

THE ECHO

Eisenhower Road
Baptist Church

Special points of interest:

- > Operation Christmas Child Shoe Boxes Delivered
- > Sunday School Workers Needed
- > A Special Way to Give at Christmas . . . The Lottie Moon Christmas Offering
- > Help Feed a Child in 2010 and Minister to Their Family
- > 50th Anniversary Update
- > Exciting Events for Women's Ministry in 2010

ASSESSING CHURCH HEALTH



Effective measures must be indexed to the Church's distinctive mission of discipleship—*transforming people who will transform the world* for Christ. In that way, church diagnostics have an objective standard: *a Person and His teachings*.

Let's look at some **VITAL SIGNS!** **The author** says discipleship involves six elements. (1) **Salvation:** receiving Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior. (2) **Maturity:** growth in Christ through worship, study, prayer, meditation, and private devotions. (3) **Fellowship:** communion with other Christians for encouragement, accountability and mentoring. (4) **In-reach:** using one's gifts for service and ministry within the church. (5) **Out-reach:** using one's gifts to minister to people outside of the church. (6) **Evangelism:** bringing others to Christ. These elements link church health to church mission. They are the "vital signs" of an effective disciple-building church.

For example, in the area of *maturity*, we want to see members who are actively pursuing spiritual development. Members should complete a *spiritual needs assessment* which they use to develop, with the help of a spiritual mentor, a personal growth plan for the upcoming year. This may discover the need for things like increased bible knowledge or doctrinal understanding, a more consistent prayer life, or the victory over certain behaviors or thought patterns. A vigorous church is one that provides these tools and has a high percentage of member participation. Our church does this; have **you** completed your assessment? If not, contact Sandra for help in this area.

It has been said that Character is tested in isolation, but forged in community. That is why healthy churches work to connect people in vital relationships for their mutual encouragement, support and growth. This is the area of *fellowship*, measured by member involvement in small groups engaged in study, prayer, and accountability. That is **SUNDAY SCHOOL MINISTRY**. Are you a part?

A church that is **not** making important and noticeable contributions in its community and the wider culture is a church that, at best, is taking up real estate. *Inreach* and *outreach* are aimed at helping members unleash their spiritual gifts with their God-given wiring in a ministry to serve others *inside* and *outside* the church. Good health is indicated when a high proportion of members **know** their giftedness and are **using** it for the kingdom. *Evangelism* is concerned with *growing* the kingdom of God. Evangelistically bold churches emphasize the importance of building intentional relationships with unbelievers and sharing one's faith. There are two ways to view this; **1)** the visitor-to-member mix at church services and **2)** member involvement in organized evangelistic events. This is **FAITH MINISTRY**. Are you a part?

LOOKING UNDER THE HOOD begins with the willingness to ask some hard questions: Are we putting on *programs* to grow attendance, or are we developing *processes* to develop people? Are we more concerned about behavior modification or spiritual transformation? Is ministry primarily performed by staff or by laity who are trained and equipped by the staff? If

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The Covenant

(Continued)

we take our cue from Jesus, who spent the majority of His time and energy equipping the 12 rather than ministering to the masses, we will realize “we must invest our best efforts in developing faithful leaders who will be able to reproduce”. This also means that a good deal of our time could be spent meeting with a few in order to have a larger impact.

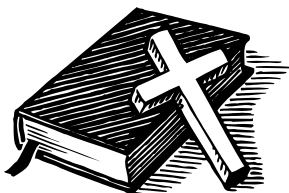
There is the need to monitor discipleship outcomes, requiring that the material measures of attendance, budget, and facilities may give way to spiritual indicators of positive transformational change for which we have a Standard. It is found in **Galations 2:20** “*I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.*”

(Written by Regis Nicoll)

As your pastor can I encourage each of you to ask the Lord how He wants to use the gifts He has given you in His ministry at ERBC to make our church HEALTHY?

LOOKING TO THE GREAT PHYSICIAN,

Bro. Larry



Education Ministry

By Sandra Cisneros



Dear Church Family,

Thanksgiving is always a beautiful time of the year. A time when families will gather around the table to give thanks for God’s love and favor bestowed upon them. We understand that thanksgiving is not just a one-time celebration, it’s every day.

What an awesome job Jeanie Loomis did as she was asked to come and share in the Sunday School General Assembly about the children in their Sunday School Department. She got us acquainted with the lessons children have learned, the spiritual impact that God’s word is doing in their lives, and the challenges they are facing as a department.

One of those challenges is the need of more Sunday School Children Workers. If this is an area where God may use you, please talk to Ruth Cobb, Children Department Director, or me here at the office. God’s Word tells us: “*Train the child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not turn from it*” (Proverbs 22:6). Ruth, Jeanie, Jennifer, Marcia, and Sandra, thank you for teaching our children in the way of the Lord. **More workers are needed, give us a call.**



Sunday School General Session

Sunday, December 6

Fellowship begins at 9:00 a.m.

General Session Celebration

begins 9:15 a.m.

Bible Study time begins

at 9:30 a.m.

Sunday School Training

Sunday, December 6

5:00 P.M.

Topic: How to have Successful Sunday School Department Meetings

Missions Ministry

By Sandra Cisneros



A BIG THANK YOU...

