

# New Beginnings

Kresge Methodist Church Newsletter & more

January 2024

Happy New Year to everyone! Hello, I'm Charlotte, and I've taken on the role of putting your newsletter together this year, as you will quickly notice the newsletter is getting a makeover. Of course, if my approach isn't your cup of tea, feel free to give me the boot (just kidding I hope).

I come armed with two decades of experience in the newspaper industry and a handful of ideas. Moreover, I'm eager to hear your thoughts, so please don't hesitate to share your ideas with me.

As we kick off the New Year, our church is entering a new phase. It might be a bit confusing at the moment, but fear not—the Lord is guiding us through it all. The search for a new Pastor is in full swing after wrapping up the disaffiliation process. I have faith that, with a bit of divine help, we'll find the perfect fit. Keep Terry and the committee in your thoughts and prayers as they work on this.

I've set up an email for you to send in birthdays, anniversaries, and any ideas you may have. Also, share your prayer requests. There's a family section for all the special happenings in your lives—vacations, new additions to the family, graduations, and celebrations. Share your stories with your church family by reaching out to me at [caw.newbeginnings@gmail.com](mailto:caw.newbeginnings@gmail.com) you can also call me at 678-988-2881 or talk with me at church. The deadline for the February newsletter is January 25th, so mark your calendars.

This newsletter will be a work in progress for a bit until I get a sense of what you like and don't like. So, don't hesitate to let me know your thoughts. In the future, I hope this section will have insights from our new Pastor. Until next month, I hope you enjoy the first edition of New Beginnings. Cheers!



## Please Keep These People in Your Prayers



Amanda LeFurgey passed away Christmas morning, please pray for her family.

Tami Atkins - Is awaiting test results.

The family of Don Robinson is in need of prayer.

Candi Himes - Recovering from surgery.

Lacey Weaver is in critical condition and in the ICU, she is the daughter of Justin Longhorn. Please pray for this family.

Linda Stanton lost her sister, keep her in your thoughts.



## Sunday Worship

Pastor.....

Breakfast.....9:30am

Sunday School.....10:00am

Sunday Service.....10:55am

**INVITE SOMEONE TO CHURCH**

# Why Do I Have to Be on The Leash?

By: Bill Brinkworth

“C’mon, girl, let’s go for a walk,” I beckoned to the Labrador Retriever. After I clipped the short leash to her collar, I walked off, expecting her to follow. Quickly, I realized there was no dog on the other end. Buddi had tucked her head and slipped out of her collar. Her tail wagged seriously. She wanted to roam the walking path but did not want to be hooked to the restricting tether. Buddi wanted to run wherever she wanted to go in the woods.

Then we had the master to dog talk. “Listen, Buddi, I see you want to go out,” her tail wagged in agreement. “You don’t understand what could happen without my protection. If you go to the wrong place, you just might get sprayed by Mr. Skunk. Buddi, this leash is for your protec-

tion. I can guide you safely if you will trust me to lead you.”

Folks are much like the rebellious dog. They do not want anyone

telling them what to do, especially God.

Why? They believe His commandments will dampen their style. Many see God’s commandments as a leash limiting their freedom and “fun.”

What little they know about God’s requirements may have been

heard from an unreliable source.

Often, they may have heard part of His Word or never stopped to consider the context of the Bible verse. Even if they hear a clear biblical commandment, they will not obey their Creator.

Most are naturally rebellious to anyone telling them what to do. Many

give little credence to laws, parent’s guidance, school rules, employer’s requirements, and any hampering them from doing what they want.

However, God is not like anyone else. He knows humanity’s limitations, what lurks unseen that will hurt them, and what will help them.

The watch care offered by our Maker is for our good. God’s “leash” is not meant to be burdensome. His guiding help is from an all-seeing and knowing God who wants to keep us safe and help us.

Our aimless, often temptation led life, can lead us to harm. God wants the best for us.

Follow God’s will and way for a productive and better life. Lose the rebellious attitude and obey the One that only desires what will help and bless you!



## January Birthdays

Don't forget to wish these people a Happy Birthday



- |                       |                   |
|-----------------------|-------------------|
| 1- Danny Oneal        | 23 – Jane Lumpkin |
| 10 - Diane Lockridge  | 24 – Anna Parker  |
| 11 – Devan Pinson     | 27 – Betty Timms  |
| 17 – Joan Billingsley | 28 – Paul Coley   |

## January Anniversaries



22 – Vandy & Brenda Cobb

## Volunteer of the Month



**Maria Masi**

Maria keeps very busy with all her volunteer work from handling the Benevolence fund for the church, that helps people in need. Then there is the Bereavement booklet candles & piano as well as changing the church sign, and in the past she has helped with Grief Share, which helps people dealing with the loss of a loved one. Animals have a special place in Maria’s heart as shown by her volunteer work with Cedar-town Polk County Humane Society where she helps draw blood for heart worm test for dogs, and feluek tests for cats, and she assist in giving vaccinations and microchipping. If this is not enough she also delivers flowers once a month to shut-ins. Maria always has a smile on her face and a willingness to help where ever she can. Thank You Maria for all you do.

