

OUR CHURCH FAMILY

Cody Cottrell had appendix surgery Sunday evening, he at home doing well... **Dhroe Whitehead** has gone home from the hospital and will continue dialysis 3 times a week... **Charlie Moore** and **Sheila Butler** will have surgery December 23rd... **Tom McEwen** is a little stronger this week. Doctors have discontinued his chemotherapy treatments at this time ... **April Tremor** has been suffering from kidney stones...**Jack Savages'** niece, Susan Brewer had brain surgery ... **Susan Harris'** father, Steve Gooch, had kidney stone surgery December 15th... **Dena Rounsaville's** sister, Corrie Jones had surgery yesterday in Oxford... **Vickie Eddlemon's** father is staying with her and will be able to go home later this week... **Joy Shupp's** father-in-law, Deane Shupp, will start dialysis treatments at home sometime next week... Missionary Randy Givens will have cornea replacement surgery in Cincinnati, Ohio this week.

SYMPATHY

To **Dave Buckingham** whose brother passed away this past Sunday in Humbolt, TN.

1st-6th AND LADS

Caroling this Sunday, Dec. 21. We will stay for lunch in the Family Life Center and then leave for the nursing homes.

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. All single ladies are invited.



Adult Christmas Dinner

Saturday, December 20th—6 p.m.

Sign Up Ends Wednesday at the Information Desk in the Foyer.

Cost: \$10.00 per person.

SERVICES CHRISTMAS WEEK

The **Elders** have decided that our Mid-Week Service during the week of Christmas will consist of a devotional for all ages on Tuesday, December 23rd at 7 p.m.

AND NEW YEARS

On Wednesday, December 31st we will have a period of singing followed by fellowship and games beginning at 8:00 p.m. and lasting as long as you care to stay. Bring finger-foods and a favorite game.

NEW YEAR'S SINGING

Sunday, January 4th is the date for 2009's **New Year's Singing** from 3:00—5:00. Invite everyone you know who enjoys good congregational singing to join us for this great occasion. We will not have a 5:00 service on this day.

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.

LADS PUPPETS

We will be starting Puppets Sunday, Jan 11th @4PM. The skits are to be finalized by the middle of January so we can begin working in separate groups the later part of January. For those who need to order puppets, please contact Missy Howard ASAP.

SCRAPBOOKING

We are starting a scrapbooking group here at Goodman Oaks in January. We will be cropping one Saturday a month. There is a one time fee of \$10. Please contact **Debbie Herring** or **Louisa Allgeier** for more information and to pay.

NUMERICALLY SPEAKING

December 14, 2008

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|------------------------------|-----------|
| Sunday Bible Class | 429 |
| Sunday Morning Worship | 643 |
| Sunday Evening Worship | n/c |
| Offering | \$ 17,676 |

SCHEDULE OF ASSEMBLIES

Sunday:
 Sunday School - 9:00 a.m.
 Worship - 10:00 a.m.
 Worship - 5:00 p.m.
 Fellowship, Study and Service - 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

(You can visit me on the web at www.stevewreeves.blogspot.com)

“Keeping Christmas”



Henry Van Dyke

The following article by Henry Van Dyke was a favorite of long-time preacher T.B. Larimore who printed it in his paper, “Youth Companion.” Mrs. Larimore later included it in her biography of her husband’s life. Though it is now a century old its message is timeless. —SWR

It is a good thing to observe Christmas Day. The mere marking of times and seasons when men agree to stop work and make merry together is a wide and wholesome custom. It helps us to feel the supremacy of the common life over the individual life. It reminds a man to set his own little watch now and then by the great clock of humanity.

But there is a better thing than the observance of Christmas Day; and that is keeping Christmas.

Are you willing to forget what you have done for others and remember what others have done for you; to ignore what the world owes you and think of what you owe the world; to put your rights in the background, your duties in the middle, and your chances to do a little more than your duty in the foreground; to see that your fellow men are just as real as you are and try to look behind their faces to their hearts - hungry for joy. Are you ready to know that the only good reason for your existence is not what you are going to get out of life but what you are going to give to life; to close your book of complaints against the management of the universe and look around you for a place where you can sow a few seeds of happiness? Are you willing to do these things even for a day? Then you can keep Christmas.

