

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

December - Brooke and Karsyn Smith
January - Zack and Beckie Tanner

NURSERY ATTENDANTS

TODAY - Cindy Williams * December 29 - Bonnie Jones

CHILDREN'S HOME NEEDS

Pancake Mix * Sugar * Hair Spray (non-aerosol) * Cream of Celery Soup * Men's Stick Deodorant * Snack Bars * pick up date March 23

OUR RECORD FOR LAST WEEK

Attendance - 128
Contribution - \$4101

FOOD PANTRY

DECEMBER ITEMS: CANNED VEGETABLES

Canned spaghetti sauce, pork n beans, Vienna sausages. Cash donations also gratefully accepted

Happy Birthday:

December 22 - Rosemary McCoy
December 23 - Alexis Northern
December 24 - Michal Woods
December 28 - Kylie Allen



Happy Anniversary:

December 23 - Stan and Millie Dauck
December 25 - Billie and Pat Cooper



Bible Trivia:

What person in the Bible said, "A living dog is better than a dead lion"?

Last Week's Answer:

Isaiah prophesied that men would eat their own flesh (Isaiah 9:20)

If you would like to send a card or note of encouragement to Charlie Thompson, his address is posted on the bulletin board by the water cooler.

SERVING TODAY

December 22, 2019

Song Leader.....Wes Howard
Opening Prayer.....Zack Tanner

LORD'S TABLE

David Carson.....Justin Allen
Tim Flowers.....Jeff McGowan
Jeff Rodgers.....Johnny McGowan
Scripture.....Zachary Tanner
Prayer.....Jon Neely
Announcements.....Ron Garner
Dismissal.....Darrin Shipman

Sunday Evening

Song Leader.....Wayne Reams
Prayer.....Rodney Williams
Scripture.....David Burleson

Matthew 26: 47-50

Dismissal.....Jerry McCoy

Wednesday, December 25, 2019

Song Leader.....n/a
Prayer.....n/a
Dismissal.....n/a

December 29, 2019

Song Leader.....Joe Watson
Opening Prayer.....David Carson

LORD'S TABLE

Darrin Shipman.....David Burleson
Sam Garner.....Alex Garner
Mike Duley.....Jon Neely
Scripture.....Jacob Clayton
Prayer.....Jerry Burleson
Announcements.....Wayne Reams
Dismissal.....Bud McKuin

Sunday Evening

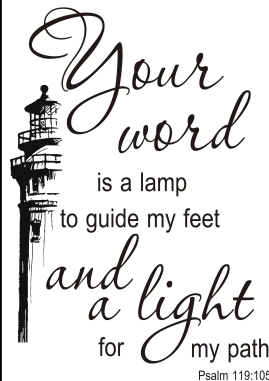
Song Leader.....Morris Karnes
Prayer.....Justin Allen
Scripture.....Zachary Tanner

Matthew 26: 51-53

Dismissal.....Rodney Williams

COUNT DECEMBER CONTRIBUTION

Justin Allen.....Mike Duley
Rodney Williams.....David Carson



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 Burleson
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 22, 2019

PEACE - UNTIL WE FIND OUR DREAM

The actual story of Jesus often gets lost at Christmastime in the maudlin and schmaltzy stories associated with Jesus' birth. While we don't want to traumatize our children or scandalize the birth of Christ, the biblical birth stories of Jesus reflect the gritty reality of our often harsh world.

We must not let the real Jesus become lost in the Western civilization rosy-cheeked, blonde-haired, and cherubic baby wrapped in clean blankets with his arms outstretched and looking expectantly at us with his blue eyes. Jesus was born to parents who were shunned. They went to their hometown for a Roman census but found no room for them to use as a place to stay or for Mary to have her baby. Forget about not having room for them in the inn; the truth is far harsher. No family would keep them. They knew Mary's baby was not Joseph's baby. They knew that they were not fully husband and wife, but that Mary, nearing the end of her pregnancy, was Joseph's betrothed.

