



"O Lord our Lord, how excellent is thy name in all the earth.
Psalm 8:9

My goodness, where in the world has the time gone to this year? It is hard to believe that the Christmas season is upon us already. Thanksgiving has come and gone and now Christmas is just around the corner. This is the busiest time of the year and very stressful for many people. It should not be this way but our culture and the demands on our time have seemingly forced us to be on a dead run more often than not. School teachers trying to get things

done before Christmas break. The church with all its special programs and practices requires so much time for church members, and the list goes on and on. For those with loved ones who are ill we worry about getting them well as possible. All of this and so much more draws our attention away from what we need to be focused on which is the celebration of God's most wonderful gift to mankind. It is Jesus who came down from the glory and splendor of heaven to do the work of the father and sacrifice his own life that we might find salvation and life in Him. This is the reason the Psalmist declares "O Lord how excellent is thy name." For it is in Jesus we live, we move, and we have our being or reason for living. This Christmas season let us rejoice together as we worship Christ our King. Remember my dear friends that the babe in a manger grew up to become the suffering servant and then become our sacrifice as he died on the cross so that we who believe in Him might find hope, peace, joy, and love. The sanctuary is beautiful and many thanks and kudos go to those who so willingly and lovingly gave of their time to accomplish this. Thank you Christmas committee for all your labor and time you devoted to this Christmas season.

I would also like to thank you for all the prayers for both my wife and myself during our sickness. Unfortunately as I write this Shirley has had a relapse of the flu. I am better, but still running a little slower than usual. I also would like to thank you for your patience as I have had to be out for Sunday due to sickness and also having to go to Indianapolis to be with our daughter during a trying ordeal she is going through. We have to go to court due to her ex-husband failure to fulfill an agreement and his owing of a large sum of money. It has been very stressful for her and us as we all know we want our children to be protected and not harmed. Please keep her in prayer also. I do not like missing especially due to sickness and this but we do what we have to do.

Finally I am excited for our completion of the second focus point of the process with our vision and mission statement. If you notice the beautiful tree in the landing area of the hallway going downstairs you will see that it is now colored in showing our progress in our work as a church. I will state that everything about the rest of our work hinges on the question of our vision and mission as a church. Everything we do must answer the question of does this help or hinder us accomplishing what God has called us to do. If it does not, why are we doing it? God has called us to be good stewards of not only our money but our time, our talents, our resources. With that thought in mind we will be looking at everything we do to see if we are being wise in our use of what God has given us. We will start our work on leadership and organization in January. This will cover a broad area and will require a lot of prayer, thought, education, and open thinking for all the church. It will be the place and time for us to deal with leadership needs, expectations, decision making and a host of other issues that affect our church.

My prayer for you is that the season of Christmas fills your heart with hope, peace, joy, and love. I pray that your stress is very low and your happiness is full for God this season.

Your servant in Christ,

Pastor David

Prayer Concerns

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

L.C. Belton, *Bill Belton's brother*; **Ronald Boyles**, *Caroline Kirkman's brother*; **Sandra Gabriel**, *neighbor of Bill & Mary Lou Belton*; **Rosa Hauser**; **Isaac Hawks**, *Stephanie & Justin's son*; **Mildred Jarrell**; **Joanne McMillian**, *Mike Doby's ex-mother-in-law*; **Evelyn Nowlin**; **Bill Overby**; **Clellan Ramey**; **Reginald Sisk**, *Lillie Mae Haynes' grandchildren's grandfather*; **Golie Southern**; **Gail Thomas**, *friend of Margaret Smith*; **Gayle Wheeler**, *friend of Billie Doyle*

Recent Contributions

In Memory of Doris Owens

By: Pat Gwyn Woltz

Notes of Thanks

On behalf of the Mount Airy Camp of The Gideon's International, I would like to thank you for allowing us to present a Stewardship Report of our work with the Gideons. We could not do the work we do without the faithful and generous support of our local churches. The gift you gave will enable us to purchase 74 Bibles or 285 New Testaments to be used here and all over the world. As you know, 100% of the money we receive goes to buy scriptures. Please pray with us, that they find their way to receptive hearts. I pray that you all will have a great year! Please remember to keep us in your prayers.

*Sincerely yours in Christ
Mark W. Lawson
Church Ministry Chairman*

A special thank you to Margaret & Lowell Layman for the Christmas banners that will be hung during Advent. We appreciate all the time and money that was put into these decorations.



*You are cordially invited to attend a
50th wedding anniversary celebration in honor of
Marvin & Glenda Beasley
on December 20, 2009 at 2:00 pm
in the fellowship hall of Calvary Baptist Church
Given by: children, their spouses, and grandchildren
No gifts please!*

| Helpful Reminders | December 6 | December 13 |
|-----------------------|---|--|
| Youth Snack Supper | Brett & Gloria Best Ralph & Debbie Hiatt | Ted & Sheryl Hulme Kent & Karen Moser |
| Uplift Breakfast | Warren & Marie Conzone | Laurence & Yvette Townsend |
| Nursery Workers | Uplift | Uplift |
| | December 6 | December 13 |
| Bed Babies—4 years | Corey & Ashley Mills | Craig & Buffy Inscore |
| Children's Church | Tommy & Kim Morrison | Andy & Cari Robertson |
| | Traditional | Traditional |
| Bed Babies / Toddlers | Linda Gordon, Johnny Surratt | Brent & Anita Hull |
| 2 & 3 Year Olds | Sherry Hiatt, Lori Hiatt | Tony & Deena Martin |
| Children's Church | Mary Jane Shelton, Ashleigh Stone | Danielle Sechrist, Rachel Hull |

Sunday School Snippet

Recently I came across a pink half-sheet of paper with the following printed on it.

Five Reasons Why Attending Sunday School is Important

1. Study God's word
2. Connect with fellow Christians
3. Share troubles and triumphs
4. Gain knowledge and wisdom
5. A time to pray together (Acts 2:42)

On the other side of the paper was the following:

Five Reasons Why Attending Worship is Important

1. Worship is Biblical (Hebrews 10:25)
2. Fellowship with believers
3. A time to praise God
4. The word of God is proclaimed
5. Jesus set the example (Luke 4:16)

To help put this in perspective, the 3 verses noted above are:

- ◆ They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. --- Acts 2:42
- ◆ Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching. --- Hebrews 10:25
- ◆ He went to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, and on the Sabbath day he went into the synagogue, as was his custom. And he stood up to read. --- Luke 4:16

When I read through the five reasons on each side, I looked again at the title of each set of reasons. I think the two sets are interchangeable. You could take all ten reasons and simply call it **Ten Reasons Why Attending to God is Important**. All ten are ways we can grow in our relationship with God. We all need to grow for we are yet to be full-grown. Attend to God and continue to grow. God is important!

Bob McPherson
Sunday School Director



Remember those who are less fortunate.

Please remember the Hanging of the Green Service Sunday night at 6:00 PM. You may bring your unwrapped gift(s) for children or youths (tweens and teenagers) to place under the tree for those in the community that will seek assistance during the Christmas season.

Urgent Needs for the Shepherd's House Bathroom Cleaner, Sugar, Paper Towels

Please take items to 227 Rockford Street



Anyone that would like to help at the Friends Feeding Friends meal on Thursday, December 17, 5:00 PM at First Baptist Church, please call Faye Haas at 789-3885



THE YOKEFELLOW MINISTRY OF GREATER MOUNT AIRY:
SUGGESTED ITEMS FOR DECEMBER: CANNED MILK & CANNED PASTA
Collection baskets are located at church entrances for your donation of any non-perishable items.