

Office # 501-794-4475  
 Bro. Ray's Cell 501-626-6457

# DECEMBER, 2006

## CALENDAR

### SUNDAY

9:30am Sunday school/10:30am Morning Worship/3:00Spanish/5:00pm check bulletin

### MONDAY

### TUESDAY

### WEDNESDAY

### THURSDAY

### FRIDAY

### SATURDAY

**3** BD-Jay Borel/Trevor Ball

Nursery-Liz & Chandra

5:00pm Hanging of the Greens

**10** BD-Justin Butts

Nursery-Bill & Jeannette

Mission trip meeting 4:00 pm

**17** Nursery-Sheila & Jackie

Children's play morning service.

5:00pm Bill

**24/31**

24<sup>th</sup> Nursery-Leoda  
 24<sup>th</sup>-Christmas Eve  
 24<sup>th</sup>-No evening service

**25** BD-Carrie Jane Pasierb/Don Temple  
 Christmas Day

**27** BD-Bethany Thennes

**28**

**29**

**30** BD-Nicki Creekmore/Jaden Butts

7:00pm Classes

**5** BD-Bill Butts/Tanya Brazil

**6** Ann.-JD and Nancy Ball

**7** BD-Mikeal Wilkinson

**8** Ladies Christmas party at church-check with Jackie

**11**

**12**

**13** Ann.-Bob & Doris Eubanks

**14** BD-Ray Pettit/Elise Brewer

**15** BD-Chase Cogburn

**16** Ann. John & Michelle Wilson

**18**

**19** Ann- Ray and Holly Borel

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**21**

**22**

**23**

**26**

**Greetings all!** Wow, boy oh boy, man, my gracious goodness, I can't believe it's December and we're only a few short weeks away from Christmas and a brand new year. I can't remember who sings it; but it's an older country song, something along the lines of: "*Time marches on.*" And it does. The years seem to pass by more and more quickly, and the more years that pass, the more lines on my face and the less hair I have!!! Hahaha. But, such is life. And life is good, when it's all about God and sharing it with each other!!! *Amen?*

Just to bring to your attention; we have adopted some kids for Christmas. We'll all have an opportunity to bring some Christmas cheer to some kids who may not otherwise have a very merry Christmas. At our "*Hanging of the Greens*", you will have an opportunity to pick a name of a child; and provide for him/her, a gift to be received on Christmas morning. What better time to "give" than at this time of year. Of course; it's something we should be doing all throughout the year! *Amen, again?*

I came across this letter by John Fischer, and thought it worth passing along. It really puts things in perspective as we think about Christmas (& every day God gives us). Remember: *We live to love God and love people!!! Blessings everyone!*  
Honored to be your pastor,

*Bro-Ray*

### **A season (a life) of giving**

by John Fischer

The holidays are here and gift giving once again moves to center stage. It's easy to become cynical about this because of the over-commercialization of Christmas, but, as always, there is truth hidden in the bright lights, the colorful boxes, and the rush of shoppers bringing home their treasures. Where did all this gift giving come from anyway if it didn't come from God? No, God and Macy's are not in cahoots; it's just that God started it all. God in heaven gave us the most perfect gift for all seasons, his only Son, who brought light to the world and forgiveness of sins through his death on the cross and resurrection from the grave. But it doesn't stop there. His is a gift that keeps on giving. It keeps on giving because his life is born in all who believe, and his presence in the world is perpetuated by the spiritual gifts he gives all believers by which we reach out to those around us. Think about it: A big, beautifully wrapped box arrives for each one of us from God himself – a personal gift with our name on it. Inside is a special

gifting through which we can touch the people around us by way of the words we say and the things we do. It's called our "spiritual gift" but it's really a kind of gifting that enables us to do something for someone else. This puts a whole new slant on gifts, whatever the season.

I can remember Christmases growing up where I would arrange all my gifts neatly into a pile on my bed after all the presents were opened. It was always a smaller pile than I anticipated, but it was mine nonetheless. Christmas, in spite of the joy and excitement, was always a little bit of a disappointment because the gifts ran out. There was always the last gift – nothing more to open. My gifts stopped with what I could play with (until it broke) or what I could wear.