Jesus wasn't welcomed as a prince into the world. There was no palace. There were no fine linen sheets. There was no hand-made crib in which to place the newborn King of the Jews. Instead, Mary placed baby Jesus in a feed trough where animals licked up grain and found their bites of hay for food. There were no nursemaids or attending servants to care for him - only smelly shepherds fresh from their flocks in the fields. No religious officials were present to name him - only later did foreign dignitaries of a false religion welcome him.

Then, to make matters worse - and much more like the world in which we live - the ruling authority set out to kill baby Jesus. King Herod would have no rival to his throne. So, God had to warn his step-dad, Joseph, in a dream about Herod's murderous intentions. The heavenly warning ensured that Jesus was spared as the family escaped to Egypt. However, Herod had other babies in the region around Bethlehem murdered in an act of genocide to appease his paranoia.

Immanuel, God with us in Jesus, is a real-world Savior. His true-to-life story has great power to connect with us in our most challenging moments and speak to the eternal yearning in our hearts that evil and the evil one cannot extinguish. God came to us in human flesh as Jesus. He entered a world as wondrous and dangerous as our own. He took on the whole reality of our mortality and conquered the worst of it to make the best of it possible for us.

Our world is broken, and we need to pray for God's Kingdom to come on earth just as it is reflected in heaven (Matthew 6:9-13). If we pray such a prayer, then we should seek to bring this Kingdom of God as modeled by Jesus (Matthew 6:33). We must live in great anticipation for the day that all hostilities cease, and all hatred is swallowed up and removed with the full reign of the world's Savior, Jesus. Then, we will join the chorus of heaven and sing: *The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of his Christ, and he shall reign forever and ever* (Revelation 11:15).

We can't wait until the hills are alive with this song. How about you?
Phil Ware and James Nored, www.heartlight.com

MARK YOUR CALENDAR:

December 25: Christmas Dinner will be served in the fellowship room at noon. There is a sign up sheet on the table in the foyer if you'd like to attend. Everyone is welcome

December 25: There will be no Bible Study

December 26: Congregational Singing and scripture reading at 7 p.m. for those who are able to attend

December 29: Fifth Sunday early evening service and potluck. We will have a meal after morning worship, followed by a 1 p.m. evening service. Make plans to say for the potluck

Looking Ahead

New Year's Eve get together in the fellowship room December 31, beginning at 7 p.m. Bring snacks and games and help us ring in 2020!

Friends and Family Day with Brent Newton January 5. We will have a potluck meal following morning services. Our evening service will have a special youth emphasis, with a light meal following. There is a sign up sheet to help provide desserts, chips and drinks. Everyone is encouraged to attend, and invite a friend

IGNITE! Youth Rally January 18 and 19 at Jackson church of Christ with guest speaker Patrick Adam. The cost is \$10 and includes two meals and a t shirt. More information is posted on the bulletin board by the nursery

Challenge Youth Conference February 28-March 1 at Pigeon Forge. The theme is "Power: Word, Spirit, Cross, God"

Area Wide Singing March 8 at 2 p.m. at Fruitland church of Christ

Inspiration 2020 March 13 and 14 at Dexter church of Christ with guest speaker Lonnie Jones. The theme is "Connected"

A BETTER WORLD BEGINS WITH ME

It's not unusual to hear the expression, "I owned it today. I took a test and totally owned it!" or "We played a team today and owned the other team!" How many of us know what that means? It means that someone came out on top. They won the game, or they passed the test and have a lot of pride in their accomplishment. That's a pretty good feeling!

Wouldn't it be great if we could "own" the world? I don't mean in the sense of beating it in a game or climbing over it on our way to the top. I'm thinking of us having such an impact on the world that it would become better! Think about it for just a moment. Sin dominates our world (Romans 3:23; 5:12). And because sin is destructive, (Romans 6:23), the world continues getting worse. It will get better only when the righteous "own" it by being the salt and light Jesus spoke about in the Sermon on the Mount.

