

Tidings

IT TAKES GRACE...

*O Star of wonder, star of night,
Star with royal beauty bright,
Westward leading, still proceeding,
Guide us to Thy perfect light...*

I love the Christmas carols. Seems like, though, we don't get to listen to them long enough. And now, by the time you read this, Christmas will be over and the carols replaced by other songs...Except, one of the carols actually should be saved to listen to now, a few days after Christmas. We Three Kings tells the story of the Magi, the wise men who showed up later, when Jesus was a young child, far removed from that angel-filled, shepherd-praising night in Bethlehem.

We three kings of Orient are, bearing gifts, we traverse afar, field and fountain, moor and mountain, following yonder star. Born a King on Bethlehem's plain. Gold I bring to crown Him again. King forever, ceasing never, over us all to reign...

The song of the wise men. Far from home, they had come to honor a king, shown to them by a star that directed them to the place where Jesus was living. And when they saw Jesus, they offered their gifts of

gold, frankincense, and myrrh. Gold to represent His kingship. Frankincense to represent His priestly role. And myrrh, an embalming oil, to speak of the importance of His death.

*Myrrh is mine, its bitter perfume,
breathes of life, of gathering
gloom, sorrowing, sighing, bleed-
ing, dying, sealed in the stone-
cold tomb.*

Not for long, though. I'm so glad this carol doesn't leave out Easter!

*Glorious now behold Him arise,
King and God and Sacrifice!
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Earth to heav'n replies.*

Child to risen Lord! Baby to King! Death to life! No wonder the star shone bright! And yet, so many missed it. Unlikely ones, though, from an unlikely place got it. They were ones you would not expect – astrologers/eastern mystics. They had studied their world and figured out the most important event in history. Others, who should have known

better, had stopped looking. But these wise men kept on, proceeding until they found Jesus.

Isn't it interesting that this is a popular song in the malls and markets. It can be found out there in the world, just as Jesus can be found today. How about let's all go out into the world ourselves, intent on guiding others to find what they may not even know they are searching after. Think of yourselves as stars. Let's worship Him out in the open, realizing there are folks out there still proceeding. Happy New Year!

RevLon.

P.S. Pat and I are thankful and appreciative for all the kind gestures, cards, and gifts we received during the holiday season. You are very special people and we are fortunate and happy to be ministering among you all.

ON THE INSIDE:

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Some rambling from someone who has been given the time to contemplate:

In 2008 we as a church put together a Christmas devotional with the intent of continuing in the succeeding years. Well, here we are in 2016 and we haven't had another church inspired Christmas Devotional. I want to challenge all 199 of us to start writing now and through October in order to present our church 's 2016 Christmas Devotional. Over the years we come up with some good ideas and failed to follow through, let us not let this one die a lonely death. In the same accord, let us not forget that we as a church have committed to serving Christ in the Yucatan. I am certain that Rick will not let us forget. We did a great job in 2015. Let us do even greater things this year and the succeeding years as well.

I thank all of you for your prayers, visits, love, and understanding, during my surgery and recovery. In late August I was diagnosed with prostate cancer, and I elected to have a radical prostatectomy. These past two months have been a physical, emotional, and spiritual rollercoaster. Without God's ever present love, and yours, I would not be as far along in recovery and spiritual growth as I am today. Thank you. Boys, take note, have your PSA checked regularly.

Christmas has come and gone, and we will back to having only about 35% of us in the pews each Sunday. Please remember that we, individually and corporately, are responsible to bring others into the fold. 90% of those attending church were asked to come worship. If we don't ask, they will not come. If we don't welcome them, they will not return. Also, ask them to come on Wednesday night for dinner, Bible study, choir, and whatever you want to lead others in doing. The food and fellowship are great, and your presence will be as well.

June 13th, six months from now, I will be blessed to celebrate my 9th anniversary as the chaplain of Hopkins County Jail. Amazing, who would of thought that God would use me as a minister on the inside. Thank you, my church brothers and sisters in this mission.

