



Elm Grove Baptist Church  
8180 Barksdale Boulevard  
Bossier City, LA 71112

Address Service Requested

# White Steeple Banner

## Elm Grove Baptist Church

December 2011, Volume 12, #12

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Dr. Brian D. Prucey, Pastor  
Charles Anderson, Music/Ed Minister  
Brent Martwick, Youth Pastor



Many of you probably saw news reports about the chaos that broke out at many stores on the Friday after Thanksgiving Day. Known as Black Friday, the unofficial start of the Christmas shopping season, anxious shoppers camped out in tents in front of stores the night before.

Massive crowds gathered at the crack of dawn and rushed in hoping to find the best bargains they could. The chaos was maddening.

In one store, a greedy shopper used pepper spray to deter other shoppers from grabbing an item she wanted to buy. At other stores, police officers and store security officials were called in to quell near-riotous behaviors. Video surfaced showing police officers using Tasers to subdue unruly customers.

Yet, when I arrived at the church for worship the Sunday

after Thanksgiving, there were no door-busting crowds waiting to get in. No one was camped out in tents in the front field. A part of me was a little disappointed that I didn't get to pepper spray anybody (maybe next week!). I guess Jesus isn't as popular as discounted flat screen TVs and tablet computers.

Isn't it sad that people will go to great lengths to save a few dollars on something that will one day wear out yet never give thought to gaining something that will last for all eternity?

It seems every year that goes by the message of Christmas is muted by clarion calls for bigger and better shopping deals. Yet, the message of Christmas remains the same: God with us!

God is with us through His Son, Jesus Christ. God is with us to save us. God is with us to free us from sin, Satan and death. God is with us to comfort us. God is with us to love us. God is with us to

shower us with the riches of His mercy and grace. God is with us to adopt us into His family of faith. God is with us to give our lives meaning and purpose and hope. God is with us to forgive us. God is with us to bind up our broken hearts and mend our broken lives.

Yet, many people treat the message of Christmas as yesterday's news. Many people are looking for something bigger, brighter, shinier, and with longer battery life and more downloadable apps. However, there is no manmade product or device that can fill the hole in our soul. We are an incomplete people and we can only find wholeness when we accept God's gift of forgiveness in Jesus Christ. That is the message that we need to share with others—not just during the holidays—but every day.

Carole and I wish you all a joyous and blessed Christmas and a Happy New Years.

The shepherd loves the sheep!  
Pastor Brian

**DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS**

- Lisa Frazier 2<sup>nd</sup>
- Kay Ray 2<sup>nd</sup>
- Wanda Kent 2<sup>nd</sup>
- Mert Carter 11<sup>th</sup>
- Bill Waters 12<sup>th</sup>
- Margaret Dillon 13<sup>th</sup>
- Katie Wren 14<sup>th</sup>
- Nancy Dorbandt 15<sup>th</sup>
- Sadie Grace Beverage 17<sup>th</sup>
- Ricky Bumgardner 18<sup>th</sup>
- Deanna Beckstrand 20<sup>th</sup>
- Quentin Beckstrand 20<sup>th</sup>
- Nancy Lockey 23<sup>rd</sup>
- Jeanette Green 28<sup>th</sup>

**ANNIVERSARIES**

- Dennis & Tina Spearman 1<sup>st</sup>
- Ricky & Lisa Clement 1<sup>st</sup>
- Kevin & Diana Lott 15<sup>th</sup>
- Randy & Jeanette Green 22<sup>nd</sup>



**Charlie's Chats**

Thanks to all of you who have been so deligent in working on the Christmas program. We only have 3 more rehearsals until we present *Mary Did You Know* so please make every effort to attend choir rehearsal on Wednesday night!

I'm looking forward to our annual Candlelight, Carols & Communion on Christmas Eve. It is always such a special, worshipful service for the entire family.



Upcoming Meetings

Church Council Sunday, December 4th at 5 p.m.

Business Meeting Sunday, December 11th at 7 p.m.

**TODDLER NURSERY SCHEDULE**

December 4th

Amye Megee & Sherry Hudson

December 11<sup>th</sup>

Jessi Humphrey & Peggy Grice

December 18<sup>th</sup>

Michelle & David Lemoine

December 25<sup>th</sup>

Darlene Hay & Lisa Tyson

**BABY NURSERY SCHEDULE**

December 4th

Wanda Kent

December 11<sup>th</sup>

Tina Spearman

December 18<sup>th</sup>

Darlene Hay

December 25<sup>th</sup>

Shelbie Ponder

**WEEKLY EVENTS**

**Sunday**

- Sunday School 9:30 a.m.
- Morning Worship 10:45 a.m.
- Evening Worship 6:00 p.m.

**Wednesday**

- Fellowship Supper 5:30 p.m.
- Children's Worship 6:30 p.m.
- Youth Worship 6:30 p.m.
- Prayer Meeting 6:30 p.m.
- Praise Choir 6:30 p.m.

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**2011 Lottie Moon Christmas Offering®**

National Goal: \$175 million  
Week of Prayer for International Missions: December 4 - 11, 2011

Our church goal: **\$1,500**



IAMSBMISSIONS.COM



**Mary Did You Know**

Presented by  
**The Praise Choir**  
Sunday, December 18<sup>th</sup>  
At 6:00 p.m.



**Christmas Eve**  
CANDLELIGHT SERVICE  
at 5 p.m.

A time of  
reverence and celebration  
with your family



**Sr. Adult  
Christmas Party  
Saturday,  
December 17<sup>th</sup>  
From 1 to 4 p.m.  
In the home of  
Elizabeth Lott**