



# Cropwell Baptist



## February 2011 Newsletter

### Church Membership

By Dr. Phillip Burden



Please allow me to share with you my feelings about the meaning of church membership. This is a much debated topic among Christians today. Should we make a big deal about church membership? Can't we just believe without belonging? Incidentally, have you heard of the catch phrase "believing without belonging?" The basic concept is that spirituality is a lone personal quest. It is hardly new in Christian history and the pattern has developed into a massive cultural movement that is reshaping many churches. **Believing in the person and work of Jesus Christ without belonging to a local body of believers is contrary to the Bible.** With that said, I must confess that it is a blessing to belong to Jesus and belong to this church body. Church membership is more than a name on a piece of paper. It is a life thoroughly dedicated to Almighty God. Church membership means deep convictions, a sense of supreme loyalty and a feeling that all we are and have belongs to our Heavenly Father. To be a member of the church is a high and holy privilege. We define membership as, "A confirmed commitment to cooperate in fulfilling God's purpose for the local church under the care and spiritual authority of the pastor and leadership." The difference between "attendees" and "members" can be summed up in one word: commitment.

We recognize the need for formal membership. We ask you to commit to membership for four reasons:

- 1) **The Biblical Reason:**  
Jesus Christ is committed to the church (Ephesians 5:25).
- 2) **The Cultural Reason:**  
It is the hope for our society.
- 3) **The Practical Reason:**  
It defines who is committed.
- 4) **The Personal Reason:**  
It produces spiritual growth.

"And in his law he meditates day and night (Psalm 1:2)." Because we are at the threshold of a new year, and this always suggests the possibility of new beginnings, I have a serious proposal for you. Why not make a conscious effort this year to memorize God's word. If you adopt this proposal, let this resolution thus form in your mind and in your intentions and create revolutions in your mentality, your manner and your methods. "The word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart." (Hebrews 4:12).

Why not take this "sword of the Spirit" (Eph. 6:17) in your hand, your heart and your habit, in a new life-transforming world-changing-way in 2011? God will not fail to endorse and empower His word if we love it (Psalm 119:97), memorize it (Psalm 119:11), live it (Psalm 119:5) and speak it (Psalm 119:13) this year. Master a new part of the Scripture every day—then do what it says! **Those who honor both Him and His word can count on special attention from Him.** Will you be one of them this year?

-- Pastor Phillip

#### Upcoming Events:

- **3/4-5** Deacon's Retreat
- **3/6** Children's Musical
- **3/11** Fishers of Men Event
- **3/26** Children's Dinner & Movie @ 5 pm
- **3/27** Haiti Fish Fry @ 5:30 (Donations)  
Men's Ensemble Concert @ 7 pm (Love Offering)
- **4/14-17** David Miller Revival
- **4/17** Easter Musical @ 6:30
- **4/24** Easter Sunday
- **5/8** Baby Dedication Day
- **5/19** Save-a-Life Banquet
- **5/22** Graduate Recognition

# Love in Action



## Help for Haiti

We are excited that our church will be sending 45 people to Haiti in June. This trip should cost around \$45,000 plus the expense of immunizations for the entire team. Everyone will have the opportunity to be a part of the Haiti mission trip by supporting our "Help Haiti" missions events. Our Help Haiti events will include:

- **Krispy Kreme Doughnut Orders.** We will be taking doughnut orders in the Welcome Center during the entire month of February.
- On March 27th at 5:30 pm we will have a **Fish Fry** and at 7:00 pm our **Men's Ensemble** will have a concert and love offering for Haiti.
- On Saturday, May 14th, we will host a **church-wide yard sale**. The entire church family is encouraged to participate in this event. Save those items you've been meaning to get rid of and donate them for our "Help Haiti" Yard Sale. **All proceeds go to Haiti fund.**

## Save A Life Banquet

Mark your calendar for the 2011 "Life is Good" banquet. **The date for this year's Save-a-Life Banquet is May 19th.** Guest speaker will be Gianna Jessen. Gianna survived an abortion and has such a powerful testimony. All funds go to Ann's New Life Center. Make plans to be a part of this wonderful life-saving ministry.



