



Hurstbourne Christian Church
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The Grapevine

is a newsletter published by:

Hurstbourne Christian Church

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IT'S NOT GOODBYE, IT'S SEE YOU LATER

December is a time when we prepare and anticipate. A time when we prepare Christmas presents, bake for guests and prepare to welcome the Christ Child into our hearts. This month while I am preparing to celebrate William's 2nd birthday and Christmas I am also preparing my heart to say goodbye. December 18th will be my last day as your Associate Minister and while I am looking forward to the new opportunities that will await me in the new year I am also sadden to say goodbye to the family at Hurstbourne that I have had the privilege to serve over the last few years. I had the privilege to walk with you as we said goodbye to many loved members, the honor to baptize your children and grandchildren, the pleasure to dedicate babies and the joy of sharing in ministry and conversation together. This time of transition is not easy, it doesn't come with a clear-cut plan for the future, but it does mean that our time together will come to a close and in this moment I share the joys of a time spent together and the sorrow that we will no longer be in ministry together on Nottingham Parkway. However, our time together is not closing forever, because this goodbye is not an ending to the relationships that we have built and will continue to build in a new ways, just in a different setting. So, instead of saying goodbye it's see you later because our paths will continue to cross and our ministry together will continue in a new and beautiful way. Thank you Hurstbourne for walking with me as your minister. I pray that your ministry as a congregation continues to be blessed for many years to come.

Peace,

Emily



THE GRAPEVINE

DECEMBER 2016

MIKE'S MANNA— "DON'T BURN THE COOKIES"

Once again we enter the season of Advent. The countdown has begun and we anticipate the celebration of the birth of Christ. Advent is a time to prepare, not just our homes but our hearts. This is the season of anticipation—seeing a heavy snow fall and hoping school is closed tomorrow—seeing beautifully wrapped gifts under a tree and hoping they are for us—smelling Christmas goodies and hoping to get the first cookie out of the batch. At Christmas, I always remember Mom's sugar cookies—cut out in different holiday shapes, iced and sprinkled. My brothers and I couldn't wait for the dough to be rolled out, cut out, and baked. Our ears were alert to the ring of the timer.

One of the most important things in baking is timing. The oven has to be preheated, cookie sheets placed inside, and time calculated; otherwise the first batch is burned and goes into the garbage can and not the cookie tin.

Preparing and baking Christmas goodies can be related to our Advent preparation. As we anticipate Jesus' arrival, we take stock of our pantry. Do we have all the necessary ingredients to enable us, as followers of Christ, to make a difference in our family, our community, and our world this season? Is our focus centered on a spiritual walk or on the hustle and bustle of the commercial world? Are we praying for a parking spot or praying for a tired check-out clerk? Do we pick up the Bible with as much anticipation as we do the sales flyers, hunting for "bargains"? Are we in worship as much as we are in the mall or on-line?

We are entering a season of countdown—the newspaper reminds us: 25 days to shop! We have our "list" and feel relief in checking off each item: Christmas cards, buying and wrapping gifts, decorating the house, inviting friends over for dessert, attending dinners, dashing through the snow (well, we can only hope). But remember, "Keep watch! Be careful! Be prepared, stay focused—don't let those cookies burn!" In other words, don't burn yourself out rushing around like a crazed reindeer.

The good news is that God has given us a "No-Fail Recipe" for a wonderful life here and now. Jesus purchased the key ingredient for us—his death on a cross for the forgiveness of sin. Then the Creator added the Holy Spirit enabling us to rise to life in power. Next God mixed in a liberal helping of love. Stirring in fellowship, prayer, study, and worship, we bake until done, watching carefully, preparing ourselves for his coming once more.

So, let's anticipate Advent—anticipate Jesus' return through our preparation—anticipate new life in Christ as we prepare ourselves—anticipate a Baby's birth—and experience the joy of this blessed season. But remember, pay attention! "Don't burn the cookies!"

Agape, Mike

CHILDREN AND YOUTH NEWS

YOUTH LOCK IN

DECEMBER 16-17

All 6th-12th grade youth are invited to join us for a Christmas Lock-In on Friday, December 16-Saturday, December 17. Meet at the church at 6pm on Friday and pick up will be at 8am on Saturday. Bring \$20 for food and activities as well as a sleeping bag and pj's. RSVP to Emily by December 14th.

TEACHERS NEEDED FOR ALL AGES

Beginning in January we will need teachers for children and youth Sunday school and Children's church. Sign-Up sheets will be available in the Gathering Space with lesson plans attached for Sunday school.