*Give, and it will be given to you. Good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap. For with the measure you use it will be measured back to you.” Luke 6:38*

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## Cleaning Schedule

January-February 2024

- January 4 - Gaynell Owens & ?
- January 18 - Judy Cook & Deborah Edge
- February 1 - Linda Moody & Maria Masi
- February 15 - Linda Stanton & Lynn Self
- February 29 - Iris Peretsmarck & Clara Jean David

**If you are unable to clean when scheduled, please find a substitute to take your place.**

*If you would like to help with cleaning your church see Gaynell Owens. All help is greatly appreciate*



### Humorous Church Signs

Never be afraid to try something new, remember amateurs built the Ark, professionals built the Titanic.

Adam & Eve the first people NOT to read the Apple terms and conditions.

To hot to keep changing the sign, sin Bad, God Good, Details inside.

Honk if you love Jesus, text and drive if you want to meet him.

Just love everyone, I'll sort them out later-**God**.

Forgive your enemies, it messes with their head.

Be the kind of person your pet thinks you are.

***Prayer is the key to Heaven, but Faith unlocks the door.***



## Gifts given in December

Juanita Lindsey & Ronda Powell, gave in memory of Debra Willingham.

Clara Jean David, gave in memory of Pam Himes & Debra Willingham.

Candi Himes gave in Memory of Pam Himes



## Church Family Happenings

Charlie & Lynn Self, enjoyed a Christmas Eve dinner with all of Lynns siblings and their families before attending the Christmas Eve Candlelight Service. They also took a trip to Valdosta, GA to visit a long time friend of Lynn's.

George and Martha Robinson, had a wonderful visit from their son, daughter and two granddaughters from Florida over the holidays.

Jim and Judy Cook's family from Sweetwater, TN were in for the holidays. Their son-in-law Todd Colbert an Ordained Preacher along with their daughter and granddaughter preformed beautiful Christmas music for the Candlelight Christmas Eve program.

Harry and Iris Petersmarck's son was down from Athens GA, with his fiancee for a holiday visit.

Charlotte Wippler enjoyed a wonderful visit with her youngest son and three of her grandchildren, and also a short visit with her 3 great grandchildren from An-niston, Al.



## Just Joking

A little boy opened the big old family Bible with fascination, and looked at the old pages. As he turned them suddenly something fell out. He picked it up and looked at it closely, it was an old leaf from a tree than had been pressed in between the pages. "Momma, look what I found", the boy called out.

"What have you got there, dear?" his mother asked. With astonishment in the young boy's voice, he answered: "I think it's Adam's suit".

# All The Stories Of The Bible

as crafted by John Walsh

## Gifts for the King

Matthew 2

While Jesus was still a young child, some men came from the east. Their research revealed that a royal redeemer would one day come to Israel. They studied the stars, and saw signs that indicated this king had finally been born.

They went to Jerusalem and talked to Herod, the king who was appointed by the Romans to rule over Israel. They said, "Where's the child who has been born King of the Jews? We see his star, and have come to worship him."

Herod was evil and cruel. He became angry when he heard the news of a different king born in his domain. Still, he controlled himself and told the men he'd look into the matter. He called for the priests and teachers and asked, "Where does your Scripture say Messiah is to be born?"

They were quick to answer. "He's to be born in Bethlehem." Herod went back to his visitors and asked to hear more about the heavenly signs and exactly when the royal star first appeared. He then told them, "Go to Bethlehem. Once you have found the child, report back to me. I'd like to go ... (uh) worship him as well."

The men traveled the few miles to Bethlehem and went right to the house where Joseph, Mary, and the young child lived. They bowed down before Jesus and worshiped him. They gave him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

God warned these men that they were not to return to Herod, so they avoided Jerusalem and traveled home a different way. That night, an angel appeared to Joseph. "Get up! Herod will send soldiers to kill the child. Go to Egypt and stay there until I tell you to return." So Joseph got up in the night and took his family to Egypt.

Herod was angry when he realized the men from the east had disobeyed him. He sent soldiers to Bethlehem and had all the young boys killed those under the age of two.

