

SCENE



Photo by Flavita Hoffman

Bob Appenzeller (with pitchfork) poses with other members of the grounds team in front of the floral addition to the SH landscape.

FALL FLORA COMES TO SURREY HILLS

Since September visitors and members have been enjoying a new and beautiful view in front of SHBC. The new flower bed (pictured above) was supervised primarily by Bob Appenzeller, who oversaw its installation and has nurtured the plants since then. Pictured with Bob are (L to R) Dee Chasteen, Angel Lledo, Rick Word, Don Willock, George Nightingale, and John Shriver, who worked on various other beautification projects to give the church a fresh appearance. "I want to see the church grow and this area makes the first impression on visitors." Bob said. "We planted perennials so that they will come back each year. We want to tell others about the love of God and I wanted to make the church as inviting as possible."

KNOW YOUR SURREY HILLS FAMILY

By David Brainard

VERNON BANKS



It is fitting to star this monthly column by honoring Vernon Banks first. Vernon was instrumental in the start of SHBC. It started in his home, then moved to an elementary school, before building the original church.

Vernon typifies the

SH church family. He is warm and caring. He always has a handshake and a smile ready for new members and old members alike. He exudes a servant heart. When I first came to the church, Vernon was the reason I came back. His conversation displayed genuine concern for me. Since then, I have found out many times the love he has for the Lord. He has followed me home after many meetings, supported me to the door, and settled me inside my home. "If there is anything else you need, call me" he says. And he really means it. Vernon has offered to do so many things for me and done them! He has brought me dozens of meals. He has weeded my flower bed. He has spent hours at the church working on the flower beds, attending meetings, answering a midnight call because the alarm went off- just being Vernon. I see Jesus in him as he kneels down to remove my shoes. I see Jesus washing the disciples' feet. A founding father of our church- kneeling down to serve me. Rick Word tells the story of having surgery, waking up from the ether, and seeing Vernon standing by his bed. "I thought he was an angel," Rick says. Maybe he is. Get to know Vernon Banks- a pillar in our Surrey Hills family.

PASTOR'S PERSPECTIVE

By Dr. Doug Brown

In 1453, the Ottoman Empire captured the ancient city of Constantinople. Just before the city's fall, many scholars gathered the ancient texts and fled to the West, taking with them some of the most important works of history and writing. At the same time, a new invention was becoming prominent in Europe: the movable type printing press, which Johannes Guttenberg perfected. The flood of documents, many of which were the remaining manuscripts of the writings of the Bible, along with the new way to produce books in record time, led to what became known as the Guttenberg Bible. This Bible, along with the theme of "Back to the originals" In the Renaissance, and a desire to know what came before, played a significant role in the Protestant Reformation that would take place in less than a century and change the course of history in the West.

The celebration and transformative work of God's Word from the past should remind us of the necessity of focusing on the Bible. In our day, we are blessed with dozens of modern English translations, and I fear we sometimes take the prevalence of God's Word for granted. However, it is important to remember that the Bible remains as relevant and significant in our lives today as it did in the past.

In Luke 24:27, Jesus opened the eyes of two of His disciples by showing them that ALL of God's Word, the Old Testament as we know it, pointed to who Jesus is. I challenge you to take time to study, learn, and teach God's Word and never take for granted what a blessing we have to understand who Jesus is by reading what the Bible says about Him. In doing so, we can carry on the tradition of "back to the originals." The original being the Word of God.

GROWING DEEPER SPIRITUALLY

By Denise Willock

HE GAVE ME MY DESIRE!

Living on one paycheck with a large family is challenging but not impossible. By frugal meal planning, gardening and canning, we can enjoy nutritious home-cooked meals, even if we do not always have the extra others may take for granted.

Usually I am content with God's provision and rejoice that he meets our needs in various ways.

This past holiday season though, I experienced a desire for "just a cup of nice, hot tea." Unfortunately, tea is not in our budget. I felt rather discontent and grumbled that I had none. A short time later, I repented of my attitude and once again accepted our limitations.

Unexpectedly, the next day, I ran across a recipe for, of all things, Pine Needle Tea. Two of our sons had brought home some pine cones and needles from their grandparents' property a week or two before. I gathered some of the needles, and as the recipe instructed, added water and boiled them. It was delicious and truly a blessing, meeting the desire of my heart.

I had an abundant supply of pine needles to last through Christmas. In fact, I am still enjoying Pine Needle Tea from my frozen pine needles!

