



THE CHURCH SPIRE

A publication of The Cumberland Presbyterian Church

December 16th, 2015

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Featured Advent Devotional

The light of the Lord should shine in us all!!

There is no time of the year that reminds us more of this than Advent. Jesus is the light of the world and we celebrate that each Christmas with the wreath and candles. When we light the candles we see how this illuminates our space just as the light of Christ should brighten our lives. The color purple in our wreath, which is the primary color, shows us that repentance is important and it represents royalty and tells us to anticipate the coming of Christ.

The pink candle is a sign of hope and joy. We celebrate this color and recognize how the birth of Jesus is both the essence of joy and a symbol of hope to us each day.

Then there is the white candle. To me this is the most important and is in the center of the wreath for a reason. God is the center of our universe. It represents purity, holiness and virtue and what better words describe our Lord!

The circle reminds us of the eternity of God. There is no limit or end to the unconditional love that we are given through the Grace of God's love.

Isaiah 9:2 states that "The people walking in darkness have seen a great light." Let's live in the light of Christ.

Love, peace, hope and joy!

May the light of Christ's candle guide your path!

Submitted by: Linda Bray

Life on the Run

"What did I come into this room for?" We've all said this to ourselves at one time or another. Are we losing our memory or has life just simply gotten too big for its britches? It seems we are constantly on the run through life. But doesn't it seem especially so as we go through Advent and approach the Christmas holidays. Yes, certainly celebrating the birth of Jesus is worth making a fuss over, but doesn't it seem we sometimes get too rushed to remember what we came into the room for. We occasionally forget what it really is all about. Our busyness and whirlwind activities often transform our hearts and cause us to forget what we are called as Christians to do.

We need to slow down and examine our motives for allowing ourselves to blur the lines between the Christmas spirit and the Christmas message. Perhaps we must examine our hearts and pray for spiritual renewal every day. We must learn to anticipate the birth of Jesus Christ as a way to be closer to God, not closer to the shopping mall. We need to pause and reflect on the greatness that is about to take place. It really is a big deal, but we should not allow ourselves to fall into the trap of commercialism that often sets us apart from God during Advent.

This may not improve our memory but it may help us to remember the reason for the season.

Bible verse: "I bring you good tidings of great joy which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the City of David, a Savior, which is Christ the Lord". Luke 2: 10-11

Prayer: Merciful Father, help us to remain steadfast in our faith as we navigate through the Advent Season. We mean well Lord, but sometimes the flurry of activities makes us lose our way. Grant us Your forgiveness when we stray from the path. Help us to remember the greatness of the gift of Your Son. We ask for Your blessings on those who are suffering and those less fortunate. Grant them the gift of your special grace.

In Jesus name, Amen

Submitted by: Cynthia Hollingsworth



This Sunday:



Youth Ugly Sweater Christmas Party

December 20th at 6PM

All Youth and their families

(including siblings) are INVITED

Wear your ugliest, most outrageous, gaudy sweater!

Please bring a snack and dessert to share!

New 2016 Worship Leader, Flower Calendar and Youth Food Sign-Up Sheets are posted. Please Sign up to Help.

Prayers of the People:

Tim Allen, Shelia Amos, Mary Jo Bradford, Stroby Stewart; Erica Scott; Bill Beigay; David Patrick; Julie Merwin; Des Noble; Jim Holmes; Judy Hood, Christine Miller, Andy and June Vaughn, Rex Parris, Mike Lee, Michael Boring, Viki Harrell, Miriah Penick, Ivy Bridges, Reese McPhail, Rev. Bill Allen, Charlene Allen, Cindy Rice's Father-Don Falk, Tammy Holcomb, Angie Feldwich, June Stripling, Alison McCracken and others in our thoughts and prayers from Sunday, December 13th.

If you have a name to add to the prayer list please use the Christian pads in the pews and drop it in the offering plate Sunday morning. You may also email them to: scottsbocpc@gmail.com.



Mark Your Calendars:

**Christmas Eve Communion Service
December 24th at 5PM**

**Deacon Meeting
December 16th at 5PM**

AUTOMATIC DRAFT

Deadline to Enroll December 20th

If you are interested in automatic Draft a copy of the form is on the website or available in the church office. For more information, contact Sheri at 256-574-2575

No Sunday School or Youth

Sunday December 27th

Regular Sunday School and Youth will resume Sunday January 3rd

Room In the Inn

Volunteers needed for December 26th.

Sign-Up sheets on Bulletin Board outside Micaiah's Office

**Need: White Twin Bed Sheets, Hand Towels, Bath Towels, Wash cloths*

**You may drop off donations to the Church office. If you need more information, contact Lil Noble at 256-574-1495, 256-609-8864 or by email at lillynoble3@yahoo.com*

CONVO2016: This year we have four youth and a pair of chaperones attending Convocation—a retreat for 6th-12th graders hosted in Gatlinburg, TN. There will be worship, a speaker, and a great chance to meet new Cumberland Presbyterian friends!

We will be there from January 15th through the 18th, and would appreciate your prayers for safe travels, spiritual renewal, and fun!





GUATEMALA MISSION TRIP 2016



July 9th - 16th, 2016

WHAT: A Trip to Guatemala City to work with the Hot Lunch Program (where we sent the Loaves and Fishes money).

A trip like this will help us build a relationship with Cumberland Presbyterians in Guatemala, to learn from them, love on them, be tourists (and who hasn't wanted to worship in Spanish?!)

WHO: 8-10 adults. We could use both medical professionals AND other adults. Medical professionals would work with the kids doing health checks in relation to their specialty. Any other adults would work with the kids, teaching Bible Lessons, cooking meals, and playing games.

WHEN: We would be flying out on Saturday, July 9th, and returning on Saturday, July 16th.

COST: \$1000-\$1200/person (depending on plane tickets) IF you are interested in going on this trip, contact Pastor Micaiah by email. Also fill out an application, and start saving your money.

DEADLINE: In order to reserve lodging and buy plane tickets, we need commitments by JANUARY 31st, with a \$200 deposit and an application. Another \$450 will be due March 1st. The remaining balance will be due May 15th.

*If you want to HELP but can't join us—you can help pay someone else's way!—make donations out to Scottsboro CPC with Guatemala Mission Trip as the subject line.

2015

General Fund

December 6th offering: \$ 11,671.00

YTD Offering: \$ 307,193.17

Budget Requirements

Budget Requires per Sunday: \$6,533.67

YTD Budget Requires: \$ 313,616.16

Attendance for 12/13/15

Sunday School: 60

Worship: 183

Worship Aids for Sunday

Head Usher: Rodney Bell

Pastor: Micaiah Tanck

Worship Leader : Brian Tanck

Greeter: Claudette and John Wygal

If you cannot serve, please find someone who will replace you.

If you need something please call the Church office If no answer please call Micaiah, (205) 478-5985; Brian (630) 730-1577 . Your concerns and needs are important to us.

The Church Spire

Church (256) 574-2575

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