

The Shepherd

Coffee Creek Association, December 2020

Greetings sisters and brothers in Christ! I pray that each of you are well and staying safe. I know this last year has been a difficult one for most of us, however as the hymn states, "God is not dead, nor doth He sleep!" Covid has affected all of our lives, but God is still on His throne and we are still His people.

I am writing this to remind each of us that we have a duty to continue the ministries that God has tasked us with. We all know that each January we take up canned goods and non-perishable items for The Edna Martin Christian Center. This year will be no different. If I had to guess, they have been hit just as hard as our churches have been. Let's join together as Christ's churches-- His hands and feet, and make it our goal to make this the best year yet! Let's fill the pantry at Edna Martin and continue this tradition of ministry that has spanned over half a century.

Even in a year of so many ups and downs, we each have blessings that we can thank God for. My prayer is that each of you continue to stay safe and rely wholly on the God who is God of the mountains and the valleys. Let's work together to show the world that even when trials come out way, God's people won't be stopped from doing His work here on earth!

God's Most Gracious Blessing, Pastor Tyler Griffin

Coffee Creek Executive Committee Meeting

Happy New Year, Everyone:

I hope you had a wonderful Christmas.

This is a reminder of our upcoming executive committee meeting at Kimberlin Creek on Sunday, January 10 at 2:00 p.m. We have several important things to discuss, including the 2021 officers and budget. Please share this information with anyone else in your church who might want to attend.

Hope to see you there.

In Christ,
Mark Monroe, Clerk

Austin First Baptist Church

Good News from Austin 1st Baptist, our doors are once again open. At least four of our members are Covid 19 virus survivors. December 27th was our first service in the month of December. We were blessed with a special song sang by cute red headed twin boys and their lovely blond sister, (“Yes, Jesus Loves ME”). Aren’t we all glad that Jesus loves us even when we are not too loveable? Our guest speaker was Suzanne (Payne) Jackson. Our interim pastor Rev. Aubrey Bessenger will be here next week.

Our Sunday services are 9 AM Sunday School, 10 AM Church and 6 PM Bible Study. We have almost finished the book of Romans by Gib Martin and Larry Richards (The Smart Guide to the Bible Series).

Please continue to pray for us as we search for a pastor. Happy New Year to everyone!

By, Sue Payne

Bethany Baptist Church

Bethany Baptist is looking forward to the New Year 2021. We are looking toward the blessings that are coming from Heaven. Jesus saw us through 2020 even though our minister and his wife along with a deacon had covid 19 late in the year. We stand by our sister churches as death from the covid has rocked the association. When I think of Robby, I cannot help but smile. I do not mean any disrespect, but that short necked buzzard song at church camp relieves the pressures of this hard world. If he would have seen me trying to explain that song to the deacons, after some of our family sung it after church camp one evening service, he would have gotten a laugh also. Coffee Creek Association is rich in diversity of character. We are looking forward to getting back to being able to do visiting. The congregational care has changed to a phone call and it is a little less than I would like to be doing, especially whenever someone is gravely sick. We look forward to the day when covid 19 is only a distant memory in the rearview mirror. In Matthew the 25th chapter, Jesus called on us to visit the sick and those in prison. Being locked out of that part of our calling goes against our very nature of that calling.

By, Pastor Mike Payne

Kimberlin Creek

Greetings to our sister churches,

Welcome finally to 2021. We know realistically that nothing has really changed except the date, but we are so glad that 2020 is now in the history books. We are sure many of you are too.

Covid-19 is still with us but with the vaccine coming available hopefully it will soon be gone too. We are thankful to God for keeping us safe from it this past year and for most of the people we know. Of course, some have had it but have survived. But some of us did lose family and friends to it. But we also believe that it was their time to go home and that God was ready for them.

We at KCBC are back to having Sunday School again and are just averaging around 20 between the 3 classes we are having...children, youth and adults. With the numbers going up for covid-19 our morning worship average attendance has dropped but we are continuing our online services indefinitely.

One of my favorite services we have is our Christmas Eve Service and this year was no exception. And we had an attendance of 42 which is more than our Sunday services is running at right now. So glad to see people getting out to God's house.

We are so looking forward to 2021. We have a full calendar scheduled and I hope we do not have to write or type CANCELLED on anything for this year. That has become our least favorite word.

We pray that all of you will be safe and closer to our Lord this coming year.

Blessings,
Judy Peacock
Church Secretary

Kimberlin Creek is saddened to share the heartbreaking news of the passing of Robby Kloke, due to complications of Covid. Many of you knew Robby and his love for Jesus. He was very active at Kimberlin Creek, being the long time pianist, a past deacon, a Sunday School teacher, VBS Director, Choir Director along with many other roles. He also served the Association faithfully in the past as a trustee of Southeastern Baptist Youth Camp and the Music Coordinator on the Executive Board as well as serving on the IN/KY Region Board. He was also involved in the Columbus Indiana Area Emmaus & Chrysalis Communities, as well as REC (Residents Encounter Christ) and was a chaplain for the Scott County Jail. We ask you to pray for his wife Susan, their children and their granddaughter during this difficult time. Though this is a very difficult time, we are assured in the knowledge that he has gained his heavenly reward and he is finally home.

