

OUR CHURCH FAMILY

Kimberly Wood is recuperating following knee surgery last week... **Astin Luttrell** is now home from the hospital... **Alberta Casey** remains in Baptist DeSoto. She had surgery Tuesday... **Brandon Means** was in LeBonheur this week for asthma... **Vickie Eddlemon's** father, Malcolm Chism may be released from rehab this week... **Billy Herron** has begun another round of chemotherapy... **Ron Thompson's** mother, Mary Thompson, underwent surgery Tuesday at Baptist Memphis... **Barbara Woolbright** is in St. Francis Hospital after falling this past weekend... **A.V. Melton** received encouraging news from his recent bone scan... **Butch** and **Karen McEntire's** twenty month old grandson, Chase McEntire, has been in Baptist Memphis with a staph infection.

SYMPATHY

Our sympathy is extended to **Dot Jones** in the passing of her mother, Ethel Ferguson, last week in Wichita Falls, Texas.

CONGRATULATIONS

We congratulate **Betty Eubanks** on the birth of a great-grandson, Seth Austin Sweeney. He was born Oct. 28 weighing 6 lbs. 13 oz. and was 19" long.

BABY SHOWER

For **Andrea & Aaron Cole** this Sunday, Nov. 9 from 3:30 - 4:30 in the foyer. They are registered at Target and Babies R Us. It's a girl!



WBS TEACHERS

All WBS teachers are asked to meet on Wednesday evening, November 5th in Rm. 24 during class time. Important new information will be discussed. Please make every effort to attend.

TLC'S

Will have their brownbag fellowship in the FLC this Friday at 6 pm.

THANKSGIVING DAY FEAST

We have invited our friends from the school supply store to join us on Thanksgiving Day for a feast. We will need help with food, decorating, serving, eating (yes, eating!) and cleanup. Some can be done ahead of time and nothing will take more than a couple of hours that Thursday. We will have more details next Sunday, November 9, after we have our RSVPs in. We are making a difference in our community!

HARDING ACADEMY CHORUS

A long standing tradition here at Goodman Oaks—the Harding Academy Chorus will present a program for us on the Tuesday evening before Thanksgiving—November 25th. There is a possibility this program may have to be rescheduled if Harding progresses to the State Football championship game in Murphreesboro scheduled for the same evening. In that case we will have a devotional service on the 25th and the chorus will sing on Wednesday, December 3rd.

FCG INFORMATION SHEETS

Each family is asked to complete the information sheet you recently received in the mail and return it to the elder who is in charge of your Family Care Group (or the office). Extra copies of these sheets are available at the information desk in the foyer.

NUMERICALLY SPEAKING

November 2, 2008

Sunday Bible Class	490
Sunday Morning Worship	694
Sunday Evening Assembly	277
Offering	\$ 21,936

SCHEDULE OF ASSEMBLIES

Sunday:
 Sunday School - 9:00 a.m.
 Worship - 10:00 a.m.
 Worship - 5:00 p.m.
 Fellowship - 6:15 p.m.
Tuesday: "Encouragement Class" - 10 a.m.
Wednesday:
 Bible Study - 7:00 p.m.

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where no one walks alone



Around The Oaks

... with Steve Reeves

Life Changes Initiative at Goodman Oaks

Families in our society are hurting. That comes as no surprise. What may surprise us is to know that families in the church are hurting just as much and in some cases even more than families in the world. With some regularity church leaders learn of family conflict, separation and divorce among the members of the congregation. Often, by the time it comes to their attention the situation has progressed far beyond their ability to help. Most of these are "Lose-Lose" cases. The families lose when a marriage is dissolved and children experience the pain of parental breakup. Individuals lose emotionally and financially. Friends lose when those they were once close to become alienated. The church loses when those who were once faithful members drift away. The sadness associated with such situations is tragic indeed and it occurs far too often.

What if there were a way to address problems within families before they reach a point of no return? Would it not be a valuable thing to provide husbands and wives along with parents and children the skills needed to cope with the difficult situations encountered in life?

Earlier this year our leadership at Goodman Oaks learned of a program being made available by AGAPE of the Mid-South entitled, "**Life Changes Initiative.**" Funded by a grant recently made available to AGAPE this program is being offered completely free of charge to congregations in the Memphis area. Here's a brief overview.