But God gives gifts that help us become givers as well. That's a big difference. His gifts to us enable us to turn around and enrich others. Gifts like mercy, faith, encouragement, wisdom, knowledge, healing, and discernment flow out of the brightly colored packages we unwrap every day from our Father. These are not gifts we pile up on our bed and look at. These are gifts that perpetuate the life of Christ in us. And they keep on giving for the rest of our lives, or as long as we use them.

This season, if you are able, give a gift that will warm a heart, but don't forget the gifts we have from our Father that keep on giving all year long, and be just as intentional about receiving and giving those as well. What do you have, and whom can you give it to?

Merry Christmas!!! I can't believe it's almost Christmas time!! The Children's Church Ministry of New Song would like to let you know of our plans during the holidays for our kids.

On Sunday, December 17, there will be a church wide Christmas Program. Our kids will have a part in it. They will be practicing on Wednesday nights and Sunday mornings during Children's Church. They have already started practicing, all of the regular kids have been offered a part, and if someone was missed let us know.

On Saturday, December 16 the kids will go on an Adventure for their Christmas Party. We will meet at the church at 10:30 a.m. They will have a dress rehearsal for their program first. We need to leave the church by 11:15 for our adventure. Parents, we will be using the church van so you can drop off your kids. If you want to follow along, please let us know so we can have enough food for everyone. Also, we will have a gift exchange, so please send a \$5 gift, boy for boy, girl for girl.

Children's Event Coordinator,

Colleen Ball

**50's Plus Group:** Went to Ruby's in Hot Springs. This group has done something every month since they started. This shows how much they enjoy getting together to have food, fun and fellowship. Doing this has made the group get to know and enjoy one another on a more personal level. Doing good guys!!!

**Ladies Night:** Doris has made our November Ladies Night a special night that we all look forward to. She has our favorite potato bar and a lot of us leave with having to unzip the top part of our pants. Thank you Doris for putting so much of yourself into this special night. Counting down until next November and boy by the way time has been going for me lately it will be here before I know it. Remember the 8<sup>th</sup> ladies at church. Our annual Christmas Party with Jackie and her sister's. They always have something different up their sleeve every year. Can't wait to see what it is this year.

Ladies we still have March, August and September open. I know some of you aren't comfortable with doing the devotional but if you would like to be a host and then have someone else do the devotional that would be great too. In fact we started out that way, so it wouldn't be hard on anyone. As for the food, we all can pitch in and bring something (pot luck is always good). If you don't want it at your house, the church is always open; in fact a lot of us do have it at church. Some have went with a theme and decorated, having gifts for games and gifts to go with the devotional. Please understand this is not necessary and you do not have to do this. We are there to fellowship and become closer sisters together. Not all of us can afford the extra and therefore embarrassed to host. So again the gifts and items is not what it is all about so please don't let that stop you. Some of the best ones are when its just us sharing our time together and being able to release the stress in our lives knowing we understand, care and are there for our sisters with love. Please pray and think about this and maybe by next month you will have chosen you month to host.

January starts a new year and a time to renew. So if there is something we need to do or change please come ready to share. Ladies Night is for all of us ladies so your opinion matters! *Journ*

I have been working on coming up with a newsletter that everyone will enjoy reading. I need your opinion as to what you would like to see in the newsletter. In the past we have had the calendar and then a separate page that gave the dates of everything again. Do you like this or do you think just one or the other would be enough? Also we have listed the church information, along with pastors, church officers and elders. Do you think this necessary since the letter just stays within the church? In the past they have interviewed one family a month and wrote an article on them. Would you like to see this again? These are just some of the things that you could help me with. Please use this sheet of paper to fill out and give back to me. Thank you in advance for your participation

In God's Service,

*Joan Borel*

Secretary

Joan's email jayjoan3912!@yahoo.com Phone 501-794-1976

I would prefer the newsletter with this:

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I would like to see this in the letter

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Opinion

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Date:

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