

# NEWS FROM THE BRANCH

Vol. 13, No. 14  
December 2009

Greater Pleasant Branch Baptist Church  
Enter To Worship - Depart to Serve

*Merry Christmas*



## The Shepherd's Worship the Savior:

Out in the fields, an angel of the Lord appeared to the shepherds who were tending their flocks of sheep by night. The angel announced that the Savior had been born in the town of David. Suddenly a great host of heavenly beings appeared with the angels and began singing praises to God. As the angelic beings departed, the shepherds decided to travel to Bethlehem and see the Christ-child.

There they found Mary, Joseph and the baby, in the stable. After their visit, they began to spread the word about this amazing child and everything the angel had said about him. They went on their way still praising and glorifying God. But Mary kept quiet, treasuring their words and pondering them in her heart. It must have been beyond her ability to grasp, that sleeping in her arms—the tender child she had just borne—was the Savior of the world.

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## GETTING TO KNOW THE BRANCH FAMILY!



Rhea Williams  
Conway, AR

**When and where were you born, how many sisters and brothers do you have?** I was born September 16th in Baltimore MD. I am the middle of five girls,

two older and two younger, no brothers.

**Who are your parents?**

My father, William Williams, is deceased and my mother is Margaret Williams, breast cancer survivor!

**How many children do you have?**

1 son, Daimon Hogan and 1 daughter, Tracee Williams and 1 granddaughter, Lauryn Hogan.

**What is your profession and how did you choose it?**

I work in banking and have most all of my working career. At an early age my grandmother and uncle trusted me to handle their finances which instilled in me how important trust and integrity are.

**Of all the things you learned from your parents, which do you feel was the most valuable?** Strive to do your best in

whatever you do. My mother used to say "anybody can be average".

**What is your favorite scripture?** I have many favorite scriptures. Each time I go through a trial or am just thankful God speaks to me through His word and for that particular time that is my favorite scripture. Right now Job 26:14 leads me to worship God for who He is. In Job 26, Job speaks of all the great things that God has done. How He hung the earth on nothing. How He wraps up the water in His clouds! He ends with verse 14 by saying that all of the things that we know God has done that is just the fringes of His ways. If we only hear a whisper of Him who could understand His mighty thunder!! God is greater than great. There aren't words in our vocabulary that adequately describe Him. Praise God for being God!

## GETTING TO KNOW THE BRANCH FAMILY!



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## News From The Branch

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After living what I felt was a 'decent' life, my time on earth came to the end. The first thing I remember is sitting on a bench in the waiting room of what I thought to be a court house. The doors opened and I was instructed to come in and have a seat by the defense table.

As I looked around I saw the 'prosecutor.' He was a villainous looking gent who snarled as he stared at me. He definitely was the most evil person I have ever seen. I sat down and looked to my left and there sat My Attorney, kind and gentle looking man whose appearance seemed so familiar to me, I felt I knew Him. The corner door flew open and there appeared the Judge in full flowing robes. He commanded an awesome presence as He moved across the room I couldn't take my eyes off of Him. As He took His seat behind the bench, He said, 'Let us begin.'

The prosecutor rose and said, 'My name is Satan and I am here to show you why this woman belongs in hell.' He proceeded to tell of lies that I told, things that I stole, and In the past when I cheated others Satan told of other horrible Perversions that were once in my life and the more he spoke, the further down in my seat I sank.

I was so embarrassed that I couldn't look at anyone, even my own Attorney, as the Devil told of sins that even I had completely forgotten about. As upset as I was at Satan for telling all these things about me, I was equally upset at My Attorney who sat there silently not Offering any form of defense at all. I know I had been guilty of those things, but I had done some good in my life - couldn't that at least equal out part of the harm I'd done? Satan finished with a fury and said, 'This woman belongs in hell, she is guilty of all that I have charged and there is not a person who can prove otherwise.'

When it was His turn, My Attorney first asked if He might approach the bench. The Judge allowed this over the strong objection of Satan, and beckoned Him to come forward. As He got up and started walking, I was able to see Him in His full splendor and majesty.