In time, Herod died, and the angel told Joseph it was safe to

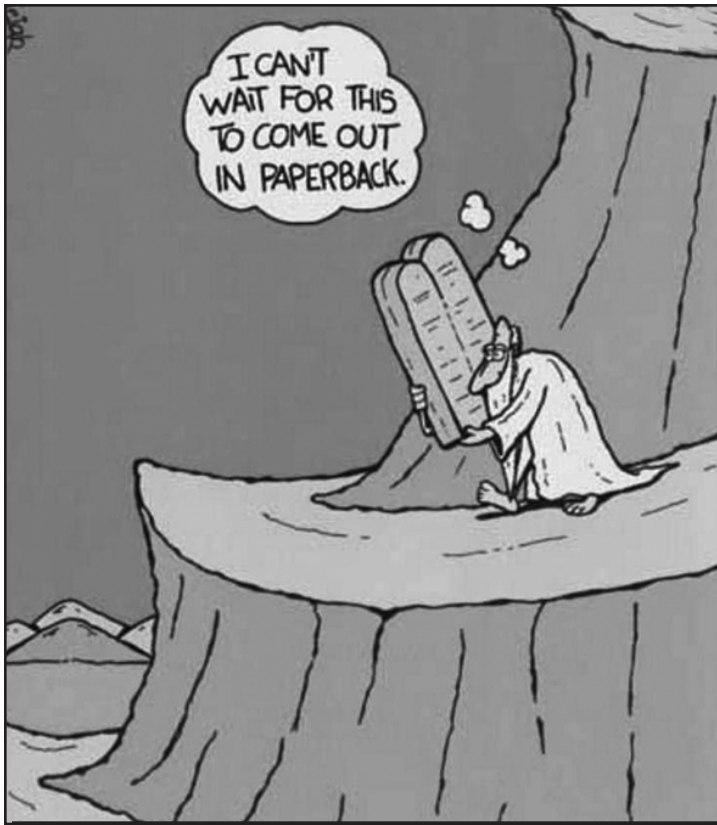
return to Israel. Still, he decided to move his family to Nazareth instead of going back to Bethlehem.

Jesus grew and became strong. He was filled with wisdom, and the grace of God was on him.



## Bible Trivia

1. The 10 commandments had writing on both sides .
2. Delilah did not cut Samson's hair.
3. There was a lady named Noah.
4. David kept Goliath's armor in his tent after defeating him.
5. Joshua captured 31 kings .
6. The longest word in the Bible is Maher-shalal-hash-baz.
7. Bethlehem means "house of bread."
8. Solomon wrote 3000 proverbs and 1005 songs.
9. Adam was 130 years old when Seth was born.
10. God Himself buried Moses, and no one knows where.
11. Jesus performed over 30 miracles in the Gospels.
12. The Sea of Galilee was also known as the Sea of Tiberias.
13. The walls surrounding Babylon were 87 ft thick and 387 ft high.
14. Enoch was the first man to prophesy in the Bible.
15. Paul had a sister.
16. Rachel was a shepherdess
17. Methuselah lived the longest of any man in the Bible: 969 years.
18. Joash was the youngest king in the Bible at 7 years old.
19. Sarah is the most mentioned woman in the Bible (59 times). Rachel is 2nd (47 times).
20. Genesis never says Adam and Eve ate an apple; only that they ate fruit.



# Announcements



The Worship Team will hold their next meeting on Tuesday, January 3rd at 4:00pm.

One Board will meet on Tuesday, January 16th at 5:00pm.

The Clothing Bank needs childrens cloths for sizes 2T-5, anyone with grandchildren that have clothes they have outgrown, see Maria they are in need of donations.

## Test your knowledge of the Bible with this Bible Quiz

1. Jesus was baptized and began his ministry at about age 30. Who baptized Him?
2. After His baptism, Jesus fasted for 40 days and was tempted by Satan. Which of these was not one of the temptations?
  - a. To turn stone into bread to satisfy his hunger
  - b. To jump off the top of the temple so that angels would save him
  - c. To turn water into wine to satisfy his thirst.
  - d. To worship Satan in return for all the kingdoms of the world
3. When Jesus said, "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life," whom was He speaking to?
4. Where did Jesus have a conversation with the Samaritan woman?
5. Where did Jesus conduct most of His early ministry?
6. How many disciples did Jesus choose?
7. Jesus chose Matthew as one of His disciples. What was Matthew's occupation?
8. Which disciple first had the revelation that Jesus was the Christ, the Son of God?
9. When Jesus visited the home of Martha and her sister Mary, what was Martha upset about?
10. People were bringing little children to Jesus to be blessed, but His disciples turned them away. But Jesus said, "Let the children to come to Me; do not hinder them;"

### Answers

1. John the Baptist
2. To turn water into wine to satisfy his thirst
3. Nicodemus
4. At a well
5. Galilee
6. 12
7. Tax collector
8. Peter
9. Mary was listening to Jesus instead of helping with the chores.
10. For the kingdom of God belongs to such as these