

The Shepherd

Coffee Creek Association, November 2020

40th Annual Carols & Choir

Carols and Choirs for 2020 Is Cancelled

As much as it pains me, we have made the difficult decision to forego this year's Carols and Choirs service scheduled for Sunday, 6 December 2020. I am tired of the need to continually cancel events but with the increasing numbers of COVID outbreaks this appears to be the most prudent and pastoral response for our current situation.

One thing that we do each year at this celebration is the collection of turkeys and toys for the Edna Martin Christian Center. Let me suggest that each of our churches make a direct monetary gift to EMCC as they seek to minister "to the least of these."

Thank you for your understanding and support. I hope and pray that we will be blessed to see all y'all in March for our annual meeting.

With God's Most Gracious Blessings,

Pastor Tim.

Rev. Timothy Mohon, Moderator
Coffee Creek Baptist Association
812-722-7612 (cell)

Alpha Baptist Church

by Jackie McGannon

Well, we've "Made it to December" (line of a song by Merle Haggard – I think.) It's been a very challenging year, but Alpha has had several successes and we're hangin' in there!

We have lost a second formal pastor this year..Ralph Hunter (late 1980s-early 1990s) passed away recently at his home in Missouri. He is survived by his wife Bobbie, his daughters, and several grandchildren. Tragically his daughter Mary Hunter also passed shortly after her father. Mary also lived in Missouri. They remain in our prayers.

Our beloved cross that hangs in the front of our sanctuary has been fitted with lights and adds so much to the front area of our church. The cross was donated by the late Hazel M. Lowry in honor of her parents, the late Martha and Elisha Sandlin. This cross is a beautiful reminder of the commitment of our church members for those who led us in past years.

We will not have our traditional “Hanging of the Green” this year, but we will decorate the walls of the church, place our manger scene, and decorate the Christmon Tree in white ornaments and tiny gold lights. Christmon is a word for “Christ’s monograms.”

We continue prayers for our two deacons, Bill Herald and Johnita Meeks, who are both undergoing treatment for cancer. Your prayers are requested as well.

Alpha lost another “old friend” as well as the former pastors. Jim Mummert (Kimberlin Creek), passed away recently and will be missed. Jim attended Alpha’s ABY when he got old enough to drive. We called it BTU back in the day (Baptist Training Union). We became friends with him at Westport Baptist Youth Camp a long time ago. He is sorely missed.

Our church made a large donation to the Clearing House in Scottsburg for the Thanksgiving season, and intend to collect other items during the winter months. These items can be brought to the church and placed in a container.

Happy Thanksgiving and Merry Christmas to all!!

Austin First Baptist Church

What a wonderful year to serve the Lord! Even though we have had many obstacles, we continue to serve God in all the ways we can. Sunday School 9 AM, Church 10 AM and Sunday Night Bible Study at 6 PM and we can all pray for on another!

Our interim minister, Rev. Aubrey Bessenger has been faithful in bringing us messages of encouragement. This Sunday he plans to give his testimony.

Our pulpit committee continues to search for a pastor.

As we begin the Advent Season, may we realize and prepare for Jesus’s second coming and continue to help others prepare.

Bethany Baptist Church

At Bethany, Jesus has been with us thru it all this year. We have had a year interrupted by a little virus you could not even see. Jesus has been with us thru it all. We have learned how to put the Gospel Message out there on Facebook. You know, a lot of people got to see that message that would not have seen it under normal circumstances. Planting the seeds and watering them in the knowledge that Jesus wants us to be sharing the good news with the whole world, Mathew 28: 18-20.

We had to look outside the walls of the Church. We were able to slip in a short but strong VBS this year. We were able to have a hay ride to share the love of Jesus. One of our deacons was

able, with Jesus's help, to overcome Covid-19 and is back at her duties and responsibilities of being a deacon having kept the faith.

We are a little old Church but we serve a mighty powerful and big God that has the whole world in his hands. This year we have had a new meaning to what is commonly referred to being a shut in. Usually all churches have a few but there were times this year whenever the whole church was one. The inability to go and see people in the hospital goes against the whole grain of Jesus's Church, Matthew 25. Checking on someone this year has been texting and calling. The faithful have learned to lean on Jesus even more than ever. For that I am thankful. Jesus called on us to visit those in prison in Mathew 25. This year the prison for most of us has been our house at one point in time or another. One of our real live shut in's told me that they liked being home. Attitude of gratitude is what that couple had that each and every one of us could learn. My "Fear Not" walk to Emmaus experience has been put to good use this year.

On December 20th, at 10:30 AM, we will be having the story of Christmas and sing along. You are cordially invited. Social distancing and masks encouraged.

Yours in Christ Pastor Mike Payne, Bethany Baptist.

