

**\*\*\*PREPARE COMMUNION\*\*\***

December - Brooke and Karsyn Smith

January - Jerry and Rosemary McCoy

**NURSERY ATTENDANTS**

TODAY - Bonnie Jones \* January 5 - Loretta Carson

**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 - 115  
Contribution - \$4745

**FOOD PANTRY**

**DECEMBER ITEMS: CANNED VEGETABLES**

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

**Happy Birthday:**

December 31 - David Howard  
January 1 - David Carson  
January 3 - Korey Adams  
January 4 - Morris Karnes  
Brenda Wheeler  
Janet Wood



**Happy Anniversary:**

December 30 - Tim and Michal Woods  
December 31 - Sonny and Pat Ingle



**Bible Trivia:**

How many locks of hair did Delilah cut from Samson's head?

**Last Week's Answer:**

In Ecclesiastes 1:1; 9:4, Solomon said "A living dog is better than a dead lion."

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 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 McQuin

**Sunday Evening**

**Song Leader**.....Morris Karnes

**Prayer**.....Justin Allen

**Scripture**.....Zachary Tanner

Matthew 26: 51-53

**Dismissal**.....Rodney Williams

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**Wednesday, January 1, 2020**

**Song Leader**.....Jacob Clayton

**Prayer**.....David Burleson

**Dismissal**.....Jerry McCoy

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**January 5, 2020**

**Song Leader**.....Tim Woods

**Opening Prayer**.....Darrin Shipman

**LORD'S TABLE**

Ron Garner.....Zack Tanner

Marty Howard.....David Howard

Jason Karnes.....Jerry McCoy

**Scripture**.....Wayne Reams

**Prayer**.....Jonathan Simmons

**Announcements**.....David Carson

**Dismissal**.....Jeff Rodgers

**Sunday Evening**

**Song Leader**.....Wes Howard

**Prayer**.....Jacob Clayton

**Scripture**.....Zachary Tanner

Matthew 26: 54-56

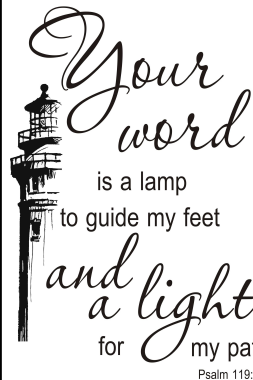
**Dismissal**.....Sam Garner

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**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**

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Bernie, MO 63822**

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christ@gmail.com

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www.bemiechurchofchrist.com

# TRUE LIGHT

December 29, 2019

**CHRISTMAS ENDS WHERE IT BEGINS**

I know the calendar says the year is almost over, but that doesn't mean you are done with Christmas. With trees to dismantle and lights to untangle, fragile ornaments to be carefully boxed to last another 60 years, there's a lot to do before Christmas is over and done. And there are always the wise men. We just can't declare another Christmas done without knowing what to do with the wise men.

There they are, prominent figures in our nativity displays where they don't belong at all because they weren't there the night Jesus was born. In some traditions, the wise men are said to have appeared 12 days after Jesus was born, or on January 6, the Feast of Epiphany. I won't burden you with variations on that theme but will simply note that the 12 days of Christmas are not about calling birds and lords a leaping, but about an extended celebration of Christmas.

Based on Matthew's chronology and Herod's order for boys two years old and under to be killed, the magi arrived about two years too late. Efforts to fix the time more precisely by identifying the special star have only produced convoluted suppositions about stars aligning in various ways. All we really know is that the magi were not there on the night Jesus was born and they do not belong in our nativity scenes. But I am going to leave them in mine (and maybe even add a fourth) because I don't choose to fight centuries of tradition.

The lack of solid information invites speculation to fill in the gaps. So, because gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh are mentioned, a tradition arose that three gifts meant three wise men. The error in that reasoning is obvious. And searching for hidden meaning in the gifts chosen by the magi makes for interesting speculation, but not much more.

