Bringing the Christmas tree to life

Shandon Baptist Church's traditional holiday show to feature more than 200 performers

"The Singing Christmas Tree," a Shandon Baptist Church holiday tradition for 18 years, features

more than 200 musicians, actors and dancers.

One such performer Columbia dentist Bill Flemming. Flemming has been a part of the pageant choir since the show's opening in 1984. Flemming said: "Doing Singing

Christmas Tree' is what gets me in the holiday spirit. I see it as service to the church as well as to the community, and I enjoy that."

Rachel Marriner, a first-year business student, has attended the pageant for the past four vears.

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pageants, and those are awesome, but I love how Shandon's tells the story of the birth of Christ in a contemporary

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Throughout the years, "The Singing Christmas Tree" has been a successful production. Almost



200,000 people have attended the presentation during the past 17 years. In its first year, 4,200 people attended the production. In recent years, attendance for "The Singing Christmas Tree" has risen to more than 11,000. That kind of popularity has allowed the pageant to develop into one of Columbia's largest annual musiFor the past 18 years, "The **Singing Christmas** Tree" at Shandon **Baptist Church has** provided Christmas entertainment in Columbia.

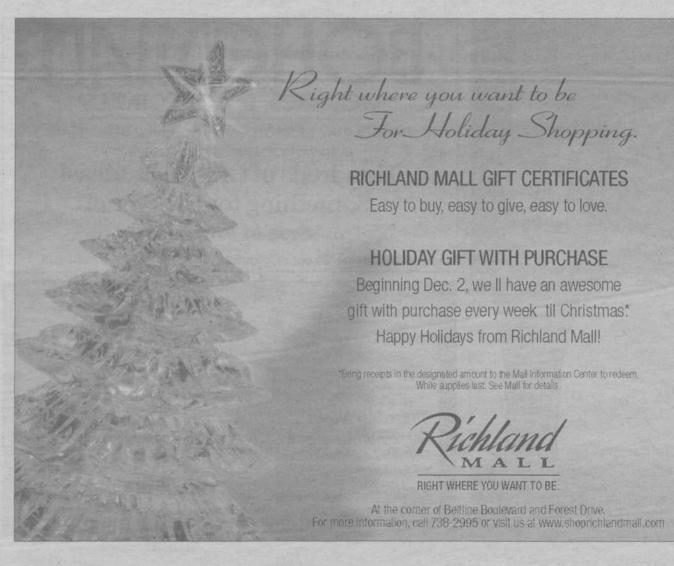
PHOTO SPECIAL TO THE GAMECOCK

Hibbett Sporting Goods

Hickory Farms

Dave Dupree, Shandon's minister of music, is excited about the

SINGING TREE, SEE PAGE 11



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