

Gage Park Baptist Church



Pastor Gordon Rhodes
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Topeka, KS 66604
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December 22, 2011

A Message From the Pastor. . .

Christmas Day and New Year's Day are only a week apart and as I thought about that, it seems significant to me this year. At Christmas we celebrate God's love expressed in His sending Jesus into the world as God Incarnate. God Incarnate means that Jesus, who was God, appeared in human history as a man. He was fully man and yet fully God. This put Him in a position where He could pay the penalty for our sins in the midst of human history. Jesus coming in the midst of human history gave us the best chance to recognize and to receive His gift of love, salvation full and free.

At New Year's we can look back over the past year and not just see the struggles and problems we faced, but we can see how God has worked all things together to conform us more and more to His image. So in some ways the past year was hard but through Christ it was a wonderful year of seeing Him work in us and in the life of our church.

At New Year's we also look forward to the coming year with anticipation of all He has in store for us. We know that His plan for us is for good and not for evil to bring us to His expected end. So with great joy I wish you a very Happy New Year.

Pastor Gordon

IMPORTANT

Mailing Address Change
Gage Park Baptist Church
PO Box 4050
Topeka, KS 66604.

December 24

Christmas Eve Service 7 p.m.

December 25

Worship at 10:30

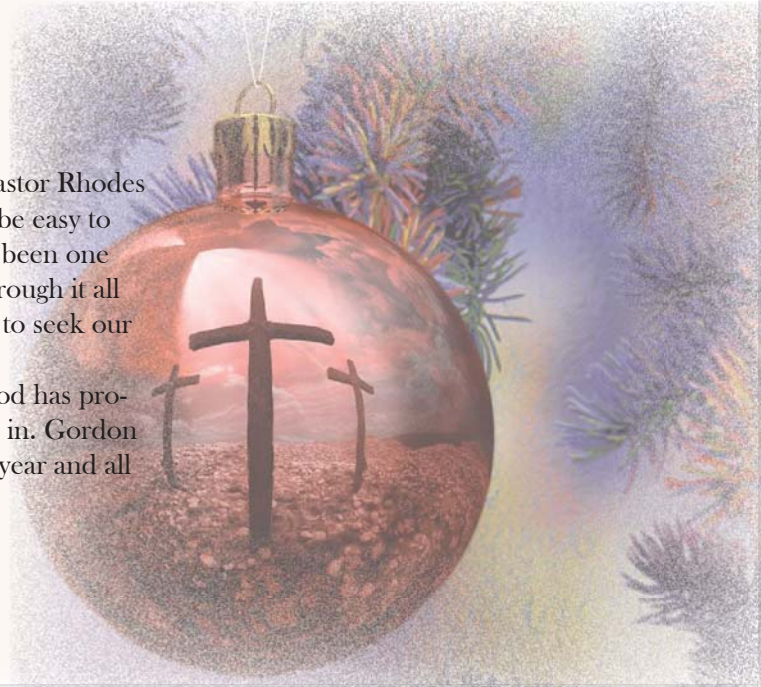
January 6

Soul Surfer Lock-In

Thank You Pastor Rhodes

This year has been a challenging, but we are so grateful to Pastor Rhodes and Linda for their dedication and service. We know it cannot be easy to be away from their home several days each week. The year has been one of transition and, at times, turmoil. Pastor Rhodes has led us through it all and continued to provide wisdom and guidance as we continue to seek our direction.

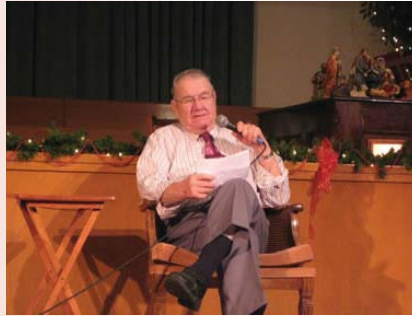
As we begin this new year, we gratefully acknowledge that God has provided us with the interim pastor we needed for the times we are in. Gordon and Linda—may God richly bless you as we move into the next year and all that it will bring.



Variety Show 2011



The GPBC Friends Choir sang
"Do You Hear What I Hear?"



Chuck Mooneyham read "One
Solitary Life," and "The Touch of the
Master's Hand."



The Praise Kids sang
"The Friendly Beasts."



Jordan Irish sang
"I Can Only Imagine."



Lucy (Luke) Parnell entertained with
"Santa Baby."



Sabrina Humpert shared her dancing talent
and performed to "Ave Maria."



"The Twelve Days of Christmas" and "O
Come, All Ye Faithful" were played by
Carly Bredow.



Bethany Curtis delighted the audience
with "Where Are You Christmas?" and
"O, Holy Night."



Deb and Jeff Conrad performed
"Shot Gun Shells on the Christmas Tree."