## Crazy Love Clothing Closet

We are opening our Crazy Love Closet on Saturday, February 19th from 8:00 - Noon. In the beginning our closet will be utilized on a referral basis. Also, if you know of families in need, please contact the church office or Christie Harmon. To all who made donations, thank you. You may continue to donate your gently-worn clothing items, diapers, wipes, and baby formula.

## Benevolence Program

Our church is in the process of revamping our Benevolence Ministry. If you know of an individual or family in real need in our community, please contact one of our Committee members: Suellyn Champion; Kenny or Candy Walker; Dianna Enoch; or Mary Sims. We want to minister in our community but we are counting on you to let us know of families in need.



## Church Visitation

Everyone is welcome to participate in our Church Visitation program. If you are interested in helping with visitation, please contact Pastor Bill Daniel or Patsy Flournoy. We usually try to go out at least twice a month, normally on Monday night.



## Men's Bible Study Coming in February . . .

Show someone you care by inviting them to our upcoming Men's Bible Study called "**Taking Down Goliath: Overcoming the Giants that Every Man Faces.**" The study will begin in February. Be watching for more information coming soon. In this study Dr. Johnny Hunt will cover the : (1) **Giant of Sex** (Fitting Man's desire into God's Design); (2) **Giant of Money** (Trusting the Good Book, not the Check Book); (3) **Giant of Habits** (Breaking Free from Behavior that Binds); (4) **Giant of Temptation** (Tempted & Tried, but Triumphant); (5) **Giant of Failure** (The Blessing of Beginning Again); (6) **Giant of Fear** (The Battle that Only Faith Can Win); (7) **Giant of Relationships** (Lessons for Loving and Living).

# Upcoming Events

## The Preschool Department is Growing!

We are adding a new class of toddlers, and **three new teachers are needed**, two for one class and one to complete another toddler class. If you have a love for children and God wants you to serve Him in this area, please contact Patsy Flournoy. Little ones are waiting to be loved in Jesus' name.

**WE NEED YOU!**

## Preschool Pajama Party

On **February 4th** from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m., bring your Toddlers through Kindergarteners to our Family Life Center for a Winter Pajama Party. Preschoolers, wear your pajamas and come and join us for a fun time of inflatables. We will play from 6:30 to 8:30. You may bring a friend if you like. **The cost is \$5 per child.** Please eat before you come, and we will spend all of our time playing. Any questions, contact Patsy Flournoy at 205.405.4593 or [pflournoy@cropwellbaptist.org](mailto:pflournoy@cropwellbaptist.org).



## Valentine's Parents Night Out

On **February 11th** from 6:00 - 10:00 p.m. show your spouse some Valentine love. Husbands and wives, take your valentines out on the town and leave your children with us. The cost is \$8 for preschoolers and children and \$5 for babies. Please sign up by Wednesday, February 9th in the Preschool lobby.



## MOMS

Our MOMS Ministry (for Mothers of all ages) will be hosting a **"Pamper Yourself- Thrifty Style"** on **Friday, February 25th** from 6:00 until 9:00 p.m. in our church fellowship hall. Ladies come enjoy a massage station (\$5 for 10 min massage); Eyebrow/Lip waxing station (\$5); Paraffin Wax; and Foot Spas. There will also be some new surprises in store!



We plan on having two speaking segments, with tips on making your wardrobe better, the thrifty way! Join us for this relaxing and fun time! We would love for you to invite your friends to join you for this time of relaxation, however we do request that you let us know how many you will have attending by

emailing Kacia Frieze at [the3friezes@yahoo.com](mailto:the3friezes@yahoo.com).

## SCHOLARSHIP

The George D. and Naomi S. Williams Scholarship Fund Committee will meet in June to award scholarships to qualified students. **Completed applications must be submitted, via computer, by March 31, 2011.** The scholarship is to be used for the education of deserving students of the Southern Baptist denomination and you qualify if you are (1) a member of Southern Baptist church in St. Clair County attending a school of choice, including vocational & trade schools.

