

December, 2017

Faith Calls...

Pastor's Thoughts

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Birthdays

- 12/4, Carol Dyson
- 12/5, Ginny Ryan
- 12/6, Cathy Coker
- 12/10, Becky Lay
- 12/12, Kay Kennedy
Jeannie Smith
- 12/13, Angie Goins
- 12/17, Betty Caruthers
- 12/18, Peggy Oakes
- 12/20, Bret Hall
Stacy Cockrell
- 12/28, Barbara Matthews
- 12/29, Herb Williams
- 12/30, Gary Horton

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Is Re-Gifting Okay?

Gift giving has rules. Of course, we buy something we think the person needs or will use, but we also consider age, size, favorite colors, and personal tastes. Even considering all the rules, we sometimes get that one gift that is, in a word, hideous. Hopefully it's a joke. I enjoy seeing the stories of friends who exchange that same ugly tie every year or even the same fruitcake for many years.

Recalling that the Magi brought gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh to the Christ-child, I wonder what gift we might possibly give to Christ, were we Magi. After careful thought, we must break the rule forbidding re-gifting.

Christ was given to us bringing love and hope and the promise of eternal life. The gift that keeps on giving, better than the "Jelly-of-the-Month Club." All Jesus has asked in return is that we love God and give ourselves

in service to the Kingdom. Yes, God invented re-gifting. When we give love, hope, peace and compassion to others just as God has done for us, we are re-gifting. God insists, so re-gift proudly.

The other rules no longer apply either. Gift giving can be stressful. It is difficult to find that perfect gift for everybody. With God, there are no sizes, styles or fashion trends to worry about. Literally, anything you do for anyone else that relieves suffering and gives hope is the perfect gift. I'm not speaking of money alone, I'm referring more to nonmonetary gifts, the gift of YOU, your time, your hands, your words, your love and your prayers.

We do good things out of gratitude to God for what has been done for us and for no other reason. Even though we expect nothing in return, God does it anyway. Out of love for us, God continues to give us bless-

ing upon blessing. God has created a literal re-gifting cycle by loving and blessing us, which we pass to others and return a portion to God and the cycle continues. As others receive love and blessings from us in God's name, and they too pass it on, another cycle is created.

I wish for each of you a happy Christmas season filled with childlike excitement and the joy of God's greatest blessings. May you be surrounded by family and loved ones and celebrate the love God has given you for one another. May you have enough for yourself and some to share with others. Finally, I ask God to give you a servant desire to show yourself a true re-gifter of God's love.

Shalom,
David





CHRISTMAS EVE EVENTS:

9:45am, Sunday School at Faith UMC

11:00am, Worship Service at Faith UMC

You may take your Christmas Cards and your poinsettias home following worship on Christmas Eve morning.

5:00pm, Worship at Geyer Springs UMC
5500 Geyer Springs Rd. L.R., 72209

Directions: From Park Plaza or from I-630, travel south on University Ave. Turn left on Mablevale Pike. Turn sharp right onto Geyer Springs Road. Your destination is just past Geyer Springs Road.



Congratulations—to Anita Rutt who qualified to be a Five Star woman in the UMW for the fourth year in a row. She received her bar to add to the pin on Nov. 11th, at the Arkansas Conference at St. James UMC.

SAVE THE DATE...

12/3, Advent Study begins, 9:45am

12/8, Parents' Night Out, 6:30-9:30

12/9, Christmas Dinner, 5:00pm

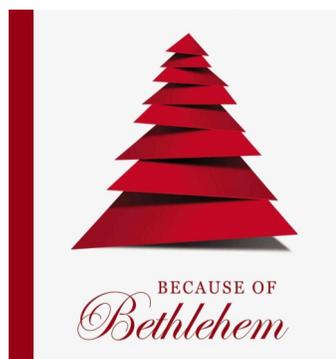
12/24, Sunday School, 9:45am,
Worship, 11am at Faith UMC

12/24, Christmas Eve Service at
Geyer Springs UMC, 5:00pm

12/25, Merry Christmas!

12/31, SS, 9:45am, Worship 11am,
Potluck will follow the worship
service

Because of Bethlehem, an Advent Study beginning Dec. 3



Join Max Lucado as he unpacks the enduring promises of Christmas and discovers a lifetime of hope because of **one baby born in Bethlehem**.

