

Faith Calls...

December, 2018

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
12/17, Betty Caruthers
12/18, Peggy Oakes
12/20, Bret Hall
Stacy Cockrell
12/28, Barbara Matthews
12/29, Herb Williams
12/30, Sam Burton
Gary Horton
12/31, Sandra Burgess
Dave Dyson

Anniversary

Jordan & Gabby Hoffman
12/14

Inside this issue:

Donations to Ingathering	2
Symbols of Christmas	2
Christmas Card Exchange	3
Holiday Events	3
Christmas Quiz	3
December Calendar	4
Scripture	4

Season's Greetings

Sometime around the end of November each year, we close the church year and begin another. The four-week season of Advent is the beginning of the Christian year. Advent is a season of anticipation looking forward to the celebration of Christmas. Our church usually marks this season with dark, somber hymns and messages of spiritual preparation.

The birth of Jesus Christ is the single most important event humankind recognizes. It was so highly regarded that time is now measured from that event. Though now we use the same dating structure, but us the phrase "the common era," we originally marked dates as "before Christ" (B.C.) and "Anno Domini" (A.D., "the year of our Lord"). No other event in history is treated so significantly.

The story of the man who changed time begins with a child, conceived in a very unusual way, and born to a peasant girl mother who delivered her baby in a stable. This rude beginning was established by God as a new beginning for humankind. Jesus brought God's entire being to us in human form. He was entrusted to bring us the wisdom of

God, to reveal God in a completely different way. He was sent to be our path to salvation and eternal life, the long-promised Messiah. The greatest gift ever known.

When the Greens are hung in the church for Advent and our house is decorated for Christmas, I can't help being in the Christmas spirit. The world just seems a little happier for a time.

As I considered what gifts I would give this year, I realized how much my world has changed in this year. The medical issues I encountered this year have made me think about gift-giving in a different way. I now realize I have to give myself all over again. Let me share my gift giving list.

I intend to give myself to God all over again. God has given me salvation, and the blessings of family, friends and two good churches. God deserves my absolute best in return. My life is happy because of the things God has done for me. Count your blessings and consider each one to be another reason to love God a little more.

I would give my family more

love and consideration than ever before. I have a wife, son, daughter, daughter-in-law and the greatest grandchild on the entire earth, each of whom are truly gifts from God. I encourage you to find new reasons to rejoice in your families, as well.

This year I want to give my churches a pastor who is more passionate about his faith and his work as a servant leader. Faith and Geyer Springs are wonderful churches with rich histories, great people and unlimited futures. I hope to find new ways to bring the Word to you and to help you share your spirit with others. Look to find new ways to show your love for your neighbor.

You can give these gifts, too. Remember to give each gift with a prayer. These gifts aren't expensive, but they are beyond value. No worry about sizes, each is a perfect fit.

Christmas is about the gift of love. God's love for us. Our love for God. The mutual love of families and friends. Just love.

Shalom,

Bro. David

While looking through closets for warmer clothing you may find coats that you no longer use. Bro. David will drop them off at Geyer Springs UMC. Some of their Food Pantry friends may be in need.

Pat Norman is recuperating from heart surgery and is doing well. Shari Cross and Pat would like to thank all of you for the prayers, cards, and phone calls. They hope to be attending church soon.

SAVE THE DATE

Each Monday, 10am, Prayer Watch
Each Wed., 11am, Dominoes

12/8, Faith Christmas Dinner, 5:00pm

12/14, Parent's Night Out

12/18, Administrative Board meets

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

12/25, Merry Christmas

12/31, New Year's Eve

Christmas Eve
Candlelight Service,



Mon., Dec. 24th
at Faith UMC

All are welcome,
bring a friend.

DONATIONS TO CONFERENCE INGATHERING

INGATHERING is a conference-wide service event to raise awareness about hunger in Arkansas and to provide needed supplies in times of disaster. On Saturday, November 17, this event was held at AR Food Bank. Our church donated 52 Hygiene Kits, as well as 298 canned, boxed, and packaged food items.

