

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER | MCCONNELL BAPTIST CHURCH | JANUARY 2020

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# MOUNTAIN *Messenger*



## THRIVE MOMS

Thrive Moms is a ministry for moms to encourage and inspire you to do more than *JUST SURVIVE* motherhood. We believe God wants us to **thrive** and walk confidently in who He calls us to be as mothers. We are a ministry seeking to serve, inspire, and empower imperfect moms with the perfect grace of Christ.

Any moms from the community with 12th grade children and under are welcome to join us at any time during the year. Each meeting looks a little different but all include dinner, fellowship and a time for sharing on issues relevant to moms and families today. Come spend time with other moms who can relate and support you!

We will meet on **Monday, January 13th, 6:30 - 8:30 pm, in The Lodge**. Free childcare will be provided for children birth thru 5th grade.

**Opportunities to serve with Thrive:** Have you been blessed with a few extra minutes and a desire to serve our community? Please consider pouring some of your time into our Thrive ministry! For more information please contact Calah Pearson (706) 599-9144 or email [thrivemomshiawassee@gmail.com](mailto:thrivemomshiawassee@gmail.com)

## GRIEFSHARE SUPPORT GROUP

GriefShare is a friendly, caring group of people who will walk alongside you through one of life's most difficult experiences. You don't have to go through the grieving process alone. The next 13-week session of GriefShare will begin on Thursday, January 23rd, from 10 - 12 noon, in the Family Life Center, Room 219. If you need more information, please contact the church office.

## Church Events

- **Jan 1st** - Church Office Closed.
- **Jan 2nd** - WMU Meeting, 10 am, FLC-233.
- **Jan 5th** - Awana Zip Line & Hot Dog Dinner, 5 pm, FLC.
- **Jan 7th** - Alzheimer's Support Group, 1:30 pm, FLC -219.
- **Jan 13th** - Thrive Moms, 6:30 pm, The Lodge.
- **Jan 23rd** - GriefShare Support Group, 10-12 noon, FLC.
- **Jan 26th** - Quarterly Church conference, 7:00 pm, Worship Ctr.

## Hope Room Clothes Closet

During the colder weather, warm caps, gloves, sweaters & jackets are needed for those we serve. Won't you make a donation of these items today? If you'd like to be a part of this caring community ministry, now is also a great time to volunteer! The Hope Room is open on Tuesdays & Thursdays from 1-3 pm.

## Alzheimer's Support Group

An estimated 5.8 million Americans of all ages are living with Alzheimer's dementia in 2019. For those on this journey with a loved one, having a support group to ask questions, learn from and lean on can help. If this is you, plan to attend a support group meeting on the first Tuesday of each month at 1:30 pm, room 219 in the Family Life Center. This group is facilitated by Lynn Cochran.

## Community Volunteer Opportunity

Homestead Hospice is looking for a few ordinary people with extraordinary **HEARTS**. Are you ready for a rewarding experience? Join our unique Hospice Volunteer community.

We believe the **power** of volunteering changes lives..... For more information please e-mail Shannon Larsen at [shannon.larsen@homesteadhospice.net](mailto:shannon.larsen@homesteadhospice.net) or phone 706.835.3960.

## Library

Our library is seeking donations of gently read, good Christian books. The Library volunteers gladly accept donations on Wednesdays, between 10 am and noon.

## Quilting Group

Do you like to sew or make quilts? Do you enjoy sharing your skills with others or just enjoy the camaraderie of working on projects in a group setting? If so, we've got the group for you!

In January, the Community Quilting Group will meet on Wednesdays, 1/8 & 1/22, at 10 am in the Family Life Center, Room 219. Beginning in February, they will meet every first & third Wednesday, at 10 am. You are welcome to join this group of ladies for fun and fellowship!

Proverbs 22:17

*"A merry heart does good like medicine"*



All Awana clubbers, PEAK Kids and families are invited to a fun & exciting evening of ZIP-lining in the Family Life Center! The fun begins at 5 pm and a delicious hot dog dinner will be served. This is an evening you don't want to miss!

## Welcome New Members



Debbie  
Biggs



Eddie &  
Kimberly  
Hales



Bobbi  
LeHoullier

## Sympathy to

**Eleanor Lamb**, at the death of Jim Lamb, Sr.

**Danny, Retta & Clella Byers**, at the death of his uncle and Clella's brother-in-law, Harold Byers.

**Frank & Wilma Witkowski**, at the death of Wilma's brother, Gary Rickey.

**Roger & Michelle Peterson**, at the death of Roger's mom, Margie Peterson.

**Ann Hammond**, at the death of her son, Cliff Scott.

# Upcoming Missions

## PUERTO RICO MISSION

In September, 2017, Hurricane Maria devastated Puerto Rico. Today, thousands of families are still in need of help to repair homes damaged in this storm. In March, 2019, McConnell sent a team to assist in rebuilding. We are again answering the call to help and to be the hands and feet of Jesus as we send a second team to Puerto Rico on March 7th - 14th, 2020. Team coordinator is coordinated by Danny Meeks.

## NICARAGUA MISSION

Last August, we partnered with Life Together Nicaragua and sent a team to help missionaries Tim & Amy Taylor in the village of Christo Rey. There we did some construction projects, fed the children of the village and the local dump workers, taught hair-cutting skills to young mothers, and taught VBS-type lessons to school-aged children.

This year, we will continue to build our relationship with this organization and village. April 4 - 11, Pastor Jeremy will take a Summit Student team of high-school students and small-group leaders. The plan is to build shelters in the village, teach scripture with VBS-type lessons, and help in the feeding programs for children and dump workers.