***Because of Bethlehem: Love is Born—Hope is Here*, by Max Lucado**

Let us gather together for this video-based Advent study on Sunday mornings at 9:45, 12/03 through 12/24 in the Fellowship Hall. Our time together will also include discussion of the video and Bible exploration. A study guide will be provided with reflection materials for in between sessions. Contact Teresa Cozart for more information. All are welcome! Invite a neighbor! You will not want to miss this encouraging study of "A Remarkable Gift in an Unremarkable Package".

—Teresa Cozart

Single Administrative Committee Adopted by Faith UMC

The Church Council of Faith UMC, as well as the District Superintendent, Rev. Richard Lancaster, have approved the Restructure Plan proposed in the October newsletter.

Beginning January 1, 2018, Church Council, Board of Trustees, Finance Committee, and SPRC shall be discontinued.

The structure of the ministries functions vested in the Worship

Team, Christian Education, Caring/Nurture Team, and Outreach/Mission Team shall not change. These teams will be directed by the Pastor.

The structure and function of Nominations Committee shall not change.

The new Administrative Board will consist of 12 lay persons, who will conduct all administrative business of the church.

Members are listed in the next column.

2018 Administrative Board

- Allen, Ben
- Barnes, Trinette
- Bristow, Harold (Chairman)
- Brummett, Jerry
- Eubanks, Carolyn
- Horton, Gary
- McCastlain, Virginia
- McCloskey, Ellen
- Noe, Dianna
- Rutt, Robert
- Ryan, Ginny
- Smith, Brenda

Christmas Cards—No Stamps Needed

We will again set up a table filled with Christmas sacks for each of our congregants. A list will be available so that you may prepare cards for your extended family. Place them prior to Christmas Eve so that folks may carry their sacks home on Christmas Eve morning follow-

ing Sunday School or the Worship Service.

Remember, our Christmas Eve Service will be held at Geyer Springs United Methodist Church. So you will be able to pick up your cards and poinsettias at Faith on Christmas Eve morning.



Your Christmas Card List for 2017 is in this December information envelope.

Prayer Watch Ministry

The Prayer Watch Ministry meets every Monday morning at 10 o'clock at the church. We usually have five people who come to pray. Our prayer time usually lasts about 45 minutes, depending on the number there and the number of requests that are turned in to us.

We pray for the needs of the

church, the ministries, our Pastor, the officers, Sunday School teachers and any other needs that we are aware of.

We are seeing answers to prayer. Check out the board in the prayer room and you'll see a lot of prayers that have been answered plus many praise reports. Come and join us.



— Anita Rutt
Prayer Watch Coordinator

October Stats

Date	Worship	Gen. Fund
10/1	52	\$ 4,762
10/8	61	4,226
10/15	51	1,451
10/22	54	933
10/29	57	<u>2,442</u>
		\$13,814

Renovation Fund \$ 1,180
Noisy Offering 112

December, 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2 *those in need of health care
3 9:45 a.m., Sunday School, Advent Study begins 11:00 a.m., Communion Worship Service	4 10:00 a.m., Prayer Watch Ministry	5 6:30 p.m., Trustees meeting	6 11:00 a.m., Dominoes/Bring your lunch 6:00 p.m., Choir Practice	7 11:30 a.m., Alzheimer's Arkansas (caregivers) Lunch & Learn RSVP 224-0021	8 6:30–9:30 p.m., Parents' Night Out	9 5:00 p.m. Church-wide Christmas Dinner *the homeless who need food and shelter
10 9:45 a.m., Sunday School, Advent Study 11:00 a.m., Worship Service	11 10:00 a.m., Prayer Watch Ministry	12 6:30 p.m., Finance meeting	13 11:00 a.m., Dominoes/Bring your lunch 6:00 p.m., Choir Practice	14 11:30 a.m., Sr. Networking (agencies)	15	16 *those who need families and love
17 9:45 a.m., Sunday School, Advent Study 11:00 a.m., Worship Service	18 10:00 a.m., Prayer Watch Ministry	19	20 11:00 a.m., Dominoes/Bring your lunch 6:00 p.m., Choir Practice	21 1:00 p.m., Cure PSP	22	23 *those who are caregivers
24 9:45 a.m., SS, Advent Study 11 a.m., Worship 5pm, Worship at Geyer Springs	25 Christmas Day <i>Church Office closed</i>	26	27 11:00 a.m., Dominoes/Bring your lunch 6:00 p.m., Choir Practice	28	29	30 *those searching for jobs *Please pray for those listed above.
31 SS, Wor- ship, Potluck						

Scripture:

The angel said [to the shepherds], "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people.

Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord.

— Luke 2:10-12