We have a good thing going at First Pres, help us keep it moving forward toward the goal of bringing all of God's children into the kingdom. Praise the LORD for he is awesome!

On the inside, love, Pete.

A NEW CLASS OF ELDERS JOIN THE SESSION

ORDINATION AND INSTALLATION OF ELDERS

January 3 is the date for ordaining and installing our newest elders to the Session. During worship we'll acknowledge the work of elders who are ending their terms:

Chaun Castleberry, Joe Cates, Ann Hofmann, Becca Wilson, and Delores Bowles.

Delight Alexander will be ordained and installed. Those previously ordained who will be installed are Luanne Cole, Anna Leasure, Jane Mosley, Dick Peyton, and Patsy Sutton.

We are grateful, too, that Rick Lee will be joining Kendrick Nuttall and Jerry Klym as our newest trustee.

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES



1st	Barbara LaRoy		Elle McAfee	28th	Kelly Franklin
5th	Floyd Gordon	17th	Angie Crawford		Logan Taylor
7th	Mike Bourland		Tommy Qualls	29th	Paula Milligan
12th	Haley Cope	19th	Bob & Marge Wilkerson (A)		Larry & Suzanne Wilson (A)
	Kaleb White	21st	Mike Ladd		
13th	Leslie Franklin	24th	Pete Phelan		
14th	Suzanne Henley	25th	Bill Stewart		
16th	Janet Pewitt	26th	Dick Peyton		
	Steve Walker	27th	David Thomas		



GRATEFUL THREADS

We just began meeting in October, but we have already made 44 hats and scarves that we're given to needy children at Grapevine School. Grateful Threads meets the 3rd Thursday of the month in the fellowship hall. Please come if you can, or if you can't, you are welcome to make items and bring them to church.

Blessings,
Susie Jackson

THE DANIEL PLAN

The Daniel Plan: God's Prescription for Your Health Sunday School class will begin January 10th. Join us as we go through a DVD study that brings us into a lifestyle where we walk in and learn more of faith, food, fitness, focus and friendships to be good managers of what God has given us. The study will feature the following categories for class for 6 weeks, Faith: Nurturing Your Soul, Food: Enjoying God's Abundance, Fitness: Strengthening Your Body, Focus: Renewing Your Mind, Friends: Encouraging Each Other, Living the Lifestyle. This is not a short term plan but an awakening to living life healthier. We hope you'll come join us as we learn and grow closer to God and one another. Workbooks will be available for \$10. See Rob for more details.

LIBRARY UPDATE...Or "Did You Know We Have a Library?"

- When was the last time you watched a good Joyce Meyer VHS on your VCR?
- How about the last time your kids or grandkids wanted to read one of those wonderful old Sunday School books with drawings of families that look like Ward and June Cleaver, Wally and Beaver?
- When was the last time you were thrilled to sit on your folding chair in the church library, and from your perch admire the bent metal shelves and study work table, or the rows of VHS and cassette tapes, or notice the falling

ceiling and poor lighting?

Over the years we have had various folks take on the church library as a project – trying to rid the shelves of out-dated material and bring in some of the vast resources available on printed pages, CD's, and DVD's.

Those efforts have helped provide quite a few good things for you to look at and check out. But, there is always the task of weaning the shelves and re-loading with the good things that are out there.

Dawn Stokes has taken on this task, and over the past several months she has done a terrific job. There is still a lot to do, es-

pecially if you consider the possibility of a remodel with some new shelving, lighting, seating, and ceiling. Dawn would love for you to consider some of your favorite Christian authors and speakers that might be added. But she's also interested in hearing your thoughts on how we might update the library with more attractive furniture, lighting, and repairs. Please come by the church or give her a call (270.821.6426) to share your interest.



“RESOLUTIONS OR REVOLUTIONS?”