We always enjoy hearing Kurt Bailey sing
"Jesus Christ is Comin' to Town!"



Devin Locke and his mentor Jeff Conrad
played and sang "Away in a Manger."



A lovely version of "Hark the
Herald Angels Sing" was shared by
Lauren McGovern.

Variety Show 2011



Uncle Hank shared a story to close out the program.



Santa came and shared goodies with good girls and boys including the GPBC Friends Choir.



Santa loves the Praise Kids!



Little Leah was thankful for the candy Santa brought!

Corinthians Christmas Version

If I decorate my house perfectly with plaid bows, strands of twinkling lights, and shiny balls, but do not show love to my family, I'm just another decorator.

If I slave away in the kitchen, baking dozens of Christmas cookies, preparing gourmet meals, and arranging a beautifully adorned table at mealtime, but do not show love to my family, I'm just another cook. If I work at the soup kitchen, carol in the nursing home, give all that I have to charity, but do not show love to my family, it profits me nothing. If I trim the spruce with shimmering angels and crocheted snowflakes, attend a myriad of holiday parties and sing in the choir's cantata but do not focus on Christ, I have missed the point.

Love stops the cooking to hug the child. Love sets aside the decorating to kiss the husband. Love is kind, though harried and tired. Love doesn't envy another's home that has coordinated Christmas china and table linens. Love doesn't yell at the kids to get out of the way, but is thankful they are there to be in the way. Love doesn't give only to those who are able to give in return but rejoices in giving to those who can't. Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never fails.

Video games will break, pearl necklaces will be lost, golf clubs will rust. But giving the gift of Love will endure. God loved you and gave His Son; receive His Gift & Give Him to others this Christmas!

Poinsettia's to Remember Loved Ones

Given by Mark and Tracy Bredow in memory of Jerilyn Bredow

Given by Monique Litherland in memory of Nancy Sprague

Given by Jeff and Deb Conrad in memory of Joella Conrad and Jack Conrad

Given by Gary and Ethel Pettijohn in memory of Vicki Bohl

Given by Carol Eicher in memory of Richard Eicher

Given by the Hank Miller family in memory of Henry Miller, Sr.

Given by Alice Sanchez in memory of her mother and father

Given by Angela, Tiffanie and Devin Locke in memory of Del Locke

Given by Tom and Lauren McGovern in memory of Joyce McGovern

Given by Gordon and Linda Rhodes in memory of Lorene Jenkins

Given by Kathy Button in memory of her daughter Mary Margaret and brother Kenneth

Given by Faith and Mark Loretto

Given by Don and Lynda Foote

Notes from the Executive Board

Communion Fund. After January's contributions were sent to the Topeka Rescue Mission, February funds were used to help a family after a fire; in March and April, some funds were used to purchase and present Bibles to GPBC school-age children and youth, in memory of the Conrads' granddaughter, Joella Conrad; in November, the communion offering was used to buy winter clothing for the Mitten Patch for Avondale East students in need (shopping done by Virgil and Kitty Miller). For December, the Board approved donating up to \$500 to the youth group to shop for a family they adopted through the Christmas Bureau. We were also able to help at least one family within our church family.

Part-time custodian hired. The Board voted during their December 18 meeting to hire Mark Bredow effective January 1, 2012 as custodian. Mark already has volunteered much of his time and skills in taking care of the church facility, and the Board could not be more pleased with adding Mark to our support staff as we move into our future.

Pledges for 2012. Total pledges were up somewhat from last year. Note: all our youth returned pledge cards; if not able to pledge financially, they pledged time and talents.

Financial Status of the Church Budget. With continuing financial support from the congregation and countless hours of dedication and diligent work by Treasurer Becky Miller and Financial Secretary Kitty Miller (straightening out our financial records), we have been able to fully pay our pledges to the Topeka Rescue Mission, Doorstep, the ABCCR effective 11/30/2011. It was decided to base the church budget solely on actual pledges or anticipated regular giving from members who don't pledge. There was a consensus on the Board that any fundraisers or designated funds should just go to special projects, ministries or outreach, and not be used for paying the church's bills in the general budget. Gradually this year, we have been restoring monies to designated funds which were used in previous years for general church expenses. The budget presented to the congregation on December 11 was approved unanimously, including a 3% raise for our organist and nursery attendant, \$1500 set aside for the hoped-for hiring of a Washburn music student to work with the Friends Choir for 4 to 5 months, enough to hire a new pastor in the next year (probably part-time to begin with), and enough to replace a couple of air conditioners/heaters which no longer work. We have built up our savings to the point we

can again see daylight financially and can move beyond "survival mode" to being a church in ministry and mission again.