Are you willing to stoop down and consider the needs and desires of the little children; to remember the weakness and loneliness of people who are growing old; to stop asking how much your friends love you and ask yourself whether you love them enough? To bear in mind the things that other people have to bear on their hearts; to try to understand what those who live in the same house with you really want without waiting for them to tell you; to trim your lamp so that it will give more light and less smoke and carry it in front so that your shadow will fall behind you? To make a grave for your ugly thoughts and a garden for your kindly feelings and keep the gate open. Are you willing to do these things even for a day? Then you can keep Christmas.

Are you willing to believe that love is the strongest thing in the world—stronger than hate, stronger than evil, stronger than death—and that the blessed life which began in Bethlehem nineteen hundred years ago is the image and brightness of Eternal Love? Then you can keep Christmas.

And, if you can keep it for a day—why not always?

CONGRATULATIONS

We are pleased to congratulate **Ashley Hylander** upon her graduation from Lambuth University in Jackson, Tennessee, this past Saturday with a B.A. in Elementary Education. Ashley, we are proud of you!

YEAR END GIVING

Many people use the end of the year to make charitable donations to various causes. May I remind you of several special options available to you here at Goodman Oaks.

You may make donations to our **Getwell Road property fund**, to our **Church Library**, to our **Park**, to **World Bible School** or any of our **mission efforts** or to the **Ken Joines Scholarship Fund** which will be used to prepare young men from our congregation to serve as Preachers of the Gospel. Simply “ear-mark” your check for the appropriate area you wish your offering to go towards. During this Holiday Season I am grateful for your generous hearts...

~ Around The Oaks



Kevin’s Korner ...Kevin Jourdan

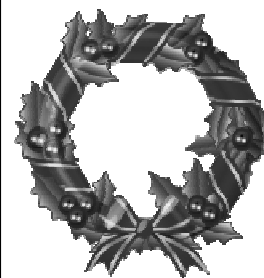
COLLEGE CLASS

In the summer, **Randy Craig** started a Bible class on Sunday mornings for College age singles. Because of a change in work schedules and the lack of teachers willing to help, this class dissolved. Starting in January we will start this class back up for all high school seniors and college students ages 18-22. We will also have the young singles class and the young marrieds class that will meet on Sundays. On Wednesday nights we will all have class together.

SUNDAY NIGHTS FOR YOUNG ADULTS

On Sunday nights at 6:15 we 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 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 some-

thing 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 at **Mike and Louisa Allgeier’s** house at 6pm. After dinner we will go to mine and Natalie’s house to play games and decorate Christmas cookies. This is for all Young Adults, so please make plans to be with us.

Youth News ... Jeff Shocklee

WINTERFEST

Dates for Winterfest are February 20-22. The cost is \$115 + money for 5 meals. A deposit of \$60 is due this Sunday, Dec. 21 and should be given to Corey Mobley or Kim Billingsley. Info packs are available in the youth room for more details.

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

We will leave for Youth in Action on Sunday, December 28 at 1:45pm. Bring money for 4 meals and any you want for extras (souvenirs, CDs, snacks, etc). We will return around 11:30pm On Tuesday, Dec. 30.

MID-SOUTH GIRLS CONFERENCE

The first annual Mid-south Girls Conference is set for January 30 and is hosted by the White Station, Highland, and Sycamore View churches. It is a full day and the theme is Indulge: Accepting God’s Extravagant Love. There will be some great speakers, fun activities, a free lunch, and a day of spiritual pampering. The cost is \$15 and is due January 4.

FINANCIAL PLANNING

We try to keep the cost of being involved in the youth group minimal, but we have a several things that require a sizeable financial outlay by the students and parents. If you are thinking that you just can’t do it, please talk to Jeff. You can start paying for your summer activities now! We also have a fund available for those who just can’t manage the expense. Money should never stop you from being involved!

Summer Events:

VBS—May 31-June 3

Workcamp—June 8-12

Mexico—June 19-27 (\$500)

Uplift—June 27-July 2 (\$190)

Trek—TBD (\$160)

You can start making weekly or monthly payments toward these activities. We will keep track of them and your balance. You may give your money to Jeff or there will be a box on the information desk and in the youth room that you can drop it in. Please put it in an envelope with all the necessary details. It will be picked up after every service. This is just a way to make plans ahead of time.