

FELLOWSHIP FAMILY NEWS

December 2015



Operation Christmas Child

We want to thank everyone who participated in packing shoeboxes, or contributing time or money to the Operation Christmas Child program this year.

We are also very appreciative of those who helped at the North Central Arkansas Collection Site. Dick and Melva Dite worked every day and Roy Gould helped on Wednesday. Thanks to Jerry Jones, Mike Fisher and Andy Marts for helping load the truck on Sunday.

Many children in abject poverty and war torn countries will at least know that someone cares and that Jesus loves them.

George and Joyce Hove



Ushers

Dec. 13: June Arnold and Barbara Flippin

Dec. 20: George Hove and John-Carl Laidler

Dec. 27: Terry King and Christy Hancock

Acolytes

Dec. 13: Lindsey Barnes and Lizzy Hancock

Dec. 20: Pat Black and Mike Fisher

Dec. 27: Kylee and Cayden Sabella

Greeters

Dec. 13: John and Mary Martin

Dec. 20: Mike and Pam O.

Dec. 27: Bob Green and Jerry Jones



January Birthdays and Anniversaries

Carol Cookson 1-2	Al Cookson 1-19
Barbara Flippin 1-2	Dustin Jones 1-19
Gay King 1-2	Mike and Toni Fisher 1-21
Connie Tucker 1-7	Barb and Marv Huffaker 1-27
Bill and Vela Simpson 1-10	Cayden Sabella 1-30
Rowan Laidler 1-11	Vela Simpson 1-31
Nancy Stang 1-13	
Libby Barnes 1-15	
Lorna Meyer 1-17	



Nursery

Dec. 13: Ellen MacKercher and JoAnn Gould

Dec. 20: Jerry Jones and Lindsey Barnes

Dec. 27: Barbara Flippin and JoAnn Gould

Looking Back

1978:

March 5 Joan Cheney elected to serve as an Elder on the Board
 March 23 Board voted to have the west parking lot constructed
 April 2 New record of 119 for Worship Service
 April 16 Vacation Bible School announced – Sandy Priebe-Director
 May 14 Discussion held on having a 9 AM and an 11 AM Worship Service
 July 2 Congratulations to Ruth Unkel for graduating from the LPN class
 Oct 1 Meeting held with congregation to discuss building of new sanctuary 50 attended
 Oct 29 Decision made to have 5th Sunday offerings to go into building fund
 Dec 24 Pastor Hudson and wife Evelyn celebrated their 10th year with the church and membership grew from 22 to 99.

1979:

May 6 Robert & Nina Green are celebrating their 25th Anniversary today
 May 13 Max Cheney, Jr. is graduating from High school on May 25th
 Jun 18 Rev. Neill Hudson and Glenn Priebe will be serving as Commissioners to General Assembly to be held in Albuquerque, New Mexico
 July 15 Announced that Ruth Unkel is moving to Nashville, TN
 Sep 16 Elders Terry King and Glenn Priebe were recent speakers at the Salem Church filling the Pulpit as they have no pastor.
 Sep 16 Mr. & Mrs. Jerry Jones joined our Church
 Oct 7 Terry King was elected Moderator of White River Presbytery
 Dec 9 Ms. Anna King was welcomed into membership last Sunday
 Dec 16 Eddie King was welcomed into membership last Sunday

1980:

Mar 16 CPW purchased new offering plates
 Mar 16 Lori Cheney was welcomed to membership in our Church
 May 25 Dal & Jeff Arnold & Scott Flanagan provided Special Music today
 Nov 2 Andy Cheney was elected as Youth Delegate to General Assembly to be held in Denton, TX
 Dec 12 Rev. Neill Hudson and Evelyn celebrated their 12th year with us and noted that the membership had grown from 22 to 107 active members

This information was provided by Glenn Priebe from archived church bulletins.

As I See It

Anticipation is something that can drive us crazy if we allow it to do so. Three years ago Kim and I, along with this congregation were making plans for us to come for a visit. We were both doing an interview of the other to see if we were a good fit for each other. We knew what was print, but we did not know if our personalities would mesh together.

Our meetings were rather short when we consider the length of time we expect to work together. We had to use a lot of faith to believe that we would be a good fit and if it was GOD's will for us to be in ministry together. Thanks be to GOD that we have worked together very well and both see a good future in our kingdom work together.

When we look at our Christian lives, for the most part, before we make our profession of faith, the time of initial learning until the time we pledge to commit our lives to Jesus the Christ, is usually a short period of time. We must continue to work on our growth as a Christian. We must continue to develop an understanding of who Jesus is in our personal lives and how we can share it with those in our families, where we shop, where we recreate, and the many acquaintances we have.

