



December 15, 2019

Volume 16, Number 50

Good morning, Northside Family. Greetings from Lake Ouachita, where Mandy and I have gotten away for the weekend to rest, recharge before the holidays, and do a little Christmas shopping for our girls in Hot Springs. My gratitude to the Elders for the weekend away and to **Billy** who will continue our Good News journey with Jesus in the Gospel of Mark (14.12-26). I know you will be fed from his teaching on the evening Jesus turned the Passover meal with his disciples into the Lord's Supper.

As Paul passes out greetings to close his letters to the Colossian Christians, he writes this, "*Epaphras, who is one of you and a servant of Jesus Christ, sends greetings. He is always wrestling in prayer for you, that you may stand firm in all the will of God, mature and fully assured*" (Colossians 4.12). That single verse saluting the diligent prayer life of a first century prayer warrior exemplifies the Shepherds who lead our church family. Each Wednesday, our Shepherds gather before Bible class to pray for you. It is my benefit each week to pray with them and to hear how they truly do wrestle in prayer for you. On behalf of the Shepherds and Ministers, thank you for trusting us to pray for you. Be it as a group when we gather on Wednesdays or each day in our personal prayer lives, know that your requests are being taken to God.

Tomorrow, **Evan Rippee** will arrive in Benton to begin settling in to his new opportunity as the leader of our Youth Ministry. Kim and the children will stay behind in Paragould until school ends for the Christmas break and will then join Evan. It is an exciting new beginning for our Youth Ministry to have God send us a leader with Evan's experience. I hope you will welcome him with open arms, encourage him and his family, support him in his plans to grow faith, hope and love in our children, and pray for him daily.

This evening will be our final gathering for LIFE Groups until after the holidays. Next Sunday evening, we'll all gather in the Worship Center at 5:00 p.m. and **Houston Colson** will share a message with us. We'll also all meet together on Sunday evening, December 29. Also note there will be no midweek gathering on Christmas Day, Wednesday, December 25.

This truly is a fun time of year. The anticipation of Christmas prompted by Christmas lights, Christmas songs and music, Christmas caroling, and Christmas parties heightens our anticipation for Christmas morning. This past week, we enjoyed an evening with friends seeing the Christmas lights at Garvan Gardens. What a breathtaking display of beauty that only swelled my anticipation for Christmas Day!

That anticipation is a harbinger of a future day that will eternally change history! Christ's first coming, celebrated by the masses every Christmas Day, was incognito – no one expected God to take on flesh and blood and come to earth as a baby. Not every eye saw and not every knee bowed at the first coming of Christ. But there's a great day coming, a day to anticipate, when all we see Christ's coming again! A day when he comes not cloaked in the form a meek and mild baby but as the glorified Son of God and Savior of the world. On that day every eye will see, every knee will bow and every tongue will confess his Lordship.

Are you ready? May the anticipation of the Christmas season serve to stoke our desire to be ready when Jesus comes again!

I Love You all, Jim

Billy's Thoughts

This week ahead has many great opportunities to bless others and be blessed. Two in particular are: Caroling this Tuesday evening starting at 6:00 p.m. and the JOY Group potluck Thursday at 11:30 a.m.

Families and individuals are welcome Tuesday night to enjoy an evening of visiting some of our seniors, including two at Amberwood, and singing Christmas carols to (or with) them. We should be back at the church building to enjoy hot beverages and light refreshments before 8:00. So bundle up and come out to sing!

For seniors 55-and-over, Thursday is a JOY Group holiday gift exchange and potluck luncheon. If you can, bring an inexpensive gift (under \$10 if new) or a fabulous "re-gift" (no limit high or low on value) to share. Wrapped with no identifier for male or female will be perfect.

This morning I am meeting with our Young Adults class to receive feedback on how our LIFE Groups are going for them, especially with children in the mix. If you in another LIFE Group have some feedback, or ideas to share that you feel could make our LIFE Groups even more of a blessing (I personally love our LIFE Groups' time of prayer and Bible discussion), please let me know.

One final reminder of calendar changes due to the holiday season. Next Sunday evening, in lieu of Life Groups, everyone is invited to a time of worship in the Worship Center at 5:00 p.m. Also, the same on December 29. Also Christmas Day, we will have no mid-week service.

Hispanic Happenings with Fernando

We want to thank you for the support last Sunday through the taco lunch in which funds were raised for our teens trip to the Youth National Reunion of the Churches of Christ, Chicago 2020. Adults and teens were working to offer the best by doing it for the Lord. It is a blessing to see the church working together on the things of this world, but with divine purposes. We look forward to another fundraiser very soon.

Every Wednesday morning, we have home devotional meetings at the **Solis** Family home. About eight people gather for a devotional and to discuss Bible issues in an environment of open communication, coffee and bread. Sometimes these meetings extend from two-to-three hours because many questions arise about the Bible and faith. Friends and relatives have also been with us and it is a great opportunity to share with those who visit. We thank God for these meetings and the Solis family for opening their home.

What Do You Want For Christmas?

My children ask me each year the same question. After thinking about it, I decided to give them my real answer: What do you want for Christmas?