Counselors from AGAPE come in and provide training for church leaders on how to minister to families in crisis. Those of us on staff along with our Elders and several others have already completed three hours of this training and will be undergoing additional training in the future.

On Sunday morning, November 16th AGAPE staff members will be with us during our morning worship service. On this occasion we will have a shorter than normal service allowing time afterwards for each individual (7th grade up) to fill out a Family Needs Survey. This survey will be completely anonymous and will be administered by the people from AGAPE. The surveys are designed and will be scored by the research department at Baylor University in Waco, Texas. **No one at Goodman Oaks or AGAPE will ever see your individual survey.** After these have been tabulated the staff from AGAPE will present the results to our leadership and will then assist us in developing classes, programs and counseling opportunities that will minister directly to the families of our congregation.

This coming Sunday morning, November 9th, **David Jordan**, Executive Director of AGAPE and an elder at the White Station congregation, will share the pulpit with me. David will speak about the need for such a program as the Life Changes Initiative and how AGAPE hopes to be of help to local churches in developing stronger families.

I commend our Elders for their willingness to participate in this effort and their desire to strengthen our families within the Goodman Oaks congregation.

~ Steve Reeves

Kevin's Korner

...Kevin Jourdan



In January, we will begin Marriage Mentoring: 12 Conversations. Marriage Mentoring is a marriage program developed by Dr. Ed Gray; a Professor of Counseling at the Harding Graduate School of Religion. You may be wondering what marriage mentoring is and why we are doing it here at Goodman Oaks.

The concept is simple: share the stories of our married life with another couple, in encouraging ways. There are twelve guided conversations over dinner, desert, or snacks once a month. Would you like to bless a couple with your support and encouragement? Would you like to learn from couples that have experience?

This ministry is proactive by helping couples build and nurture stronger marriages. Stories of married life are shared by each couple in encouraging ways; therefore it is simple. It is fun because there are twelve guided conversations over dinner, desert or snacks once a month. There is support for couples as they face new stages and adjustments in marriage. Friendships are built through having a role model of a successful marriage instead of a "marriage counseling," problem-focused model. Most of all, there is encouragement for older and younger couples learning from one another as they intentionally grow their marriage relationships. Please consider taking part in this ministry to build and maintain a healthy marriage.

Something to Think About

Over the past couple of weeks I have been thinking a lot about who I am in this country and where I belong, and these words continually flood my mind. Christ follower (Acts 11:26), Alien (1 Pet. 2:11), Stranger (1 Peter 1:17), Set Apart/Holy (1 Pet. 1:15), Non-Conformist (Rom. 12:2), Kingdom of God (Matt. 6:33), and Citizen of Heaven (Phil 3:20). What do these words mean to you? "But our citizenship is in heaven. And we eagerly await a savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ" (Phil. 3:20).

Youth News

... Jeff Shocklee

TAILGATE THURSDAY

This Thursday will be our final tailgate of the year. It is hosted by Keith and Kim Billingsley at the DCHS-South Panola game (yes, it has been moved to Thursday). Drop in starting at 6pm and bring some drinks and snacks and spend some time together in the crisp cool weather. It's going to be great!

YOUTH IN ACTION

We will be attending Youth in Action this year in Nashville, TN. It is from December 28-30. A deposit of \$35 is due by November 23. There will be an additional cost of \$45 due Dec. 14. You will need to bring money for 4 meals, as well as any souvenirs, CDs, snacks, etc.

MEXICO 2009

We plan to return to work in Monterrey, Mexico again this coming summer. The planned dates are June 19-27. Cost is \$500. The information book will be available on Sunday, January 4. Commitment Sunday is February 1. Let's start praying and preparing as we plan to help build facilities for the work of our brothers and sisters in Mexico.

THANKSGIVING DAY FEAST

We have invited our friends from the school supply store to join us on Thanksgiving Day for a feast. I know many of you have traditions and will be traveling, but if you can join in the fellowship it will be an amazing day of community and thanksgiving. We will need help with food, decorating, serving, eating (yes, eating!) and cleanup. Some can be done ahead of time and nothing will take more than a couple of hours that Thursday. We will have full details this Sunday, November 9.

AREA-WIDE DEVO

We will be attending an area-wide devo on Sunday evening, November 16. Watch for the sign up sheet and info in class this Wednesday.