



HURSTBOURNE CHRISTIAN CHURCH

DISCIPLES OF CHRIST

The Grapevine

Volume 23, No. 1 January 8, 2012



*And I said to the man
Who stood at the gate of the year;
“Give me a light that I may
Tread safely into the unknown.”
And he replied:
“Go out into the darkness,
And put your hand into the hand of God.
That shall be to you better than light
And safer than the known way.”*

Manna from Mike

A NEW ROAD

Robert Frost is one of my favorite poets. Among his finest words are these:

*I shall be telling this with a sigh
somewhere ages and ages hence:
Two roads diverged into a wood, and I,
I took the one less traveled by,
And that has made all the difference.*

Here we are entering a brand new year. The crowds have gone home, but for us, Christmas did not come to pass. It came to stay.

There is a text from the ancient visit of the Magi that I want us to think about: *"And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road,"* (Matthew 2:12, (NIV). They returned to their country on the road less traveled, without the benefit of a roadmap or, for that matter, even a road. There was no GPS on the noses of their camels. Such is the nature of faith.

We are reminded that: "Faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen," (Hebrews 11:1) and "The righteous live by faith," (Romans 1:17).

Personally, I would rather live by sight. I like to know what's going on. I prefer to project what is going to happen. I'm a proponent of goal setting and strategic planning. If we don't plan our destination, how will we know if we have arrived?

Unfortunately, life is not so predictable. For better or worse, two plus two does not always equal four in the math of life. We don't always reap what we sow. Illness, like the weather, is no respecter of persons. It rains on the just and the unjust.

Like the poet, we stand at the gate of a new year, not knowing what it might bring, and plead, *"Give me a light that I may tread safely into the unknown."* And, the reply comes, *"Go out into the darkness and put your hand in the hand of God. That shall be to you better than light and safer than any known way. So, on I go not knowing, I would not if I might. I would rather walk in the dark with God than walk alone in the light. I would rather walk with God by faith, than walk alone by sight."*

"And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road." What would it mean for you and me to take a new road home in 2012? At the beginning of a brand new year, let's determine by God's grace and with God's guidance, to take the road less traveled. It could make all the difference

Agapé, Mike

A Christmas Thank You... for your generous gifts and for the privilege of serving alongside you in God's ministry. Your friendships and the many expressions of love are year-round reminders of the Christmas Spirit. We are glad to be your ministers.

Diane, Melisa, Julie, William, Wes, David, Michael, and Mike

REMEMBER IN PRAYER

MEMBERS

*Teenie Beutel, Rod Adams, Lillian Diersing, Helen DuVall, Mike Gatton, Bonnie Gray, Rosemary & Carl Reichart, Roy Roberts, Diane Walters.

FAMILY OF MEMBERS

Phyllis Barnes (of Ruth Olson), Regina Brown (of Demetris Wilson), John Cannon (of Debbie Ballinger), Cheryl Cash (of Lohrs), Cheryl Cliff, Rick Berger Family and Ricky White (of Stuckels), Rae Anne Douglas (of Cara Beth Wilson), Pat Eddington and Audrey Dreher (of Molly Togethoffs), George Fromm (of Valerie Stuckel), Steven Hardin (of Kirkmans), Richard Harrison, Rosalie and Charles Riley (of Harrisons), Debbie Miles (of Pat Pierce), George and Eula Koppel (of Larry Goff), Lucille Osburn (of Barry Osburn), Lou Singer (of Waynette McKay), Winnie Skaggs (of Judy Wright), James Sweet (of Judith Guittar), Paul Tosh (of Melisa Scarlott), George Westwood and Lisa Wilson (of Gueldas), Jan Willis (of Barb Swanson).

FRIENDS OF MEMBERS

Frank Alameda (of Helen Humes), Kaleigh Byrne (of Sally Hoback), Greg Dix (of Ann Chapman), Libby Dyne (of Judith Guittar), Scarlet Griffith (of Ann Nielsen), Marilyn Hurst (of Ruth Olson), Anna Klutz (of Burtons), Carol McClain (of Madge Osborne), Dick Scott (of

Virginia Hall), Tony Shelton (of Dana Perry). **Please contact the church office with changes, concerns and praise reports.**

