

NEWS FROM THE BRANCH

Vol. 13, No. 13
November 2009

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

54th Pastor's Anniversary Celebration Pastor Raynor: A Man of Good Report



"Moreover he must have a good report of them which are without; lest he fall into reproach and the snare of the devil." 1 Timothy 3:7



Table of Contents	
• Pastor Raynor.....	1
• Branch Family.....	2
• What's your Love Gauge.....	3
• What's your Love Gauge.....	4
• Church Services.....	6
• Announcements.....	6
• Turkey Trivia.....	6

**Guest Minister: Rev. Jim Barrington Minix
Gaines Street Missionary Baptist Church**

**Anniversary Program:
November 8th, 2:30 p.m.**

GETTING TO KNOW THE BRANCH FAMILY!



Imani Hogan

When and where were you born?

June 7, 1993 in Little Rock

Who are your parents?

James and Jamisa Hogan

What School do you attend?

Conway High School West

What's your favorite color?

My favorite color is orange!!!

What is your favorite book?

My favorite book is *Beloved* by Toni Morrison.

What is your favorite food?

My favorite food is CHICKEN!!!!

What is your favorite pastime or Hobby?

My favorite hobby is to watch t.v. and texting!

If you could pick your dream job what would you be?

I would like to be a Software Engineer.

What is your favorite scripture?

Romans 12:1-2

"I BESEECH you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect will of God.

What college do you plan to attend after High School?

I don't know what college I want to go to yet, but somewhere not too close to home. If I had to stay in Arkansas, I would go to the University of Arkansas at Fayetteville.

GETTING TO KNOW THE BRANCH FAMILY!



Brannon Sargent

When and where were you born?

October 22, 1994 in Pine Bluff, Arkansas.

Who are your parents?

Bruce and Melody Sargent.

What School do you attend?

I attend Conway High School East.

What's your favorite color?

My favorite color is blue.

What is your favorite book?

My favorite book is *To Kill a Mockingbird*.

What is your favorite food?

My Favorite food is Macaroni & Cheese.

What is your favorite pastime or hobby

My favorite hobby is playing basketball.

If you could pick your dream job what would you be?

I would like to do something in the business field.

What is your favorite scripture?

John 3:16

For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have everlasting life.

What college do you plan to attend after High School?

I plan to attend Louisiana State University (LSU).

Thanksgiving

Many Americans think of Thanksgiving as a wonderful time to celebrate getting out of school for a long weekend, and eating a great dinner. Or, maybe they think it is the start of the Christmas holiday season. What is the real meaning behind Thanksgiving? Catherine Millard writes:

We can trace this historic American Christian tradition to the year 1623. After the harvest crops were gathered in November 1623, Governor William Bradford of the 1620 Pilgrim Colony, "Plymouth Plantation" in Plymouth, Massachusetts proclaimed:

"All ye Pilgrims with your wives and little ones, do gather at the Meeting House, on the hill... there to listen to the pastor, and **render Thanksgiving to the Almighty God for all His blessings.**"

This is the origin of our annual Thanksgiving Day celebration. Congress of the United States has proclaimed National Days of Thanksgiving to Almighty God many times throughout the following years. On November 1, 1777, by order of Congress, the first National Thanksgiving Proclamation was proclaimed, and signed by Henry Laurens, President of Continental Congress. The third Thursday of December, 1777 was thus officially set aside:

"...for solemn thanksgiving and praise. That with one heart and one voice the good people may **express the grateful feelings of their hearts, and consecrate themselves to the service of their Divine Benefactor; ... and their humble and earnest supplication that it may please God, through the merits of Jesus Christ, mercifully to forgive and blot them (their manifold sins) out of remembrance...** That it may please Him... to take schools and seminaries of education, so necessary for cultivating the principles of true liberty, virtue and piety under His nurturing hand, and to prosper the means of religion for the promotion and enlargement of that kingdom which consisteth of 'righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Ghost'..."

Then again, on January 1, 1795, our first United States President, George Washington, wrote his famed National Thanksgiving Proclamation, in which he says that it is...

"...our duty as a people, with devout reverence and affectionate gratitude, **to acknowledge our many and great obligations to Almighty God, and to implore Him to continue is... our duty as a people, with devout reverence and affectionate gratitude, to acknowledge our many and great obligations to Almighty God, and to implore Him to continue and confirm the blessings we experienced...**"

Thursday, the 19th day of February, 1795 was thus set aside by George Washington as a National Day of Thanksgiving.

Many years later, on October 3, 1863, Abraham Lincoln **proclaimed**, by Act of Congress, an annual National Day of Thanksgiving "on the last Thursday of November, as **a day of Thanksgiving and Praise to our beneficent Father who dwelleth in the heavens.**" In this Thanksgiving proclamation, our 16th President says that it is...

"...announced in the Holy Scriptures and proven by all history, that those nations are blessed whose God is the Lord... But **we have forgotten God. We have forgotten the gracious hand which preserved us in peace and multiplied and enriched and strengthened us, and we have vainly imagined, by the deceitfulness of our hearts, that all these blessings were produced by some superior wisdom and virtue of our own...** It has seemed to me fit and proper that God should be solemnly, reverently and gratefully acknowledged, as with one heart and one voice, by the whole American people..."

So it is that on Thanksgiving Day each year, Americans give thanks to Almighty God for all His blessings and mercies toward us throughout the year.



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

News From The Branch

“What’s Your Love Gauge?”

[1 Corinthians 13]

Cont:

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

1

2

3

Smattering of Applause

Round of Applause

Standing Ovation

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

1

2

3

Smattering of Applause

Round of Applause

Standing Ovation

I am devoted to truth in everything.

1

2

3

Smattering of Applause

Round of Applause

Standing Ovation

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

1

2

3

Smattering of Applause

Round of Applause

Standing Ovation

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 Supper1st Sunday
 Bible Study6:30 p.m.
 Wednesday
 Prayer Meeting7:30 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

How much do you know about the turkey?

When was the first Thanksgiving celebration?

- 1492
- 1567
- 1621
- 1777

What great American statesman lobbied to make the turkey the national symbol?

- Benjamin Franklin
- Thomas Jefferson
- John Adams
- Andrew Jackson

About how many feathers does a mature turkey have?

- 1,500
- 2,000
- 3,500
- 5,000

Which state produces the most turkeys annually?

- Kansas
- Ohio
- Arkansas
- Minnesota

Approximately what percentage of American homes eats turkey on Thanksgiving?

- 49%
- 67%
- 82%
- 90%

Answer: 1:1621 2:Benjamin Franklin 3:3,500 4:Minnesota 5:90%

ANNOUNCEMENTS!

54th Pastor’s Anniversary Celebration
Pastor Raynor: A Man of Good Report
 November 8th, 2009

Guest Minister:
 Rev. Jim Barrington Minix
 Gaines Street Missionary Baptist
 Church

Anniversary Program:
 November 8th, 2:30 p.m.

November 29,2009
 Women Hat day

Cantata
 December 6, 2009
 5:00 pm