BRIDGING THE GAP

By Rick Word

A CHRISTMAS LESSON (Excerpt from the book *The Adventures of Sam the Terrier*)

Rick told me that his complaining days started early. He had just turned three in September, and here it was, Christmas. He thought he would get a lot of toys for Christmas and was upset when he didn't. Money was tight. Marshall had just started a new law practice. Elta was Marshall's legal secretary. Rick's only gift was a new toy road grader. He started to complain and began saying rude things to his parents. Elta decided to apply some wisdom to his seat of learning. Then Marshall applied some more learning in the same area. Elta had a flash of inspiration. She rewrapped the toy road grader and informed Rick, "We are going to play Santa Claus." She drove him to a house with a little boy his age who didn't have any new toys for Christmas. She had Rick give the road grader to that little boy.

On the way home, Elta asked, "How many three-year-old boys get spankings on Christmas morning before nine o'clock?" Rick was silent. He knew he had made a very bad choice.

During Rick's childhood, Elta would help him deliver toys to all kinds of kids who didn't get many toys. She would say, "This is part of your Christmas that we are giving away." My puppy sense tells me that Rick learned how to be grateful and how to share.

LIONS ROAR

The King's Gate Lions are roaring around the school and in the community. The school's enrollment is up to 225 from age 2 to 12th grade. Ten seniors will be the first graduating class. Their Fall Festival raised hundreds of dollars for the PTO. The upper school students recently hosted Church Under the Bridge and sang at St. Ann's Retirement Center. Athletic teams complete in girls' volleyball, flag football, cross country and bowling. Five seniors were accepted into The National Honor Society. The school will host ROAR Week, the main fundraiser for the year, and is seeking sponsors. Contact the school for details. Support the Lions!

THE SENIOR SCENE

ADVENTURE ON THE HIGH SEAS

By Diana Stewart

If you have never heard of the LAL Group, allow me to introduce you. LAL stands for "Life After Loss." Eight years ago, after Sandra Sneed and I lost our husbands, we began meeting regularly for Lunch. Soon other widows began to join us. We found a unique connection as we all understood the pain and challenges that come with losing our spouses. It brought us comfort to be together.

Last year we began to see that losing a spouse to divorce was also an incredible loss, so the LAL Group expanded our connection to include all ladies who have suffered the loss of a spouse for whatever reason.

One year ago, as our ladies were learning how to build a new life after loss, we came up with a brilliant idea to go on a cruise. It seemed a bit impossible at the time, but we began to plan anyway. Half of the fun of cruising is the planning. We garnered a group of widows and ladies who still had their husbands.

We finally sailed on September 30th. Our journey was extraordinary! We became the talk of the ship when all 8 of us wore our hot pink cruise t-shirts. We laughed, we worshipped, and we made memories that will last a lifetime. If you have lost your spouse by death or divorce, join us as together we learn how to have a new life after a loss. You will be blessed!



Members of the SH LAL Group ready to set sail

THE TEEN SCENE

By Kim Chretin

Several of our youth from SHBC performed in a play production of "The Radium Girls" with Piedmont HS theater dept Nov 14-16. It was a docu-drama based on the tragic real life events that happened around the 1920's at the American Radium Factory. Many women workers were being poisoned and died while painting glow-in-the-dark watch dials that used radium to make them luminous. The company originally denied it and covered it up, but the women pursued and eventually the truth came out and justice prevailed in the courts. Our youth played many leading roles and support cast, even a student-director! I was very moved while watching them expertly portray such brave and important people in our country's industrial history that I had never heard about. SHBC Youth are definitely gifted with acting, directing, and teamwork skills and I was very proud to see them represent Christ and our church in this way.



Back row, left to right: Caid, Rafael, Ryan, Patrick, Jackson, Gracie, Michelle. Front row, left to right: Cole, Katie, Emma, Baylee, Melissa

A quote from Baylee:

"It's so great to see all the Youth that were representing Surrey Hills Baptist Church in the Piedmont High School play! Not only did we have such a great time putting this show together, but we were able to build fellowship in our theatre community by leading in prayer circles and encouragement within the group!

God is definitely moving in the Youth at our church, and I'm glad we're being equipped to go and

'Be The Church' in our school's theatre department!"

THE TEEN SCENE

CONTINUED

A few weeks ago, the SH teens took to the streets in the name of the Lord and SH. Ten teens and six sponsors took flyers to the doors of Surrey Hills residents under the supervision of Dustin Mills, youth pastor. He said, "They were a little nervous at first, but after the first house they were excited to get to the next one. The group handed out approximately 60 flyers over an hour and a half walk. The students asked for prayer requests. "A couple of people offered to pray with our kids for any requests that we had," Dustin said.

