

Savannah Baptist Center

WINTER 2011-2012

DEC 2011/ JAN 2012

"The Savannah Baptist Center exists to glorify God by providing for the spiritual, physical and emotional needs of those in inner city Savannah through the life-changing gospel of Jesus Christ."

A Special Occasion

Hours prior to the Community Christmas Dinner volunteers arrived and began decorating the tables with a touch of Christmas décor including candles, greenery, tinsel to sparkle, and festive cutlery. They also began organizing to serve the meals as the aroma of the chef's Christmas dinner being prepared filled the air. Volunteers also came to share God's love through music and dance and prayer, and volunteers were also located in the hallways, lobby, and sanctuary to guide and help people as they participated in the events of the dinner. One hundred eighty-eight community members were signed in to be seated and served a Christmas meal of turkey, dressing, gravy, green beans, sweet potato soufflé, cranberry sauce, a roll, and banana pudding for des-

sert. At the conclusion of the dinner adults were given a treat bag which contained an apple, orange, candy bar, and Gospel tract, and children were given a stuffed animal that had "Joy in Jesus" stitched into the fabric. Once the participants had gone, volunteers began cleaning the kitchen and fellowship hall. Every aspect of the dinner made this a special occasion. The Savannah Baptist Center would like to thank all of the volunteers who participated in the Community Christmas Dinner through donations, monetary gifts, and time. We look forward to serving with you and sharing God's love



Ms. Virginia receiving a Thanksgiving Food Bag!

and greatness with you throughout the upcoming year!

~Jessica Haun,
Interim Weekday
Activities Coordinator
jessica@savbaptistcenter.org

Upcoming Events:

- ◇ January 9th: Afterschool & normal programming resumes
- ◇ January 11th: FREE Rush of Fools Concert at Calvary Baptist Temple @ 6pm- your canned good donations will support the Savannah Baptist Center & Second Harvest Food Bank
- ◇ January 16th: MLK, Jr. Holiday- Center Closed
- ◇ January 18th: C.N.A. Graduation @ 5:30pm (see details inside)
- ◇ January 25th: Afterschool Kickoff Block Party/ Meeting (more details to come)
- ◇ For more info, contact info@savbaptistcenter.org

Prayer Requests

Staff & Trustees

Volunteers

Afterschool Children & Families

Homeless

All Those We Minister To



A Call to Serve

"Therefore, go and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit." -Matthew 28:19



Look at What God Has Done!

I compare the last few weeks at the Center to sitting in a comfortable theater and listening to a symphony of beautiful music that touches every dimension of our emotions. God has orchestrated each move of ministry to this entire community through the caring and giving hearts of so many people. He has worked far beyond our human scope of imagination. As the Thanksgiving and Christmas seasons approached and financial resources so scarce, we began to pray and plan to meet the many needs of those we serve. We wanted to be able to supply food bags with everything needed to prepare an entire Thanksgiving meal for the families. We let the need be known throughout the association and the response was so much we were able to deliver to 40 families and pack 20 bags for homeless clients as well. The Trustees agreed we would like to serve a community Christmas dinner to those in this community,

but again did not know how to finance it. We began to pray and during one weekend God provided more than \$1000 to purchase the food, etc. As we discussed the number of turkeys needed (15) and the fact that purchase alone would take a large portion of our funds, I received a call from a local pastor asking if we could use some turkeys. I told him about the plans for the community dinner and learned that an anonymous donor had purchased 15 turkeys. A wholesale restaurant supplier donated cases of beans, yams, and trimmings and a produce supplier provided fruit for banana pudding and "favor bags," (which included an apple, orange and large candy bar) to give to each adult, and each child received a plush stuffed animal provided by LifeWay Book Store. The Korean Choir provided entertainment for those waiting to be served at the community dinner and accordion

music was enjoyed by guests as they dined. We served approximately 200 from the community plus 100 plus volunteers who helped set up, prepare, serve and clean up. LifeWay also provided 1000 plus stuffed animals for the Center to share with other non-profit organizations. A local family provided funds to purchase five lap top computers to be used in the "Sojourner of Savannah" training classes, funds for white nurse uniforms for the C.N.A class to wear for state certification and graduation, new school uniforms for afterschool students and they adopted two families and provided gifts for Christmas. Volunteers from First Baptist of Savannah planned, set up and hosted our annual "Christmas Store". The number of volunteers from churches and schools for that event was tremendous. Space in this newsletter will not allow me to mention all the mission teams, events and ministry

that brought honor and glory to God during this most Holy Season. However, I must share how God is providing for the plans the SBC Trustees believe will touch the lives of many in this community. The "Oasis" project will provide showers, laundry and locker storage for many in this community who are unable to provide these necessities for themselves. After much prayer, the trustees began to seek funding for this project. We wrote a grant request to the Georgia Baptist Health Foundation requesting financial consideration for this undertaking. We were recently informed that we will receive \$100,000 to be used for the construction of this project. We also received \$3000 from the "Christ Church Tour of Homes Foundation" for the purchase of two sets of commercial washers and dryers for this project.

