

# Rockdale Baptist Church

## Church Profile

2009-2010

## **Pastor Profile**

We are seeking a man with Senior Pastoral experience of at least 5 years. Ideally this person will have a Masters of Divinity. Most of our congregation foresees their pastor as a married man who is committed to families. More specific to ministry priorities, our congregation clearly wants an effective communicator of well prepared expository sermons who emphasizes discipleship and personal spiritual growth. We are striving to find a man to be of spiritual discernment and one that maintains Biblical integrity. An outcome of this would be a greater love for God and emphasis on the importance of lifestyle evangelism.

Near the beginning of the search for our new pastor, the church membership participated in a survey to aid the Pastor Search Team in finding the man that God has been preparing for this community of believers. Our unofficial motto is "God's man in God's time". While we seek to be sensitive to the expectations of the church body, it is our deepest belief that we find the man that God has been preparing to minister to our community setting. We hope that as you read this profile you will not automatically disqualify yourself if you do not "fit the mold" per se, but that you would see our heart and that this would help you determine if God is leading you towards a relationship with Rockdale Baptist. Our prayers are with you and your family as you seek the church God has for you. We would appreciate your prayers for us in this process as well.

### **Raw Data from Church Survey**

78% desire seminary education

60% desire >5yrs pastoral experience

96% envision a married pastor

### **Top 3 Ministry Priorities**

- 1- a person who emphasizes discipleship and spiritual growth and an effective communicator of well prepared sermons.
- 2- a gifted teacher who enables persons to learn and understand deep spiritual truths
- 3- a person who emphasizes evangelism and the importance of lifestyle witnessing

**Noteworthy-** >50% seek a person with a leadership vision and a well developed vision for the future of the church

## Church Statistics 2005-2009

	<u>2005</u>	<u>2006</u>	<u>2007</u>	<u>2008</u>	<u>2009</u>
church attendance	730	748	698	624	472
SS	641	634	627	566	466
Budget Receipts	\$2,186,891.00	\$1,800,408.00	\$1,676,012.00	\$1,397,202.00	\$1,246,392.00
Baptism	31	54	32	35	20
Rock U	305	272	305	305	143

## Education

### Sunday School

In order to “connect” with a church you need to be a part of a small group. A Sunday School class meets that need. Sound Bible teaching, worship, evangelism, discipleship, fellowship, and ministry takes place there. Our Classes are organized so that everyone has a place. The groups are organized according to age (in the case of couples classes the age group is determined by the wife’s age). There is a full age graded Sunday School at 9:30.

### SUNDAY SCHOOL DRIVEN MINISTRIES

Rockdale Baptist has ministered to its members as well as the community for over 161 years. Our Education Pastor, Dwayne Jones, challenged the Sunday School to reach out more and document activities so we as a church body could engage in these activities as well as hold each other accountable.

### TEACHING MINISTRY ----

- “LAKEVIEW” is a predominately Hispanic neighborhood. A building on the premises is used for Church and Sunday School. Rockdale supplies a total of 13 teachers with an average attendance of 65 each Sunday. Children are the major attendees. Projects to assist this mission include clean-up days, purchasing vacuum cleaners, repair steps, paint, and install ceiling tiles. Classes provide refreshments and furnish each child with school supplies and Christmas presents. Church members drive the church vans to pick up attendees each Sunday.
- ESL –English Speaking Language Class has 5 church members who teach weekly. Also, 5 church members keep the nursery for adults attending classes. We provide one van driver to bring students to our church for these classes.

- SPECIAL NEEDS MINISTRY - A Sunday School hour and worship service takes place every Sunday for individuals with physical and/or mental disabilities. Four workers facilitate the Sunday School services and attend worship services with them by means of a closed circuit TV. This class has an enrolment of 40 with an average attendance of 25. This is the only church and Sunday School program offered in the county servicing individuals with special needs.

#### COUNTY MINISTRY ----

- Drives held by classes to give to local food bank & clothes closet.
- Supportive partner for the Refuge Crisis Pregnancy Center.
- Deliver "Meals on Wheels".
- Furnish snacks to Cancer Specialist Center (facility for those taking chemo) for patients & caregivers.
- Pre-school & children classes make & present Valentine Bags for Teachers at local Elementary School.
- Children sing & present programs at Nursing Homes.
- Go to Nursing homes and manicure nails for the ladies every week.
- Participated with Stone Mountain Association Service Project (held at Horse Park) by interacting with children & sharing about God.
- Participate with Christmas Foster Care Ministry.

