

OUR CHURCH FAMILY

Dhroe Whitehead remains in Baptist Desoto, rm. 945... **Barbara Woolbright** is home from the hospital. She is better but very weak at this time... **Patti Bell's** foot surgery went well, but she now has an infection... **Ruth Bryant** has been diagnosed with breast cancer. She will see an oncologist this week... **A.V. Melton's** brother, Jerry, had his cancer surgery postponed... **April Tremor** will see a urologist this week... **Lou Thomas'** mom, Jean Smith, has not been doing well lately... **Susan Harris'** dad, Steve Gooch, has kidney stones and high blood pressure... **Debbie Couey's** sister-in-law, Dee Couey, continues to have heart problems. She is in the Oxford hospital... **Earl Edge's** brother, James, of Wetumpka, AL is in poor health at this time...

SYMPATHY

To **Dick Benz** in the passing of his wife **Jennie**.
 To **David Butler** and family in the passing of his mother, Dorothy Butler.
 To **Monica Reichardt** whose father, Les Starling, passed away last week in Florida.
 To **Ron Thompson** in the passing of his mother, Mary Thompson Monday night. Funeral arrangements are incomplete.
 To former member Helen Evans on the death of her sister, Hilda Hajek, last week.
 To former Whitehaven member Peggy Countess in the passing of her husband Todd.
 To Judy Lewis in the passing of her mother, Gladys Smart, last week.

**Happy Holidays
 At Goodman Oaks**

Breakfast with Santa
 Benefit for AGAPE— December 6th

Adult Christmas Dinner
 Saturday, December 20th
 6 p.m.



CONGRATULATIONS

To **Scott & Kimberly Williams** who have a new daughter, Maggie, born Monday, Nov. 24. She weighed 7 lbs 12 oz. and was 20" long. She is welcomed by big sister, **Savannah**.
Bobby & Patti Bell have a new granddaughter, Sadie Lynn Riggins, born Friday, Nov. 21st. She weighed 8 lb. 1 oz. and was 20 1/2 inches long.

CALLING ALL PUPPETS

Lads to Leaders puppets will begin very soon and we are in need of puppets. If you have a puppet that you are willing to share and/or sell, please let **Missy Howard** know as soon as possible. 662-292-2999.

ORNAMENT EXCHANGE PARTY

Our annual Ornament exchange is scheduled for Tuesday, Dec. 2 @ 6:30 p.m. Bring 12 ornaments and your favorite finger foods. Contact **Terri Pounders** @ 901-757-7816 for more information.

HARDING ACADEMY CHORUS

Will be here Wednesday, December 3rd. Nursery and Pre-School Classes will meet as usual. Everyone else will meet in the auditorium.

FINANCIAL PEACE UNIVERSITY

A new session of Financial Peace University will begin on Sunday evening, January 4th. **C.C. Vernon** will be the instructor. Call the church office to sign up. Cost is \$83.

TLC'S

Will go to Ponder's on Tuesday, Dec. 2, at 11:30. Brownbag has been moved to Friday, Dec. 12, due to Breakfast with Santa. It will be in the FLC at 6 pm.

CHURCH OFFICE

The office will be closed Thursday and Friday.

NUMERICALLY SPEAKING

November 23, 2008

Sunday Bible Class	495
Sunday Morning Worship	715
Sunday Evening Worship	370
Offering	\$ 19,454

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

(Visit me on the web at www.stevewreeves.blogspot.com)

Be Thankful!

For those who are interested in "Thanksgiving Trivia" here are a few tidbits of information from The History Channel.

- Though many competing claims exist, the most familiar story of the first Thanksgiving took place in Plymouth Colony, in present-day Massachusetts, in 1621. More than 200 years later, President Abraham Lincoln declared the final Thursday in November as a national day of thanksgiving. It took another eighty years before Congress finally made Thanksgiving Day an official national holiday in 1941.
- Did you know that Sarah Josepha Hale, an influential magazine editor and author, waged a tireless campaign to make Thanksgiving a national holiday in the mid-19th century? She is better known as author of the classic nursery rhyme "Mary Had a Little Lamb."
- In 2001, the U.S. Postal Service issued a commemorative Thanksgiving stamp. Designed by the artist Margaret Cusack in a style resembling traditional folk-art needlework, it depicted a cornucopia overflowing with fruits and vegetables, under the phrase "We Give Thanks."