## HOW CAN YOU HELP?

**Pray** for these mission teams and those they will serve!

**Donate** - Make a monetary donation thru the "Giving Tree" in the Welcome Center. The bare tree will be up in January. Just pick up an envelope from a mission team member at the tree.

Each envelope will have a specific denomination on the outside. Place that amount in the envelope and then place the envelope on the tree. (Don't take any envelopes off the tree!)

**Watch** as the tree comes to life!

# Pastor's Pen



## *Vision Check*

January 2020

I can't remember the last time I had an eye exam or if I've ever had one. It's been that long but the one thing that I do know is that my vision isn't what it used to be. This year I've had to start using reading glasses for things like reading labels on a bottle, threading a tippet through a fly on a trout stream, and reading tiny print. If my eyes are tired after a long day, it's even worse.

None of these used to be a problem... and that's the key word. Used to be. That's why one of the first things that I am going to do in 2020 is get my vision checked. The appointment is already on the calendar and I'm not putting it off any longer. I've discovered that a lot of things in our life have a way of changing over time and vision is just one of them. So, let me ask you something as we head into the New Year.

**How's your vision?** I'm not talking about your physical vision. I'm talking about something much more important. How's your spiritual vision? Are you seeing things clearly? Are you paying attention to the direction your life is heading? Are you hanging onto the things that God and the Holy Spirit have already shown you and spoken into your life and letting them guide you? If you aren't, then it's going to be hard for you to stay on course. Listen to what the writer of Hebrews said to the church.

*Keep your eyes on Jesus, who both began and finished this race we're in. Study how he did it. Because he never lost sight of where he was headed—that exhilarating finish in and with God—he could put up with anything along the way: Cross, shame, whatever. And now he's there, in the place of honor, right alongside God. When you find yourselves flagging in your faith, go over that story again, item by item, that long litany of hostility he plowed through. That will shoot adrenaline into your souls!*  
Hebrews 12:2-3 (MSG)

**So, here's the challenge as we head into 2020.** Put on your spiritual glasses (if you need to), get into God's Word on a daily basis, fix your eyes firmly on Jesus and study Him. Then, make a determined decision to follow Him with all your heart, soul, mind, and strength in everything you do. Just keep Jesus front and center and He'll get where you need to be.

# Servants in Service

## **Greeter Team - #5**

**Security - C. Nicholson**

**Ushers - Morning: J. Hyatt, Head Usher**

**Balcony Usher: J. Sanderson**

J. Armstrong, M. Bleckley, T. Garrett, R. Hanks,  
C. Nicholson, S. Ledford

**Evening: J. Hyatt, Head Usher**

## **January 5th**

**INFANTS & 2 YR OLDS, 3 & 4 YR OLDS**

C. Therrell, L. Alwine, K. McRoberts, A. Awtrey

**PEAK KIDS** - S., V., & A. Awtrey, C. Anderson

**FIRST TOUCH** - J. & K. Gallogly

**WELCOME DESK** - K. Long & P. Wroten

**WELCOME CARTS** - Capt. - W. Nelson

R. Thomson, D. Dermody, T. Taylor

## **January 12th**

**INFANTS & 2 YR OLDS, 3 & 4 YR OLDS**

S. Kendall, J. Cone, S. David, M. Thomson

**PEAK KIDS** - S. Awtrey, L. Grimsley, R. Byers

**FIRST TOUCH** - D. & M. Meeks

**WELCOME DESK** - R. & C. Larson

**WELCOME CARTS** - Capt. - R. Bennett

K. Joyner, B. Alwine, A. Kloock

## **January 19th**

**INFANTS & 2 YR OLDS, 3 & 4 YR OLDS**

H. Ledford, S. Reaser, D. Sims, B. McDaniels

**PEAK KIDS** - S. Awtrey, D. & A. Oliver

**FIRST TOUCH** - M. & L. Avery

**WELCOME DESK** - P. Driskell & N. Dearborn

**WELCOME CARTS** - Capt. - JC Berrong

D. Rudder, G. Russell, T. Bouma

## **January 26th**

**INFANTS & 2 YR OLDS, 3 & 4 YR OLDS**

V. Awtrey, A. Rogers, P. Miller, T. Bauer

**PEAK KIDS** - S. Awtrey, C. Larson, C. Pearson

**FIRST TOUCH** - B. & J. Crowder

**WELCOME DESK** - M. Chaney & M. Ashley

**WELCOME CARTS** - Capt. - B. Grimsley

J. Kimball, W. Benson, M. Mummaw

### **Weekly Prayer Email**

To subscribe to our weekly prayer e-mail: **"Connecting Points"**

go to: <http://eepurl.com/bdzraP>

and complete the information requested. If you need assistance, please call the church office.

## Upcoming Events

February 9th - Lord's Supper & Benevolence Offering

February 9th - First Steps Class (Call the office to register)

February 16th - Celebration Café

February 28th - March 1st - DNOW Weekend

March 7th - 14th - Puerto Rico Mission Trip

March 9th - Thrive Moms Ministry

March 29th - Lord's Supper & Benevolence Offering

April 4th - 11th - Nicaragua Mission Trip

April 19th - First Steps Class (Call the office to register)

June 15th - June 19th - Vacation Bible School

### **Inclement Weather Notifications**

McConnell uses a phonetree system to send notifications of service/activity cancellations due to inclement weather. If you are not receiving service cancellation information by phone and would like to be included, please call the church office at 706-896-2281.

English as a Second Language will not meet during the month of January. The next meeting is Thursday, February 6, 2020.