I realized why He seemed so familiar; this was Jesus representing me, my Lord and my Savior. He stopped at the bench and softly said to the Judge, 'Hi, Dad,' and then He turned to address the court. 'Satan was correct in saying that this woman had sinned, I won't deny any of these allegations. And, yes, the wage of sin is death, and this woman deserves to be punished.' Jesus took a deep breath and turned to His Father with outstretched arms and proclaimed, 'However, I died on the cross so that this person might have eternal life and she has accepted Me as her Savior, so she is Mine.'

My Lord continued with, 'Her name is written in the Book of Life, and no one can snatch her from Me. Satan still does not understand yet. This woman is not to be given justice, but rather mercy.' As Jesus sat down, He quietly paused, looked at His Father and said,

'There is nothing else that needs to be done.' 'I've done it all.'

The Judge lifted His mighty hand and slammed the gavel down. The following words bellowed from His lips.. 'This woman is free.' The penalty for her has already been paid in full. 'Case dismissed.'

As my Lord led me away, I could hear Satan ranting and raving, 'I won't give up, I will win the next one.' I asked Jesus as He gave me my instructions where to go next, 'Have you ever lost a case?'

Christ lovingly smiled and said, 'Everyone that has come to Me and asked Me to represent them has received the same verdict as you,

# INSIDE STORY HEADLINE

This story can fit 150-200 words.

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leases, market studies, and reports.

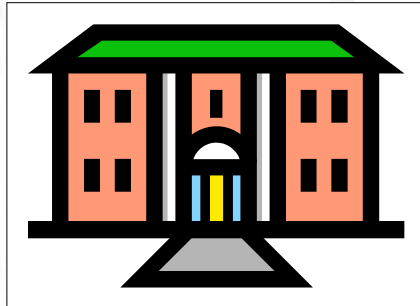
While your main goal of distributing a newsletter might be to sell your product or service, the key to a successful newsletter is making it useful to your readers.

the World Wide Web. You can write about a variety of topics but try to keep your articles short.

Much of the content you put in your newsletter can also be used for your Web site. Microsoft Publisher offers a simple way to convert your newsletter to a Web publication. So, when you're finished writing your newsletter, convert it to a Web site and post it.

A great way to add useful content to your newsletter is to develop and write your own articles, or include a calendar of upcoming events or a special offer that promotes a new product.

You can also research articles or find "filler" articles by accessing



Caption describing picture or graphic.

*"To catch the reader's attention, place an interesting sentence or quote from the story here."*

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The subject matter that appears in newsletters is virtually endless. You can include stories that focus on current technologies or innovations in your field.

You may also want to note business or economic trends, or make predictions for your

customers or clients.

If the newsletter is distributed internally, you might comment upon new procedures or improvements to the business. Sales figures or earnings will show how your business is growing.

Some newsletters include a column that is updated every issue, for instance, an advice

column, a book review, a letter from the president, or an editorial. You can also profile new employees or top customers or vendors.

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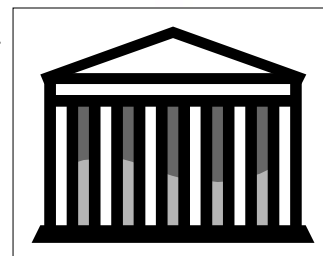
Think about your article and ask yourself if the picture supports or enhances the message you're trying to convey. Avoid selecting images that appear to be out of context.

Microsoft Publisher includes

thousands of clip art images from which you can choose and import into your newsletter. There are also several tools you can use to draw shapes and symbols.

Once you have chosen an image, place it close to the article. Be sure

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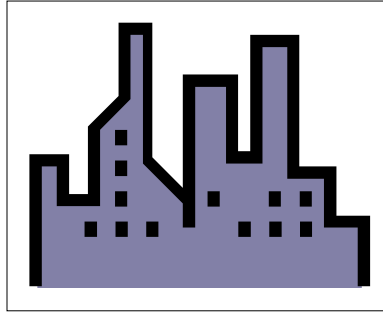
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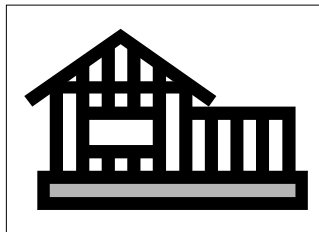
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## News From The Branch

### “What’s Your Love Gauge?”

[1 Corinthians 13]

We pledge to walk together in Christian love as a Covenant Community. In ourselves, we cannot do this without the aid of the Holy Spirit. However, we are commanded to “love one another” (John 15:17). We are also told by the Head of the Church that the world will know that we are His disciples if we demonstrate love toward one another (John 13:35). Love for one another, then is a non-negotiable. We must make periodic checks of our love for our fellow sisters and brothers within the fellowship. The Apostle Paul states that love is more important than all of the spiritual gifts exercised in the church (1 Corinthians 13:13). The following “Love Gauge”, based on 1 Corinthians 13, will help us evaluate ourselves in terms of the level of our demonstration of love toward one another.