Go to [www.tbfa.org/scholarship.html](http://www.tbfa.org/scholarship.html) for applications and more information.

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# February 2011

## Weekly Events

Tuesday 2/1/11	Women's Bible Study at 10:00 am in Sonshiners Classroom Knifty Knitters at 10:00 am in Fellowship Hall RA Basketball Games at Cropwell at 5:30 and 6:30 pm
Wednesday 2/2/11	Meal at 5:00 pm; DIG at 6:15 pm; Bible Study at 6:30 pm Youth Basketball Game at Cropwell at 8:00 pm
Thursday 2/3/11	RA Basketball Games at Cropwell at 5:30 and 6:30 pm
Friday 2/4/11	Preschool Winter Pajama Party (6:30 - 8:30 pm)
Sunday 2/6/11	"Help Haiti" Krispy Kreme Doughnut Sales Begin RA Basketball Practice for 1st - 3rd Graders (1:00 - 2:30 pm) Bible Drill Class at 4:30 pm Deacon's Meeting at 4:30 pm
Monday 2/7/11	Church Visitation -- Meet at church at 6:00 pm RA Basketball Games at Cropwell at 5:30 and 6:30 pm
Tuesday 2/8/11	Women's Bible Study at 10:00 am in Fellowship Hall RA Basketball Games at Cropwell at 5:30 and 6:30
Wednesday 2/9/11	Meal at 5:00 pm; DIG at 6:15 pm; Bible Study at 6:30 pm
Thursday 2/10/11	RA Basketball Games at Cropwell at 5:30 and 6:30
Friday 2/11/11	Valentine's Parents Night Out (6:00 - 10:00 pm)
Sunday 2/13/11	RA Basketball Practice for 1st - 3rd Graders (1:00 - 2:30 pm) Bible Drill Class at 4:30 pm
Monday 2/14/11	RA Basketball Game at Cropwell at 6:30 pm
Tuesday 2/15/11	Women's Bible Study at 10:00 am in Sonshiners Class Knifty Knitters at 10:00 am RA Basketball Games
Wednesday 2/16/11	Meal at 5:00 pm; DIG at 6:15 pm; Bible Study at 6:30 pm
Thursday 2/17/11	RA Basketball Games at Cropwell at 5:30 and 6:30 pm
Friday 2/18/11	Sunday School Game Night at 6:30 Youth Basketball Game at Cropwell at 7:00 and 8:00 pm
Sunday 2/20/11	Haiti Missions Team Meeting at 5:00 pm with Randy Bonner RA Basketball Practice for 1st - 3rd Graders (1:00 - 2:30 pm) Bible Drill Class at 4:30 pm
Monday 2/21/11	Church Visitation -- Meet at church at 6:00 pm RA Basketball Game at Cropwell at 6:30 pm
Tuesday 2/22/11	Women's Bible Study at 10:00 am in Fellowship Hall RA Basketball Games at Cropwell at 5:30 and 6:30 pm
Wednesday 2/23/11	Meal at 5:00 pm; DIG at 6:15 pm; Bible Study at 6:30 pm
Thursday 2/24/11	Omegas Monthly Meeting RA Basketball Games at Cropwell at 5:30 and 6:30 pm
Friday 2/25/11	MOMS "Pamper Yourself" in Fellowship Hall (6:00 - 9:00 pm) Youth Basketball Games at Cropwell at 6:00, 7:00, and 8:00 pm
Saturday 2/26/11	Children's Field Trip to "Explorations in Antiquities" - LaGrange, GA
Sunday 2/27/11	Last day to pre-order your "Help Haiti" Krispy Kreme Doughnuts RA Basketball Practice for 1st - 3rd Graders (1:00 - 2:30 pm) Bible Drill Class at 4:30 pm Children's SS Teachers Meeting at 4:45 pm