Before I came to be your pastor/minister, I spent a great deal of time learning something about you from the directory and the past newsletters on the website as well as anything else I could before we came for the interview and the subsequent move we made. But what if that had been all that I did? How long would you allow for that kind of behavior and work ethic to persist?

I am afraid that most of those who have declared the Lord Jesus Christ as their personal savior are guilty of this. Once the study has been completed prior to being received into the church, there is little to no further study and growth which is done for the duration of one's life. I thank the Lord for those who continue to grow by faith so that the generation to come will have teachers who know the scriptures and live them daily.

Consider making growing in the Christ a priority this next year. You will be bucking the trend. Most folks are satisfied with the status quo. If Christianity were a sporting event and you had to sit on the sidelines even in practice, you would not like it at all. You would want to be an active player contending for the Lord daily. This is a good thing.

This past year has gone by quite quickly for me. I kiddingly say, "Regardless of what else happens, I need to be prepared for Sunday since it comes every seven days!" If I have an advantage over most people, it is in "getting ready" for the next Sunday almost every week of the year. I have a routine which needs to be kept. I can not delay "getting ready" for next Sunday.

On Monday, I have a schedule which I adhere to doing almost every week. To be on Wednesday without the majority of the bulletin and the Sunday sermon completed, I know I am really behind. It also helps me be better prepared for emergencies and special occasions which occur.

Let me reiterate something which I believe is very important. **If you have an emergency and want me to be present, my number (870-706-0521)** can be called any time, day or night. I am your pastor and want to be of service in times of emergency as well as celebrate with you in times of joy. Do continue to keep me in the loop. Do not assume that I know anything about your needs.

I will **continue to challenge you to make contacts with our members** who have not been in attendance for **two or more Sundays**. They need to hear from someone in addition to the pastor. We can do better than we have. It is easier than you think. There are many who need to be encouraged to attend a worship service somewhere. You are the person to do it!

As a congregation, **you have done a commendable job in your giving this year**. It is important to support your local church as well as show GOD that you are grateful for your abilities past and present to help you provide for your family.

I look forward to 2016. We continue to move into the unknown, but we are to plan with GOD's help to move forward and keep on doing as GOD leads us until He calls us home. **We currently do a lot of activities which require planning, but how much do we do outside of our four walls which ministers to others who we see and touch?**

Just think about it. I think some of you do reach out to others through your volunteering with different organizations. We do give financially and with food, but is there more that we could do to make a difference in the lives of others? Would it make a difference in your participation in an out reach project if you knew that you were extending your days on earth for yourself and improving the quality of life for another?

Remember to love GOD with all of your heart, soul and mind as well as to love your neighbor as yourself.

May the days of **Advent, Christmas and Epiphany** bring the true sense of Holy Days which cause us to focus upon the love of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit throughout the year.

Thanks for allowing Kim and me to serve and enjoy you as GOD's servants.

Bro. Gary

Thanksgiving Meal and Auction



Our annual Thanksgiving meal and auction sponsored by the CPWM was a great success both in the fun and fellowship and in the money raised. A good crowd was on hand to enjoy the feast and participate in the auction.

We had a lot to be thankful for not the least of which was being with friends and family. When it was time for the auction, our Terry and Jerry team handled the fierce bidding competition with the help of some of the younger generation. There were many wonderful items donated.

Thanks to everyone who helped and participated!



Hanging of the Greens



Hanging of the Greens began in the early afternoon when church members came together to help decorate the church for the Advent and Christmas season. New this year is the lighted nativity scene provided by CPWM. A service of scripture and music followed in the evening and concluded with a sandwich supper in the fellowship hall.



FELLOWSHIP CUMBERLAND PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Send information for this newsletter to Marjie Jones, 946 Tipton Loop, Mountain Home, AR 72653 OR call me at 870-425-7190 OR email me at mjjones@suddenlink.net OR drop it in the newsletter box at the church.

We're on the Web!

<http://www.fellowshipcumberland.org/>

Church News

Lauren E. Barnes, daughter of Libby (Barnes) Sabella and Sam R. Barnes graduates December 12, 2015 from Arkansas State University, Jonesboro, Arkansas with double major B.S. degrees in Criminology and Sociology. She plans to pursue her Masters Degree in Social Work at ASU.



Congratulations to Nick Hancock!
Nick ranked up he is now petty officer 3rd class.



The Son of God became a man to enable men to become sons of God
- C. S. Lewis