Kimberlin Creek

Greetings Sister Churches,

As most of your already know, we had to cancel the Carols & Choirs at Kimberlin Creek for the 6th of December. We are praying that 2021 will be so much different than 2020 has been. I miss my church family that hasn't been at church in the last 9 months, but I really appreciate all those that do come. I am praying that by the middle of March things will be back to somewhat of a normalcy.

We did not have Thanksgiving dinner at the church and neither did my family have their normal family Thanksgiving dinner.

As of right now the church is planning to have most all of our Christmas events. Our youth will be Bell-Ringing at Walmart on the 1st and 3rd Saturdays in December from 10 a.m.-12 PM. And, of course, right now we are planning to go to Charlestown to see their Christmas lights as a group on Friday, December 11th. Our kids, TeamKid, are having their "Happy Birthday Jesus" party on the 13th. Our annual Christmas Caroling will be held on the 18th and the Christmas Cantata "Majesty" will be presented on the 20th during the Morning Worship. One of our most favorite services is our Christmas Eve Service at 11 PM here at the church that night. It will not be cancelled if only two of us show up. (LOL). We are also planning to show the Christmas movie "The Santa Clause" on Sunday night December 27th at 5:00 PM in the FLC. Plenty of room to social distance. Then the youth are going to finish out the year with a trip to the Creation Museum on the 28th and their annual New Year's Eve Lock-in from 6 PM-9 a.m. I really pray that all of these events will take place with God's blessing but only time will tell.

Judy Peacock
KCBC Secretary

Scaffold Lick

Greetings to our Sister Churches,

We hope you all are staying safe, wearing masks and social distancing. We are following the science and keeping safe.

We have several on our prayer list who are suffering with cancer and other medical conditions. We pray this terrible pandemic will be over soon. We pray for all of millions of families who have lost loved ones from this terrible health crisis.

Due to the increase of Covid cases our deacons voted to not have services until the New Year.

May God Bless all of you through this Christmas Season, as we celebrate the birth of Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. We pray that 2021 will be a year of good health and prosperity.

Sincerely in Christ,

Kathy Morris
Scaffold Lick Church Reporter

Underwood Baptist

by Rhonda Compise

We are continuing "in person" services utilizing CDC recommendations for social distancing, wearing masks, and use of hand sanitizer. However, we have closed our Fellowship Hall to all events except Sunday School and Wednesday Bible Study.

Holiday traditions are continuing with our congregation participating in Operation Christmas Child. Postage for the shoe boxes were paid by the Youth who raised money last year with a yard sale dedicated for this purpose.

"Hanging of the Greens" required only minor adjustments to allow everyone to safely participate in this annual event on the first Sunday of Advent.

Each year our church provides a Christmas Party to residents at Hickory Creek Healthcare. This year has been a challenge with residents being quarantined due to the virus. Finally details have been worked out for our church to provide gift cards for the residents. The Activity Director will purchase items requested by each resident.

We are also ministering in our community by working with the Township Trustee's Office. In addition to our monthly contribution to their Food Pantry, this year the Trustee has asked us to help provide Christmas for a local needy family. Members have divided the list and are eagerly adding requested items to the box in the Church Office.

We traditionally have a Christmas Eve Service at Underwood. This year it will be at 6 PM in our sanctuary. You are invited to join with us as we keep Christ in Christmas.

Several members considered to be "at risk" with the COVID-19 virus are remaining at home. Thanks to the Center for Congregations technology grant, we have made improvements to our equipment that is allowing us to reach out to those at home. We are live streaming our Sunday Worship on Facebook at 11:00 AM. Pastor David Schill is presenting his sermons with the enhancement of PowerPoint. In fact, the entire service flows from screen to screen beginning with "Welcome" to "Benediction." Our installation of WIFI allowed for one family to help decorate the Church while their grandchild continued their e-learning at the Church. Our Pastor is communicating by text for immediate prayer needs.

We have had worshipers join us on Facebook from other States, due to word of mouth. Please tell your friends who are staying home that our service is posted on Facebook for them to view at their convenience. Thanks to technology, this can be a time of spiritual enrichment for all of us. To see our events and services, "like us on Facebook!"

"Now unto Him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we can ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us, unto Him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus throughout all ages, world without end. Amen." Ephesians 3:20-21

Southeastern Baptist Youth Camp

New Year's Youth Lock-In

December 31-January 1

Grades 7-12

Join us for a fun night of paintball in the dark, games, food, and fellowship as we ring in the New Year!!!