I want you to keep coming around.

I want you to ask me questions.

Ask my advice.

Tell me your problems.

Ask for my opinion.

Ask for my help.

I want you to come over and rant about your problems, rant about life.

Whatever, tell me about your job.

Your worries.

Your classes.

I want you to continue sharing your life with me.

Come over and laugh with me, or laugh at me.

I don't care, hearing you laugh is music to me.

I want you to spend your money making a better life for you.

I have the things I need.

I want to see you happy and healthy.

When you ask me what I want for Christmas I say

"Nothing" because you've already been giving me my gift all year.

I want you.

Events This Week

TODAY: College/Young Professionals Ugly Sweater Christmas Party at 2:30 in the home of **Jarred & Jennifer Crow**. Come hungry, wearing an UGLY sweater and bring a \$5-\$10. gift for Dirty Santa. After the party we will go to Garvan Gardens together. Please come

MONDAY: Pickleball 6:30 p.m. in the Outreach Building for anyone 18 years of age and older.

TUESDAY: Christmas Caroling 6:00. Please meet in the main building. We should be back at about 7:30 p.m. We will have snacks after we return..

WEDNESDAY: Early Morning Bible class 10:30-11:30 in classroom 19a

THURSDAY: JOY group potluck at 11:30. If you are 55 years of age or older please join this group. We will have a fun gift exchange (\$10.00 or less if a new present, or feel free to re-gift something interesting, wrapped but don't mark for what gender it's intended.)

Upcoming Events

December 22: No LIFE groups. We will all meet together at 5:00 in the worship center. **Houston Colson** will be our speaker. Please come and show your support for Houston.

December 23: Pickleball 6:30 p.m. in the Outreach Building for anyone 18 years of age and older.

December 25-26: Office Closed. If you have an emergency, you can either contact an elder or call the office and leave a message. The phone will be monitored.

December 29: No LIFE groups. We will all meet together at 5:00 in the worship center.

December 30: Pickleball 6:30 p.m. in the Outreach Building for anyone 18 years of age and older.

During the month of November, the Food Pantry served 324 families for a total of 1,112 people. Thank you to all who give to make this ministry a blessing to our neighbors in need.

Love Notes and Heartstrings

"I looked again. I saw a huge crowd, too huge to count. Everyone was there—all nations and tribes, all races and languages. And they were standing, dressed in white robes and waving palm branches, standing before the Throne and the Lamb and heartily singing: Salvation to our God on his Throne! Salvation to the Lamb! All who were standing around the Throne—Angels, Elders, Animals—fell on their faces before the Throne and worshiped God, singing: Oh, Yes! The blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving, The honor and power and strength, To our God forever and ever and ever! Oh, Yes" (Revelation 7:9, MSG)

This was the verse of the day when I was thinking of my bulletin piece. I had just read a post on the ladies prayer and encouragement page on Facebook and all the encouragement given there. How wonderful is our God! How wonderful that we can go to Him anytime and lay our prayers at his feet! He is always there; always listening and isn't it great that we have our Christian brothers and sisters who will go with us on our behalf! Thank you for all the love shown in so many ways. I love my Northside family. Happy holidays! *Trish*

The meal prepared by Janie Elliott for the Hospice House in Bryant last Tuesday was potato soup & rolls. She prepared brownies for dessert.

THANK YOU first to **Betty Davis & Stephanie Howell** for all of the work preparing for the Seniors/Retirees Luncheon. Thanks also to everyone who furnished food for the event. The food was delicious! Next a big **THANK YOU** to **Marilyn Black** and her team of volunteers who put together the food and decorations for the Annual Christmas Party. I hesitate to start trying to name everyone for fear of leaving someone out. Thanks also to **Donna & Gary Howell** and **Stephanie Howell** for setting up the background for Santa.

Prayer List: Blythe Bowers had an EEG last week. **Patrick Bowers** post gall-bladder surgery showed no cancer. He is scheduled to have a back ablation tomorrow. **Ruthie Burgess** will have hip replacement surgery on January 3 at the Maumelle Surgery Center. **Bud Cearley**, Stacy Barnes' dad, has been diagnosed with stage 3 lung cancer and has been placed on a ventilator. He will begin radiation once he is strong enough. **Briaunah Diamond**, Leona Colson's granddaughter, is now at home following a prolonged stay in Memphis for treatment. **Patricia Flowers** does not have a tumor on her thyroid. **Misty Harrison**, Brittany James' mother, began her cancer treatments last week. **Jan Hastings** will have an MRI of her shoulder and a possible tendon tear tomorrow. Results are expected on Thursday. **Michelle Hastings** will have foot surgery on Tuesday at Conway Baptist Hospital. **Buddy Jones** had a successful cardioversion procedure last week. **Cathy Loe**, Jan Hastings' sister, is now at home. **Joe Puckett's** test results were all cancer/leukemia free. **Brenda Rhodes'** is slowly healing from a recent fall. **Micah Sexson**, Grisham & Teresa Phillips' son-in-law, had surgery Wednesday night to stop internal bleeding. He remains in ICU at Baptist Hospital. **Melba VanZandt** is waiting for the pathology results.