Jesus says we are the *salt of the earth* (Matthew 5:13). Salt is useful for many things such as improving the taste of food and helping the human body retain fluids to prevent dehydration. The primary use for salt in the ancient world was in the preservation of meats. Since the ancients did not have the advantages of refrigeration that we have today, it was necessary to coat meat with salt to prevent spoilage. In the same way, we need to help prevent the moral decay that is taking place in our society. We do this by upholding godly principles and showing the world that the better life is one that is lived for God. When we compromise the principles of righteousness for worldly things, we have "lost the savor" and become more like the world. In that sense, we simply add to the wickedness that is already so prevalent.

Jesus also says we are the *light of the world* (Matthew 5:14-16). Light has the wonderful benefit of showing the way before us (Psalm 119:105). Light exposes the *hidden things of darkness*, (1 Cor. 4:5), that can cause us to stumble. Just as Moses' face glowed after being with God, we are to be the light of the world by reflecting the presence of God and His glory. When the world sees this positive effect in us, they will be able to see God. When we cover that light by sin or inactivity, the world continues to walk in darkness.

We can "own" the world if we are salt and light. It begins with me! Each one of us taking personal responsibility for our lives before God and those around us. Gary Knuckles, Central church of Christ, via Bulletin Digest

Lifting up in Prayer...

REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

Curtis McClard is in Barnes Hospital with two different infections in his foot and ankle * **Isaac Wheeler** has been in the hospital with pneumonia but is doing better and has been released * **Pat Ingle** will have a skin cancer removed from her face January 8 * **Jerry Burleson** will have to have a skin cancer removed in the near future * **Don Jackson** has been dealing with an infection in his stomach * **Clyde Jacques** was recently hospitalized, but is doing better * **Paula Mason** (Millie's sister) is doing well following surgery * **Ronnie Barber** (friend of Gabe Smith) is in bad shape with heart failure * **Alvin Miller** (Judy Duley's father) has been moved to Cotton Point in Matthews * **Helen McGowan** needs prayers that a kidney can be found soon *

CONTINUING PRAYERS

(congregational)

Louella Akers * John David Barnett * David Burleson * Jerry Burleson * Pam Claeys * Billie Cooper * Scott and Judy Flannery * Sue Flowers * Grant Howard * Curtis McClard * Darlene McGowan * Helen McGowan * Jeff McGowan * Reba Owens * Ida Roberts * Gayle Rodgers * Waynetta Rodgers * Elwood Rush * Jane Smith * David Terrill * Max Terrill * Bettie Thurston * Joy Watson * Marty Watson * Woody Wood * Darrell Zimmerman * Pansy Zimmerman *

...Pray for one another, that you may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much..... James 5:16.

Prayer is a special blessing. Help us keep our prayer list up to date by letting Amy know of any prayer requests or updates you would like to have in the bulletin



CONTINUING PRAYERS

(non congregational)

Cancer

Kristi Altman
Roxanne Carson
Sherry Chambers
Dale Eaton
Bill Fitzpatrick
Peggy Hampton
LeAnn Jacques
Tommy Jacques
Pam Jeralds
Andy Kelley
Connie Lemmons
Annette Lumsden
Phil McKuin
Ponna Mahan
Paula Mason
Betty Nicholson
Donnie Rawlings
Gerald Robertson
Deanna Rogers
Bobby Thornton

Other Health Issues

Megan Brenna
DeeDee Burch (auto accident)
Mary Burke (poor health)
Renee Goodman (serious health issues)
Clyde Jacques
Lola Johnson (kidney)
Beckie King (MS)
Nikki Lawrence (migraines)
Sonja Mays (poor health)
Alvin Miller (poor health)
Tom Provance
Gene Rowland
Traci Suiter (poor health)
Paige Tanner (congestive heart failure)

OUR SHUT INS

Central Garden:

Lois McKuin #218
Marty Watson #107

Ridgeview Living:

Shirley Johnson #225
Bertha Skidgell #218
Max Terrill #207
Isaac Wheeler #201

Cypress Point:

Joy Watson #8

Winchester Place:

Elwood Rush, #6

Winchester Nursing Home:

Sue Flowers #208
Travis Cooper, #205

Crowley Ridge Nursing: Fern Botsch, #103

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