

Mountain *Messenger*

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER | MCCONNELL BAPTIST CHURCH

NOVEMBER 2020



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Thank a Veteran

Veterans Day is November 11th and honors all those who served in the U. S. military, whether in war or peacetime. Those of us who live in freedom will always be grateful to those who helped preserve it. We have many veterans in our church family - take a moment to express your gratitude for their service!

Wednesday Night Changes

Wednesday Night Bible Study, in person, with Pastor Steve will resume on Wednesday, November 4th, at 6 pm, in the Cornerstone Sunday School Classroom (FLC-231).

Choir Practice, in person, resumed on Wednesday, October 26th to practice for the Christmas Contata. They will continue to meet each Wednesday at 6 pm thru December 9th. There is one exception to this, in that they will meet on Tuesday, November 24th, due to the Thanksgiving holiday.

Lottie Moon Week of Prayer

The Lottie Moon Week of Prayer for International Missions begins November 29th thru December 6th. This offering is unique from other mission offerings in that 100% of gifts provide for missionaries all over the world. Donations to Lottie Moon may be made during the month of December.

Church Events

- Nov 1st - DST Begins & Sunday School Resumes, 9 am
- Nov. 13th - Parents Night Out/ Movie Night, FLC, 6 pm
- Nov 15th - Lord's Supper & Benevolence Offering, 10:15 am, Worship Ctr.
- Nov 22nd - 2021 Proposed Budget Distribution
- Nov 22nd - Men's Ministry, 6 pm, The Lodge
- Nov 23rd - Deacon's Mtg, 7 pm, Worship Ctr.
- Nov 25th - Church Office closes at 1 pm
- Nov 26th & 27th - Church Office Closed for Thanksgiving Holiday

From the Finance Committee

The 2021 Proposed Budget will be emailed to those with email addresses on file by Sunday, November 22nd. There will also be some copies available at the Welcome Desk on November 22nd and in the church office during the week. 2021 Proposed Budget discussion will be Wednesday, December 2, 2020. Private discussion from 5-6 pm in FLC-219. Public discussion from 6-6:30 pm in the Cornerstone Classroom. The vote to approve the 2021 proposed budget will take place Sunday, December 6, 2020 following the morning service.

Contribution Statements

Annual contribution statements are available in mid-January each year and our practice has been to print these and hand out as many as possible to reduce our postage costs. Our plans at this point are to email your contribution statement to you, if we have an email address on file. For those without an email address, you may pick up your statement in church office or we will mail to you at the end of January. As we begin planning for this change, now is a good time for you to verify that we have your correct email address. Look for more information on this process in December & early January.

Operation Christmas Child

Hopefully, you already have your shoebox and are busy filling it with awesome gifts for the special child God has chosen to receive your box! As you pack, pray for the child who will receive your shoebox! Please remember to mail the \$9 per shoebox to Samaritan's Purse, using the enclosed envelope or make a donation online. All shoeboxes must be returned to the church by **Sunday, November 15th**. We cannot guarantee that any box arriving after this date will get to a Samaritan's Purse Distribution Center.

You can also "build a box" online at www.samaritanspurse.org. If you choose this option, please let the church office know how many you sent so we can include in our total.

Christmas for Awana

The Awana Clubs are seeking donations of new or gently used items during the month of November for the **Awana Christmas Store** in mid-December. Collection bins will be located in the Family Life Center foyer, the drive thru portico foyer and in the church office during the month of November.

Thank you!

Mission GA
Offering

\$13,323

Welcome New Members!



Carol Blackburn



James & Margaret
Cross



Suzy Jenkins



Laura Ide



Sharon Perry



Kaila Reece



Trent & Synthia Stephens
Malachi & Alexander



Dealing with Disruptions: Desi and I just returned from a pastor and wife's retreat sponsored by the Pastor Wellness arm of our GA Baptist Convention. Due to events out of their control, the location for the retreat had to be moved to a new location. At first, I thought about cancelling because the new location might be less than what we were expecting but I really needed the retreat and I was glad I didn't.

The new location and setting were over the top; the Jekyll Island Club and Resort. It was our first time staying there and it was one of the best events that I've been to in a while. The GBC and the Pastor's Wellness Team put on an incredible weekend of rest, renewal, and restoration for the pastors and their wives. And, for that, we are truly thankful. So, why am I sharing this other than to brag on our GBC?