SENIORS

Lillian Diersing
Hurstbourne Care Center;
Room 111

Helen DuVall
Summerfield Health & Rehab
1877 Farnsley; Room 610B

Bob & Bonnie Kirkman
173 Brookside Drive

Roy Roberts
Atria Center
Room 102 (Springdale)

Madge Osborne - The Forum

Lucille Osburn - The Forum

Larry & Nylene Walker
8021 Christian Ct Apt 402

Diane Walters
9201 Hillstone Drive

CHRISTIAN LOVE AND SYMPATHY

...to the family of Ethel Adams

...to the family of Juanita Tergerson
(of Debbie Pennell)

...to the family of Richard Hinkle
(of David Hinkle)

...to the family of James Hurst
(of Bev Sherrard)

...to the family of Virginia Salmon
(of Molly Togethoffs)

...to the family of JoAnn Elzey
(of Dana Perry)

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

There will be a congregational meeting on January 29nd after worship. The meeting will include a report of activities within the congregation during the past year and making plans for 2012.

There will be an election of officers and representatives for the coming year. Please plan to attend.

THANK YOU

The family of Ethel Adams thinks Hurstbourne Christian Church members are awesome! Throughout the past months, you have supported Ethel with visits, food, phone calls, notes, singing, love and prayers!

The love you sent has rubbed off onto her family and warmed our hearts and eased our grief. No words can adequately express our heartfelt gratitude, and the respect, and love we have for all of you! Rod, Sheri, David, Jon, Peter.

THANK YOU

A special thank you goes out to all of our folks, young and old, who sang or played an instrument in any of our worship services, or in the cantata, during the Advent and Christmas seasons. What a wonderful gift you have given! *Wes Humphries*

HCC WOMEN'S RETREAT

It's retreat time for the women of the church. Centered Women has a retreat each year and all women of the church are invited. The dates are February 2nd thru February 5th; with the first full day being a personal retreat.

Rev. Kristi Stuckel will be the presenter, with the theme being "Women of the Bible". If you are planning on going please make your reservations as soon as possible as space is limited. Any questions please call Dorothy Wiglesworth at 239-0981.

CENTERED WOMEN MEETING

The outreach project sponsored by Centered Women next month is to provide Life house Maternity Center with new or gently used Bibles. NIV version is preferred. They also request new or gently used devotional books and also journal books (new or unused). If anyone would like to donate an item, please bring it to church and place them in the box provided. It would be greatly appreciated. We will be collecting through the weekend of January 15. Thank you, Church!!

The next meeting of Centered Women will be at 7pm on January 12, 2012, at the home of Diane Burton. Car-pooling is recommended. All women of the church are welcome to attend.

For further information, contact Diane Burton at 245-7165 or diburton4@hotmail.com.

LYME DISEASE SUPPORT GROUP MEETING

There will be a meeting of the Lyme Disease Support Group on Thursday, January 19, 2012 at 7:00pm at HCC.

Those who have the disease or those supporting Lyme disease patients are invited and encouraged to attend.

"GOD'S GRITS AND OTHER BOUNTIFUL BLESSINGS"

Thanks to all who contributed recipes. The idea of this cookbook came together as the Centered Women group gathered around a table, sharing food, blessings and moments of prayer.

All 300 copies of the cookbook have been sold. Special thanks to Brenda Pennell for seeing this project through.

HEALING BLANKET MINISTRY

The Healing Blanket Ministry has resumed their schedule of meeting at 10:00am the first and third Tuesdays of each month.

Come join us – there is a task for each who attends. Questions; please contact Diane Burton (245-7165) or Susie Wilkerson 239-2385.

PRAYER GROUP

A Prayer Group meets each Tuesday at HCC for a time of prayer. Come join the group on Tuesdays at 10:30am.

MEN'S FELLOWSHIP BREAKFAST

Our next HCC men's fellowship breakfast will be Saturday, January 14, 2012. Our guest speaker will be *Mike Bocchieri*, Fitness Director at Blairwood Tennis, Swim & Fitness Club. Mike has spoken to us before, back in 2007, and had real pertinent information on fitness. On this visit, Mike will be discussing "the post-holiday diet and fitness challenge! When all the celebrating is over, most of us face the challenge of getting our bodies and minds back into shape so you will not want to miss this presentation!

Mike has been a director with the YMCA in the Mobile, AL. area and has been directing and managing at Blairwood for many years. He is a true expert on the human body and what it takes to maintain fitness and proper weight.