Scottsburg

Merry Christmas, Happy New Year, and Greetings to all the sister churches in the Coffee Creek Association. 2020 has been a year that has been full of so much confusion and many obstacles. We've all had cancellations and postponements. Many of the things that we usually celebrate

during the year had to be put on hold because of the virus. Fortunately, through God's blessing, we have been able to continue our Sunday morning worship services via WMPI Indiana 105.3. While we have only gathered for in-person worship for a few months of the year, the radio service brings us together through the power of the Holy Spirit. There was one service the coronavirus could not stop and that was our Christmas Eve Service. We held the service outside. The people stayed in their cars in the parking lot across the street from the church and I stood on the porch in front of the Fellowship Hall. Our media team set up speakers, a pulpit, and a microphone on the porch so all could hear. We played Christmas Carols and Hymns announcing the birth of our Savior and about halfway through the service it started snowing! It was truly a blessed time. With the rise of the virus in Scott County the Deacons have decided to postpone in-person worship services for a little longer. We will continue to reach out to our members and to those in the listening area with God's message of love, peace, comfort, mercy, grace, and salvation through the radio ministry. God bless you all and may you stay safe and healthy in the New Year.

Your servant in Christ,

Pastor Kevin Sills

Underwood Baptist

Underwood Baptist Church experienced a wonderful holiday season. Each Sunday, as the church gathered, we took time to reflect on Advent and the expectation of the birth of the Christ child. Different members shared a challenge to the church, lit the Advent candles, and prayed for the Holy Spirit's leading as we approached that manger. The Bible Study group took one Wednesday evening and enjoyed a "Night of Christmas." Memories of special past Christmases were shared, carols were sung and everyone left with a Merry Christmas on their lips. Underwood also took a Sunday afternoon and caroled several folks around our community. Masks were worn and social distance was kept, but the message of "Jesus Loves You and We Love You" was shared with these folks. The carolers came away with warm hearts and tears in their eyes as everyone was blessed.

Our deacons decided that Underwood Baptist Church would not suspend services. However, attendees are encouraged to wear masks, social distance, not touch others, wash their hands frequently, and use provided hand sanitizer. Although this is somewhat challenging as God's people enjoy a good handshake and a Holy hug, folks have done very well. Also, since the UBC offers our services virtually, we encourage especially folks who may be quarantined or feel

uncomfortable attending a group, and everyone else to catch us on Facebook, either live or at your convenience.

Underwood Baptist Church wishes our sister churches of the Coffee Creek Association New Year blessings and pray that each of you grow closer to our Lord through 2021.

By

Pastor, David Schill

Southeastern Baptist Youth Camp

There are 2 work days scheduled - Saturday, January 23 and 30, starting at 9:00 am. Plan on wood cutting and stacking. There will be indoor projects also. We will provide lunch, so let us know if you plan to come. Please contact us with questions 812-591-2515 or sbycamp@gmail.com.

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

Encouragement for the New Year

Leave your worries and fears in God's loving and capable hands.

by **Carol Kuykendall, Guidepost**

“See, I am sending an angel ahead of you to guard you along the way and to bring you to the place I have prepared.” Exodus 23:20 (NIV)

I sometimes think New Year's Day comes at the wrong time of year. I'm usually facing a bunch of tasks left over from the old year, like taking down the Christmas tree and putting away all the decorations, writing thank-you notes and dealing with decisions about what to do with the stack of Christmas cards. Throw them away? Save the ones with pictures? Check the addresses? Then there's the thought of trying to catch up with all the work I put off during the holidays. I'm behind before the New Year even starts.

“Who can think about new beginnings or inspirational goals in the midst of old concerns?” I asked my lawyer-husband Lynn as he came in the door after a quick trip to the office to complete a couple of year-end responsibilities.

“Let me show you a gift I just received,” he said, pulling an attractively wrapped package out of his briefcase. On it was a card: “To Lynn. May this gift encourage you in the coming year.” It was signed by a friend in his Bible study group.

Lynn tore off the paper and lifted out a beautifully framed message, penned by a professional calligrapher. The message read:

Lynn,

Trust Me. I have everything under control.

Jesus

He set the frame down amidst the clutter on the kitchen counter so I could see that simple message as I went about my tasks. Slowly those words began to change my frame of mind. If I needed something to help me carry my old concerns into the New Year, I'd just found it ... the

determination to face each day's concerns, trusting in the words of this promise from the Source of all comfort and strength.

Father, each day in this new year, please help me remember that You are in control of everything.

UPCOMING EVENTS

01/10/21 CCA Executive Board Meeting – 2 PM Kimberlin Creek

01/23/21 Southeastern Baptist Youth Camp Work Day – 9 AM

01/30/21 Southeastern Baptist Youth Camp Work Day – 9 AM

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

January deadline noon 01/30/21

February deadline noon 02/27/21

March deadline noon 03/27/21

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