Continue to remember: Lois Baxter, Sherry Benton, Frank Bray, Tyler Buck, Gail Bueker, Joe Campbell, Charles Caradine, Cash Clancy, Todd Donahue, Susan Dorsey, Don Flowers, Kelley Geurin, Tammy Givens, Mark Gober, Ella Graves, Steve Graves, Mark Greeno, Helen Hairston, Kenneth Haltom, W.K. Hannah, Logan Harris, Terry Hastings, Ronnie Hastings, Donna Haughee, Orville Haxton, Seth Henry, Jan Hicks, Chris Humes, Betty Humphries, Lynne Hutto, Glenn Kays, Rod Kirk, Reba Leonard, Yvonne Lewis, Bill Loe, Wilma Lunsford, Charlotte Mabery, Robert Matheny, James Mayberry, Pat Maxwell, Dudley McClerkin, Karla McCoy, Manher & Louise Mehta, Jim Miller, Jimmy Mitchell, Mark Otwell, Wanda Otwell, Sharon Pearson, Joe Peevy, Grisham Phillips, Francille Pryor, Chuck Rice, Diana Richard, Shirley Ridge, Doug Robinson, Earlene Russell, Bess Sanders, Milton & Margaret Scott, Carol Shepard, Roy Slaughter, Brenda Smith, Patsy Steele, Harold Stuart, Letha Styles, Fred & Edith Swaim, Randy Townsend, Roy Treadway, Sissy Treat, Ruth VanZandt, Ron Wallace, Kathy White, Autumn Wilder, Angela Wilson, Billie Wilson, Bartha Wise, Syble Womack, and Mark Woodville.

Shepherds

Jim Acree Terry Hastings
Carroll Davis Randy Mitchell
Tom Davis Rob Nossaman
Todd Ferguson Rick Treadway
Richard Wallace

Email address: elders@northsidecofc.info
Chairman thru December: Carroll Davis

Deacons

Wes Ader Michael Haltom
Carlos Bautista Alex Hamilton
Gary Black Josh Hastings
Jarred Crow Todd Hastings
Rodney Crownover Phillip Howell
Justin Dorsey Charlie Manning
Curtis Evans Billy McLain
Julio Flores Steve Smith
Kelley Geurin Alejo Solis
Chris Givens Freddy Swaim
Javier Guzman

Staff

Jim Gardner
Stephanie Howell
Billy McLain
Dawn Mitchell
Jimmy Mitchell
Linda Pike
Fernando Toledo

Records: December 8, 2019

Bible Classes	303
AM Worship	498
PM Worship	105
Wednesday	224
Weekly budget	\$13,732.00
Contribution	\$17,835.70

Service Schedule

Sunday Morning Bible Study	9:00 a.m.
Sunday Morning Worship	10:00 a.m.
Sunday Morning Bible Study-Hispanic	10:00 a.m.
Sunday Morning Worship-Hispanic	11:00 a.m.
Sunday Evening Worship	5:00 p.m.
Wednesday Morning Bible Study	10:30 a.m.
Wednesday Bible Study	6:30 p.m.
Wednesday Bible Study-Hispanic	7:00 p.m.

Office Information

Telephone 501-315-1128
Fax 1-888-768-1129
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Web www.northsidecofc.info
Address 917 North East Street
Benton, AR 72015

Office Hours

Monday—Thursday 8:30 a.m.--4:00 p.m.
Friday 8:30 a.m.--Noon

10:00 A.M. Worship

Jimmy Mitchell.....Worship Leader
Let Us Worship.....PH
Todd Hastings.....Welcome & Family News
Joy To The World.....1018
Behold Our God.....PH
I Worship You, Almighty God.....64
Tommy Clifton.....Prayer
Away In A Manger.....PH
Art Rockwell.....Communion Devo & Offering
Holy And Anointed One...(offering song).....PH
Jesus Loves Me...(children's song).....1014
Wonderful Merciful Savior.....PH
Ken Covington.....Hebrews 9.14-15
Billy McLain....."Supper With The Saint"
You Are My All In All.....484
Stepping In The Light.....PH
Carroll Davis.....Shepherds Prayer

Infant Nursery

Trae & Tori Gardner

Toddler Nursery

Jarred & Jennifer Crow

5:00 P.M. Worship

Communion

Kelley Geurin

Infant & Toddler Nursery

Martha Davis

Pantry Items:

Ramen Noodles, Canned Soup,
Canned Chili, Saltine Crackers,
Dish Washing Liquid, Laundry Detergent

The backpack program for Caldwell & Howard Perrin schools is in need of individual Mac n Cheese, individual applesauce cups, pudding cups, fruit cups, pop tarts, peanut butter or cheese crackers, individual chip bags, juice boxes and Capri Sun. Please put your items in the tubs just outside the children's worship room in the multipurpose area.



NEED PRAYER

An Elder and his wife will be in the Elders' office after services to pray with anyone that needs prayer. Elder and his wife this week:

Jim & Linda Acree