

2009 is.....

A brand new candle, scarcely lit, that will burn itself out in 12 fleeting months... another volume in our book of life, full of blank pages upon which we shall write with living history as time moves on.

The beginning of a year is a good time to view the past year in retrospect. How many times did you choose to be away from the assembly for the saints **last year**? How many times did you choose not to arrive in time for the spiritual feast of a Bible class? How many weeks did you neglect to contribute financially to the spreading of God's kingdom? How many times did you "freeze up" when you had a good opportunity to say something to someone about the Lord and His church? How many times did you compromise the morals of the Gospel to keep from being different from "the crowd"? How many times did you say "none"? That's wonderful! You certainly moved to higher ground last year. If your record was not so good last year, have you considered the truth that just as many times as you placed something ahead of serving God, you proclaimed that He was not in control of your life?

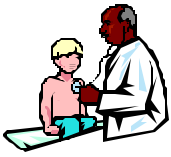
As we begin this **New Year**, we begin a new tour of exploration. Each new year is a new adventure, a new experience for us. As one of the old has said, "...Ye have not passed this way heretofore." (Josh. 3:4). Since none of us has passed this way before, we wonder what the unknown tomorrows hold in store for us. We wonder just what the next twelve months will bring.

Brethren, we don't know what the future holds, nor does anyone else, but we know who holds the future — you and we do!

By doing what we should be doing, we can each "Have Piece of Mind in Two Thousand and Nine. **Happy New Year!**

- your elders

Sick



Continue to remember in prayer: **Marguerite Charles, Jonnie Charles, Margaret Kratz, Lyn Anderson, Martha Keith, Mariam Majors, Steve Harrah, Betty Jenkins.**

WJ Wood is at Salem Health & Rehab; Unit 4, Room 114A. 540-855-9012.

Dee House has been diagnosed with cancer. She will be seeing an oncologist soon.

Norman Gabbard, Glenn's brother, is under hospice care.

Judy Bowman, sister of Hazel Maness, will be having cancer surgery next week.

Shelia Clark will have surgery on January 8.

????????????????????????????????????
????????????????????????????????????
????????????????????????????

Happy Birthday this week to:



Kylie White—12/28 Kay Anderson—12/29
Melissa Rogers—12/30 George Mellon—
12/30
Cindy Nicholas—12/31 Squeaky Valentine—12/31
Nancy Benefield—1/1 Amanda Brown—1/3

????????????????????????????????????
????????????????????????????

DECEMBER ITEMS FOR THE STAFFORDS: Vanilla Wafers & Dream Whip envelopes. Give your items to Jeanny and she will ship them over!



MILITARY

In Iraq: Major Erich T Felps,
HN Aaron T Stricklin



Upcoming Events:



The Teams will combine and have a New Year's Eve Celebration here at the building on Wednesday, December 31, after services. Bring your favorite dessert and games; coffee and beverages will be provided.

Teens

December Dates

December 31—Youth Game Night—8PM

January Dates

January 3—Winter Youth Devo—Radford 6PM



Mark your calendars now for March 7. We will also be having the Bidy Bible Bowl for the kids ages 5-8.

Bi-Monthly Bible Bowl Study Sessions will be held in the large classroom at 5:00 on the following Sundays: January 4 & 18; February 8 & 22. Mock Bible Bowl will be held on Feb 14 at 9 AM. Breakfast will be provided. See Jim or Charlotte Harrington for details.

WOW

They're back!! Beginning in January, Don & Mitzi Pettit will once again be overseeing the WOW group activities. We are appreciative of their desire to serve again. Thank you, Don & Mitzi!!

Please sign up on the WOW board for the video Autobiographies being done by Richard Simms.

Next WOW meeting will be on Tuesday, December 9, at 10:30.

For Your Information

BIBLE STUDY SURVEY

There are special Bible Study Survey sheets on the table in the foyer. Please fill one of these out and return it to Eddy or Jo Ann with the next two weeks. It will assist greatly in sermon and class preparations for 2009.

BIBLE READING GUIDES

There are chronological Bible reading guides for 2009 available on the table in the foyer.

CALENDAR EVENTS

If you have any events for the months of January or February please get them to the office by Wednesday evening.

PRIMARY TEACHER MEETING

The next Primary Teachers meeting will be on Jan. 11 at 4:30. Cradle roll teachers are in charge of snacks.

STAFFORD VISIT

Cy & Stephanie Stafford plan on being here on January 18 to give an update on the work in Tanzania, Africa. Make plans now to attend.

SMOKY MOUNTAIN MARRIAGE RETREAT

The 2009 Great Smoky Mountain Marriage Retreat will be on February 11-14 in Pigeon Forge, TN. Brad Hurrab and James Watkins will be the guest speakers for the retreat. See the board for more details!!