#### MINISTRIES OUTSIDE OUR IMMEDIATE AREA ----

- Donate money quarterly to Hebron Colony Ministries in Boone, N.C. (ministry for men who have addictions).
- Provide lunch on a quarterly basis for homeless shelter.
- Fill shoe boxes for Samaritan Purse "Operation Christmas Child".
- Sent Bibles to soldiers over seas with personal notes to encourage them.
- Sold Rwanda Coffee & donated money to help in the Rwanda Well project.
- Clothing, food & toiletries sent to Navaho children in New Mexico.
- Participate in Retired Pastor's Annuitant Fund.
- Sent \$2700 for missionary in Peru whose house had been burglarized & raised money for the pastor's library.
- Provided doctor's appointment transportation, meals, and Christmas gifts for the family of a single mother awaiting a liver transplant.

#### MINISTRIES WITHIN OUR CHURCH BODY ----

- Sponsor several youth for mission trips.
- Hosted pizza lunch for our Special Ministries Class (36 members present).
- Meals for new parents.
- Meals for families who experience death in their family.
- Support financially, provide food & host young people in homes during "Disciple Now Weekend".
- Maintenance work on Mission house on church property.

- Carry to doctors, grocery store, etc for those members unable to drive.
- Yard work & house repairs for Sr. Adult who has health problems.
- Taking care of Cambodian family with food, gift cards, baby products, school supplies, and job applications.
- Contributed money to help with cost of funeral expenses.
- Helped lady in Sunday School Class having immigration problems.
- Large participation with fall festivals sponsored by Church for reaching community as well as church family.
- Meals and gifts for home bound members.
- Students painted & decorated Sunday School rooms within Youth area.
- Students help each year with VBS.
- Help with clean-up & maintenance of church property.
- Provide care packages for church family member and their relatives who are serving in the military.

### **Rock U.**

Rock U is our Sunday night small groups ministry. Each semester we offer approximately 25 different courses such as “Financial Peace”, “Experiencing God”, “The Five Love Languages”, courses by Beth Moore, and much, much more. Courses are offered for every age group. Semesters run from January to March, July through August, and September through November.

### **Weekday Preschool**

Our Weekday Preschool program began in 1991 with three teachers and approximately 30 students. Today, we have 21 teachers and assistants and approximately 125 students. Classes are offered for ages one through kindergarten in a loving, Christian environment. Classes are small to meet the needs of each child. Our focus is on God’s love and providing the opportunity for the children to develop spiritually, physically, emotionally, socially as well as academically. It is our goal to give each child a positive “school” experience and teach them of God’s unconditional love for them.

### **Worship Ministry**

Rockdale Baptist has a dynamic worship ministry. Characterized by blended and contemporary styles of worship, our worship ministry seeks to bring people into the presence of God each week. The worship ministry also seeks to provide avenues for people to develop and use their gifts for the glory of God in the areas of music, drama, visual and performing arts, and media technology. We have opportunities for people of all ages to join the worship ministry.

### **Sanctuary Choir**

Led by Ron Gardner, Worship Pastor

The Sanctuary Choir leads worship each Sunday morning in the 8:15am worship services. In addition to their weekly responsibilities, they also present seasonal musical celebrations and worship services throughout the year.

This choir is open to any person who is 9th grade or older and has the desire to serve as a lead worshiper. Ron Gardner, Worship Pastor, leads the group through a wide variety of musical styles. To join the choir, come be our guest at a rehearsal on Wednesday nights.

**Rehearsals:** Wednesday nights at 6:30 p.m. in the Music Suite.

### **Sanctuary Orchestra**

Led by Ron Gardner, Worship Pastor

The orchestra plays occasionally in the blended Sunday morning service and the contemporary services. This group also participates in special productions and events periodically.

The Sanctuary Orchestra is open to anyone who is 9th grade or older. Call the worship office at ext. 16 if you would like more information about joining us.

### **Worship Team and Band**

Led by Ron Gardner, Worship Pastor

The Worship Team and Band are an auditioned group of people who lead worship as part of a rotation. Members are expected to be a faithful part of the Sanctuary Choir ministry. Auditions are held each August and all Sanctuary Choir members interested in being part of the Worship Team rotation are encouraged to participate in the audition.

### **Praise Choir**

Led by Ron Gardner, Worship Pastor

The Praise Choir is a contemporary choir that leads worship once per month on Sunday mornings in the 11:00am Contemporary worship service. This group also participates in seasonal musical celebrations and worship services throughout the year.