I've discovered that some of our greatest blessings in life often come in disguise.

These blessings often come to us disguised as a disruption. Now, I don't like disruptions to my plans any more than you do but I have discovered that when my plans and God's plans don't mesh, He will often disrupt mine (*maybe it's because I can be a little stubborn and hardheaded at times*). When He does, I have a choice to make; I can either throw up my hands and bail out, or I can choose to adapt to the disruption trusting that He has something better in store.

This entire year has been something like that for all of us. 2020 has been a major disruption to our plans, our lives, our schedules, and our entire world because of the COVID Virus. Nothing has been the same and that includes the way we have done church. As much as we have tried to keep things as normal as possible, we know that it hasn't been normal; not for those who lead or for those who attend McConnell.

We've had to change the way we do worship, programming, and just about everything else connected with the way we do and think about church. We've had to livestream worship, social distance, and operate on a limited schedule and capacity. Now we are getting ready to make a few more changes once again so ***pardon the disruption.***

Sunday School Reboot— November 1st

For those who are ready to return, Sunday School will start back on November 1st. If you aren't ready to return to live Sunday School or worship yet, that's okay. We will do our best to keep you connected through emails, Facebook, and the Phonetree. Please keep in mind that this is not going to look the same for everyone. ***Pardon the disruption.***

Some of our larger classes will be meeting in new locations to give more space while other classes won't be returning yet. We will be instituting the same social distancing practices as our worship service and facemasks are highly recommended. If you have questions, please contact your Sunday School teacher or Pastor Danny at the church office. Remember, some of life's greatest blessings come to us in disguise...

Look! I'm doing a new thing; now it sprouts up; don't you recognize it? I'm making a way in the desert, paths in the wilderness. Isaiah 43:19 (CEB)



While our family gatherings may look a little different this year, your church staff wishes each of you a very happy and blessed **Thanksgiving!** Let us be thankful for the hope we have in Jesus Christ, for the family we love, the friends we cherish, and for the blessings we have received!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Volunteers for Nursery & PEAK Kids - As scheduled by Jamie Shook & Steve Awtrey.

Ushers - As scheduled per J. Hyatt & D. Gardner

Greeter Team - #3 (or as scheduled by J. & C. Nichols)

Security - C. Nicholson

Welcome Desk

11/1 - M. Stickeler & Betsy Stultz

11/8 - M. Chaney & M. Ashley

11/15 - J. & B. Cone

11/22 - R. & L. Wark

11/29 - D. Harrison & B. Stultz

Welcome Carts

11/1 - Capt-P. Major, N. Stickeler, B. Childress, W. Benson

11/8 - Capt-D. Rabon, M. McFerrin, D. Phillips, T. Wade

11/15 - Capt-G. Wright, B. Miller, C. Nicholson, R. Parker

11/22 - Capt-T. Folmar, R. Bennett, R. Wark, B. Miller

11/29 - Capt-R. Viduna, R. Thomson, R. Hanks, D. Oliver

Volunteers Needed

The **Welcome Cart Ministry** is looking for volunteers to serve as drivers, Sunday mornings, starting January 2021. No experience needed. This is a great way to be the first contact to welcome guests and to meet members. If you would like to serve in this vital ministry, call Dave Rabon at 706-435-2826 or email dlrrabon39@gmail.com



Poinsettias

Poinsettias, in honor or memory of someone special, may be ordered in the Welcome Center or at the church office during the month of November. Cost is \$5 each.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Wednesday, December 2nd

2021 Proposed Budget Discussion,
Private Discussion, 5 pm, FLC-219
Public Discussion, 6 pm, FLC-231

Sunday, December 6th

Called Church Conference to vote on
2021 Proposed Budget

Sunday, December 13th

Choir Contata, 6 pm (watch for more info on this)

Tuesday, December 15th

Red Cross Blood Drive, FLC, 1-6 pm

Thursday, December 24th

Christmas Eve Services, 12/24

SYMPATHY TO

Savannah Kendall, at the death of her grandmother, Sue Gable.

Fran Johnston, at the death of her sister, Nell Lankford.

Tanya & Scott Kerlin, at the death of her brother, Lenny Sofield.

Israel Rogers & family, at the death of his wife, Sherry Hedden Rogers.

Truett & Laverne Shook, at the death of his sister, Estelle Sanders.

Wayne Sprinkles, at the death of his son, Jonathan Wayne Sprinkles.