

*****PREPARE COMMUNION*****

December - Jacob Clayton
January -

NURSERY ATTENDANTS

TODAY - Millie Dauck * December 9 - Cindy Burseson

CHILDREN'S HOME NEEDS

Toilet paper * Toothpaste * Dishwashing detergent * Disinfectant cleaner (non-aerosol) * Cereal * Marshmallows (pick-up date is December 10)

OUR RECORD FOR LAST WEEK

Attendance 143
Contribution \$4537

FOOD PANTRY

DECEMBER ITEMS: CANNED SPAGHETTI SAUCE
Vienna Sausages, tomato sauce and canned tomatoes of any kind. Cash donations also gratefully accepted

Happy Birthday:

- December 2 - Beverly Karnes
- December 4 - Whitt Martin
- December 5 - Curtis McClard
- December 9 - Sharlette Watson



Happy Anniversary:

- December 8 - Stan and Sue Flowers

Bible Trivia:

How many proverbs is King Solomon credited in speaking?

Last Week's Answer:

The giant Goliath lived in the city of Gath (1 Samuel 17:4)

The "Areas of Services" schedule for 2019 is available and posted on the bulletin board by the water fountain. Take a minute to check it out and see where you can help out in the coming year. Also, please check the master copy of the 2018 calendar located on the table in the foyer to make sure all of your family's names are on their correct birthdays and anniversaries. Please make additions, changes or revisions as needed. Thank you.

SERVING TODAY

December 2, 2018

Song Leader.....Morris Karnes
Opening Prayer.....Joe Watson

LORD'S TABLE

Ron Garner.....Justin Allen
Ronnie Mays.....Tim Flowers
Jason Karnes.....Rick Beard
Scripture.....Jerry McCoy
Prayer.....Jon Neely
Announcements.....David Burseson
Dismissal.....Darrin Shipman

Sunday Evening

Song Leader.....Wayne Reams
Prayer.....Jacob Clayton
Scripture.....Jerry Burseson
Matthew 23: 17-22

Dismissal.....Mike Duley

Wednesday, December 5, 2018

Song Leader.....Ronnie Mays
Prayer.....Ron Garner
Dismissal.....Rodney Williams

December 9, 2018

Song Leader.....Tim Woods
Opening Prayer.....Jerry Burseson

LORD'S TABLE

David Carson.....Zach Tanner
Jonathon Simmons.....Jacob Clayton
Alex Garner.....Sam Garner
Scripture.....Rodney Williams
Prayer.....Jon Neely
Announcements.....Wayne Reams
Dismissal.....David Burseson

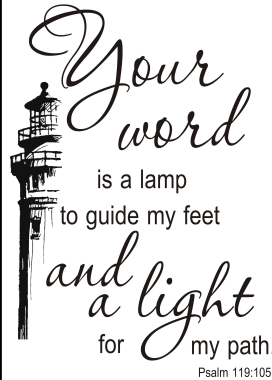
Sunday Evening

Song Leader.....Ronnie Mays
Prayer.....Justin Allen
Scripture.....Jacob Clayton
Matthew 23: 23-26

Dismissal.....Sam Garner

COUNT DECEMBER CONTRIBUTION

Jacob Clayton.....Wayne Reams
Joe Watson.....Justin Allen



SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

SUNDAY

Bible Study.....9:30AM
Worship.....10:15AM
Worship.....5:00PM

WEDNESDAY

Bible Study.....7:00PM

MINISTER

Stan Dauck
573-293-5620

ELDERS

David Burseson
573-820-0329
David Carson
573-276-5567
Stan Dauck
573-293-5594

DEACONS

Wayne Reams
Joe Watson
Rodney Williams
Tim Woods

OFFICE: 573-293-5620
Bernie Church of Christ
P.O. Box 366
Bernie, MO 63822

EMAIL:
bemiechurchof-christ@gmail.com

WEBSITE:
www.bemiechurchofchrist.com

TRUE LIGHT

December 2, 2018

The Inflatable Christmas

One of the holiday decorations that has literally popped up on the lawns of neighborhoods throughout our community, and I suspect around the nation, is the inflatable. These inflatables declare with unmistakable fashion the coming of Christmas.

In close proximity of our home, one can see an inflatable Santa, an inflated Rudolph, an inflatable Frosty the Snowman that stands 15 feet tall and bounces in the breeze, and an inflated Merry Mickey Christmas. Some of these decorations have lights and some do not. Some even have fake snow falling and swirling. On one lawn, a passerby can see Joseph, Mary, the baby Jesus and at least one of the Magi safely enclosed in a colorful plastic bubble that lights up at night.

It's inflatable Christmas. Hmmm. An interesting concept.

The inflatable Christmas is full of air. There is not much to it, at least not much of substance. It's decorative and is totally dependent upon air to make it appear as anything more than a piece of trash on the lawn. Pull the plug, and these inflatables collapse. The inflatable Christmas is for show. Drive through these neighborhoods in the daylight hours and these same displays usually lay flat and lifeless on the ground. Empty. Deflated.



The inflatable Christmas is temporary. Like most Christmas decorations, the inflatable Christmas is seasonal. Some displays will come down on Christmas Day. Some will be packed away the day after Christmas. Some will remain intact for a week or so through New Year's Day. Most, however, are completely out of sight by mid-January - except for those whose masters choose to leave their lights up all year, but only plug them in around Christmas, but surely even their inflatables will have to be put away when the lawn mower comes out.

The inflatable Christmas can be a reminder of a more serious condition: the inflatable Christian.

