



# BROAD STREET

## BANNER

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BROAD STREET CHURCH OF CHRIST

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*From Where I Sit . . .*

### **“The State of the Congregation”**

It's an exciting time to be a part of the Broad Street congregation. We've come out of a very busy season of preparation for our young people and their involvement with the Lads to Leaders and Leaderettes training program, and our trip to the National Convention is in just two weeks, Lord willing. Our students are growing spiritually, and want to be servants of the Lord. They continue to bring their friends to visit our classes and services. We should all express appreciation to the adults who work with them around the calendar to bring out the very best that can be offered.

The Elders recently sponsored a retreat for all the men of the congregation which was very well attended. These men offered wonderful insight into areas where we can improve our worship and service for the Lord. Attempts are underway even now to address as many of these ideas as can be responded to in a short period of time. More will come. The retreat has pumped new life into many of us. Shortly after that retreat, many of our ladies had a weekend together for spiritual renewal. There's a renewed determination in the air. The spirit of both meetings was very encouraging, and supportive of the direction we are charting.

This congregation is full of workers. Our benevolent-clothing program has involved a number of volunteers in hundreds of hours of hard work, and is fully functional each week. The pantry work is widely supported by families who bring bags of groceries to meet the needs of many Jackson County families weekly. Scores of families each year receive relief from both of these outreaches. Additionally, many dozens are helped annually in emergency situations that involve financial outreach. While we could easily spend millions, we do spend what's available to us very carefully so it will cover the greater number of people and give God the glory. We continue to support other benevolent programs such as Agape, Rainbow Omega, and Potter's Home.

Our card ministries are actually hard to keep up with, from Ladies classes, to Care Groups, to private mailings by scores of Christians. We hear often of just how much these expressions mean to the recipients.

Our teachers are diligent in their efforts in regular Bible classes, Sunday night classes, Vacation Bible School, Lads to Leaders and Leaderettes. The congregation is offering a broad base of Biblical instruction. We are on the radio preaching the Gospel each Lord's Day. Our new mission outreach to Lavonia, GA not only helps preach the Gospel there, but has allowed us to branch out with them into Operation Starfish in Zimbabwe. We continue to help our college students who want to go on campaigns to foreign soil, and we annually continue to help with the trip to Romania. Meanwhile we are involved in Inter-City Ministries in Montgomery, the Apologetics Press Ministry, and help with training preachers at Heritage Christian University in Florence. Many volunteers staffed our fair booth and Senior Expo Booth where hundreds of teaching brochures were distributed and video Bible studies presented.

Can we do better? Of course we can. We should never be satisfied until every member of this congregation has been drawn by God's grace, your love, your teaching, and your visitation to be what Jesus would have us to be. We can improve in our attendance patterns, in our stewardship of material possessions, in saving the lost, in making everyone feel a part of the family. We can improve in the diligence with which family units support the youth program. We can improve in the area of hungering for knowledge of the Bible and dedication to being faithful to His Word. Our worship services are uplifting, but each one of us can get more out of them if we commit ourselves to putting more into the spiritual atmosphere of our worship.

We are family – The Family of God. We should never be satisfied until every family member knows they are loved and received and nurtured by the part that each one of us supplies to this relationship. Sunday is the next opportunity we have of worshipping together. I look forward to seeing you then.

**. . . . Terry Broome**