

THE CHURCH SPIRE

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It's the first week of a new year, which means much of the country is setting about making New Years resolutions. The internet has confirmed what you probably suspected: somewhere between 80% and 92% of these New Years resolutions fail. Most are done by February. The inspiration of New Years can carry someone through a few weeks of workouts, or a diet, or journaling, or whatever this resolution is.

But early mornings get exhausting. Excitement gives way. Cake is tempting. Discouragement sets in. This is not so much a reason to give up on New Years resolution as a reason to engage them differently. After all, now is a great time to look a year ahead and think about who we want to be. As you step into 2017, what do you want to have done? What do you want to have changed? After all, this new year still holds 360 days of opportunities!

And while you may have your own goals—family, health, financial—it's important to remember that God has plans for us too. God has goals for us in this coming year. Perhaps it is praying more, or spending more time in scripture. It may be finding a way to serve in our church, or in the community, or even traveling Guatemala!

Beyond that, God also has plans for our church. God has goals for what we, as Scottsboro Cumberland Presbyterian Church, can accomplish this year. Maybe you have an idea of what those plans are. Maybe you feel God pulling us in a certain direction. If you do, let us know! There are, after all, 360 days of opportunity ahead of us!

With that said, 2016 also holds 360 days of distractions, burdens, and challenges. There will be more than 360 reasons to leave God's plans for us, and our plans for ourselves, behind. So here are a few pieces of wisdom that can help carry us through.

Commit to the LORD whatever you do, and your plans will be established.

Proverbs 16:3

As Christians, we do not set out in life alone. We know that we set out with the Spirit of God, which brings us joy, patience, and self-control. These three spiritual gifts are so important, not just for any spiritual goals we have, but any goals we're setting ourselves this year! Christ is a sure-foundation for any plans, and the more we turn to him, the more strength we find.

Without counsel plans go wrong, but with many advisers they succeed.

Proverbs 15:22

We all know that saying, "It takes a village to raise a child." Well, it helps to have the support of village whenever we're looking to grow. So if you're looking to improve your prayer life, or understand scripture better, or change a diet, or whatever, find some help! You may need some advice on how to start or what to do—find someone who knows! Or you may just need some help staying on track as the year progresses. So find someone who will walk with you through this year and hold you accountable to your goals when you don't want to.

There is a full year ahead of us. 2016 has just begun. God has plans for each of us, and for our church. If we will trust these plans, and humble ourselves to seek help, I am confident that we will be amazed by the good God is working in our lives.

May you be blessed in this new year.



Greetings—Forgive the long delay in replying. Your box arrived BEFORE Christmas! And added to so many more happy, surprised faces! The McGee Chapel Christmas pageant was on Christmas Eve Night.

Our weather was in the 70s until Christmas; then, the temps just dropped and have been dropping ever since. We had rains, storms, power outage and flooding again the week of the Sunday after Christmas. Things are pretty much back to normal now; waters have subsided, power has been restored.

Please relay our most gracious thanks for your kind consideration and sharing your love with us. You just cannot imagine how meaningful it is.

Peace and Grace

Betty Jacob for Choctaw Presbytery

We are back to our regular SS Classes. Please make every effort to attend at 9:45 on Sunday Morning!

NO YOUTH January 17th

Food is needed for the Youth!

Please see sign up sheet to volunteer, Thanks.

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; The passing of Julie Merwin-Bert and Leah Boykins Daughter; Des Noble; Jim Holmes; Judy Hood, Christine Miller, Andy and June Vaughn, Rex Parris, Mike Lee, Michael Boring, Viki Harrell, Miriah Penick, Ivy Bridges, Cindy Rice's Father-Don Falk, Tammy Holcomb, Angie Feldwich, June Stripling, Alison McCracken, Susan Bell and her family after the passing of her mother, and others in our thoughts and prayers from Sunday, January 3rd.

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: scottsborocpc@gmail.com.

Mark Your Calendars:

Room In The Inn [RITI]

In January 2016 we will be the Host Church for Room In The Inn twice, Saturday January 9th and Saturday January 30th.