### **Joyful Senior Saints Choir**

Led by Karen Carter, Director

One of the most fun groups in our church is our Joyful Senior Saints Choir. This group of energetic Seniors rehearses each Wednesday morning and leads worship once per month in the 8:30am blended worship. This group loves to travel and sing. They have been known to sing in places like; Ellijay, Blue Ridge, Pensacola and many other places. This group of singers love the Lord and they love what they do. This group is always looking for new members.

**Rehearsals:** Wednesdays at 9:45 a.m. in the Music Suite.

### **KidzChoir**

Led by Angie Cawley, Worship Assistant

Our KidzChoir is open to children 1st through 6th grade. The children experience an environment for discovering their musical gifts and learning to be worshipers. KidzChoir does special productions throughout the year and also sings occasionally in the Sunday services. A combination of music and missions is offered for our preschool and school-age children.

**Rehearsals:** Sunday nights at 6:00 p.m. in the Music Suite as part of the Rock U Fall and Spring semesters

### **Media/Technology**

Our Media and Technology ministry provides support for weekly worship and special events throughout the year. Opportunities are available in sound, lighting, presentation software operation, video directing, camera operating, video editing, graphic design, and webpage development and maintenance.

Opportunities are available for experienced and inexperienced persons who enjoy technology and want to serve the Lord in that area. Call or e-mail the worship office for more details.

### **Youth Ministry**

Hearts Afire Student Ministries is the most exciting student ministry in East Atlanta. Our desire is to develop students that have a heart that burns with passion for Jesus Christ. Students involved in the student ministry have an awesome time and grow in their relationship with Jesus Christ. The student ministry is built around the five purposes: Worship, Discipleship, Ministry, Fellowship, and Evangelism.

**FUEL** – Is our Sunday morning small group ministry. We have amazing and dynamic adult small group leaders that have a passion for students and a desire to them grow in their walk with Christ.

**PITSTOP** – is our Wednesday night student worship service. Many of the aspects of this ministry is lead by students. PITSTOP is evangelistic in design and we always encourage students to bring their friends.

**Disciple Now** – is one of our students favorite yearly events. This event involves many churches in Rockdale county. DNow involves worship services and in homes small group Bible studies.

**ROCK U** – Our students are also involved in the church wide ROCK U ministry. Our desire is to offer our students opportunities to grow deeper in the walk with Christ.

**Summer** – each summer we plan many exciting events for our students including camps and mission trips. We also plan weekly activities to help keep our students fellowshiping with one another.

For information about the student ministry here at Rockdale Baptist visit [www.heartsafire2432.org](http://www.heartsafire2432.org)

## **Children/Preschool Ministries**

### **Wacky Wednesdays**

Wacky Wednesdays are fun-filled summer nights for children ages two through fifth grade. A variety of activities---field trips, games, mission projects, crafts, movies, Bible Study and worship---entertain children while their parents attend Bible Study or Prayer Meeting. There is a different activity each week and children look forward to an exciting time at church.

### **Children's Worship**

Worship Kidstyle is the curriculum being used for our children's worship time. We sing (with and without hand motions), present the Bible story of the week (with puppets, adult and children as actors, etc), do arts and crafts to go along with it, play games, take up offering and watch an attention-holding life application video that relates the story to the children's lives. There is also a key memory verse each week. Our goal is to show the kids what worship means and is as a way of life. And with this curriculum, we do it "Kidstyle". We are hopefully preparing them to be teens and then adults who love God first with all their heart, soul, mind and strength. And who seek Him and His will in their lives daily.

## Senior Adults

### Joyful Senior Saints

Senior Adult choir members gather once a week for rehearsal and fellowship on Wednesday from

9:45 AM–11:45 AM. Opportunities for in-service include quarterly Sunday morning choir, musicals, and special productions. Off-campus opportunities include various Senior Adult conventions, songfests, special musical presentations and ministry outreach to various senior facilities.

### Happy Hearts

Happy Hearts is a group of Senior Adults organized under the Rockdale Baptist Church Senior Adult Council for the purpose of improving the spiritual life of the senior.

This group meets once a month and a variety of programs are presented throughout the year. This program consists of a speaker, special music program, and a variety of other types of entertainment.

Happy Hearts participates in a number of ministries:

- 1) Community Food Bank
- 2) Contributing monthly to the Southern Baptist Annuity Board to help retired pastors
- 3) Ministering to patients in the Nursing Homes
- 4) Assist in Home Bound Adults Ministries
- 5) Special Projects

They provide various training sessions through Lifeway such as **Chautauquas, Light Up Your Holidays,** and **Spring Fling**

## **RBC Ministry Teams**

We have several ministry teams, comprised of members from our congregation that are nominated, selected and voted on by the church body. Their terms on each team are for three years, with staggered “roll off” years to help ensure continuity. Some of these teams along with their descriptions are listed below:

### Assimilation Team:

Primary goal is to ensure all ministry teams are properly staffed. They recommend and contact persons to serve on teams annually. This group also assists with new member's adjustment into RBC providing a contact person as well as helping them find areas to connect and serve.