Registration Opening Soon

OPEN PAINTBALL

January 1, 2021

1-5 PM

\$38 Per Person (Ages 9+)

All Equipment Provided

LADIES RETREAT

February 19-20, 2021

"Giving Your Best Life"

Ages 15+

We are excited to have guest speaker and author Stephanie Stenger Jones for this uplifting event. We will have times of fellowship, encouragement through sessions, worship, and so much more!

IGNITE

February 26-27, 2021

IGNITE is a Jr./Sr. High Retreat created to put a FIRE in the hearts of students for CHRIST through worship, teaching, and interactive programming!

Registration Opening SOON!!!

75th Anniversary Celebration

May 15, 2021

SBYCamp is celebrating 75 Years! And we want to celebrate with YOU! This day will be full of activities, live music, food, history, and more! We want to praise the Lord for His work through SBYCamp over the years and thank all of you who have served and given to make SBYCamp what it is today!

-Hannah Joy Eberts-

Administrative Assistant & Marketing

Southeastern Baptist Youth Camp

(812) 591-2515

www.sbycamp.com

Christmas Story: For the Man Who Hated Christmas

By Nancy W. Gavin

It's just a small, white envelope stuck among the branches of our Christmas tree. No name, no identification, no inscription. It has peeked through the branches of our tree for the past ten years.

It all began because my husband Mike hated Christmas. Oh, not the true meaning of Christmas, but the commercial aspects of it – overspending and the frantic running around at the last minute to get a tie for Uncle Harry and the dusting powder for Grandma – the gifts given in desperation because you couldn't think of anything else.

Knowing he felt this way, I decided one year to bypass the usual shirts, sweaters, ties and so forth. I reached for something special just for Mike. The inspiration came in an unusual way.

Our son Kevin, who was 12 that year, was on the wrestling team at the school he attended. Shortly before Christmas, there was a non-league match against a team sponsored by an inner-city church. These youngsters, dressed in sneakers so ragged that shoestrings seemed to be the only thing holding them together, presented a sharp contrast to our boys in their spiffy blue and gold uniforms and sparkling new wrestling shoes.

As the match began, I was alarmed to see that the other team was wrestling without headgear, a kind of light helmet designed to protect a wrestler's ears. It was a luxury the ragtag team obviously could not afford.

Well, we ended up walloping them. We took every weight class. Mike, seated beside me, shook his head sadly, "I wish just one of them could have won," he said. "They have a lot of potential, but losing like this could take the heart right out of them." Mike loved kids – all kids. He so enjoyed coaching little league football, baseball and lacrosse. That's when the idea for his present came.

That afternoon, I went to a local sporting goods store and bought an assortment of wrestling headgear and shoes, and sent them anonymously to the inner-city church. On Christmas Eve, I placed a small, white envelope on the tree, the note inside telling Mike what I had done, and that this was his gift from me.

Mike's smile was the brightest thing about Christmas that year. And that same bright smile lit up succeeding years. For each Christmas, I followed the tradition – one year sending a group of mentally handicapped youngsters to a hockey game, another year a check to a pair of elderly brothers whose home had burned to the ground the week before Christmas, and on and on.

The white envelope became the highlight of our Christmas. It was always the last thing opened on Christmas morning, and our children – ignoring their new toys – would stand with wide-eyed anticipation as their dad lifted the envelope from the tree to reveal its contents. As the children grew, the toys gave way to more practical presents, but the small, white envelope never lost its allure.

The story doesn't end there. You see, we lost Mike last year due to dreaded cancer. When Christmas rolled around, I was still so wrapped in grief that I barely got the tree up. But Christmas Eve found me placing an envelope on the tree. And the next morning, I found it was magically joined by three more. Unbeknownst to the others, each of our three children had for the first time placed a white envelope on the tree for their dad. The tradition has grown and someday will expand even further with our grandchildren standing to take down that special envelope.

Mike's spirit, like the Christmas spirit will always be with us.

UPCOMING EVENTS

12/20/20 Christmas Cantata 10:30 AM – Bethany Baptist

12/20/20 Christmas Cantata 10:30 AM – Kimberlin Creek

12/24/20 Christmas Eve Service 11 PM – Kimberlin Creek

12/24/20 Christmas Eve Service 6 PM – Underwood Baptist

12/27/20 The Santa Clause 5 PM – Kimberlin Creek FLC

If you want to submit articles for The Shepherd, the deadlines are as follows.

December deadline noon 12/26/20

January deadline noon 01/30/21

February deadline noon 02/27/21

Please mark your calendars.

If you could send the article either just in the body of your email (for easy copying) or in WORD, this works best for me. I do not have access to Publisher. My mailing address is:

**Melissa Payne
1310 W Old State Rd 256
Austin, IN 47102**

My goal is to always have the Shepherd to you by 5 PM on the last Saturday of the month for distribution on the last Sunday of the month.

Thank You,

Missy Payne