



Southern Oaks Baptist Church

"I am the vine, you are the branches... For apart from Me you can do nothing."
John 15:5

The Branch Newsletter

DECEMBER 16, 2011

www.sobc.net



Bro. Larry's Lines

"Then the angel said to them, 'Do not be afraid, for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy which will be to all people. (11) 'For there is born to you this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.'" Luke 2:10-11

Those are popular words during this season of the year, as well they should be. It is the prayer from Linda and me that everyone will experience 'good tidings of great joy' during this Christmas Season. That can be our happening, if and when we keep our focus on the PERSON of the season.....our "SAVIOR who is CHRIST the LORD."

What refreshing enjoyment was mine as the children presented their Christmas Variety Show for us this past Sunday evening. A special "THANKS" to Shannon Cook and all who worked along side, to make this all happen. A special "THANKS" too, to the preschoolers and children who worked so hard to present a well rehearsed variety show.....all about HIM! It is with special pride to our Lord that I thank everyone for all you've done. Who wouldn't want to be a part of this wonderful ministry?

As a church family, my challenge and my prayer for us in 2012 is to be willing to go the "second mile" in our ministry outreach. Everywhere we look, it is evident that there is much suffering and need.....and we can turn to the government for handouts, if we choose, but (and there's that word again), I believe that WE have the privilege to reach out to meet many of these needs. For us to do so, we must be willing to walk that "second mile" in service to HIM.

From the CRAIG FAMILY to ALL OF our SOUTHERN OAKS FAMILY - Merry Christmas and a blessed New Year !!!

Until next time, remember.....On Christmas Eve, Santa carries the bag.....After Christmas, dad is left holding it.....think about it.

Until,
Bro. Larry

BUDGET UPDATE

WEEKLY Budget Needs:	\$13,959.92
WEEKLY Receipts Nov. 13:	\$12,908.21
WEEKLY Surplus/Deficit Nov 13:	(\$1,051.71)
YEAR-TO-DATE Budget Needs:	\$697,996.00
YEAR-TO-DATE Receipts:	\$652,189.36
YEAR-TO-DATE Surplus/Deficit:	(\$45,806.64)

PASTOR'S BIBLE STUDY

Will resume again on
Thursday, January 12, 2012
at 10am in the Reception Room.
JOIN US!!

Student News

REACHING, TEACHING, & CHANGING LIVES:

SO Student Ministry purpose is to REACH students for Christ, TEACH them the Word of God, and CHANGE their LIVES through growing relationships with God and others.

CHRISTMAS PARTIES

9th and 10th Grades
Wednesday, December 21st @ 5:30pm
The Bogue's Home
1120 Shepherd Lane

11th and 12th Grades
Wednesday, December 21st @ 6:00 p.m.
The Harden's Home
1801 Frostwood Court

DNow Weekend

February 10-12, 2012 - Mark your calendars for this exciting weekend retreat for our students. Details coming soon!

2012 Dates to Remember:

- FEBRUARY 5 - SUPER BOWL BASK
- FEBRUARY 10-12 - DNow Weekend
- JUNE 10-16 - CAMP LYING STONES

NOTE TO GOD'S STEWARDS:

2011 is nearing an end and I need to share some information with you about your December contributions. All 2011 contributions should be in my office by December 31st. If you mail them, they must be postmarked by December 31st. Your Contribution Record will be in the mail to you by the second week of January 2012. If you do not receive it, please call me at 903-561-8025. When you receive it, look it over to make sure there are no errors. Thank you for your "hilarious giving."

Your Financial Secretary - Brenda Westphall



2011 LOTTIE MOON CHRISTMAS OFFERING
Worldwide Goal: \$175 million
SOBC Goal: \$15,150

Received thru 12-14: \$9,040

"But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be My witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth" (Acts 1:8, HCSB).

"His heart, His voice, His hands - I am Southern Baptist missions."



Southern Oaks Baptist Church

601 E Amherst St.
Tyler, TX 75701-8835

Larry W. Craig, Senior Pastor
Tony Z. Garrett, Associate Pastor
Charles Taylor, Youth Pastor
Jennifer Deck, Children's Ministry Director
December 16, 2011

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Tyler, Texas
Permit No. 1047



Upcoming Events

Sunday, December 18

Budget vote in both morning services

- 8:30 a.m. Contemporary Service
- 9:45 a.m. Sunday School
- 11:00 a.m. Traditional Service
- 5:30 p.m. **FAMILY CHRISTMAS**

Tuesday, December 20

6:00 p.m. Visitation

Wednesday, December 21

NO SERVICES

- 5:30 p.m. 9th-10th Grade Christmas Party-Bogue's
- 6:00 p.m. 11th-12th Grade Christmas Party-Harden's

Friday, December 23

Church Office Closed

Saturday, December 24

6:00 p.m. Candlelight Service - No Nursery

Sunday, December 25

HAPPY BIRTHDAY, JESUS

11:00 a.m. One Service Only - No Sunday School

Monday, December 26

Church Office Closed

9:00 a.m. Ski Retreat Departs

Wednesday, December 28

No Services

Friday, December 30

Church Office Closed

Saturday, December 31

5:30 p.m. Gloriously Retired New Year Party
Reception Room

11:00 p.m. Ski Retreat Returns

Sunday, January 1, 2012

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

11:00 a.m. One Service Only - No Sunday School

Monday, January 2

Church Office Closed



KID'S CORNER
Join Mrs. Jennifer
on the stage
Sunday, January 1st!



It's not too late to join in the fun!!
WHAM resumes on February 12th. Join us
Sunday Evenings at 6:00pm, right after Family
Worship Time for another exciting semester
of singing, instruments, drama and so
much more!!

**GA, RA's and Mission Friends
will resume
Wednesday, Jan 4th @ 6:30pm**



GA POST OFFICE

**Last day for deliveries is Sunday,
December 18th!**

Bring your Christmas cards for church
members by the Welcome Center and
we will hand deliver them for you for a minimal
fee! All proceeds will benefit the Lottie
Moon Offering!



**RA Basketball Practice
Wednesdays at 5:30pm**
Games begin January 7th



TWEEN PARENTS:
Stay tuned for upcoming
summer camp information!!



To be added to the Church Prayer
Chain please send an e-mail to
Pam.Braswell@sbcglobal.net.

N O V E M B E R	Tithes & Offerings		Tithes & Offerings	
			Received	
	Nov 6	\$16,953.35	\$50,310.41	
	Nov 13	\$11,129.50		
	Nov 20	\$9,591.25		
	Nov 27	\$12,636.31		
			Tithes & Offerings Required	
			\$60,493.01	
S T A T S	Church Attendance		Sun. Sch. Attendance	
	Nov 6	317	Nov 6	286
	Nov 13	304	Nov 13	284
	Nov 20	316	Nov 20	288
	Nov 27	338	Nov 27	289