### **Benevolence Team:**

Provides financial support for those in need as the budget allows. Needs of church members are given priority followed by family and/or associates of church members and our community. This group also encourages members of Sunday School classes to be sensitive to the needs of those in the class and when possible to meet these needs. The Sunday School classes also relay potential needs to the benevolence team.

### **Marriage Ministry Team:**

Primary responsibility is to guide couples and provide encouragement in their marriages. Members of this team help plan activities/events to provide support to couples including marriage focused discipleship classes and retreats. The most recent marriage ministry team activities/events include:

- 14 couples attending Fall Festival of Marriage, October 2008
- Discipleship classes offered for married couples each semester of Rock U (Rockdale University is the name of our discipleship program). Examples of courses are: Financial Peace, Men are Like Waffles/Women are Like Spaghetti, and Fireproof

### **Missions Team:**

Our mission strategy is to create & provide ways for our members to be obedient in carrying out Christ's Great Commission as found in Matthew 28:19-20.

This team is devoted to meeting Christ in His work locally, nationally, and internationally. Some examples of recent mission activities overseen by the missions team are:

- 8% of general offerings go to the SBC's Cooperative Program.
- 2% of general offerings go to our local Stone Mountain Baptist Association
- 1% of general offerings go to a special designated account to help offset the cost of mission trips (new as of 2009).

In addition to giving to the general budget of RBC, members are encouraged to give a faith offering towards missions. Below is the breakdown of that offering:

- 30 % Lottie Moon International Missions
- 20% Annie Armstrong North American Missions
- 10% Georgia Baptist Missions
- 40% Rockdale Baptist Missions

The 40% helps fund RBC's local, national and international mission involvement. We encourage all members to participate in the Great Commission by **praying, giving & going**.

**Activities include:**

- Each Sunday, a volunteer group from RBC leads worship at Lakeview Community, which is the largest trailer park in the Southeast. Nearly 4000 Hispanics live at Lakeview. We are currently in the process of hiring a full time Hispanic pastor to work with us there.
- For the last three years, our church has taken a group, averaging 23 members, to Kingston, Jamaica to minister at the Caribbean Christian Center for the Deaf. We minister to 82 deaf students while doing construction projects on the campus.
- Since 1999, RBC has collaborated with various churches in Cuba. Currently, we are working with LifeWay International to provide training to Cuban pastors & church leaders.
- Since 1998, RBC has hosted approximately 8 Global Mission Conferences where missionaries from around the world come and share their work. We average 12-18 missionaries during our GMC. This is just one way we keep missions in front of our congregation.
- While RBC encourages all members that are physically capable to participate on short-term mission trips, special emphasis is placed on involving our youth. We observe that youth who participate on mission trips have a higher average of continuing to be active in serving Christ in college and beyond versus youth who do not participate on mission trips.
- Since RBC takes the Great Commission seriously, our mission team typically subsidizes the cost of each RBC participant at 45-50% in order to make the trip affordable and minimize the need for fund raising particularly requesting direct financial support from members.
- For 25+ years the Rockdale Bold Missions Builders have participated in church building projects annually across the US.

**Prayer Ministry Team:**

The Prayer Ministry Team is charged by our church to (1) Oversee Upper Room and Home Ministry and (2) Support Pastor and staff with prayer events and activities. The team consists of seven members that meet monthly.

There are two arms of ministry:

Corporate Prayer: A church-wide prayer meeting is held each Wednesday evening for one hour. There is an average of 15 in attendance. The normal meeting covers the church weekly Prayer Guide. Prayers cover the following:

Upper Room Ministry: This is an intercessory prayer ministry with prayer warriors praying 24/7 either in the Upper Room or at home for 1-hour on behalf of someone else. Currently there are 55 warriors praying in the Upper Room and 24 warriors praying at home.

**Women's Ministry Team:**

Provides activities for RBC women to share in the love of Jesus and mature in their faith. They help foster fellowship, bonding, acceptance, and spiritual growth of women in the church. The women's ministry of RBC seeks to glorify God by challenging women to become a reflection of Christ's love by reaching women through serving, building relationships, and encouraging spiritual maturity. (Philippians 2:1-2) Recent events include:

- Taste of the Holidays Event
- Ladies Retreat
- Baby Bottle Campaign for Refuge Crisis Pregnancy Center