

OUR CHURCH FAMILY

Carl Rounsaville is in Baptist DeSoto, Rm. 928 after suffering chest pains Monday night... **Dhroe Whitehead** is now at home. She is undergoing dialysis 3 times a week... **Barbara Woolbright** continues to improve but is not able to be out... **Tom McEwen** has not been doing well in the past week... **Charlie Moore** will meet with a surgeon Friday Dec. 5. He has a tumor on his parathyroid... **A.V. Melton's** brother, Jerry, had colon cancer surgery yesterday... **Susan Harris'** dad, Steve Gooch, will have kidney stone surgery soon... **Ruby Davis'** son, Bubba, has been diagnosed with emphysema...

LADIES, LADIES, LADIES

Mark your calendars for a trip to Charlene's Cottage in Halls, TN Tuesday, Dec. 16. Van will leave at 8am and return by 5pm. Contact **Beth Ramsey** for more information.

SINGLE SISTER'S PARTY

Friday night, December 19 at **Betty Hill's** house starting at 6:00. Please bring finger foods, a \$10 gift and a story about your least favorite gift from Christmas past.

BREAKFAST WITH SANTA

Benefit for AGAPE— December 6th

Please be sure to sign up to bring your favorite baked goodies for our bake sale. Please have these items at the building by this Friday at noon. Please make sure the name of the item, ingredients list and your name are on the baked goods.

Adult Christmas Dinner

**Saturday, December 20th
6 p.m.**

**Sign Up Begins Sunday at the Information Desk in the Foyer.
Cost: \$7.50 per person.**



LADS HOTEL ROOMS

If you are going to the Lads convention Easter weekend and will need a hotel room **Denise Willis** needs to know **ASAP**. We have reserved a block of rooms. When they are gone there will be no more. Please get a hotel reservation form and the appropriate adult registration forms to **Denise Willis**. Also, new this year, we are requiring a \$50 deposit per family to reserve the hotel rooms. The rooms will be assigned to individual families on a "who got the forms and deposit turned in" basis. Call **Denise** at 349-0119 for further information.

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

Brownbag has been moved to Friday, Dec. 12 at 6 pm, due to Breakfast with Santa.

PARKING SPOTS

Even though our parking lot meets code for handicap parking spaces, we occasionally need additional handicap parking for members who have just had surgery or are temporarily disabled. For those who may need to use a handicap space on a temporary basis, but can't find an available one, feel free to use one of our visitor parking spaces. Also, all members can help us be more accommodating to visitors and those who are less mobile by using the parking spaces at the rear of our lot. Thanks for helping us be more considerate of others.

NUMERICALLY SPEAKING

November 30, 2008

Sunday Bible Class	426
Sunday Morning Worship	693
Sunday Evening Worship	n/c
Offering	\$ 20,362

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)

There's No Place Like Home! It's great to be home after two thousand miles (no kidding) of driving over five days as we visited relatives in North Carolina for Thanksgiving. Call it what you will, (getting older, etc...) it seems that "my" bed becomes a little more comfortable and "my" chair sits just a little easier—especially after such a journey. It is especially good to be back, "home," at Goodman Oaks. Though I enjoy traveling and seeing friends and family I do indeed miss you when I am away.

WHEN PEOPLE LEAVE

The ebb and flow of life affects each of us. That's true on a congregational level, too. Within any congregation there is a constant influx and outgo of people. I've been witness to this for the as long as I've been in ministry. Just as we are happy and excited when people come our way we are also saddened when people leave our midst to worship elsewhere.

Though our spirits are sad when individuals leave we should not be surprised nor should we be angry or upset. People come and go for a variety of reasons, often reflecting their own particular spiritual needs at the time. In fact, on several occasions I have actually encouraged people to worship somewhere else when it seemed that their spiritual life would be better served and their talents better utilized by doing so.

Recently several of our precious families have returned to their former church home in Olive Branch. I am thankful that they have been able to do so. For most of them that church is their "home" congregation and it was only due to some difficult circumstances some years ago that they felt compelled to leave there. We wish these families "God speed" and pray for every good success in carrying out His will. It's my hope and prayer that they along with all of us will work together to have the type of relationships that the Lord would desire for sister-congregations to share with each

other.

