



THE LINK

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River View Baptist Church

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A Banner Year

Any mother can tell you the difficulty of child birth. I remember when our second daughter was born, the fear that came over Alison when the labor pains started. She suddenly remembered her first experience with giving birth and even expressed that she didn't think she could do this again. There is just something about a baby that makes the pain of giving birth worth while. You all know that we have three daughters.

In Galatians 4:19, the Apostle Paul likens the process of spiritual maturity to that of giving birth. He says, "my little children, of whom I travail in birth again until Christ be formed in you." The Galatians had been delivered (born again) but it

appeared as if they needed to be delivered again. There was no spiritual progress. There were no signs that birth had occurred.

Everyone knows that babies do not stay babies. The presence of life will not allow it. But the Galatians were being seduced by false teachers who had infiltrated their ranks and were attacking the very gospel that produces new life (Gal. 1:7). Paul was there when the Galatians were delivered. He calls them his little children and he was not going to give up on them. Even if it meant enduring the pain of birth a second time.

It is God's design, desire, and will, that believers become like Christ. We

are delivered by Christ into the family of God and as children grow as Christ is formed in us. Any good pastor longs for his people to grow in Christ. Even if it involves striving or pain in the process.

The beginning of a new year is always a good time for self-examination. As you assess your own spiritual progress over the past year. Is Christ being formed in you? Are you closer to the Lord today than you were this time last year? Are there signs of spiritual birth. Be it known, that it is this pastor's desire that Christ be formed in each of you and that 2010 will be the greatest year of spiritual growth in the life of River View.

Pastor Ricky



Family Game Night

January 16th at 5:00 PM
In the Fellowship Hall

Please bring your whole Family to game night. This is an opportunity to come together and enjoy good Fellowship, food and games.

The Women's Ministry is having a "Dumpling Cooking" and "Chili Making" at Peggy Dellinger's house earlier in the day and they will be bringing these to game night..

Please sign up so we can prepare plenty of food and games for all to enjoy. See you there.

Robin Coffey and
Kelly Wilson



AWANA NEWS

What a great year 2009 was for AWANA! Due to our great & faithful staff we average 40 children every Wednesday night.

For those of you that wonder what goes on in AWANA, I wanted to tell you a few things that I have observed.

The Cubbies are the ones that have grown the most in size this year. There are 8, three to four year olds every night, and boy are they excited and full of energy! At any given time, you can hear them singing, see them walking down the hall on the way to go see CubbieBear and his friends. A few weeks ago, you may have caught

their leader, Alison, yet again bringing Bible stories to life. The story was about the friends that took their lame friend to Jesus. Alison and Nicki, with some help from Commander Marty, were seen carrying each child in a blanket down the hallway! Do you think they will remember that story? I bet they will for years to come.

The Sparks and T&T's work hard every night on scripture memorization. They really enjoy game time that Doug and Ann are so great with. And of course, they love snack time...Thanks Barbara.

The Puggles are our youngest AWANA members. They are taught a Bible story and all about God being good.

AWANA is made up of leaders that love Jesus and want the children to know that He loves them. These children are our future church leaders and AWANA gives them the foundation they need to build upon.

We ask for your continued prayers for 2010.

Commander
Marty Peeler

This Sure Sounds Like Fun!



Wise Words (Copied From the South Fork News Letter)

New Years Resolutions are promises we make to ourselves. They are always intended to make us better. We never resolve to smoke or drink or eat more. We don't resolve to get a little fatter so we can go to those stylish "relaxed fit" jeans. We don't resolve to do worse financially in the coming year, just so we will have to pay fewer taxes. No, resolutions are meant to make us better.

Why do we need to renew some of the same promises every year? The Apostle Paul says it's because we want to do good but our nature usually brings our best plans to naught. How shall we live during this New Year? By what measures do we decide if we are living or doing better? Let's look at how we can

test our resolutions.

Our greatest difficulty is not KNOWING the right thing, but DOING the right thing. I've never met anyone who did not want to know God's will. The problem is that they want to know it so that they can consider it. In other words, if I like what God's will is for me, I will do it, but if not, I won't. Simply knowing right from wrong doesn't make us a good person. Acting on the knowledge does. For instance, we know we should witness our faith, but what do we do about it? Goodness is more than avoiding evil. Sir Edmund Burke observed that "the only necessity for evil to triumph is for good men to do nothing". This paraphrases James 4:17 which states that to know good and not do it is a sin. It's not enough to

KNOW good, you must BE good to make a difference. Whatever things you resolve to do you ought to submit them to this test:

1. Would it be good if everyone did what I want to do?
2. Would Jesus have done this - would he approve?
3. Will this thing ever gain control of me? Call I quit it anytime I desire?
4. Would it harm my body?
5. Would it harm my family?
6. Would it offend my brethren or cause some young Christian to fall?

Think about it... Happy New Year.

Bob Wise

Brick Campaign-Prayer Garden

Thanks to each of you who have shown an interest in the walkway project. There is still time to purchase a brick(s) for the walkway.

If you have turned in your order, we would appreciate payment now until February 7, 2010. We

plan to order the brick when payments have been received, soon after February 7.

As soon as weather permits in early Spring, we plan to put in the walkway.

For additional information or if you have suggestions about the walkway, call Peggy Coffey at 704-735-4812 or Vickie Wise 704-732-8836.



WISE



WORDS



December Recap

It is truly hard to believe that December is almost history and a new year is upon us. Where has time gone? December has been a fun and event packed month. It all got started with a wonderful mission emphasis Sunday. The Lottie Moon offering for missions and the week of prayer are a major part of December. So on Sunday morning the 6th, I brought a message on winning the lost at home and abroad. In the evening service IMB missionaries Corey and Racheal Pendergrass came and presented their call to West Africa. At the close of the service we broke out into prayer groups for a time of praying. By the way our Lottie Moon Offering goal is \$4,000.00. There is also still time to give if you would like.

On Tuesday evening we celebrated Christmas with

our Happy Hearts. We had a wonderful time together even though it was cold and messy outside. The tables were all decorated beautifully and the meal was delicious. We appreciate so much all who decorated a table and Rick and Barbara for the meal.

On Sunday evening the 13th our Adult Choir presented a Mike Speck Cantata: "The Heart Of Christmas." The choir did a tremendous job and the event was well attended. Almost a packed house! On Thursday evening the 17th a number of us spent the evening caroling. We had a great time visiting a number of our homebound and I believe our visits were deeply appreciated. Thanks, David Coffey for your leadership in these events.

On Sunday morning the 20th our River View Children presented their

Christmas Program. What a wonderful job they did? As they re-created the Nativity story in full costume. No doubt we will remember this program for days ahead. Thank you Alison Brown and Linda Goode for your time and hard work.

Finally Sunday Evening the 20th we gathered for our Christmas Fellowship meal. This was a covered dish meal with a mission theme of Christmas around the world. Tables were decorated as the countries they represented. Each person who decorated a table shared with us Christmas traditions of that country. We had a great turn out for this event with a number of visitors. Thank you Robin Coffey and hospitality for all you do. Until next time happy New Year and God's Best!

Pastor Ricky

Happy Hearts

Happy Hearts will be going to North Star Fish Camp in Dallas, on Jan 12th at 4:00 PM.

We always enjoy going to North Star. The seafood is always delicious.

Please sign up so we can schedule the reservations.