As always, the breakfast is open to all and we only ask that you call the church office (425-0220) to make a reservation so our wonderful cooks know how many meals to prepare for their usual hot, delicious breakfast. Call soon, and we will see you at 7:30 a.m. on Saturday, January 14th!

COMMUNICATORS / TOASTMASTERS

You are invited to attend or join a group of Communicators/Toasters. The group meets the 1st & 3rd Mondays at 6:30pm.

CHILDREN AND YOUTH

ACTIVITIES:

January 1: No Children or Youth Groups;
New Year's Day

January 8:
10:00 AM YOUTH PARENT Meeting in
the Conference Room

12-2 PM: Youth (6th-12th grade) Entering
a new Year, what does that mean?
3-5 PM: Children (1st to 5th grade): Bible
101

January 15:
9:30 AM: New Sunday School Class for
High Schooler's taught by Mike Gatton

12-2 PM: Youth: Who was MLK Jr.?
3-5 PM: Children: Bible 101

January 22:
SKI TRIP DEADLINE!

12-2 PM: Youth: What does it mean to
be in the church?
3-5 PM: Children: Bible 101

January 29:
12-2 PM: Youth: Video Discussion
3-5 PM: Children: Bible 101

February 4: Ski Trip to Perfect North
Slopes

February 5:
12-3:30 PM: Children MOVIE Day! We
will go to a movie and have lunch out!
NO YOUTH GROUPS!

Peace, Mike McColl

ACOLYTES

Acolytes serving in
January 2012:

January 8 – Emily Swanson
January 15 – Cole McKay
January 22 – Cameron Nielsen
January 29 - Jackson Swanson

ARMED FORCES

Captain James Collard
(Bev Collard's son)
HHC, 2 CAB; Unit #15711
Box #485 APO AP 96271

Captain Rae Anne Douglas
(Cara Beth Wilson's sister)

**LT Col Robert Shuck &
LT Fred Fields**
(of Yvonne Lohr)

SSG Adam Waller
(Hulda Harris' grandson)

LCpl. Brad Cofer
(Teenie Beutel's grandson)

CONGRATULATIONS

...to Yvonne and Harper Lohr who are
the
proud new great-grandparents of Jacob
Lee Fields.

...to Teenie Beutel who is the proud new
great-grandmother of Cayden Cofer.

NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTIONS...

If you are like me, I resolve every year to make changes in my life that will make me more physically and spiritually healthy. I plan on making these same resolutions this year, but I am also resolving to ask for your help in making them a reality in my life.

First, I want to lose at least 35 lbs. in the coming year, so I need for you, as my church family, to hold me accountable when you see me with an extra dessert or with my hand in the candy jar (Thank you, Mr. Goodbar!).

Second, I want to covenant with you to pray, on a daily basis, about our congregation's direction, growth, leadership, and ministry in the coming year. My spiritual health, and yours, is linked to the spiritual health and vitality of this congregation.

Therefore, I ask that each of you join with me in praying for wisdom, courage, and insight as the church continues to move in a new direction towards gift-based ministry this year. I also ask that you pray with me for significant spiritual growth in the lives of our members during the year **(Caution! This one might require an investment of time in Bible study on your part, as well).**

Further, I ask that you pray with me for a group of committed, gift-based leaders to be discovered and developed in the congregation in the New Year. Finally, I ask that you pray with me about the

discovery and development of new ministries which will flow out of our spiritual giftedness as the community of faith here on this corner. Mutual accountability is the key to this endeavor. We need to communicate openly and honestly with each other about what we see God doing in our midst and where God is leading us.

I believe great things are possible in the coming year if we will devote ourselves to becoming more prayer-filled and grace-filled people.

Will you join with me in praying for God's guidance and strength in 2012 as we seek to be God's people in this time and place?

Blessings, David

SHEPHERDING ELDERS

The Shepherding Elders group will meet January 9th at 6:30pm at HCC. If you are a member of this group please plan to attend.

THEOLOGY DISCUSSION GROUP

We are just talking about God. We will meet every third Tuesday at 7pm in the conference room. In January the discussion will be baptism.

Rev. Dr. Larry Odom-Groh

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Hurstbourne Christian Church

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Dated Material

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Rev. David Scarlott**

**Music Director
Wes Humphries**

**Minister Emeritus
Bill Schiphorst**

The Grapevine

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