THE SILENT SONG OF CHRISTMAS

The SILENT SONG of CHRISTMAS...is sung the whole year through

But there's no words or music...It's Christ in me and you
It tells of truth and wisdom...as it discerns a lie
Strength and comfort give you...when tears are in your eyes

The SILENT SONG of CHRISTMAS...tells how to truly care
No empty words or wishes...but with empathy...you share
This gift of love and kindness...more precious than pure gold
Gives guidance to the children...is cherished by the old

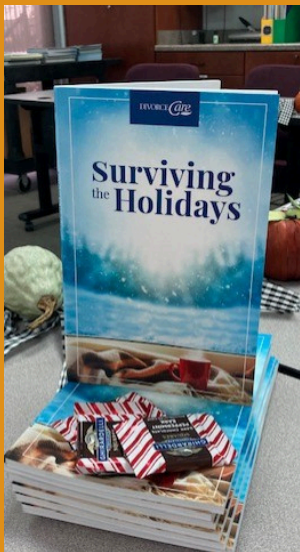
Oh, this SILENT SONG is JESUS...God sent one cold dark night

JESUS brought forgiveness...Joy, Love, Peace, and Light!
Oh, may we n'er forget this song...that's heard throughout the land

It's sung within the silence...from the heart of God to Man.
It's sung within the silence...from the heart of God...to Man.

By Joan Pearson-Word

On Saturday November 16th, the SHBC Biblical Counseling Ministry put on the event "Surviving the Holidays" for those experiencing loss this season due to death or divorce. It was a time of ministry thru gathering at the church for coffee & muffins, then watching an informative 30-min video of Godly principles of grief and biblical strategies to help. That was followed by group discussion time about what new coping skills they had learned and share their personal experiences during this difficult chapter of their life. Grief Share leaders Ms. Pat and Donna Kay led one group and Divorce Care leader Kimberly led the other, while Scharlee Glenn oversaw all the days activities and handled registration.



The 2 hour event was followed by an amazing homemade soup & chicken salad luncheon lovingly provided by the Fellowship Committee. Yummy pies for dessert and lovely tables decorated by Ms Judy made the whole day warm and welcoming for all.

Thank you to everyone that served, participated and prayed for us!

By Kim Chretin





THREE DEFINITIONS OF CHRISTMAS

CHRISTMAS IS HOPE

How long the world had waited for the coming of the Messiah! How often they had hoped for the day...And then one long-ago night in Bethlehem, a heavenly sign that the birth of Christ Child was near...

“And the angel said to them, fear not behold, I bring you glad tidings of great joy.”

The star of Bethlehem still should shine as radiantly and brightly as ever in our hearts and should shine as we anticipate His coming once again! For as long as we renew our faith and hope, and welcome the Christ Child with the same triumphant joy which the shepherds felt on that first Christmas night...

CHRISTMAS IS LOVE

What greater love could exist than the love of God for man: the love which prompted God to send His son to earth, to be born in humbleness and obscurity, in order that men might be saved?

“And she brought forth her first born Son, and wrapped Him in swaddling clothes, and laid Him in a manger.”

Can we ever thank God enough for his infinite love of us? For coming down to us? Do we realize fully what He is truly?

“THE GOD OF LOVE”

As long as we strive to keep in our hearts a spark of the Divine Love; love for God and for our neighbor...**CHRISTMAS IS LOVE**

CHRISTMAS IS PEACE

“PEACE ON EARTH TO MEN GOOD WILL...”

Picture the quiet hills of Bethlehem, the radiant star, and the peaceful stable with the Infant King; Mary His mother: and Joseph. Tranquility, peace, calm serenity, noise, confusion, chaos of our modern world! It can be most consoling to withdraw for a moment or two from all this hustle and bustle into some quiet church or chapel to contemplate the birth of the Christ Child, the miracle of His coming, the love he has for all men! How rewarding, how satisfying to feel the presence of God in our hearts and souls: if we recapture the quiet and tranquility of the first Christmas with the **PRINCE OF PEACE**.

WANT ADS/NEEDS

If you have something to sell or give away, or if you have a need, list it here in the newsletter. Contact Kristin Hulin, Flavita Hoffman, or David Brainard.

SERVICE DIRECTORY

**Steve Graham: (405)413-1964
Plumbing and Handyman**

**We'd like to add you to our service directory.
Turn in your name and service to Kasey Blouin,
Kristin Hulin, or David Brainard.**