

Bringing the Christmas tree to life

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

BY ELIZABETH GIBBONS
THE GAMECOCK

"The Singing Christmas Tree," a Shandon Baptist Church holiday tradition for 18 years, features more than 200 musicians, actors and dancers.

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

"I've been to some other church pageants, and those are awesome, but I love how Shandon's tells the story of the birth of Christ in a contemporary way," she said. "The Christmas story is presented in a non-threatening way that can appeal to everyone."

"I've been to some other church pageants, and those are awesome, but I love how Shandon's tells the story of the birth of Christ in a contemporary way. The Christmas story is presented in a non-threatening way that can appeal to everyone."

RACHEL MARRINER
FIRST-YEAR BUSINESS STUDENT

Marriner said.

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



For the past 18 years, "The Singing Christmas Tree" at Shandon Baptist Church has provided Christmas entertainment in Columbia.

PHOTO SPECIAL TO THE GAMECOCK

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 musi-

cal events.

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

♦ SINGING TREE, SEE PAGE 11



*Right where you want to be
For Holiday Shopping.*

RICHLAND MALL GIFT CERTIFICATES
Easy to buy, easy to give, easy to love.

HOLIDAY GIFT WITH PURCHASE
Beginning Dec. 2, we'll have an awesome gift with purchase every week til Christmas*
Happy Holidays from Richland Mall!

*Bring receipts in the designated amount to the Mall Information Center to redeem. While supplies last. See Mall for details.

Richland MALL

RIGHT WHERE YOU WANT TO BE.

At the corner of Bellline Boulevard and Forest Drive.
For more information, call 738-2995 or visit us at www.shoprichlandmall.com

Belk, Dillard's, Parisian	Hibbett Sporting Goods
Bannoura Olive Wood	Hickory Farms
Barnes & Noble Booksellers	Koska Photography
Bath & Body Works	Lenscrafters
Bental International	The Limited
The Bombay Co.	Mastercuts
The Briar Patch	Nail Plus
Calendar Club	Neat Things
Carolina Outfitters	Oxford Street
Cingular Wireless	Pouches by Tita
Claire's Boutique	Rack Room
Columbia Art & Framing	Regal Cinema
The Crate	Rita Smith Gallery
Dollar Tree	Sam Goody
Eckerd Drugs	Sans Sugar, Sugarless Sweets
EdCetera - The EdVenture Store	Santa's Closet
Ernie's Cards & Gifts	The Shoe Dept.
Express	SunCom
The Fine Art of Baseball	Sunglass Hut
Foot Locker	Talbots/Petites/Kids
GNC	A Taste of the South
Gymboree	Things Remembered
Gymboree Play Programs	Victoria's Secret
Hair Cuttery	Zap Electronics
	Zoom Copters