ADDRESS UPDATE TIME—this is the last week to check your information. If it is correct, mark it as correct or make any corrections necessary. Many thanks to those who have already completed this!!

Congratulations!

Bethany Durham graduated summa cum laude from Freed-Hardeman University with a BBA in Marketing and BA in Spanish on December 12. Her fiancé, Matthew Vaughan, recently received his Master of Divinity and will begin his Master of Education while teaching at a Lexington, TN high school. They will be married in a private ceremony in TN on March 14, 2009 and will live in Henderson, TN.

Mr. & Mrs. David A. Dement request the honour of
your presence at the marriage of their daughter
Emilee Marie
to
Mr. Aaron Scott Anderson
on Friday, the ninth of January, two thousand nine
2 o'clock in the afternoon
Ellendale Church of Christ in Memphis, TN.
A reception will immediately follow.

Weekly Reminders

Prayer list:

Lyn Anderson
Judy Bowman
Jonnie Charles
Marguerite Charles
Sheila Clark
Norman Gabbard
Steve Harrah
Dee House
Betty Jenkins
Martha Keith
Margaret Kratz
Mariam Majors

Family of Betty Dunagan

Activities:

Team Function—December 31

Teen Function—Dec 31

Winter Youth Devo—January 3



THE FIRST 100 DAYS and Other Matters

It hardly seems possible that another year has come and gone. Just as we are getting accustomed to saying and writing “2008,” along comes 2009! How quickly the last 12 months have slipped by.

Lord willing, the New Year will bring us many new opportunities and challenges. Although it is only a date on the calendar, the beginning of a new year brings with it the benefit of beginning again. I hope many of us will take advantage of this time to reflect upon our lives as Christians.

As we have been doing for the past few years, we will begin 2009 with our “First 100 Days” challenge. This year we will focus on the book of Acts. Today you will be given the first in a series of cards revealing the assignments for the first three days of the New Year. Each week (through April 5th) you will be able to obtain a new card with the current week’s assignments. You will be asked to read a chapter from the book of Acts three times each day, memorize the contents of that particular chapter, pray each day, write a note or card each week, and increase your contribution (if and as you are able) by \$1 each week. In addition, we will be studying the text of Acts together each Sunday evening. What a great opportunity to learn more from this great book, often called “the hub of the Bible.” I hope each of you will accept this challenge and determine to begin 2009 with a daily study regimen.

There are also Chronological Daily Bible Reading charts available in the foyer. These will guide you through reading the entire Bible in chronological order in 2009. Also, if you have not yet done so, please complete one of the Sermon and Class Survey forms. This will assist us in sermon and class planning and preparations for the coming year.

Welcome Home Tom, Susan and Preston!

We welcome the Duffs back for their holiday visit. Tom will be preaching at Radford this morning and here at West Side tonight. He continues to do well in his studies at the Memphis School of Preaching. We are delighted to be able to assist him in his efforts and to have him preach for us tonight. It’s great to see you, Tom, Susan and Preston!

-Eddy

Jan. 1 (Acts 1)

- Read Acts 1 three times today
- Pray today
- Memorize contents of Acts 1—
 - Ascension of Christ
 - Matthias appointed in Judas’ place
- Write a note or card this week
- Increase your contribution by \$1
Sunday

Jan. 2 (Acts 2)

- Read Acts 2 three times today
- Pray today
- Memorize contents of Acts 2—
 - Apostles receive Holy Spirit
 - Sermon on Pentecost
- Write a note or card this week
- Increase your contribution by \$1
Sunday

Jan. 3 (Acts 3)

- Read Acts 3 three times today
- Pray today
- Memorize contents of Acts 3—
 - Peter & John heal lame man at Beautiful Gate
- Write a note or card this week
- Increase your contribution by \$1
Sunday

Those to Serve in January

Announcements: Bob Garby
Preside at Communion: Tom Rogers

Opening Prayer: Herb Baker

PM Song Leader: Charlie Gwaltney
Opening Prayer: Charlie Maness
Serve Communion: Cameron Brown, Sam Valentine

Wednesday Song Leader: Bob Garby

Open/Close Bldg: Fred Altizer
Ushers: Roger Mays, David McFalls
Greeters: Bush/Brown

Song Leader: Jeff Durham
Serve Table: Jeremy White, Ethan Rogers
Adam House, John Black

Closing Prayer: Gene Benefield

Scripture Reader: Nathan Pelfrey
Closing Prayer: Glenn Gabbard

Prayer: Greg Edwards

Prepare Communion: Altizer/Buckner
Cards/Pencils: K. Mickens, N. Laplante
Nursery Attend: Charmaine Bush, Ivy Bush

Last weeks attendance (12/21&24/08)

Bible Class: 133 Worship Service: 184 Sunday Evening: 141 Wednesday : 162
Contribution: \$5565

December 28, 2008

Number 2952