Ginny Ryan and Ellen McCloskey delivered the items and then joined in to help with the "packing party". 37,000 pounds of sweet potatoes were placed in 10 pound bags. 30,000 pounds of beans were sorted into 3 pound bags. Many hands were busy to accomplish such an assignment.

Our Mission and Outreach Team wishes to thank all of you who donated items or money toward these projects.

Please remember that Geyer Springs UMC operates a great food pantry and they always appreciate items throughout the year.

New Mission: Collecting clothing for infants—five year olds at United Cerebral Palsy Daycare. These would be used when accidents require changing. Diapers and pull-ups also needed. Gently used items of clothing are acceptable.

Symbols of Christmas: Chrismon Tree Decorations

Over the years, the Christmas tree has become a symbol of Christ as the "tree of Life." Through the birth of Jesus, believers have been given God's gifts of life, light, and wisdom.

The use of Chrismons to decorate Christmas trees is popular in many churches today. Chrismons were first developed in 1957, by Frances Kipps Spencer of Ascension Lutheran Church in Danville, VA. In an effort to create appropriate decorations for her church Christmas tree, Spencer fashioned centuries old symbols into white and gold tree decorations.

"Chrismon" is a combination of the words "Christ" and "monogram," and means "symbols of Christ." Chrismons are gold and white, representing majesty and purity. Ideas for fashioning them are developed from early Christian symbols, the Bible, and church histories.

The lighting of the Chrismon tree often is incorporated with the hanging of the greens in some churches. Chrismons decorate our tree at Faith UMC. Look for the following: bell, butterfly, cup, circle and triangle, cross and crown, dove, fish, fleur de lis, harp, lamb, manger, shamrock, shell, trumpet.

Wendy Jeffcoat Crider/T&D

Christmas Card Exchange

Christmas sacks will be placed in the sanctuary for those who want to participate in the Christmas Card Exchange. Names will be on each sack and a list will be available so that you may prepare your cards. Send as many as you like.



Sacks may be picked up Sunday the 23rd or Monday the 24th. Be sure that you place your cards before Sunday, the 23rd. You are welcome to come by during the week between 10am and 2pm. This is a great way to share greetings — no postage required.

October Stats

Date	Worship	Gen. Fund
10/7	52	\$ 4,986
10/14	51	2,038
10/21	56	1,647
10/28	65	<u>1,160</u>

Total \$ 9,831

Noisy Offering	\$ 94
Renovation	\$ 300



River City Men's Chorus will perform at Second Presbyterian Church, 600 Pleasant Valley Dr. at the following times. No charge.

Sun., Dec. 16, 3pm
 Mon., Dec. 17, 7pm
 Tues. Dec. 18, 7pm

The all-church Advent Study begins Sunday, Dec. 2, in Fellowship Hall. *All I Want For Christmas: Opening the Gifts of God's Grace*, by James W. Moore is a five week course. Books are available at church for those taking the course. Teresa Cozart will be teaching each week. Class begins at 9:45am each Sunday. Worship Service follows at 11:00am.



First Baptist Church
 62 Pleasant Valley Drive
 Fri., Dec. 7, (7pm)
 Sat., Dec. 8, (1,4,&7pm)
 Sun., Dec. 9, (2&5pm)
 Call 844-550-2034 for tickets.

CHRISTMAS QUIZ...

1. Which company was first to use Santa Claus in an advertisement?
2. Which President was first to decorate the White House Christmas tree?
3. Which country did the gingerbread house come from?
4. What kind of Christmas does Elvis Presley sing about?
5. What year was "A Christmas Carol" by Charles Dickens, published?
6. Where was "A Christmas Carol" written?
7. What reindeer helps Rudolph fly at the reindeer games?
8. Which reindeer is Rudolph's dad?
9. Which Christmas movie has been played more than any other?

Administrative Board

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

1. Coca-Cola. 2. Franklin Pierce. 3. Germany. 4. Blue. 5. 1843. 6. United Kingdom. 7. Clarice. 8. Donner. 9. It's A Wonderful Life.