Directions. Circle the number of the phrase that best describes how you would rate under GOD’S evaluation of your demonstration of love.

**I am patient with people in my congregation.**

1

2

3

Smattering of Applause

Round of Applause

Standing Ovation

**I am gracious and practice generosity toward the members of my congregation.**

1

2

3

Smattering of Applause

Round of Applause

Standing Ovation

**I am not jealous of anyone else’s gift(s) in my congregation.**

1

2

3

Smattering of Applause

Round of Applause

Standing Ovation

**I never brag or boast about my works to others in my congregation.**

1

2

3

Smattering of Applause

Round of Applause

Standing Ovation

**I do not display an arrogant attitude toward others in my congregation.**

1

2

3

Smattering of Applause

Round of Applause

Standing Ovation

**I am not rude to or overbearing toward members in my congregation.**

1

2

3

Smattering of Applause

Round of Applause

Standing Ovation

**I do not seek to have my way in my congregation, that is, I am not selfish.**

1

2

3

Smattering of Applause

Round of Applause

Standing Ovation

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## News From The Branch

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### “What’s Your Love Gauge?”

[1 Corinthians 13]

Cont:

**I am not irritated or angered by personal offenses in my congregation.**

<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Smattering of Applause</b>	<b>Round of Applause</b>	<b>Standing Ovation</b>

**I do not find pleasure in the sins of others, even that of an enemy.**

<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Smattering of Applause</b>	<b>Round of Applause</b>	<b>Standing Ovation</b>

**I am devoted to truth in everything.**

<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Smattering of Applause</b>	<b>Round of Applause</b>	<b>Standing Ovation</b>

**With regard to things within God’s righteous and gracious will, I strive to protect, believe, hope, and endure what others reject.**

<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Smattering of Applause</b>	<b>Round of Applause</b>	<b>Standing Ovation</b>

Add your circled numbers for a total score and write it here: \_\_\_\_\_. Use the comments on the next page as a starting point for growing in the demonstration of love toward the other members of your congregation so that your evaluation from God’s perspective will consistently improve. Remember, we are commanded to walk together in Christian love as one of our primary duties to our church fellowship.

If you score 30 – 33, you are on the right track and need to continue to consistently do what you are doing.

If you score 26 – 29, you are in the game and need to keep striving to get even better.

If you score 22 – 25, you are aware of the need, but need to up your game plan.

If you score 20 – 21, you have a pulse, but it is very faint. You need a booster shot.

If you score, 19 and below, you are dead and don’t know it. You need spiritual resuscitation immediately!

**Write your growth need below and commit to taking active steps, by the aid of the Holy Spirit, to please God more consistently in this area of your relationship with Him and with your covenant community.**

**Church Services**

Sunday School.....9:30 a.m.  
 Morning Worship.....10:45 a.m.  
 Lord’s Supper .....1st Sunday  
 Bible Study .....6:30 p.m.  
 Wednesday  
 Prayer Meeting .....7:30 p.m.  
 Wednesday

**Pastor**

Rev. J. R. Raynor

**Ministers**

Rev. Tyler Cain  
 Rev. Wayne Hoskins  
 Rev. Ricky McFadden  
 Rev. Mark White

**Deacons**

Marvin Bedford  
 Reginald Campbell  
 Carl Harris  
 Lloyd Hervey  
 Frank Holbrook  
 Darryl McGee

**Board of Trustees**

James Hogan  
 Victor Maxfield  
 Gerald McHenry  
 Howard Nunn  
 Derrell Turner

**Church Treasurer**

Reuel Shepherd

**Church Clerk**

Helen Ticey

**Turkey Trivia**



**ANNOUNCEMENTS!**