The sign up sheets for Saturday January 9th. are posted in the hall just outside the Pastor's office. Please sign up if you can help in any way. We really need more volunteer to lighten the load for all.

For all who volunteered to participate on December 26th, Thank You Very Much. For everyone who donated sheets, towels, wash cloths, Thank You Very Much. We now have 8 complete sets for our guests. Saturday night, we had 5 men and 1 woman as guests.

This Jackson County Homeless Ministry, Room In The Inn, needs your support. Please consider giving of yourself to help.

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!

Deacon Meeting
Sunday January 10th
Immediately following
Worship Services



Session Meeting
January 19th
5PM



Guatemala Mission Trip

July 9th-16th, 2016

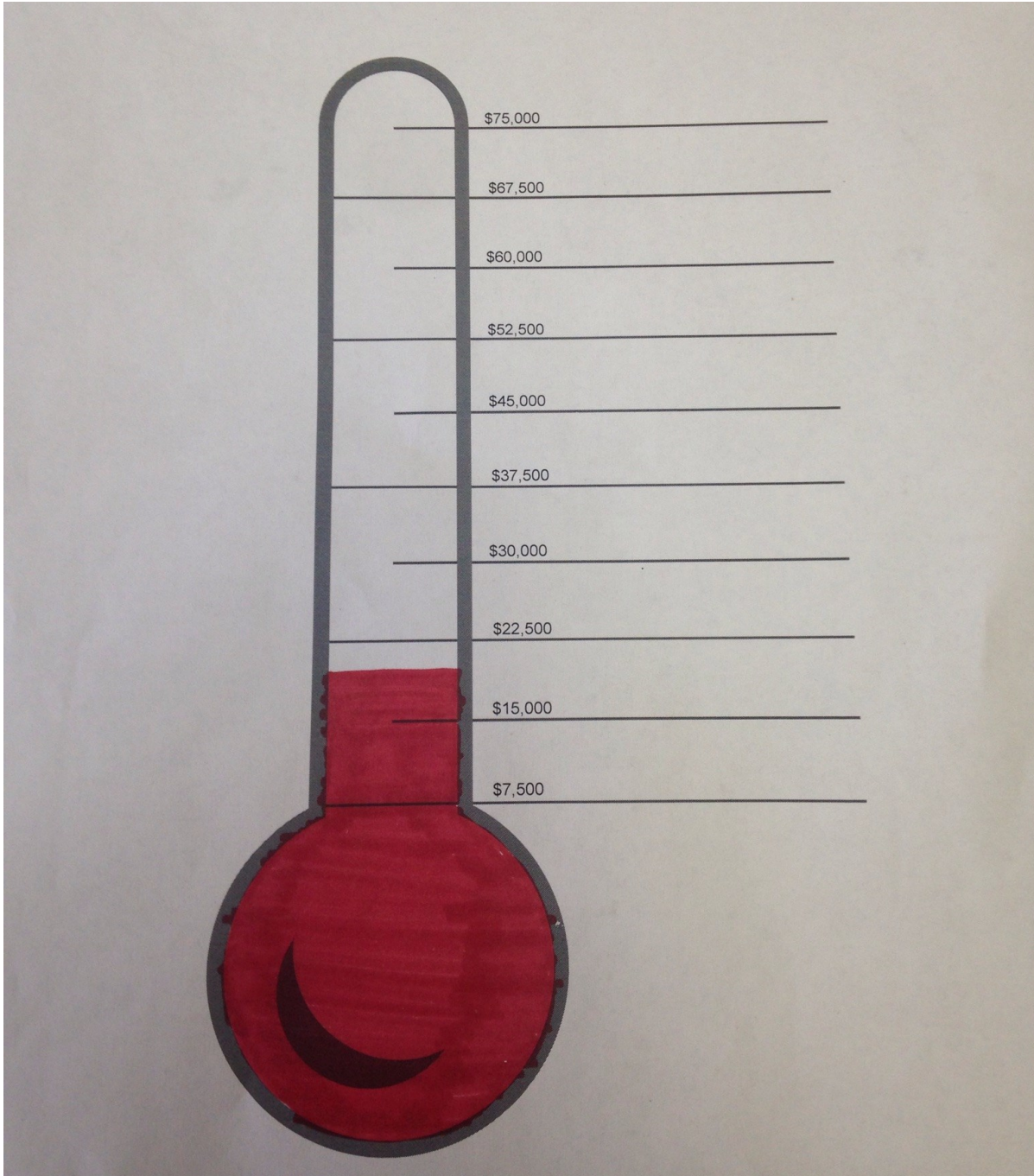
Applications due by the end of January

Is Your Passport Current?
Just a friendly reminder to those
interested in the GUA Trip



**The Building Fund has hit the ground running thanks to all
the generous donations!!**

Watch for fundraiser information soon!



For those of you who are curious about the trip to Guatemala next summer, but don't know what to expect, let me give you a few more details about the trip.

First, you DO NOT need to know how to speak Spanish. English will do just fine.

Second, a little bit about what we will be doing: If you are a medical professional, we will put you to work checking on the kids' teeth, eyes, etc.

If you are not, we need team members who are willing to help cook the lunch for the Hot Lunch Program, members to make crafts and do activities with the kids throughout the afternoon, members who will coordinate and play games with the kids, and members who would be willing to help teach Bible stories to the kids in creative ways. *A lot of the "curriculum" that we will use with the kids will be further developed once we have a team that is ready to go. We will put together lessons and activities that we can do without having to speak much Spanish. I will also be there to translate when needed. The idea is basically to run a type of VBS program for the kids in the afternoon while medical professionals pull a few kids out at a time for their exams.*

EVERYONE will be put to work on the team. Nobody will be standing around doing nothing