As much as I enjoy the holiday of Thanksgiving I'm reminded that Christians are to be characterized by a spirit of gratitude every day of the year. In Philippians 4:6-7 Paul wrote — "Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus."

Are you looking for something to take your mind off your worries? Stop and really consider how blessed you are. As difficult as things may seem remember that there are many people whose circumstances are worse—much worse than yours.

Do you need to rid yourself of a bitter, pessimistic spirit? Take a moment to thank God for His blessings. You'll find that it is impossible for bitterness and thankfulness to dwell under the same roof. Given a fair chance thanksgiving will win out over bitterness every time.

Perhaps you're looking for comfort due to illness, death or tragedy in life. Thank God for the good times you've experienced. Allow those precious memories to linger in you soul. You'll find that a spirit of thanksgiving will calm your anxiety and heal your heart.

It's no wonder God said through Paul's inspired pen, "Give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus" - 1 Thess. 5:18.

~ Steve W. Reeves

(Note: We wish each of you a wonderful Thanksgiving Holiday. Our family will be out of town visiting Tami's parents in North Carolina through the weekend. In my absence Sunday **David French**, president of Mapepe Bible College in Zambia, will speak during the auditorium Bible Class and morning service. **Kevin Jourdan** will be speaking at the 5 p.m. service.)

Kevin's Korner

...Kevin Jourdan

Marriage Mentoring: 12 Conversations

Sunday I announced that we will be starting Marriage Mentoring in January. For those who sign up to be mentors, we will have a mentor training workshop Sunday, January 11, from 1-4.

The program is very simple: meet once a month for twelve months with the same couple and share stories through guided conversations.

In this mentoring program, both couples share their stories. Mentors are reminded of their earlier years of marriage. Mentees get to see real examples of couples growing their love. These stories surface marriage strengths, joys, successes, differences, challenges, and problem-solving skills. It is practical support to couples as they face new stages in married life. Each month you will share stories that pertain to the 12 topics listed below:

- Thankfulness
- Healthy Marriage Habits: Showing Our Love for Each Other
- Leaving and Cleaving: Making our Life Together
- Recreation & Playfulness
- Money in Marriage
- Communication
- Problem Solving
- Balancing Acts: Marriage, Family, Community, & Work
- Children
- Friendship, Closeness, & Intimacy
- Planning for Our Future
- Celebrating the Holidays

Mentors will be blessed by sharing their experiences and stories with a younger couple. Mentee couples will be blessed by sharing their stories and hearing from experienced couples. **I hope that you will take advantage of this great ministry that strengthens marriages.**

Youth News

... Jeff Shocklee

YOUTH IN ACTION

For those who have signed up for YIA, your final balance of \$45 is 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

By the time you read this, we will be very close to our thanksgiving feast or may even have finished it. I want to say how thankful I am for all of your interest, prayers, and work.

One of the dreams I have for the Goodman Oaks body is to be a blessing to people who normally don't feel blessed. I think it is unacceptable for a child to go to bed hungry. It is unacceptable for a single mom to not be able to give her kid a birthday present. It is unacceptable for people to be degraded, criticized, judged, and left out.

We have always done well at taking care of each other and doing the big things in our community. God wants us to be faithful in the small things as well. And I'm thankful to see how that is developing in our church family.

I know that at times it feels as if there is always something more being asked...something more we need to do...and it can be tiring, even frustrating. But of the one to whom much has been given, materially and spiritually, much is required. Thanks for rising to the call.

Now there is work to do in your world...get to it!

WINTERFEST

There will be a Winterfest informational meeting on Sunday, December 7 after morning worship. Dates for Winterfest are February 20-22.