The inflatable Christian is full of air. Not much content. Not much on the inside. Not much real conviction and very little substance. No depth. On the surface, they look good. Bright. Cheerful. Exciting. Colorful. However, they are filled by what is light and air. The inflatable Christian is only about the show. Just look at and admire them. Praise them for what appears to be really nice, but don't look on the inside. Appreciate them from a distance, but don't get too close or you may be surprised, disappointed or discouraged.

The inflatable Christian is temporary. They only appear on special occasions. They are not around during the dark days of winter or the dry days of summer. **Continued on inside**

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Wednesday Fellowship Meal: Taco Salad. Desserts will be needed.
December 5: Nursing Home Crafts at 2 p.m. at Malden Nursing and Rehab.
December 7: Ladies' Wednesday Night Class Christmas Party at 6:30 at the home of Trish Baldwin. Bring a wrapped, gag gift and a dish to share
December 9: Singing at Ridgeview Living in Malden at 2 p.m.
December 9: Fellowship Meal honoring Stan and Millie following evening worship. See announcement below.
December 10: Children's Home Grocery Run. Let's get the cart filled up.

Looking Ahead

Ladies Lunch Out December 11 at 11:30 a.m. at Hickory Log in Dexter. There is a sign up sheet on the table in the foyer if you'd like to attend

Ladies Holiday Brunch at 10 a.m. Thursday, December 13, at the home of Amy Thomason. Bring a dish to share and a wrapped \$10 gift (optional). Bring a can or two of non-perishable food for our food pantry for a chance to win a door prize.

Ladies Annual Ornament Exchange Monday, December 17, in the fellowship room at 6 p.m. Please bring finger foods or desserts to share and a wrapped ornament valued at \$10 or less.

Christmas Dinner in the fellowship room at noon December 25. Make plans to join us!

Fifth Sunday potluck/early evening service December 30. We will have a potluck meal at noon, followed by a 1 p.m. evening service.

New Year's Eve Get-Together December 31 at 7 p.m. in the Fellowship Room. Bring games and finger foods

Challenge Youth Conference February 21-24 in Pigeon Forge, TN. If interested in attending, the time to sign up is now.

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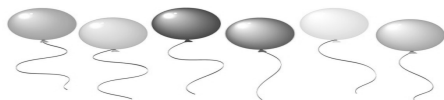
During those times, they're busy with what the surrounding world says are the important things. However, when the season is right and the message is pleasing, they show up ... dressed up, smiling, and looking good for the occasion.

Jesus may have had inflatable Christmas and inflatable Christians in mind when He described the religious people of his day - the inflated religious folks - with terms like, "Everything they do is done for others to see ... hypocrites ... blind guides ... whitewashed tombs" (Matthew 23).

We have a choice of what kind of Christian we will be and what kind of Christmas we will have. Let's enjoy the season to the fullest. Let's share the joy. Even more, let's live the life ... the real life, not the inflated one.

Tom Norvell, www.heartlight.com

Let's Celebrate!



Everyone is invited to a congregational meal next Sunday following evening worship services, in honor of Stan and Millie Dauck and the 30 years of service they have given to the Bernie congregation. We will be having ribs from Dexter Barbecue with all the fixins'. Please make plans to attend.

Lifting up in Prayer...

REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

Gayle Rodgers is home after being hospitalized for pneumonia * Elwood Rush has been having back trouble * Anna Williams recently suffered several severe seizures and is in Medical University of South Carolina in Charleston * James Wood had his final cancer treatment * Jerry Burleson's PSA numbers were up some at his last visit *

CONTINUING PRAYERS

(congregational)

Louella Akers * John David Barnett * Mary Burke * David Burleson * Jerry Burleson * Pam Claeys * Billie Cooper * Mike Duley * Scott and Judy Flannery * Sue Flowers * Grant Howard * Jeff Martin * Sonja Mays * Jeff McGowan * Ida Roberts * Gayle Rodgers * Elwood Rush * Max Snyder * David Terrill * Max Terrill * Bettie Thurston * Joy Watson * Marty Watson * Cindy Williams * Darrell Zimmerman * Pansy Zimmerman *

CONTINUING PRAYERS (non congregational)

Cancer

Ryder Boles
Roxanne Carson
Debbie Chrisman
Bill Fitzpatrick
Kevin Flowers
Tommy Jacques
Connie Lemmons
Annette Lumsden
Phil McQuin
Betty Nicholson
Jessica Payne
Donnie Rawlings
Deanna Rogers
Norman Swafford
Diane Wilder

Other Health Issues

Beaver Blocker (Alzheimer's)
Roy Greer (COPD)
Hannah Guntert (higher risk pregnancy)
Clyde Jacques
Tommy Jacques
Beckie King (MS)
Alvin Miller (poor health)
Tom Provance
Traci Suiter (poor health)
Geraldine Tomah (poor health)

It's a Boy: Congratulations to Creagan and Jenna Williams on the birth of their son, Landry Dean, who was born November 27. Mom and baby are doing fine. Proud grandparents are Rodney and Cindy Williams.

In Sympathy: Our sympathy is extended to Sonny Ingle in the loss of his brother, Sherman Ingle. Sherman passed away Thursday, November 29.

OUR SHUT INS

Central Garden: Fern Botsch #309
Mary Burke #303
Lois McQuin #117

Ridgeview Living/Malden:

Shirley Johnson
Bertha Skidgell #201
Max Terrill #207
Isaac Wheeler

Cypress Point: Bettie Thurston #14
Joy Watson # 11

Winchester Place:

Travis Cooper, #7

Gideon Care Ctr. Sue Flowers, #102

AT HOME: Pam Claeys, Scott & Judy Flannery, Gayle Rodgers, Elwood Rush