

December

Dec 08 Secret Sister Reveal; today after morning services
Dec 15 Children's Christmas Caroling; 2:00 p.m.
Dec 19 Men's Fellowship & Bible Study; 6:00 p.m.
Dec 25 No Wednesday Night Services
Dec 29 5th Sunday Fellowship after services

SECRET SISTER REVEAL

Due to the busy season, we will have a short secret sister reveal today immediately following services. We will meet down front in the auditorium.

CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS CAROLING

Children of all ages that would like to go out caroling on Sunday December 15, please meet at the church building at 2:00 p.m. Bring a snack to share after caroling.

5TH SUNDAY FELLOWSHIP

We have a 5th Sunday Fellowship December 29. Please mark your calendars as a reminder. We will meet after morning services. Please bring enough food for your family plus extras.

BLESSING BOX MINISTRY

Church family, thank you for your continued support of our Blessing Box Ministry! Our storage shelves are running very low—especially in this colder weather we want to keep our box filled. Please help us refill our storage shelves as we continue to serve our community in Jesus' name! Thanks in advance!

Priority Needs!!!

Non-Perishable Food Items:

Canned goods w/flip top lids/can openers
Boxed Meal/food that only needs water to cook it
Granola Bars/Fruit Cups or other on-the-go snack items that can be divided up easily
Wrapped Plasticware/Sandwich Baggies

Hygiene Items:

Toothbrushes/Toothpaste
Shampoo/Conditioner
Body Wash/Body Lotion
Deodorant
Lip Balm/Facial Tissue

Seasonal Warm Items:

Gloves
Stocking Caps
Gloves
Scarves
Handwarmers

*You can also put together individual "kits" in quart or gallon sized baggies with "travel size" basic toiletries or snack bags that are ready for visitors to grab-and-go.

*Our storage shelves are housed in the nursery/study in the west hallway. If you ever see the box empty when you come to church, you're welcome to stop in and grab a few items to restock it!

Thankyou!

FROM THE PREACHERS DESK

Fixing Our Eyes

We're going to have a new series for the month of December that is inspired by Hebrews 12:1-2. It is a wonderful couple of verses that give us many things to consider:

Therefore, since we have so great a cloud of witnesses surrounding us, let us also lay aside every encumbrance and the sin which so easily entangles us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of faith, who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

The author asks us to consider "*a cloud of witnesses*" as we "*run the race that is set before us.*" Who are these witnesses?

I think there's a few possibilities the author has in mind. First, I think he's referring to the great men and women of faith that came before us, though I'm not sure anyone who has gone to be with the Lord can witness anything we're doing here. But regardless, we do know for sure that there are witnesses to our race, that is, our lives. God the Father, Jesus the Son and the Holy Spirit all are witnesses to our every action and the people that we see on a day-by-day basis are also witnesses to many of our actions.

With this in mind, the author implores us to "*lay aside every encumbrance and the sin which so easily entangles us.*" Notice here that we are told not only to not sin, but to also not waste our time with "*encumbrances,*" that is, things that steal our time and don't matter in the grand scheme of life.

In order to do this, we're told that we must, "*fix our eyes on Jesus,*" that is, to consider Him as much as we can before we do the things we do and say the things we say and even think the things we think.

The author then encourages us by letting us know that we don't have to do this alone, but that Jesus will help us as He is, "*the author and perfecter of faith.*" (continued)

FAMILY NEWS

Jim DeJarnett—would like more prayers as the shot did not fix the back problem. He now has a bulge in the left intestine area and will have an MRI Tuesday.

Prayer List: Wynetta Weston, Joshua Lewis, Larry Helton, Mary Ellen Garver, Marilyn Bartlow, Patsy Pierce, Gary Bodine, Bob & Beth Brownlee, Richard Wartick, Kylie Lock

CHILDREN'S CORNER

Our Theme for Children's & Teens Bible Classes for December is "God Delivers His People." Here is a peek at this month's lessons, the Big Picture Question and Bible Verse.

Dec 08—Moses Confronted Pharaoh (Exodus 5-12)

Dec 15—Moses Parted the Red Sea (Exodus 13-15)

Dec 22—God Provided for His People (Exodus 15-17)

Dec 29—Moses Led the Israelites (Exodus 17-18)

Big Picture Question:

Q: Why does sin separate us from God?

A: Because God is holy, sin has broken our relationship with God. "*The righteous cry out, and the LORD hears them; he delivers them from all their troubles.*" —Psalm 34:17

CHILDREN'S CHURCH SCHEDULE

December

Dec 08—Linda Wartick Dec 15—Audra Hudspeth

Dec 22—**Need Volunteer!** Dec 29—Darlene Cooney

*If you are visiting today, welcome!
We are glad that you have joined us
in worshiping our God.*

(continued)

We're then further encouraged by what Jesus has done, "*who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.*"

In this season, when the world is primarily focused on the things of this world, let us be a people who are instead *fixing our eyes on Jesus*, for we know what others do not – that any true and lasting blessings and joy is only what comes from Him.

Much love!

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