TO GOD BE THE GLORY!
HAPPY NEW YEAR!
Pearline Burns, Director
pearline@savbaptistcenter.org

Church Growth Continues

The Savannah Baptist Center Church has continued to grow tremendously! Praise God, we have seen 37 baptisms this past year- for a total of 87 over the past three years! Our Sunday School classes continue to grow and we are currently averaging around 45 in attendance. We normally see around 85 folks in our early morning service and feed around 120 folks at our Sunday morning breakfast. We are incredibly blessed to have several groups who come on Sunday mornings to prepare and serve a hot breakfast to our church- which includes several homeless men and women. Canvas Church, Lutheran Church of the Ascension, Vicki Clark's church from North Carolina and Monica McAllister's group- we would like to thank you for your time and dedication in being faithful to serve! Your continued support is invaluable to us! Volunteers like you are vital to the ministry here. Thank you for coming alongside us and loving on the people of our community! Pastor Harry Coursey, Savannah Baptist Center Church, harry@savbaptistcenter.org

Update from HUGS

Heads-Up Guidance Services (HUGS) continues to provide Individual Counseling services at the Baptist Center. The number of participants served has more than tripled in the past two months. HUGS continues to provide therapeutic programs to partner organizations throughout the Savannah Community and looks to provide Counseling Services for at least three additional organizations in 2012.

We are pleased to announce that HUGS will be providing a comprehensive "Parenting Course" to include Group and Individual Education &

Guidance services for struggling parents. This course will be offered at the Baptist Center beginning January 2012.

HUGS is looking to the faith community to sponsor homeless and/or jobless individual(s) in need of faith-based counseling services. HUGS services are 95% less than taxpayer funded Medicaid services - saving taxpayers & exposing public waste. Although HUGS has been able to drastically reduce the cost of services to reach the needy and underserved, some participants still struggle to pay \$5.00 - \$10.00 for services.

Scholarship individuals will have the opportunity to receive services while in transition. A \$100 donation will provide an individual with an entire three months of counseling. Please contact us for more information regarding the "HUGS Scholarship Program." Please consider helping HUGS serve those who need it most!

Thanks be to God for our relationship with the Baptist Center! HUGS is grateful to be part of the SBC family and is eager to collaboratively serve those in need.

Merry Christmas from Our



Family to Yours!
Sincerely,
Andrea Mamalakis Epting
President

Save the Date!

C.N.A. Graduation: January 18, 2012 at 5:30pm

January 18, 2012 marks the completion of our 1st C.N.A. Training Program. On that date, our first five students will graduate through the Educational Training programs offered by Sojourner of Savannah, Inc. Graduation Ceremonies will be held at the Savannah Baptist Center at 5:30pm on January 18th, 2012. Come celebrate with us on this joyous occasion, All are welcome!



Current Needs:

Afterschool Volunteers- Mondays thru Thursdays from 3-5:20pm (call Jessica for details)

Clothes Closet Volunteers- donations are constantly being dropped-off & we cannot always keep up. We could use sorters on Thursdays.

Cold-weather items: scarves, gloves, hats, blankets, etc. for our homeless clients.

(We have a lot of coats & jackets right now)

For more information on coming alongside us in a specific ministry, please contact us at info@savbaptistcenter.org We are always updating our Facebook page (www.facebook.com/savbaptistcenter) and our website (www.savbaptistcenter.org) as well. A background check

must be completed prior to service. An application can be downloaded from our website & faxed/mailed in or call to schedule an appointment with Jessica, 912.232.1033.

Please Note: our clothing closet is simply not large enough to store items other than clothing, shoes, accessories & hygiene products. We are only able to stock in-season clothing items. We appreciate your donations!



Savannah Baptist Center

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Many Faces, One Faith



A Note from Carolyn Sinclair, Trustee Member & Food Pantry Ministry Volunteer

VOLUNTEER CORNER

- * we follow the same calendar as the Chatham County Public School System, when the kids are out of school we do not have afterschool or ladies' Bible study & classes
- * please make sure Hollie has your email address to receive updates & schedule changes (Hollie@savbaptistcenter.org)
- * we're always looking for dedicated volunteers, but please note that a background check must be completed before your service begins
- * to learn more about how you can become involved, please call Jessica to schedule a meeting time, 912.232.1033

Years sago I was in a Baptist Young Women's group that volunteered at the Baptist Center. Then, for a long while I had no direct contact with the Center, though I did participate in missions through WMU and in my local church. A couple of years ago I again became involved at the Savannah Baptist Center and it is one of the best things I have ever done. When you walk in the front door, you realize you are in a special place - a place where God resides. Yes, I know He lives in each Christian but in the Baptist Center you feel especially close to Him. You see His smile on the face of each staff member and each volunteer.

On Wednesday mornings I

work in the Food Pantry. When someone comes in needing food, I put together bags especially for them depending on the ages and needs of the family members. We include tracts and information on the Center Church. Some of the time is spent organizing and stocking the shelves. I am constantly amazed at the generosity of people in our churches. When stock is low, we put the word out and the food comes in.

Please remember the Baptist Center in your prayers and pick up some extra canned goods for the Center when you are shopping for your family. If you want to be used of the Lord and fill needs in His name just come volunteer

at the Savannah Baptist Center. When you leave you realize you may have been a blessing to some hungry person but you have been blessed immeasurably.



Everyone jumped in to help put away a HUGE food pantry donation that came in from one of our supporting churches!