Resolution as defined by Encarta Dictionary is the process of resolving something such as a problem. Resolutions are almost a way of pointing to the beginnings of a new year aren't they? We seem to always have something about us that we can improve upon don't we? A decision to resolve to make a change comes with the New Year for most people because throughout the Advent season most everyone has decided to focus on indulging in celebrating the coming King, Emmanuel, God with us! It's natural and for us that have grown up doing this year after year we resolve that after the seasons of Thanksgiving and Christmas we'll do better. And by better, I would say for most us that mean taking better care of ourselves. Of course that's right after our last celebration of New Year's Eve parties!

Revolution is a dramatic change in ideas or practice. This term is most often used in a more radical approach or possibly for some may even carry a negative thought. But for us that follow

the Way of Christ we know that everything that points to Him is counter cultural to the world. And by the world we know that which is not trusting in the power and purpose of God. Jesus said in John 15, “If the world hates you, remember that it hated me first. 19 The world would love you as one of its own if you belonged to it, but you are no longer part of the world. I chose you to come out of the world, so it hates you. 20 Do you remember what I told you? ‘A slave is not greater than the master.’ Since they persecuted me, naturally they will persecute you. And if they had listened to me, they would listen to you.” The dramatic change that is happening to us is that we have this Truth shedding light within us. We have a problem that used to separate us from God but Jesus, in Himself has resolved the problem for us! The reality is this, as we read in 1 Corinthians 6, “Don't you realize that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit, who lives in you and was given to you by God? You do not belong to yourself, 20for God bought you with a high price. So you must honor God with your body.”

We have been given a gift of peace that we don't have to measure up to be accepted by God. And with that peace we also know that we've been given the gift to choose each day and each moment how we will live our lives. No one is perfect but we strive towards the perfection placed in us to work with God as we turn towards Him and away from the world's attempt to give us purpose. What happens to most of us though is that we are suddenly distracted and then a distraction becomes a focus and then that focus becomes our purpose and then after a while we've forgotten His purpose and plan for us.

I pray that 2016 will be a year that we focus and trust in God with all our heart, mind, soul and strength and love our neighbors as God has loved us. May you stay healthy in spirit, mind and body as you turn towards the One who loves you unconditionally! God is so good, all the time!

In Christ's Love,
Rob
Romans 12

YOUTH NEWS

Thanks to everyone who supported our Angel Tree project this year! We collected \$1,080.00 and bought for 5 children! Your generosity is much appreciated, thanks for making a difference in these children's lives! January 4th is the deadline for your deposit for the Presbytery of Western Kentucky 2016 High School Mission

Trip to Pine Ridge Reservation, South Dakota, June 11-19, 2016. Please make sure you've gotten your deposit turned in. If needed, scholarships are available. Hope we can have several participate in what will be another memorable mission opportunity!

January 17th we will be getting together with our friends from other churches to bowl together at Melody Lanes. Check with Rob, Denise, or Michael on times and price.

FINANCE SUMMARY

	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov
Faith Promise	\$22,794.00	\$19,634.00	\$14,420.00	\$15,313.00	\$25,277.00
Other Income	\$ 5,508.47	\$ 4,591.12	\$ 2,410.00	\$ 3,888.47	\$ 3,302.00
Expenses	\$31,726.70	\$22,715.02	\$20,559.13	\$16,891.92	\$23,742.27
Operating Acct Balance	\$ (760.41)	\$ (587.61)	\$ (4,243.80)	\$ (3,185.18)	\$ 98.04

The 2016 Tithing Envelopes will be in the narthex for you to pick up.

January 2016						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1  New Year's Day	2
3	4 9:30AM Norma Siria Circle	5 7PM Session Mtg	6 5:15 Fellowship Meal 6:00 Activities 7:00 Choir Rehearsal	7	8	9
10	11	12	13 5:15 Fellowship Meal 6:00 Activities 7:00 Choir Rehearsal	14	15	16
17	18	19	20 5:15 Fellowship Meal 6:00 Activities 7:00 Choir Rehearsal	21	22	23
24	25	26	27 5:15 Fellowship Meal 6:00 Activities 7:00 Choir Rehearsal	28	29	30
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