

# The Link

November, 2009

River View Baptist Church

Volume 39, Issue 11

## Be Sure To Give Thanks



At our house Thanksgiving Day is celebrated with Alison's side of the family. For years our house has been the gathering place for this joyous day. Of course, I complain a lot about all the "in-laws" coming in on us, but the truth be known, I probably enjoy this day more than Alison. To me "family" is very important.

A few years ago as we gathered to enjoy the Thanksgiving meal, before we prayed we formed a circle and each of us gave a few words of thanks. Thanks was given for another good year, for family and friends, good health, good food, etc. When my time came to speak, I

gave thanks that we could all be together for one more time, because we just do not know who might be missing the next time. In my mind I was thinking about all our children who were rapidly growing up, going to college, and life was taking them in many other directions. We had no idea that in just a few short weeks Alison's Mother would pass away.

The Scriptures teach us that life is short. We are here for only a brief time. We look around our church and we notice missing faces. People who once worshiped and served the Lord with us, today, their place is in

heaven. How we miss them! Who will be next? We do not know. Therefore we must take advantage of each moment and make certain we leave nothing unsaid. We must make sure in the time we have to live life to the fullest. We must be sure to say "I love you" and give thanks for all who help to make life worth living. Thank you Church Family for being such an important part of my life.

Pastor Ricky

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Giving thanks  
always for all  
things...  
Ephesians 5:20

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## Community Thanksgiving Meal

**November 24th, 6-8 p.m.**

Because our church family cares, River View prepares a Community Thanksgiving Meal for those who would otherwise not have a good meal for Thanksgiving.

Our church family prepares a tremendous amount of food, and invites those in the community, neighbors,

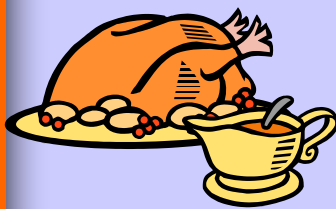
friends and family to enjoy a good meal and fellowship.

Last year around 300 meals were served.

The meal this year will include turkey and dressing, green beans, corn, sweet potatoes, rolls and dessert as well as beverage.

We will prepare meal tickets to be handed out to those whom we invite as a reminder of the date and time of the meal. .

If you wish to contribute to this outreach project, write Thanksgiving Meal on your offering envelope and drop it in the offering plate.





## Youth Ministry

As I looked outside my window one morning, I witnessed something very peculiar. The leaves were not green anymore and had turned a yellowish orange. As I walked outside the air was a bit colder than I had remembered and when I went down the road there were pumpkins adorning house after house. I guess it's that time of year. Fall is here and it is welcomed by many, especially me. No more hot and humid days it is time for a change. I am so glad God cares for us so much to give us a variety of seasons. He literally meets all our needs. He changes the seasons with just a simple word from His lips. Praise be to our God! During this season called *Fall* there is something a lot of us need to do more of than just occasionally and that is giving thanksgiving; giving thanksgiving to those around us and most importantly to God. I truly am thankful for everything this church has done for me. Thank you for the ongoing encouragement and appreciation, but most importantly thank you for your prayers. I personally would like to thank all of those who give their time



every week to make sure that the youth of this church and community are shown God's Love, because without you, there would be no youth. Thank You!

The student body of this church has been going through the last month lessons that identify Jesus Christ to us. During these lessons we have seen how and why God revealed Jesus, His Son to mankind. Through the lessons we saw that Jesus is 100% Man and 100% God, and that Jesus is at the right hand of God interceding for us. Next time you see a student ask them, they might just blow your socks off with their knowledge. We also alluded to the fact that only 65% of Americans believe that Jesus is actually God in flesh, which should make us more determined to share the Gospel.

In November the students will be involved in several fundraisers to help with the cost of Winter Xtreme Conference in Pigeon Forge, TN. This conference is jam packed with students from all over the Southeast. The conference is three days long and has musician after musician, speaker after

speaker sharing the truth from God's Word to literally thousands of students. Go ahead and start praying with me for this event, that everyone who goes will be changed by the truth of God's Word.



Here are some of the fundraisers that the students will be involved in, along with dates:

Nov. 7<sup>th</sup> 6 to 10 a.m.  
Belk Fundraiser/Charity Sale at Belk (students are selling tickets right now)

Nov. 8<sup>th</sup> - Fellowship Luncheon after a.m. service (students will provide the church a meal)

Nov. 11<sup>th</sup> - Adopt a' Teen (this is where people hire some students to help out with a project)

Nov. 14<sup>th</sup> - Adopt a' Teen (same as before) Go ahead and start thinking about some projects

These opportunities are listed to give you the church a chance to get involved in these students lives.

Matt.

## Brotherhood Chili Cook-off

On Friday evening November 6<sup>th</sup> at 7pm, this event will be held in the church fellowship hall.

If you have a favorite recipe, or if you like to cook, we invite you to prepare your chili and bring it to this supper.

We welcome all varieties, from Gran-maw's best to five alarm. There will be a prize for first place.