Tradition has gone so far as to give the wise men names: Melchior, a Persian scholar; Caspar, a wise man from India; and Balthazar, a possibly black-skinned man from Babylon. As long as we're dealing with tradition, I'd like to add an interesting little volume by Henry van Dyke titled, "The Story of the Other Wise Man." Born in 1852, van Dyke was educated at Princeton University and Princeton Theological Seminary. A noted educator, author, and minister, he wrote the lyrics to "Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee" that we sing to the tune of Beethoven's "Ode to Joy."

In "The Story of the Other Wise Man," van Dyke tells about Artaban, his fictional magus who saw the star, sold his house and possessions, and bought three precious jewels - a sapphire, a ruby and a pearl - to present to the newborn king. Friends discouraged his quest, but Artaban listened to his oldest and best friend and set out to join the other wise men who followed the star. Along the way, he came upon a dying stranger and spent several hours ministering to him and reviving him. But the delay made him miss his rendezvous with the other wise men who went on without him. Needing a train of camels to cross the treacherous desert, Artaban bought them with his precious sapphire.

Continued on Inside

**MARK YOUR CALENDAR:**

**TODAY:** Fifth Sunday Potluck and early p.m. service. We will have a potluck meal immediately after morning worship followed by a 1 p.m. evening worship. Make plans to stay for the potluck !

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

**January 5:** Super Sunday - Friends and Family Day with Brent Newton. 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 Sunday night. Everyone is encouraged to attend, and invite a friend. There are also some flyers on the table in the foyer to give to family and friends.

***Looking Ahead***

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***Ladies Lunch Out January 14 at 11:30 at Pizza Hut in Dexter***

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***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***

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***Mary and Martha January 20 at 6:30 p.m. in the fellowship room***

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***Widow/Widower/Senior Luncheon February 6 at 11:30 in the fellowship room***

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

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

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

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Arriving in Bethlehem with his ruby and pearl to give to the king, he discovered that the other wise men had been and gone and that Joseph had taken Mary and Jesus to Egypt. When soldiers stormed through the town killing the babies, Artaban used his ruby to bribe the captain to spare the baby of the woman who befriended him.

After 33 years of searching for the king and ministering to prisoners, the hungry, the sick, and the poor along the way, Artaban made his way back to Jerusalem at the time of Passover. Joining the crowd making its way to Golgotha, he used his pearl, his only remaining treasure, to purchase freedom for a young girl sold into slavery.

Following the star leads us, as it led Artaban, to the cross. Thinking he had failed, "A calm radiance of wonder and joy lighted the pale face of Artaban like the first ray of dawn on a snowy mountain-peak. One long, last breath of relief exhaled gently from his lips." But not before he heard the soft voice of Jesus saying, *Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me* (Matthew 25:40).

When we have nothing left to give, God gives us everything that matters!

Christmas ends where it begins, with God giving us his most precious jewel. Phillip Morrison, www.heartlight.com

***Lifting up in Prayer...***

**REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS**

**(this bulletin was printed in advance. Please listen to announcements for any updates)**

**Curtis McClard** is in room 6223A at Barnes Hospital waiting for surgery to clean out infection in his ankle \* **Trish Baldwin** recently had a procedure on her esophagus and will also be having an MRI on her knee Dec 30 in Dexter\* **Jeff McGowan** has been sick with an upper respiratory infection \* **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 \* **Helen McGowan** needs prayers that a kidney can be found soon \* continue to remember **Jeff and Karen Martin** as they adjust to having a houseful of children in a small space

**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  
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**

<b>Central Garden:</b>	Lois McKuIn #218 Marty Watson #107	<b>Ridgeview Living:</b>	Shirley Johnson #225 Bertha Skidgell #218 Max Terrill #207 Isaac Wheeler #201
<b>Cypress Point:</b>	Joy Watson #8		
<b>Winchester Place:</b>	Elwood Rush, #6		
<b>Winchester Nursing Home:</b>	Sue Flowers #208 Travis Cooper, #205	<b>Crowley Ridge Nursing:</b>	Fern Botsch, #103

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