjoy as well 😊!!

I know many people who choose to play-down the gift-giving with the conviction that it takes away from the true meaning of Christmas, and I can appreciate that. If that is how you have been led to honor the Lord, then I have no doubt that you will be rewarded for your conviction when He rewards all who live their lives to His glory. Personally, Suzanne and I love the gift-giving as a reminder of what our Heavenly Father is like, Who loves to give good gifts to His children. As I sit during our family Christmas celebration and watch our family excitedly receive what we have prepared for them, I just imagine the Father's smile at those moments when it dawns on me that He has done something special for me. I just imagine the Father's anticipation of that moment when we get to see for the first time, the place that He has prepared for us. I think about the underlying joy that Jesus had, even during His worst suffering on the cross, thinking forward to that day when He would once again eat and drink around the table with His children, whom He was in the process of purchasing with His Own blood. Our Father loves to give good gifts! In fact, James tells us that "Every good thing given and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shifting shadow."

This Christmas, whether your tradition is to shower your loved ones with gifts, or with a wonderful time of fellowship around the table, or with notes of encouragement, or simply with hugs, or all of the above, never stop thinking about the One Whose birth we celebrate! Never let it leave your mind Who makes our joy possible! He is the Author of our hope! He is the Sustainer of our very lives! He is the Wonderful Counselor, the Almighty God, the Prince of Peace!! He is Jesus Christ our Lord!! And whatever our celebration looks like, may He be at the center of it!!

See ya Sunday!!



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STAFF

Dr. David Bradley, Pastor
Reagan Finch, Music Minister

Betty Oswald, Secretary
Office Hours:
Monday-Thursday 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
Lunch 12:00 – 1:00 p.m.
Closed Friday

SCHEDULE

SUNDAY:

Bible Study	9:15 a.m.
Morning Worship	10:30 a.m.

WEDNESDAY:

Fitness & Fellowship	6:00 p.m.
Adult Bible Study & Prayer	7:00 p.m.
Youth, IMPACT	7:00 p.m.
Choir Rehearsal	8:00 p.m.



Dear Ladies of CHBC—

Happy December!! What a great time of year to be women of faith!

In November, we met and painted the bottom of cute socks for the ladies at Cedar Hill Nursing Center. I'm always amazed at the talent in

our church. There was amazing creativity going into these socks.

Coming up this month, we are assisting the Ladies II Sunday School class with the Annual Ladies Christmas Brunch. That will be Dec. 2nd from 10 – 12. Also in December, we will be meeting at Cedar Hill Nursing Center to deliver our painted socks.

In January 2018 we will be going to the Wycliffe Bible Translators.

If you would like to join the women's ministry of CHBC, start now. May God bless you as we enter into the Christmas season.

In Christ
Suzanne



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A WORD FROM OUR YOUTH DIRECTOR

IMPACT Youth Ministry

Last month, I introduced you to the new name and mission statement of the Youth Ministry here at CHBC. This month, I would like to further detail the direction of the ministry with the Vision and Values statements. As a refresher, IMPACT means "Impacting My Peers as a Christian Teen" and our new Mission Statement is:

CHBC's IMPACT Youth Ministries exists to intentionally lead students to see God as He has revealed Himself in the Scripture-- the only true God, infinitely glorious and worthy of our worship; to systematically equip our students through the Scriptures to become like Christ; to intentionally reach out to unsaved students with the Gospel; and to support parents to be the primary disciple-makers of students in their home.

Our new Vision Statement is:

Our vision is that youth grow to be spiritually mature Christian adults actively involved in their church and community, showing the love of Christ and sharing their faith with others.

The purpose of the Vision Statement is to describe what we would hope our youth become when they graduate out of youth to become young adults. Of course, this cannot happen without a huge helping of direction from our Lord as well as help from everyone in the church. I will continually pray and seek His guidance to not only bring more young people into our church, but also on how to keep them here when they leave the youth.

Finally, we have what we call the Values Statements. This is what we will look like, or simply a list of what we will do every day in order to accomplish what has been laid out in the Mission and Vision statements:

Love – We will unconditionally accept, care for and serve one another

"This is My command: Love one another as I have loved you." –John 15:12

Trust - This is a safe place to be yourself, be open and be honest.

"So I take pleasure in weaknesses, insults, catastrophes, persecutions, and in pressures, because of Christ. For when I am weak, then I am strong." -2 Corinthians 12:10

Respect - We respect one another's time, efforts, property, and the direction of our leaders.

"Honor everyone. Love the brotherhood. Fear God. Honor the Emperor." – 1 Peter 2:17

Challenge - We are the body of Christ in the world – we don't settle for what is easy.

"Therefore I, the prisoner for the Lord, urge you to walk worthy of the calling you have received." – Ephesians 4:1

Hospitality - We welcome all, old friends and new as our Savior welcomes all who will come to Him.

"There is no Jew or Greek, slave or free, male or female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus." – Galatians 3:28

Fun - We celebrate the joy it is to gather together!

"How good and pleasant it is when brothers and sisters live together in harmony!" – Psalm 133:1

Yes, we will have fun and welcome all. But, we will do so in an environment encompassing all the other values as well. We will love and respect one another while also challenging each other to grow in our Christian walk. I fully anticipate being challenged myself by all youth who visit us and join us. I know that they will help me to grow in my walk even as I am leading them.

We will have a focus of trust and accountability with one another in many ways. A youth group environment should be a safe place for them to discuss what is happening in their lives, both their Christian walk as well as their human one, without fear of negative consequences.

A new logo is currently being developed and should be ready soon. I am expecting to see great changes after the start of the new year.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish everyone a Very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Let's all remember to thank the Lord for sending His Son to save us and rejoice in the celebration of His birth.

1 Timothy 4:12

Marty

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Church work day December 9th

Come lend a hand as we clean up and fix up our property to properly honor GOD and present a welcoming location for our community to come worship.



CHBC SHIRTS

We are still working on our third order of polo shirts with the church logo. We will submit another order as soon as we receive 13 requests. I still need 6 more to turn in an order.

Merry
Christmas

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Summary of December Opportunities

- 2nd Ladies Christmas Brunch 10am
- 3rd Ezek. 32 - 48
- 6th Wednesday Night Activities
- 9th Church Work Day
- 10th Daniel – Hosea
- 10th Special Christmas Music
- 10th Christmas Dinner 5p.m.
- 17th Joel – Nahum
- 20th Wednesday Night Activities
- 24th Habakkuk – Malachi
- 24th Christmas Eve Service 6p.m.
- 25th Christmas
- 27th NO Wednesday Night Activities
- 31st New Year's Eve activities



READ THRU THE
OLD TESTAMENT IN 2017
Challenge yourself this year!