

The Shepherd

Coffee Creek Association, November 2021

Carols & Choirs

We're looking forward to this year's Carols & Choirs event with the Coffee Creek Association. This year, Carols & Choirs will be hosted at Kimberlin Creek Baptist Church at 6PM.

We invite you and your choir to participate by sharing a Christmas song or poem with the sister churches in our association. And if you're not a member of the choir, still come and enjoy a time of worship and fellowship with one another! Refreshments will be served following the service.

At KCBC, we are still encouraging folks to wear masks in order to keep everyone safe, but your choir is welcome to remove those while on stage if you'd prefer. We have masks and hand sanitizer available should you need them.

One of the best parts of Carols & Choirs each year is providing an offering and donation to Edna Martin Christian Center. We generally collect unwrapped toys and games as well as frozen turkeys and hens which will all be used for their Christmas dinner at the center. Additionally, we will collect an offering that will go to the Center, if you'd prefer to give that way.

Please prayerfully consider participating in this year's Carols & Choirs. Please let me know if your church will be represented by sharing a song or poem. You can email, call or text me at leahgriffin14@gmail.com or 812-569-8018

Everyone's Invited!

Kimberlin Creek & Underwood invite our sister churches for a night of Worship, Fellowship and Giving Back!

Where: Kimberlin Creek

When: December 19th

Time: 6:00pm

We will be presenting "The Carols of Christmas Vol. 2." Light refreshments will be provided following the Cantata. We are also using this opportunity to give back to our community this Christmas season. We are asking everyone who attends to bring either a pack of diapers or a can of baby formula. We will be donating all these items to CRADLE. We look forward to you joining us for a great night of worshipping our Savior and King!

Alpha

First of all my apologies to our Editor and Chief Missy Payne for “forgetting” to do an article for The Shepherd last month! Those of you who are 39+ in the birthday world may understand this.

Alpha’s congregation continues to function in all areas! We are still having Sunday School and Morning Worship each Sunday; and are still doing Bible Study (ably led by Pastor Stan) and Choir Practice (also ably led by Mrs. Pastor Bonnie), on Wednesday evenings. On the third Wednesday of each month both ABW and ABM groups meet in our Fellowship Hall for a monthly meeting. The two groups meet separately and then join together for snack and fellowship. Our ABY group is still meeting on Sunday evenings.

Progress is being made toward the updating of our Sunday School room area. A new ceiling is in the works and other remodeling plans are being scheduled.

Several in our congregation have been ill and have faced surgeries or other treatment while others are undergoing testing, etc. We ask for your prayers for these people.

We acknowledged our pastors, Stan and Bonnie Carroll, for their continued service at Alpha. A collection was taken for them just in time for a much-needed break with their family to Tennessee. They are very much appreciated and we’re happy to recognize all they do for us.

Practice for the Christmas Cantata is ongoing. All new music this year with two very able soloists – Tammy Johnson and Mike Pruett providing the honors. Thank you, Tammy and Mike! Our choir will share a song from this musical with the attendants at “Carols and Choirs” this next month.

From Alpha to CCA churches we wish you the best of Thanksgiving season, and preparations for the upcoming Christmas season as well. May God Bless You!

Bethany

At Bethany, we are getting into the busy time of the year. Sunday, November 22nd we had Thanksgiving at 5PM. We had a smaller than usual crowd but we were able to take food to several that were shut in. It’s important that we take out time to thank God for all that He’s done for us. It is important to take out time to hang with the family. It is important to check on our friends at this time of the year, especially those that are alone or suffer from depression.

Our choir is practicing for Carols & Choirs as well as our Christmas program which will be held on Sunday, December 12th during morning worship.

We have baptisms planned for December 5 at 2 PM at Austin First Baptist (thank you for lending us your baptistery) for Luke Bledsoe and Darryl Lock.

On Monday, December 6th we will have a cookie exchange & potato bar lunch at 1 PM in the church. December 12 at 4 PM we will have a water color painting class in the fellowship hall. Cost is \$5 and a snack to share. We look forward to all the festivities of Christmas and the hustle and bustle of the season.

December 31st we will have our traditional New Year's Eve celebration starting at 8 PM in the fellowship hall. We invite you to bring your favorite snack to share and come join us for some games & fellowship.

Kimberlin Creek

Happy Thanksgiving to all our Sister Churches,

Updates on a couple items mentioned last month...The 4:12 Youth ended up getting \$80 from their fundraiser at Texas Roadhouse. Hopefully even more will be raised in January (on the 20th). The other update was concerning our Blood Drive. We had 39 come to give but only 33 were able to give. Thanks to all who came. Our next drive will be on February 1, 2022.

Pastor Tyler & Leah took 10 Teens to IGNITE at the camp this month. One of the teens accepted Christ after the retreat. PRAISE GOD! Our youth are very involved in nearly all our churches activities. Thanks in part to Pastor Tyler & Leah's leadership. Praise God for both of them!