Of course there are also occasions when individuals leave under circumstances that are less than ideal. Most churches struggle with a "back door" problem. As new members are ushered in through the front door others are dropping out and leaving, often unnoticed, through the back door never to be seen or heard of again. This is a sad and tragic situation indeed.

Quite frankly, we at Goodman Oaks are not immune to this situation. In the past three years we have had a number of new families and individuals come to work and worship with us. You would expect, given such a constant increase of new members that our number in attendance and offering would be consistently rising. This is not the case. In fact, over the past three years we have remained at an average of 725-750 most Sundays with an offering that has remained around \$20,000 per week.

As members of this church all of us bear a portion of responsibility for this situation and all of us have the opportunity to be part of the solution. This was addressed by our elders recently when they asked all of us to be more alert to those who sit around us and take notice when someone is not present. Give them a call or let one of our Elders or church staff know.

The longer I live I become convinced of an overriding principle that is true in every area of life. **IT'S ALL ABOUT RELATIONSHIPS.** Our relationship with family, friends, brothers and sisters in Christ and above all, God. Church is not about buildings and budgets. It's about people. A church where people truly care about each other and look out for one other is a church that will go a long way towards locking the back door and retaining its members.

Let's be that type of church!

"Around The Oaks!"



Kevin's Korner

...Kevin Jourdan

Marriage Mentoring: 12 Conversations

Sign-up sheets are at the information desk in the foyer. For those who sign up to be mentors, we will have a mentor training workshop Sunday, January 11, from 1-4. I hope that you will take advantage of this great ministry that strengthens marriages.

Sunday Nights for Young Adults

More opportunities have opened up for our Young Adult ministry, due to our recent change in our Sunday night worship time. On Sunday nights we have our worship service at 5:00 and then we have the opportunity to be together at 6:15.

During this time we will have a number of opportunities to fellowship and serve together. Some of the things we will be doing are small group Bible studies, service projects, activities, devotionals, and much more. If you are a college student, a young single, or young married, I hope you will take advantage of these opportunities.

Christmas Caroling

Sunday, December 14 the young adults will go Christmas Caroling from 2-4. We will go to the nursing home and to the shut-ins.

Christmas Dinner for Young Adults

For the past few years the College/young Singles have had a progressive Christmas dinner and gift exchange. Each year we spend money on gifts to exchange with one another, but this year we are going to do something different.

Instead of buying for one another, we are going to take the money we spend and buy for those in need. On Sunday, December 21 we will deliver the items we buy and end the evening with dinner together. We will not have a progressive dinner but will have dinner at mine and Natalie's house that night at 7pm. This is for all Young Adults, so please make plans to be with us on the 21st.

Youth News

... Jeff Shocklee

WINTERFEST

There will be a Winterfest informational meeting this Sunday, December 7 after morning worship in the youth room (30). Dates for Winterfest are February 20-22.

INSIGHT @ SENATOBIA

The annual Insight youth rally at the Senatobia church of Christ is January 23-24. There will be some great speakers, insightful classes, good singing, and time spent together. The cost is \$45 and is due January 4.

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. The information book will be available on Sunday, January 4. Commitment Sunday is February 1.

THANKSGIVING DAY FEAST

Thanks for all the work you did to show love to each other and to our community. We hosted about 35 people on Thanksgiving Day. Many of our guests had no other family or place to go for a holiday celebration. It was great to get to be their family! We also delivered about 60 meals to local hospitals and took food to four fire departments. They were very grateful.

But maybe the best part was watching you serve. Everyone has been happy about the opportunity and on Thursday you went out of your way to spend time with our guests. There were no clumps of GO folks who were aloof. Everyone was involved. And smiling. And full of joy.

Here is a thought...maybe our lives are better when we are serving. We worry and fuss about so many things. If we get up and serve...well...then we are happy! So go be happy!