Due to the low number of Worship and Wonder teachers, we invite anyone to sign up to teach the church during worship. If you are trained in Worship and Wonder and would like to tell a story you are encouraged to do so. If you are not trained, please feel free to share a lesson with the children of your choosing. Everyone is needed to ensure that our youth and children are able to continue to grow in faith.

HCC KIDS GO BOWLING

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 6

All children K-5th grade are invited to go bowling on Sunday, December 6th after worship. We will meet after church, have lunch then go bowling. More information will be available soon. If you would like to help chaperone please contact Emily.

NATIVITY IN WORSHIP

SUNDAY DECEMBER 11

All children and youth are invited to participate in our Living Nativity during worship on Sunday, December 11. There is no prior rehearsal, please meet in the Sanctuary at 9:30am on December 11 to get your costume and practice.

NO SUNDAY SCHOOL ON DECEMBER 25 AND JANUARY 1

Due to the holidays there will be no Sunday school on December 25 and January 1st for any ages.

PRAYER CONCERNS:

MEMBERS:

*The Family of Zelma Harrison, The Family of Diane Walters, Mike Minor, Wes Humphries, The Kirkman Family, Dale Barnstable, Hunter Lorenz, Shirley Cantrell, The Kiper Family, Don Sine, Chris Keen, Charlie Bradbury, Teenie Beutel, Helen Sames, Virginia Hall, Betty Detwiler, Lana Gaddie and Rosemary Reichart.

FAMILY OF MEMBERS:

*Victoria Wilkerson (of Estel Hobbs). Cathy Hartman (of Dan Lorenz), Rick Gearhiser (of Lil Gearhiser), Kevin White (of Bob White), Family of John Gatton (of Mike Gatton), Thomas Stewart (of Sally Hoback), Charles Riley (of Henry Harrison), Family of Walter Worley (of Glen Stuckel), Brent Fothergill (of Mike Gatton), Stephen Travis (of Shirley and Earl Cantrell), Carl Whitfield (of Bill Cox), Matt Gimbel (of Bonnie Gimbel), Marsha Brashear (of Bette Detwiler), Anna Jean Allen (of Chaz and Emily Allen), Eula Koppel (of Kathy Goff), Family of Steven Hardin (of Bonnie Kirkman), Helen Hawthorne (of Dan and Jayme Lorenz), Mary Lamar (of Lil Gearhiser), Oleta McDowell (of Pat Pierce), Phyllis Barnes (of Ruth Olson), Family of Lynn Shreve (of Judy Wright), and Winnie Skaggs (of Judy Wright).

FRIENDS OF MEMBERS:

*The Family of Frank Alameda (of Helen Humes) Jamison Milby (of Bob White), Jim and Marianne Wehrly (of Mike Gatton), Janis Willis, Bob Pharis (of Shari Graf), Kathy Arnold (of Karl Sebree), Jess Boone (of Dan Lorenz), Vernon Johnston, Charlotte Kay (of Earl and Shirley Cantrell), Doris Stacey, Larry Hamfeldt (of Mike Gatton), Donna Rapp and Andrea Belt (of Dana Perry), Family of Virginia Constantine (of Don and Mary Jane Sine), Harry Brotzge (of Karl Sebree), Donna Harenchar (of Sally Hoback), Crolia Thomas (of Helen Humes).

LOSS IN OUR COMMUNITY

We continue to lift Henry Harrison and his family in our prayers as they continue to remember the life of Zelma Harrison who passed away on November 14, 2016. An Eastern Star Service was held on Friday, November 18, 2016. Cards can be sent to Henry Harrison Room #238 3503 Moyers Lane

SENIORS:

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ADVENT SERMON SERIES—“WHEN THE MESSIAH COMES...”

The season of Advent has arrived—a time of preparation, a time of going toward the coming again of the Messiah, a time of great expectation and great anticipation. But exactly what is it that we anticipate? What are we getting ready for? What do we expect to happen? Do we anticipate the end of the world, as some religious cults always do at this time of the year? Are we preparing our hearts and spirits to receive again the coming of the Christ child into the world? Or are we preparing for yet a month-long shopping spree? Or maybe we're getting ready for the seven to ten pounds the average American will gain during the season (Lord, please let me be an underachiever this year!)? Or are we preparing for the traffic jams on Shelbyville Road, or the general atmosphere of surliness and desperation?

The Advent we celebrate in the church – the one that has nothing at all to do with the number of shopping days left until Xmas – is altogether different. The hanging of the greens, the placement of the poinsettias, the lighting of the first Advent candle – all these invite us to dream dreams of a better world, to allow expectant visions that have nothing to do with sugar-plum fairies to dance in our heads. Advent invites us to fill the cup of today with a full measure of tomorrow.

When the prophet Isaiah thought about the advent of God, he envisioned a world unified in worship of God and committed to peace. Join us this Advent and Christmas season anticipating together, “When the Messiah Comes.”