We thank God for your generosity in preparing your Christmas Shoe Boxes this year. All together, between ERBC and our School, we were able to deliver 150 shoe boxes. Your generous heart will surely bring a smile to a child somewhere around the world!

Lottie Moon

Christmas Offering

November 20 - December 31

Children’s Hunger Fund

Ruth and Wayne Cobb, Gene Loflin and Pastor Larry attended a training class in October in preparation for an exciting missions opportunity for our church next year. Packages of food will personally be delivered to children in our community in 2010 allowing us to get food to children in need and to witness to their family of Christ’s love. More details to follow in early 2010.



ERBC 50th Anniversary By Diana Hard



The anniversary committee is busy working on preparations for our celebration on Sunday, February 7, 2010 and we still need your help. We would like to recognize members (past & present) of ERBC who have gone into the ministry. Please contact the church office or Diana Hard at diana_hard@hotmail.com or 657-6332, if you can provide names and addresses of former members (or email addresses) and brief written stories of your memories at ERBC.

Out of the Heart catering will serve a scrumptious meal of Grilled Chicken Kabob marinated in a zesty teriyaki sauce, Mesquite grilled herb-marinated beef kabob, rice pilaf, savory green beans with bacon, with a dinner roll. Iced tea, coffee, and cake will also be served. A kids menu (10 years & under) of chicken nuggets and mac-n-cheese with fruit will also be served. Adult plates are \$8.50 and kids plates are \$4.00. All tickets will be sold in advance. No tickets will be sold at the door.

Watch for further updates...meal tickets, cookbooks, and commemorative mugs will be available soon.

Discipleship Ministry

By Sandra Cisneros



New Discipleship Studies

Beginning Sunday, January 17

Time: 6:00 p.m.

Stay tuned for additional information about the exciting new studies planned for next year!

School & Day Care

Christmas Program

Tuesday, December 15
9:30 a.m.—Church Sanctuary



Church of the Open Door

By Gene Loflin



The video that the San Antonio Baptist Association made of the New Testament House Churches will be shown at ERBC in the coming weeks. It's a great tool to show how "house churches" work. God continues to increase the numbers attending the three existing house churches with a record high of 28 in total attendance. During a recent visitation there were five professions of faith with a commitment of starting two more house churches at the first of the year. We are looking for more couples to begin house churches. If God is speaking to you about this ministry opportunity please contact the church office at 655-4643 to get more information. Also, congratulations to Bro. Gene who was ordained as a licensed minister September 27 at Woodlawn Hills Baptist Church.

Women's Ministry

The King's Daughters



Friendships of Women

Bible Study and Prayer Time

Every Tuesday Mornings

Time: 10:00 a.m.

Place: ERBC, Fellowship Hall

The December month is full with Christmas Sunday School Class Parties, Christmas Cantata, and so much more. We will not have a women's meeting for this month, but we do want to have a meeting in the month of January as we begin the 2010 year.

Please mark your calendar for
Saturday, January 30th at 10:30 a.m.

Our main focus for the meeting will be to share with one another what God may have us do in the
Women's Ministry for 2010.

In this meeting, we will also draw names to see who your Secret Pal will be throughout the year

**Let's make it a goal to have 40 women
in this gathering. I know we can do it!**

Your input and involvement in these decisions will make a tremendous impact on what we may be able to accomplish as a women's ministry throughout the year. We will conclude at noon with a delicious **Bar-B-Q fellowship meal.**

Eisenhower Road
Baptist Church

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DEACON OF THE WEEK

Jay Bowden	Dec 6 - Dec 12
Jim Cope	Dec 13 - Dec 19
Gene Day	Dec 20 - Dec 26
Dan Gulley	Dec 27 - Jan 2

Announcements

**Church Office Closed for
Christmas & New Years
December 21—January 1**



November Attendance and Offerings

Sundays	<u>1</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>15</u>	<u>22</u>	<u>29</u>
Bible Study Attendance					
Enrollment	300	300	303	306	N/A
Members Present	130	123	108	119	N/A
New Members	0	3	3	3	N/A
Guests	6	11	6	16	N/A
TOTAL PRESENT	136	97	117	138	N/A
Worship Attendance	158	161	147	180	N/A
Budget	\$9,444	\$9,444	\$9,444	\$9,444	\$9,444
Receipts	\$8,485	\$6,845	\$9,550	\$6,306	N/A
Mid-Week Attendance	<u>Nov 1-7</u>	<u>Nov 8-14</u>	<u>Nov 15-21</u>	<u>Nov 22-28</u>	
House Churches	28	21	27	N/A	
Friendships of Women	3	5	6	2	

Christmas Cantata

Saturday, Dec. 12 - 6:00 p.m.
Sunday, Dec. 13 - 10:45 a.m.

Christmas Eve Service

Thursday, Dec. 24 - 6:00 p.m.
*Join us as we worship His
Majesty and Observe
the Lord's Supper*



SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT FOR ALL Church Staff, All Ministry Leaders and Committees

The Staff will be having a Calendar Planning Meeting right after the Holidays. ***Please use the first two weeks in December*** to turn in calendar activities that pertain to your area of ministry so that they may be placed in the 2010 Church Master Calendar.

Reminder

All 2009
tithes and
offerings must be
**postmarked by
December 31, 2009**
to be included in
your 2009 Contribu-
tion Statement.