Because of the pandemic last year we were not able to fill our usual 100 boxes for Operation Christmas Child. But with the generosity of our church family this year, we were able to fill and send 129 boxes! The Kingdom Kids and 4:12 Youth and several adults worked on filling them on 11/10 and they were brought into the sanctuary on Sunday, November 14th and dedicated before they were sent out. AMEN!!

As of this writing our activities committee is meeting tonight (11/18) to plan activities and events for 2022. It just seems time is flying by so fast. Pastor Tim and Pastor Tyler have been working on plans for our 175th anniversary which will be in 2024. When they started on this we had at least 5 years before it would be here. Now it is only 2 years away, it will be here before we even realize it.

Signing off until next month.

Judy Peacock, Church Secretary

New Harmony

Hello,

Not much to report for November. Our swing set has been delivered for our play area. We will start working on it as the weather cooperates. Sunday the 21st we are having our Thanksgiving dinner. Next Saturday, the 27th, we are going to decorate our church for the Christmas season. Things are going well. We had 2 baptisms last Sunday. Have a Happy Thanksgiving!

Underwood

Greetings from Underwood Baptist Church!

During November the women of the church completed a six-week Bible Study on the topic of "What Happens When Women say Yes to God." Study sessions began with a video presentation, followed by group discussion. The workbook allowed at home personal application through additional study and questions. We all pray to say "Yes!" when God speaks.

Pastor David preached a four-week series on Jonah. The slides presented along with the sermons really added to the impact of the messages. The series was both entertaining and thought provoking.

Our Choir members have been traveling to Kimberlin Creek to practice for a joint Christmas Cantata. This will be presented to both congregations gathering at Kimberlin Creek on Sunday 12/19 at 6:00 PM. The concert is entitled "The Carols of Christmas" and will include both adults and children and last approximately 1 hour. We would love to see you there!

AB Women met this month to plan for the December Christmas baskets. We will assemble these for our shut-in congregation members. We always enjoy the fellowship as we pack the baskets, exchange ornaments, and have a light lunch together.

Our entire church got behind the Operation Christmas Child shoebox project. In June we hosted a big yard sale to raise funds for the postage for shipping the boxes. Part of the funds was used to purchase contents for our young people to pack 44 boxes. Our congregation also filled another 54 boxes to bring the total to 98 boxes. We were able to pay the postage for over 200 boxes, to God be the Glory! In addition, the Wednesday Evening Bible Study group began collecting funds to be sent to OCC to purchase chickens for families to supplement their diet with eggs.

Blessings and Peace to you during this Holiday Season!

The Meaning of Christmas

(from Simple Devotions for the Complex Life)

And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying, Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.

- Luke 2:13-14

With the most popular holiday just around the corner, it seems like everyone is trying to get into the Christmas spirit. Stores are lining their aisles with Christmas goodies and decor, TV shows have switched to the theme of giving and love, and Santas are starting to float about. And why shouldn't they, after all it is that time, the meaning of the season, right?

Yet, the very first Christmas seemed to do without all of these. The very first Christmas somehow started a frenzy without the power of TV, without Candy Canes, without Santa, and without Christmas sales. Even more amazingly, the very first Christmas involved a poor couple, nobodies, who would lay the most precious child of all in a manger. ([Luke 2:4-7](#))

Looking back on Black Friday, I am constantly reminded how far we have come from the true meaning of Christmas. Christmas wasn't just about giving, or feeling loved, but it was about true love. Christmas is the celebration of the birth of Christ, the Savior who came into this world to die... for everyone, even those who killed him. ([Romans 5:8](#)) Jesus was God's gift not to the deserving, not to the Jews, but to everyone. ([Colossians 3:11](#))

Yet on Black Friday, a Walmart worker was killed because people couldn't wait to save a few dollars here and there. Another person was killed over a toy. And just a few years back, the Tickle Me Elmo fiasco brought out the worst in people. People who seem to have forgot that love isn't hurting another to give your child what they want, but rather to do what is right and moral. ([1 Corinthians 13:6](#)) And they seem to have forgotten that Christmas isn't just about showing love for those you care for, but for those who are undeserving, and those you do not even know. Just as God came to die, for those who were undeserving, and those who He did not know in a spiritual relationship. ([Luke 13:25](#))

Today, let us remember the true meaning of Christmas... Peace on Earth, Good will toward Men, for the Savior has come to show us how to love, and to give us the greatest gift of love. ([John 15:13](#)) Instead of buying fancy toys, think of how you can give to those who would normally go without. Ask yourself how you can help out others who are not as fortunate as you. Show them the true meaning of Christmas, the gift of God's love ([John 13:34](#)), and love others as God first loved you. ([1 John 4:19](#))

UPCOMING EVENTS

12/05/2021 Carols and Choirs, 6 PM Kimberlin Creek

03/13/2022 CCA Annual Meeting, New Harmony

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

December deadline noon 12/18/21 due to Christmas

2022 Shepherd Deadlines noon on:

01/22/2022

02/19/2022

03/19/2022

04/23/2022

05/21/2022

06/18/2022

07/23/2022

08/20/2022

09/17/2022

10/22/2022

11/19/2022

12/17/2022

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**

Thank You,

Missy Payne

Email: 2009mmpayne@gmail.com