Sunday, November 27—Advent 1

“When the Messiah Comes, There Will Be Light”

Isaiah 2: 1-5

Sunday, December 4—Advent 2

“When the Messiah Comes, There Will Be Peace”

Isaiah 11: 1-16

Sunday, December 11—Advent 3

“When the Messiah Comes, There Will Be Singing”

Isaiah 35: 1-10

Sunday, December 18—Advent 4

“When the Messiah Comes, God Will Be With Us”

Isaiah 7: 1-25

Sunday, December 25—Christmas Day

“When the Messiah Comes, A Child Will Be Born”

Isaiah 9: 1-7

CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON AND CAROLING

SUNDAY DECEMBER 11

Join us for our annual Christmas Luncheon on Sunday, December 11th after worship. We will share in fellowship and wonderful entertainment by Adrian White. HCC will provide the meat and we are asking everyone to bring a side dish to share.

A-H Vegetables

I-N Salad or bread

O-S Casserole or side dish

T-Z Dessert

After lunch everyone is invited to go Christmas caroling to our homebound members. Please plan to travel with us to share the spirit of the holiday season with our church family. The church bus will be providing transportation for caroling.

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES

Join us this Christmas Eve to celebrate the birth of the Christ Child in worship.

5:00pm- Family Service

11:00pm- Candlelight Communion

Please invite your family, friends and loved ones to join us!



FELLOWSHIP BREAKFAST

The December Fellowship Breakfast is scheduled for Saturday, December 10 at 8:00am. The speaker this month will be Doug Foster, the Blue Grass Honor Flights director. Doug gives an informative and sensitive presentation on how they honor veterans for their sacrifices and service by flying them to Washington DC to visit the memorials in their honor. Top priority is given to WWII veterans and those terminally ill. Subsequent priorities are given to Korean and Vietnam vets. Two flights are planned for 2017, with the first being on May 17.

All are invited to attend, please call the church office 502-425-0220 to make your reservations.

EACM CHRISTMAS STORE

DECEMBER 7, 8, and 9th

The annual EACM Christmas Store will be held December 7, 8, and 9th. If you would like to purchase items to be donated to the EACM Christmas Store, gifts can be dropped off on December 1st and 2nd 10:00am-3:00pm at Middletown Seventh-day Adventist Church at 125 North Watterson Trail.

Volunteers are always needed in various areas of the Christmas Store! The times for volunteer shifts are not yet posted so, please look to future publications for that information or call EACM for more information.

Thank you for all who have participated in the EACM Christmas Store in the past and who continue to support this wonderful ministry.

Christmas Eve Fellowship

On Christmas Eve the Fellowship Team will be hosting an appetizer and dessert fellowship time between the two Christmas Eve services. We need 2-3 volunteers to help pre and post fellowship as well as desserts and appetizers to be served. If you would like to help or would like to bring a dish to share please contact Mary Schildt.

WHITE CHRISTMAS OUTING

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 9- 10:00am

The Frazier Museum will be hosting an exhibit on the movie *White Christmas*, costumes and other movie memorabilia will be on display. The church bus will be going on Friday, December 7th to see the exhibit and have lunch downtown. If you would like to attend please RSVP to the church office 502-425-0220.

DISCIPLES WOMEN

DECEMBER 8, 10:30am

The Disciples Women of HCC will be meeting on Thursday, December 8th at 10:30am. We will continue our Bible study "Having a Mary Heart in a Martha World." Please read chapters 5 & 6 for this month. If you have any questions please contact Emily Allen, eallen@hchristianchurch.com or 425-0220.

INK CARTRIDGE DONATIONS

Do you have old ink cartridges at home or at work? We invite you to bring them to church to be recycled! Our youth are collecting empty ink cartridges as a fundraiser for our mission trips. There is a box next to the Worship and Wonder room, please bring your cartridges to be donated. Also, don't forget to ask friends, family, and co-workers to donate theirs as well.

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

1-Barbara Swanson

4-Logan Barker

5-Jamie Szerletich

6-Megan Curry

7-Mireia Montgomery

7-Betty Taylor

8-Demetris Wilson, Jr.

9-Gloria Blake

11-Scarlett Bilbro

14-Matt Gimbel

16-Jevon Shavkey

17-Art Guelda

20-William Allen

20- Dawn Moretz

26-Diane Witherspoon

27-Hunter Lorenz

31-Cameron Collard

31-Demetris Wilson, Sr

DECEMBER

ANNIVERSARIES

12-Paul & Beth Coulter

14-Rick & Lori Harper

22-David & LaGrielle Wiglesworth

27-Jon & Barbara Swanson