A sign-up sheet is out. Please specify if you are cooking or just eating.

If you have any questions you can see Doug Gholson or Danny Martin.

## Operation Graffiti Shoe Box Ministry

We can share the love of Christ to those who are hurting and in need through this ministry.

Our Church Family is filling shoe boxes, collecting men's coats, buying bags of candy and donating money for these projects.

You can pick up a list of suggested items to put in the **shoe boxes** and take it with you shopping. The lists are on the signup

desk. On the back side of the list are instructions for packing the shoe boxes, wrapping and labeling. The boxes will be distributed to inner city children in New York City and the Bronx.

**Men's coats** are greatly needed! Larger sizes are needed most. The coats can be new or used and in good condition. The coats will be given to the

homeless and needy.

If you wish to help but do not want to fill a shoe box you can donate **bags of candy** that will be packaged separately and distributed with the shoe boxes.

You can also **donate money** to be used for transportation cost of getting the items to New York and getting them delivered. Place your cash

The Prayer Garden is funded by honorary and memorial gifts designated for the Garden. We are planning a walk way through the Garden and those who may desire can purchase a brick for the walkway. The brick can be engraved in honor or memory, family names or with a Bible verse. Cost of each brick is \$50. If you desire more information call Peggy Coffey at 704-735-4812.



We hope you have visited the Prayer Garden recently and have seen all the improvements that have been made. The fountain, a bird bath and the gate have been added. With all the Fall flowers, it is a gorgeous and peaceful place to meditate and pray.

or check in an offering envelope marked Shoe Box and drop it in the collection plate.

Please bring your donations to the church by November 15th.

The boxes will be distributed December 4-9 by a mission team from our South Fork Association WMU. Pray for them as they travel for the mission effort.

## DivorceCare For Adults & Kids

**DivorceCare** sessions are underway at RVBC on **Monday nights from 5:45 until 7:30 p.m.** through **December 7, 2009** in the Fellowship Hall. The cost for the activity book is **\$15.00** and children may attend future sessions as many times as they would

like. Childcare is available (for children under five), as well as scholarships. **DivorceCare** for adults sessions are being held on the same day and time and is designed to run in conjunction with **DC4K** in order to foster open communication and

to bring healing to the entire family. You may join the current sessions at any time and make up any sessions missed the next time they are offered. Session titles and corresponding dates can be found at: [www.riverviewbaptistchurchonline.org/DivorceCare.html](http://www.riverviewbaptistchurchonline.org/DivorceCare.html).

It's hard to know how to help someone whose family is experiencing separation or divorce. If you know someone, please "**reach out**" and pass along this information.



## October Recap

October has been a very busy and eventful month. In addition to our regular services and activities, we had a number of special events. The first was homecoming on Sunday October 11th. It was a wonderful day. We had a great attendance of members, friends, and former members. The service was uplifting and Rev. Brent Baker brought a tremendous message on “unity.” And then came the homecoming meal! River view people know how to put on a celebration. We had a great day.

On Tuesday the 13th about 27 of our Happy Hearts’ group took a trip up to the N.C. mountains. We had a great time sightseeing and just being together. And then we did what we do best, eat. If you have ever been to Shatley Springs, then you know what I am talking about.

Also, this month a number of our ladies participated in a retreat at the beach. About 26 ladies gathered for a time of relaxation, fellowship and Bible study. Marlo Francis was invited to lead the Bible study. Reports are that this was a tremendous time for our ladies.

On Sunday October 18th Missionary Pastor Abraham Thomas presented his ministry in India. Brother Abraham was very passionate about the work God has called him to. If you were in that service you witnessed his passion first hand but also saw the need in India is enormous. Christianity there faces persecution on a daily basis. We must be faithful to pray for our brothers and sisters and support the work there as God leads.

Sunday, October 25th

was Pastor Appreciation day. Alison and I are truly thankful for all the kind expressions that came our way. Thank you for the meal and all the love that you have heaped upon us. We truly felt appreciated!

Activity wise, we close the month of October with our Fall festival “Trunk or Treat.” As I am writing



these thoughts, this event is yet to happen. I’m sure with all the planning this is going to be a great evening for our church. Thank you Tonya Johnson and others for all you do.

Well that’s the highlights for the month. Hope you got in on some of them.

Just remember Fellowship makes us stronger.

Pastor Ricky

## Surviving the Holidays

**Help for the divorced & separated during the holidays.**

Separation or divorce during the holidays can be a lonely, stressful and depressing time. But there’s hope! RVBC is sponsoring an encouraging seminar to help folks discover how to enjoy the holidays

again. This is a **FREE** event open to everyone. Dessert, coffee and tea will be served and a “*DivorceCare Survival Guide*” will be available for purchase for \$4 each. Child care will be available for ages birth to sixth grade. For more information or to register, please contact **Kim Fisher.**

**NOTE:** If you would be willing to provide a dessert of your choice for this community event or to help with child care, there is a sign-up sheet available in the hallway. Thanks so much for your consideration.