

I hope everyone had a good thanksgiving. It's crazy how fast the year went by, Christmas is just four weeks away! Thanks to the youth group for hosting the lunch for our widow and widowers last Sunday. Those that attended had nothing but good things to say about you all! I'm very proud of each of you!!! Also thanks to Keri Rhone, Jill and Steve Camp, Jan Todd, Mary Stech, Audrey and Dan Manuel, Dwight and Shelly Franklin and Tom Watson for your help too. We have a lot of great people in this congregation who are willing to help with anything, THANKS!!! This month we will being busy doing different projects and activities. I want to encourage all of you to try to attend as much as you can. Remember to be at the church Christmas dinner Tuesday night. GOD BLESS!! BEN

Ornament Exchange

The annual Ornament Exchange will take place on Sunday, December 7th at the home of Sonda & Henry Baker, immediately after morning worship. Sonda will be serving lunch to all in attendance. Please bring an ornament to exchange

CARD SIGNING Remember the card signing party at Pam Galloway home on Tuesaday Dec. 9th 6 P.M. sign list in fover.

Natchitoches Trip

We are planning a trip to Natchitoches, LA. again this year to see the Christmas lights. We will leave Friday morning Dec. 12th at 8:00, and come back the following day. Those who would like to go along, please sign your name on the list placed on the bulletin board. The information on motel rooms is posted on the board. Because of limited space only bring one small bag a piece.



AM . Opening 07 Jerry Sturgess 14 Dwight Franklin 21 Kyle Lock 28 Jim Edge

P.M. Opening 07 George Wooden 14 Doug Lowe

14 Jim Ricard 21 Harold Johnson **21 James Singleterry** 28 Henry Baker 28 Ben Rhone

A.M. Closing

P.M. Closing

07 R.D. Prince

07 J.B. Matlock

14 David Sparks

21 Bill Chandler

28 Adam Harding

Serve Communion

Clint Satterwhite Jack Thomason **Kermit Grimsley Dale Sparks** Dee Bell Andy Link **Roy Davis** Mike Whitley

Communion Preparation

07 Adam Harding 14 R.D. Prince 21 Ike Weatherly 28 Charles McCullough

DOOR GREETERS Dec 07, 2014

Jerry & Marlene Thompson

COMMUNION PREPARATION Dec. 07, 2014

Adam Harding



MINISTERS Dan D. Manuel **Pulpit Minister** Ben Rhone

"Earnestly Contend for the Faith"

Youth Minister

ELDERS Dan D. Manuel **Dale Sparks**

DEACONS **Henry Baker** Sam Ellis **Dwight Franklin** Adam Harding Kyle Lock

SECRETARY

Lorelee Reeder

MISSIONS & OUTREACH

Brown Trail School of Preaching, Bedford, TX Jose Cuadras-Mexico School of Preaching Hershel Bearden India Mission Central TX Children's Home—Buda. TX **Tipton Children's Home** Tipton, OK **GBN T.V. NETWORK GIVE ME THE BIBLE** T.V. Program KETK-56 Tyler, TX. FOX 44– Waco, TX. FOX 29, Bryan-College Station, TX NBC 53-Lufkin, TX. **ASSEMBLY TIMES** Sun: 9:30 AM Class 10:30 AM Worship 6:00 PM Evening Wed: 7:00 PM

"Beloved, when I gave all diligence to write unto you of the common salvation, it was needful for me to write unto you, and exhort you that ye should earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints" (Jude 3). "'The faith' is the body of doctrine taught in the Scriptures, centering in Christ and His work. It is written (Acts 6: 7) that 'a great company of the priests were obedient to the faith.' In Acts 16:5, we are told 'so the churches were strengthened in the faith."" "What we are to believe, what we are to be and what we are to do 'according to the Scriptures -- this is 'the faith' which was delivered once for all and for which we are to 'contend earnestly. "This world is not a friend to truth, any more than it is a friend to grace, 'to help us on to God.' Error has more of the nature of leaven than has truth. ['Know ye not that a little leaven leaveneth the whole lump?' (I Corinthians 5:6).] Many languages have proverbs to the effect that 'a lie will get half round the world while the truth is getting on its boots to start.' One rotten apple put into a barrel of sound ones will rot them all, while one sound apple put into a barrel of rotten ones will not make them sound, but will speedily rot itself. One diseased man can spread a disease (like Ebola) through a city, while one healthy man cannot impart soundness to the sick in a hospital." "Never was there a time when there was greater need to [contend earnestly] for the faith than now. Skepticism has become more aggressive than ever. For a time infidelity walked the earth in haughty exclusiveness. But now infidelity has professed religion and joined the church. Now it occupies pulpits and theological professors' and the attack is from within. They seek to evaporate the faith into nothing more than fables. They teach an inspiration that does not inspire, an atonement that does not atone, and a salvation that does not save". We must not think that "The faith which was once delivered unto the saints" is a cold academic study. "The faith" is the message of Jesus Christ in agony on the cross, suffering for all mankind. "The faith" is the message in front of the empty tomb, "He is not here, but is risen." Teaching "the faith" bears fruit, like the grey-haired farmer, who spoke to his congregation, once and said, "Yesterday, out in my cotton field, I went down on my knees and asked

