



Christmas!

This past week was one to forget. Well maybe not forget, but it was certainly one I do not want to live over.

I got a call Thursday morning from my good friend Barry Joyner. That is not unusual, he and I spent the last ten years as best friends and went through Seminary together. We talk often if not weekly.

This call was different. He called to tell me that another good friend was currently missing and nobody knew where to look for Alan Barnes. Some of you may well remember my good friend Alan. He supplied here when I was on vacation a couple of times. He was very gifted as a preacher and a bit of an entertainer. Sounded like Elvis. I know a LOT of people say that but Alan really did a good Elvis impersonation. His personality was such that he "entertained" every where he went.

Later I found out that someone found his truck ... in the deer woods. I did not think that was a good sign since he did not come home Wednesday night. An hour or so later Barry called to tell me the sad news that we had lost a good friend, Tracy had lost a husband and three teenagers lost their dad. According to the display boards at his funeral Saturday afternoon, his children considered him their hero. Yet all the appreciation and the talent Alan possessed was not enough to win a battle with his bi-polar condition. Alan had taken his own life.

This was about the same day that I discovered that Gerald and Sheila Nichols received similar news concerning their daughter-in-law. They have spent most of this past week with their son, as they should.

We can pray for these families and others who will question so many things in life. Yet no tragedy alters the sacrifice of Christ. It is the unchangeable truth of God's love.

See you Sunday,
Bro. Randy

January Bible Study

Dr. Hawley is having surgery so the Winter Bible Study will not be conducted as scheduled. Watch for updates concerning this study.

**UPWARD BASKETBALL/
PRAISE BAND FUNDRAISER**

On Sunday, January 18, 2009, there will be an Upward Basketball/Praise Band Fundraiser. Dinners are \$7.00 each and include a bowl of gumbo, bread, dessert and can dine at the church. We will be taking orders on Sunday, December 28, 2008. There will be a sign-up sheet in the foyer. For more information contact Mary Watkins or Jimmy Tolar. (Upward will donate a portion of funds to buy drums for the Praise Band

Thank You

Ebenezer family,
We thank you all for all your support this past year. This will always be our family here at Ebenezer. Thanks again for the wonderful ordination service & banquet.

Blessed are the givers
and
Grateful are the receivers.
Love always,
Jason, Jessie & family

Baptist Message

**THE
ENCOURAGER**

(Ebenezer- "the helping rock"; 1 Samuel 7:10-13)

Ebenezer Baptist Church
211 Ebenezer Church Road
Jonesboro, LA 71251
Phone: 259-8889
myebenezer.com

Bro. Randy Lee.....Pastor
Tom Williams.. Min./ Music
& Education

December 25, 2008



SUNDAY, DECEMBER 28, 2008

9:30 a.m. Prayer Time
10:00 a.m. Sunday School
10:55 a.m. Morning Worship
6:00 p.m. Candlelight Service

MONDAY, DECEMBER 29, 2008

5:30 p.m. Faith & Fitness

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 31, 2008

Watch Night Service

THURSDAY, JANUARY 1, 2009

Happy New Year!

FRIDAY, JANUARY 2, 2009

9:30 p.m. Youth 5th Quarter

**VOLUNTEERS FOR 12-28-08
USHERS**

Doug Gates Danny Grimes
Clay Osborn Roby Surber

GREETERS

Delwyn Peters Jo Hicks
Robert Moore James Chatham

NURSERY - Laura Spangler

EXTENDED CARE - Diana Lindsay

**December Schedule of
Events-**

**December 31st -
Watch Night Service**

Coming in January

**January 4-7, 2009 - January Bible
Study**

**January 18 - 19, 2009 - True Love
Waits Weekend**

NOVEMBER FINANCIAL REPORT

Budget Receipts \$40,139.37
Budget Expenses \$27,013.50
General Fund Balance \$67,689.96

Budget Receipts YTD. \$403,742.02
Budget Requirements YTD. 375,899.15
Budget Surplus YTD \$ 27,842.87

Debt Retirement

Loan Balance 10-31-08 \$634,298.11
Nov. Interest . . \$ 4,003.36
Nov. Principal payment \$ 8,276.62
Loan Balance 11-30-08 \$626,021.49

Tom's Tunes

Youth, a "True Love Waits" weekend will be coming up on January 18-19. We will start the study during Discipleship Training on Sunday night, then after the evening service, we will spend the night here at the church completing the five studies. Bring your sleeping bags and games with you and we will have a great time. We will finish up around noon on Monday. This is a long holiday weekend for the youth with Friday and Monday out of school.

Also, start getting ready for the 2009 Student Life Mission Camp at Lee University. In January, there will be \$50.00 deposit due. The cost of the camp will be \$290 plus white water rafting, one night in a hotel and the cost of food while traveling and while at camp for snacks. We will do fund-raising to help with the cost. The \$290 covers the cost of camp and transportation.

In January, we will be having 5th Quarters after Weston home games on Friday night. The 5th Quarters will be January 2nd, 9th and the 23rd. Come to the gym after the games are over and we will have some food and games for you and the praise band will be playing for some of them. Invite your friends to join you for a good place to hang out after the games.

The New Song Choir will resume practice on Wednesday, January 7th. I again want to thank you for the hard work you put in for Christmas and hope you enjoy the time off and come ready and refreshed. I am ordering some new music and looking at cantatas for next year. It will be a great time to join the choir as we start a new year!

Children, also stay tuned for more information about Children's camp. You may have a deposit due in January for your camp also. We are looking at a camp in Texas and one in Arkansas.

Brother Tom

You are invited to a
Bridal Brunch
For
Carrie Taylor Goff
Bride of Kevin Goff
On

Saturday, December 27, 2008
10:30 - 12:00

At
Sandra Burk
8751 Highway 4
Chatham, Louisiana