



Joshua 25: 15 - *Choose this day whom you will serve.*

Well my dear friends, once again I sit at my desk to write from the heart something that hopefully will bless you and challenge you to continue to grow in Christ and think about His goodness. It has been a very cold time weather wise, and for many it is a challenge to even go outside and deal with the extreme weather. Joints ache, lungs are affected, and bodies are moving slow. This would also include mine.

I do not know about you but I am ready for spring already. I have been praying a lot the past few weeks about many things concerning Calvary Baptist Church. Included in that prayer is a huge amount of thanksgiving for all God has done in the last few months. People joining, Wednesday nights that have great attendance, Hunter coming on to help in the youth, Ann joining us to help in ministering in the office, and last but not least so many wonderful prayers answered in people's lives.

We are starting a new year and as I reflect on the coming year I was drawn to the above verse. Life is all about choosing a direction, a course to follow but mainly a decision to either walk in God's ways or man's ways. Every day we are faced with choices in our actions, our words, our attitudes, and our commitments. We can choose the easy way, we can choose the world's way, or we can choose to pick up our cross and follow Jesus. This choice is always a difficult one because it means often choosing to deny ourselves what we want, or what is easy, or what is pleasant. It often means as Peter said that we should look to the good of others before ourselves. It means we follow through on commitments even when it gets tough and difficult. Yet when we choose to follow the Lord we also know that we have made the right choice without fail. We can count on God to be pleased, we can count on God to bless us and to answer our prayers when we go the route He wants instead of our own road. My prayer for you these coming weeks is for you to make prayerful, Spirit led choices in your personal life and in the church's life about what God wants to do. It is sometimes difficult to always know clearly yet if we are patient, we wait upon the Lord, we give Him time to speak, we can rest assured He will give us the answer we need to know. They may not be answers we like but if He directs we should follow. Regardless of our own desires, and what we might perceive the cost to be, we can know God will bless when we follow His leadership and His Word.

My daily challenge as your pastor is making right decisions, sometimes I miss but not for a lack of trying. I would ask you to keep me in prayer as I seek to lead under the Lord's guidance to be the best pastor I can be for the church at this time. I will also be praying that this church in this year be led by the Holy Spirit and the Word of God to make right choices in everything they do. If we all do that we can certainly move ahead in the assurance God is with us, God is moving and ministering through us and God will bless us. May the God of all mercy grant you wisdom and light in all your choices this year.

Your servant in Christ,

Pastor David

Prayer Concerns

The following people have been added to our prayer concern list since our last newsletter:

Lucy Collins, requested by Gray Lawson; **Chris Dotson and mission team**; **Bob Fechner**, former co-worker of Ashley Mills; **Nikki Hopkins**, friend of Lori Hiatt; **Danny Lineberry**; **Clellan Ramey**; **Ronnie Smith**, Cody Smith's grandfather; **Danny Wood**, former co-worker of Gray Shelton

Remember the Bereaved

The Family of Vicky Hodges in her death



If you would like to place flowers in the sanctuary in celebration of a special event, or in honor or memory of a loved one, the 2010 sign up sheet is on the main bulletin board with all dates available. You may order fresh flowers or make a donation and use one of the beautiful arrangements available at the church. Unless otherwise specified, donations will go to the Debt Reduction Fund.

Note of Thanks

We would like to say a special thank you to all the volunteers who helped decorate the church this year.

The Christmas Decorating Committee

Myron, Cindy, & Hunter Vernon have transferred their membership to Westside Baptist Church.



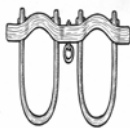
The Shepherd's House is in need of these items:



Kool-Aid
Bleach

Juices
Zip-Lock Baggies

Please bring items to 227 Rockford Street



THE YOKEFELLOW MINISTRY OF GREATER MOUNT AIRY:

SUGGESTED ITEMS FOR JANUARY: CEREAL & TUNA

Collection baskets are located at church entrances for your donation of any non-perishable items.



Wednesday Classes for All Ages

NURSERY, MISSION FRIENDS, RAs, GAs, and YOUTH classes

FOR ADULTS:

GOING DEEPER IN PRAYER (Room # 114)

Challenge your prayer life to new heights.

WEDNESDAY NIGHT SUNDAY SCHOOL (Room # 117)

A good time to prepare for a Sunday School lesson if you are a Sunday School teacher

GOD'S ANSWERS TO LIFE'S DIFFICULT QUESTIONS (Room # 116)

Ever wondered how to answer life's difficult questions? The Bible gives us a roadmap

MEN'S STUDY (Room # 101)

Helping men fellowship as they grow closer to Christ

Sunday School Snippet

For the past several months, I have been putting together articles for the church newsletter. I first wrote a short series of three articles about five years ago when we were promoting Sunday School attendance. Last February, I started again with these articles and if I counted correctly, I have written 20 articles since then. As I was trying to come up with an idea for this article, I started thinking about “writer’s block” since I was having trouble with what to write about. I do believe God puts these ideas in my head and hope I am hearing correctly that He has implanted this one as well. To see what I could find about writer’s block, I used my trusty secular reference, the Internet and found an item about the subject. In the Internet article was written the following about the causes of writer’s block.

“A writer may run out of inspiration. The writer may be greatly distracted and feel they may have something that needs to be done before hand. A project may be fundamentally misconceived, or beyond the author’s experience or ability.”
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Writer%27s_block

Some of this same cause can apply to Sunday School as well. Sometimes we may run out of inspiration and we may get distracted. What does not fit is that Sunday School has never been misconceived. If we feel it is beyond our experience, all it takes is to attend and we gain experience. As we add to our experience, Sunday School improves our abilities as well. Coming and participating in Sunday School can provide inspiration as we worship and fellowship with others. Being a part of Sunday School can prevent “Sunday School Block.” (Maybe I did not have writer’s block after all.)

*Bob McPherson
 Sunday School Director*

From Your Transition Team

At Sunday’s business meeting, the Transition Team will make a motion to extend the covenant with Pastor David, our Intentional Interim. We anticipate that we will complete the transition process around June, with a pastor search team in place at that time and ready to begin their work. Our motion then is that **we extend the Covenant with Pastor David Burgess for a period of 12 months, the first six months to complete the transition process and the second six months to serve as our interim pastor, beginning February 1, 2010 and ending January 31, 2011. We are proposing that Pastor David stay with us for an additional six months as our Interim Pastor.**

Following the motion, you will have the opportunity to ask questions or express your opinions. A vote will be taken by secret ballot on January 24th during both worship services, with no discussion at that time.

We urge you to attend the business meeting. The Transition Team also asks for your continued prayers as we move forward in this process.

Helpful Reminders	January 17	January 24
Youth Snack Supper	TBA	TBA
Uplift Breakfast	TBA	TBA
Nursery Workers	Uplift	Uplift
	January 17	January 24
Bed Babies—4 years	Shane & Gina Gammons	Tony & Melissa Varney
Children’s Church	Laurence & Yvette Townsend	Warren & Marie Conzone
	Traditional	Traditional
Bed Babies / Toddlers	Anne Forrest, Carolyn Underwood	Sandy Nowlin, Denise Stone
2 & 3 Year Olds	Kenny & Amy Nowlin	Lee & Judy Mills
Children’s Church	Danielle Sechrist, Rachel Hull	Kerry & Paxton Berrier