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God to save me by the blood of Jesus. I thank the Lord and this church, especially my wife, who has prayed for me for many years." "The faith" is the joyous music that rolls around the throne of God, praising the Lamb of God, "Thou art worthy to take the book, and to open the seals thereof: for thou wast slain, and hast redeemed us to God by thy blood out of every kindred, and tongue, and people, and nation" (Revelation 5:9). "The faith" is the message of God's Word. May we contend for it. DAN

VOLUME 50

Nov. 30, 2014

Christmas Dinner this Tuesday night.

From Dan's desk:



We hope that you had a great Thanksgiving Holiday with your family and friends. It is always nice to be together. We appreciate all who attended the midweek Thanksgiving service last Tuesday night. It was a great evening. Now that the Thanksgiving Holiday is over, that means that the Christmas season is quickly approaching. We have a full schedule for the church family this month. Please take a close look at the various activities that will be available for all of you during the month. There is such a kind and loving spirit during the month of December. It would be wonderful if such was the case all year long. We have a lot of members of the congregation who are ill at this time and those who have loved ones who are sick and in the hospital and even anticipating surgery. Please take time to pick up one of the "Prayer Lists" that are available for you in the foyer. It details those who are ill and provides all of us an opportunity to know who are ill. Sometimes we forget those who are sick and mentioned from the pulpit. Please take the list and pray for those that are less fortunate. If you have not signed up for the Annual Christmas dinner, we want to encourage you to join us for an evening of good food and fellowship. It is always nice to be together in such a setting. We have a wonderful night planned. You will need to sign up and place beside you name what entrée you would like for the meal. You can also invite a friends to attend with you, if you like. The cost is \$8.50 per adult and \$5.00 per child. Under 5 years old, the meal is complimentary. See you tonight. DAN

PLEASE TURN OFF ALL CELL PHONES



ED FURMAN will have surgery tomorrow at Mother Frances in Tyler. <u>PHILLIP CASTILLO</u> had a biopsy done last Monday. Awaiting results. <u>GARY CHAMBLESS</u> is recovering at home from hip surgery.

<u>AMY SKUBIATA</u> was released from the hospital last Monday. She is recovering at home.

Please pick up a prayer list for others with continuing problems.

CHRISTMAS DINNER

Our Holiday Fellowship will take place this Tuesday, Dec. 2nd, at 6:30 PM in the activity building. A list has been posted on the office glass of the menu. Please look at this menu and choose 1 entrée and then sign the list next to the menu with your choice. This is very important for the caterer. The cost is \$8.50 for adults, \$5.00 for children under 10, children under 5 are free. We would love to have 100% participation. Please make plans to join

WELCOME VISITORS

A big hearty welcome to those visiting today. Allow us to meet and greet you following the worship service this morning. At the end of the service today you will be given a gift bag from our congregation. "It is a small gift, but it comes from big hearts." Thanks again for coming.

We Live As If There IS A Tomorrow

Death. For all the years that man has been in existence, death has always come upon him in a most intrusive way. It is unwelcome, unwanted and unrelenting. The living force of life is now still and unmoving where once it moved and had life.

The writer of Hebrews said, "For all must die." James records, "For what is your life? It is even a vapor that appears for a little time and then vanishes away." And yet in the midst of this message of death, lies the continuing story of life!

There is no glory in death. Death is the river that one crosses from this life to the shores of eternity. And it is in the living that eternity depends. In the previous verse of our passage in **James (4:13,14)**, two days are contrasted: TODAY VERSES TOMOR-ROW

We see those who were boasting of the things that they were going to do tomorrow and yet there is no promise of tomorrow. They were being arrogant (v16) in their boasting by assuming that tomorrow will always be here. Their lives were so governed that they believed that tomorrow would always be at their disposal.

The resounding message of God has always been to live only for today and let the things of tomorrow take care of themselves for we have only today to live for. This changes our lives a great deal because we no longer live for ourselves but rather, *"If the Lord wills."* (James 4:15). SELECTED