Election of Officers and Board Members. At our Quarterly Business Meeting December 11, the Board presented nominations of Donna Reiff and Melissa Tillery to fill the existing vacancy and Donna Schulz's position as members-at-large on the Board. The congregation voted to retain all other board members, except Bob Brown as Moderator, as he has resigned effective December 31, 2011. The Board has been unable to find anyone yet to fill the Moderator position. Since the Board decided to accept Bob Brown's resignation as Moderator after having served the last 8 or 9 consecutive years (because no one could be found willing or able to replace him), it has been decided that until a new Moderator can be found, board members will rotate the Moderator role amongst themselves one month at a time. Acting Moderator in January will be Tracy Bredow; Al West will be Acting Moderator in February, and Jeff Conrad will be Acting Moderator in March). Our church constitution stipulates that all board positions are elected one year at a time, up to three years, so we have been failing to follow our own rules in this matter for quite some time. We ask the congregation to be in prayer and open to the movement of the Holy Spirit as we seek new leadership for the future of our church. As someone commented during the meeting, members would find that serving on the Board is rewarding and sometimes even fun. It is important service to the life of the church. Finally, we all owe Bob Brown a huge debt of gratitude for his humble, dedicated service all these years, and particularly through the great difficulties and pain of this past year.

Pastor Search. Chairperson Jeff Conrad shared with the congregation that now that much of the turmoil of the last few months has settled down, the Pastor Search Committee is getting down to business again in the pastor search process, first to do the groundwork on a Church Profile. Having a clear picture of our church will assist the committee in finding a pastor who can lead us in the years ahead. It really took most of this year's experience to bring the church to the point where this task could be accomplished. It is the hope of the committee (but not a guarantee) that the search process might be completed within 6 months.

Respectfully submitted by Deb Conrad, Clerk

Mitten Patch

GPBC continued an annual tradition of donating warm wear to Avondale East Elementary students. This year, we collected the following at an estimated value of \$614:

- 13 scarves
- 89 hats
- 84 gloves
- 7 sweat jackets
- 14 sweat shirts
- 112 pair of socks
- 46 pair girls underwear
- 42 pair boys underwear
- 3 sweat pants



We know the school appreciates our donation very much. Thank you so much for your generosity and for helping these children stay warm.

Address Change---Please Read!

If you are sending checks, or anything of importance to the church, please send to our new mailing address:

Gage Park Baptist Church
 PO Box 4050
 Topeka, KS 66604.

With mail not picked up every day at the church during this transition time, the Board decided for safety of the mail, to rent a post office box for incoming mail. This mailing address change will be in effect at least until we are able to have mail picked up every day.



Can You Guess?

Can you guess who this little GPBC Sugar Plum Fairy is? Hint: This photo was taken on May 18, 1953.

Youth News

The Youth had a very busy month. They went caroling at Lexington Park and Atria, along with the Praise Kids and some adults, on December 11. It's always amazing how such a little gift of our time and presence means so much to our elders who are in homes like this.

All of the Youth sang in the variety show and prepared a lot of solos and special numbers. We thank them for all they contribute to GPBC!

Funded by the congregation through the Communion Fund, the Youth Group adopted a family of five (2 adults and 3 children with ages ranging from 5 to 14). They shopped and delivered gifts and food after the Variety Show.

On January 6, a "Soul Surfer Lock-In" is planned. Information on a February Middle High Jamboree and other events will be announced later.

Keep up the good work. Go YG!

*Thank you to our
 Moderator, Bob Brown,
 for his years of dedicated
 service to the church!*

Holiday Bazaar Successful!

The Needlebee's continued their tradition of organizing a Holiday Bazaar. The event was held on December 3 at the church and was wildly successful! The Bazaar grossed \$3478.60 and netted \$2878.62 after paying expenses.

Many church members contributed to or helped with Bazaar this year. Special thanks is extended to Shirley Ronnau who pieced the quilt, and to her sister Marilyn Moser for quilting it. It was absolutely stunning and many purchased tickets in hopes of winning! The winner was Judy Ginest. Congratulations!

Other members who worked at the Bazaar are: Kitchen Staff—Tracy Bredow, Donna Reiff, Melissa Tillery; Jelly Makers—Kathy Button, Bev Conus, Lynda Foota and Wilda Davison; Candy Shop—Wilda Davison, Denzal Davison and Kathryn Davison; Books—Don and Lynda Foote; Jewelry—Monique and Boyd Litherland; Cashiers—Al West, Chuck Mooneyham, Hank Miller and Jim Dyer; Quilt Tickets—Shirley Ronnau; Needlework and Crafts—Elise Mooneyham, Julia West and Donna Schulz; Holiday Bazaar Flyer—Bethany Curtis; Bulletin Insert—Jeff Conrad and Julia West.

The Needlebees thank all members who contributed items or helped in any way. They also wish to thank all those who came and purchased items!

The Needlebees have always had the goal of remodeling the church kitchen. It will be a big undertaking, but they are getting close to starting that project. God Bless You All!