Finally, a note about mission work and our perspective on it: We, as Cumberland Presbyterians, are a part of a global denomination. As such, we have CP churches around the world. Several years ago, the CP denomination decided that their next target area for expansion of the CP church is Central America. Due to connections we already had, Guatemala was the smartest place to start. There now exists a Council of churches in Guatemala that practically functions like a presbytery, but it is not officially CP, yet. All to say, several churches in Guatemala are interested in being CP. One of their ministries is the Hot Lunch Program, which is directed by Anay Ortega, a CP missionary from Colombia. Mission work can be done poorly, as many churches seek to colonize and "save" people who are not like us. We don't seek to do that. One of the main purposes of this trip is for our church here in Scottsboro to be able to build relationships with churches in Guatemala who are also seeking to become CP. It is always Biblically sound for groups of Christians to gather together and worship. We learn from each other and from different cultures when we do. It also is a good reminder that God is working in different corners of the world. So, part of our trip will be to acquaint ourselves with Guatemala. We will worship with the churches there, and we will attend any Bible studies or services we may be invited to.

AND, we will work. We will serve, we will teach, we will play games, and we will pour into the lives of children who otherwise don't get much attention. We will be culturally sensitive to their background, but we will proclaim the Good News of God's love through our work and through the things we say.

If you have any further questions about this trip, about Guatemala in general, or about our theology of missions in the CP Church, don't hesitate to call or email me.



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.

What a way to start a long weekend...

AIRWALK

LOCK-IN

January 15th-16th

11:30 PM-7:00 AM

AIRWALK Alabama- 7010 Champion Blvd, Birmingham

All participants must have a signed waiver.

Waivers are available online at:

www.airwalk.us

There is a limited numbers of places, so contact
Lori Harnish at lharnish6243@charter.net or 205-335-0262

Bring snacks and drinks with you and be ready for some fun!

2016

General Fund

January 3rd offering: \$6,481.00

YTD Offering: \$ 6,481.00

Budget Requirements

Budget Requires per Sunday: \$6,031.08

YTD Budget Requires: \$ 313,616.16

Attendance for 1/3/16

Sunday School: 51

Worship: 100

Worship Aids for Sunday

Head Usher: Rodney Bell

Pastor: Micaiah Tanck

Worship Leader : Steve Campbell

Greeter: Ben and Gordon Gossett

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

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