

Family & Friends..... December 13, 2023

“Tis the Season to be Jolly.” What does jolly mean? How about high spirits, lightheartedness, joyous, merry and festive. Sounds like the Christmas Season to me. It makes us happy when we see smiling faces and good moods! The Christmas Season seems to bring out the best in us. It sure beats being miserable, gloomy, and melancholy. We need to remember it’s not a jolly season for those who are struggling with various problems like loneliness, sickness, and health issues. It is not jolly for those who feel hunger, financial, and family problems. If we just reach out to someone we know is struggling, support and lift their spirits, the joy we give to others is the joy that comes back to us. God’s help is available and given to those who seek Him. God’s love for us is great! He gave us the greatest gift of all, His Son, our Savior. Joy to the World!

But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid; for behold, I bring you good news of great joy which will be for all people.” (Luke 2:10)

We love our visitors: Ben Waldron (Owasso, OK), Paula Almond (Van Buren), Linda Jordan (Batesville).

Those on our prayer list: Continue to remember and pray for all those who have recently lost their loved ones. Also needing our prayers are Amy Rooney, Susan Duffy, Doug Klingman, Becky Sloan, our missionaries, our military and police force, our country and its leaders. Pray for the families who were victims of the recent tornadoes in the Clarksville and Nashville areas. We have good news!! Roy Barnica’s dad, Lynn, tested free of cancer!!

We have more good news. Congratulations to Chad and Tayla Wild for the birth of their son, Wyatt! We also have a new deacon of the mission committee, Leo Bratcher. Thank you, Leo, for your work for the Lord!

Items needed for the Children’s Home: Taco sauce, salsa, canned chicken, pork & beans, juice, and shampoo. Our Food Pantry: Cereal, mac & cheese, instant mashed potatoes, canned sweet potatoes, stuffing mix, cranberry sauce, gravy mix, marshmallows, pie fillings, pie crusts, French fried onions, cake mixes, frosting, sprinkles for cookies, large cans of tuna and chicken, and Vienna sausages. Any donations towards the purchase of ham or turkeys would also be appreciated.

Humility toward God will make us gentle toward others. Love you, stay safe.

Karen

ELDERS

- Tracy Bowman.....479-899-3089
- John Caylor.....903-520-2131
- Dallas Dobbs.....479-640-49439
- Perry Johnson.....913-707-8379
- Ray Reiss.....903-908-0203
- Jerry Snyder.....479-282-5501

DEACONS

- Mark Bagwell John Bowman Leo Bratcher Josh Porter Joe Hott
- Randall Hunt Terry Roberts Aaron Sloan Mike Spencer Tyler White

MINISTERS

- Jeff Grisham.....479-531-9135
- Parker Willis.....615-587-3208
- Cory Spruiell.....501-941-4525

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SUNDAY	8:15 AM
Early Worship	9:30 AM
Bible Class (Livestreamed)	10:30 AM
Worship (Livestreamed)	
WEDNESDAY	9:45 AM
Ladies' Class	7:00 PM
Bible Classes (Livestreamed)	



Living the Adventure

Crucifixion was a horrible method of execution. Of all the people you meet in Scripture, who is your favorite? If you could have dinner and spend an evening with a person you meet in Scripture, other than Jesus, who would you choose? Questions like these are used occasionally in classes and small groups to get people talking. It is really a thought-provoking question. There are so many from which to choose.

We might want to have a conversation with Noah and his family and ask what it was like to experience the flood. Perhaps we would want to have dinner with Abraham and Sarah and listen to them tell us about what it was like to leave their native land and follow God to Canaan. A conversation with Moses would be incredible. Think about listening to him talk about standing before Pharaoh, witnessing the plagues, the parting of the sea, and being in the presence of God on Mt. Sinai.

The list could go on and on: Isaac, Jacob, Joseph, Hannah, Deborah, David, Peter, John, Mary Magdalene, Paul, etc. We read the stories of their lives and experiences and are amazed. We want to know more. What made these people tick?

At this time of year, Mary gets a lot of attention, and rightfully so. Of the people we meet in

LIFELINES



Scripture, hers is one amazing story. Think of it. A teenage girl in a relatively obscure place gets a visit that will change her life forever.

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. And the virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, "Greetings, O favored one, the Lord is with you!" But she was greatly troubled at the saying, and tried to discern what sort of greeting this might be. And the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. And the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David, and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." (Luke 1:26-33)



Mary was understandably confused and probably somewhat scared. For an unwed but engaged woman to become pregnant prior to the wedding would be scandalous and even dangerous for her. The family would be dishonored. The consequences could be extremely severe. Yet even in the face of all that could happen, and having no idea as to what would happen in the future and how all of this might play out, her response was, "Behold, I am the servant of the Lord: let it be done to be according to your word." (Luke 1:38)

As we look again at those people we admire from Scripture, I believe that what draws us to them is what they were able to accomplish. They were able to accomplish these things in conjunction with God through his power at work in them. And they were able to do this because they stepped out and followed God in faith. They had no idea exactly how things would turn out for them. They just knew that God would work things out for the good of those who love him and are called according to his purpose (Romans 8:28).

We are drawn to these folks, and we admire them because we also would like to contribute to the work of the Kingdom. Often, though, we are reluctant to step out in faith unless we know in advance how it will end. There are so many variables and so many "what ifs" that face us. We want to be sure that whatever we endeavor to do will succeed. That is certainly a noble goal. However, it is one that we cannot guarantee on our own because there are so many things that we do not know, and so many things we cannot control.

We do know the one who knows all that we will face. We know the one who is able to work all things out for the good of the Kingdom. We may not be able to predict all of the details, but we have been assured of what is in store for us in the end. He has promised that he will not leave us or forsake us. He has promised that we will be with him. He is the one who worked with and through all of the ordinary people on our list of Bible heroes to accomplish his purpose. He can do the same with us if we will let him. He has promised to do the same in our lives if our response is like that of Mary's, "Behold, I am the servant of the Lord; let it be done to me according to your word."



-JEFF GRISHAM

On Christmas Eve we will have a combined worship at 10:30 am. There will be no Bible classes that morning.

Sunday, December 31st will be our fellowship brunch between services.



SUNDAY SERVANTS December 17, 2023

First Service

Welcome, Prayer & Scripture Randall Hunt Song Leader Sammy McCain
 Greeters Terry Balentine, Phil Ward, David Saunders Communion Scripture & Prayer Roger Arnold
 Closing Prayer Nathanael Green
 Nursery Workers Hillary Porter, Shannon Hubanks

Second Service

Welcome, Prayer & Scripture Nathan McCurry Song Leader Austin Bishop
 Greeters Terry Balentine, Eric Gibson, Zach Ballard Communion Scripture & Prayer Mike Spencer
 Closing Prayer John Caylor
 Nursery Workers Karla Winslow, Hollie Strickhausen Van Driver Bryan Busbee

December Worship Coordinators

Worship Coordinator Mike York Streaming Coordinator James Beaty
 Audio Coordinator Homer Makinson Video Coordinator Marquis Elliott