

CONNECTION

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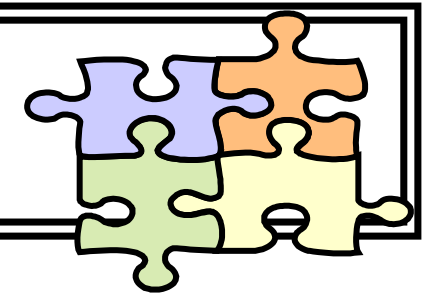
Minister of Music/Education, Jeff Walker Minister of Students, Justin Lewallen
 Secretary/Editor, Linda Smith

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1  New Year's Day	2 Church office closed	3	4	5	6	7 Men's Bible Study-9:00 am
8	9	10	11	12 Outreach 6:00 pm	13 Youth Prayer Study →	14
15	16 Deacons Meeting-7:00	17	18	19	20	21
22 New Discipleship classes begin—5:30	23	24	25	26 Outreach 6:00 pm	27	28
29	30	31				



CONNECTION

JANUARY 2012



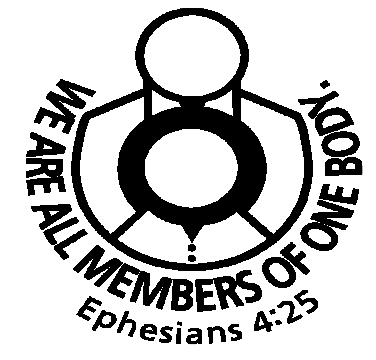
WEEKLY SCHEDULE

Sunday
 9:00 am—Prayer Time
 9:45 am—Sunday School
 11:00 am—Morning Worship
 5:00 pm—Evening Worship
 5:30 pm—Discipleship (Adults, Youth, Children)

Tuesday
 7:00 am—Prayer Time
 10:00 am—Ladies Prayer

Wednesday
 10:00 am—Staff Meeting
 5:30 pm—Children's Choir Fellowship Supper
 6:30 pm—Prayer Meeting "Belong" Youth Worship Olympians/Gopher Buddies
 7:15 pm—Worship Choir

Thursday
 6:00 pm—Outreach (2nd & 4th week of month)



As we begin this new year...

**Keep your eyes on Jesus.
 Be patient and go at His pace, in His time.
 It's actually the fastest way
 to get where your life is meant to be.**



Happy New Year and welcome to 2012! If you're one of those people still shaking your head, asking "Where did 2011 go to?" ... consider this! As you read this, one week of the 52 weeks in 2012 has already slipped by – have you accomplished anything significant for the Lord? The Apostle Paul exhorts us to "(make) the most of your time, because the days are evil" (Ephesians 5:16).

I have wonderful news to share with our church family as we start the year – news of God's hand at work in our midst. To stage this reflection, consider the times in Scripture when God makes a provision for His people PRIOR to launching some grand work:

** before God delivered Israel from bondage in Egypt, He raised up Moses to lead them (Exodus 3:10);

** before God called His church into being, He supernaturally supplied a Savior for the world in Jesus (John 3:16);

** before Jesus fed the 5,000, Andrew spotted a lad with 5 loaves and 2 fish (John 6:9)...Jesus took what was offered, blessed it, and leftovers were taken up after the 5,000+ were fed.

With that as a backdrop, I think we have every reason to look expectantly to what all He can and WILL accomplish in our midst as we move into 2012. Here's why.

At the end of September, the general fund checking account balance for the church was \$3,900 + change. As of January 4, 2012, that same account has a balance of \$52,619!!! That's a net increase of \$48,000+ and that's **after paying all the bills!** Is that a remarkable work of God or what?

Our leaders agreed back in October that we should submit this need to the church assembly, and ask people to respond with a "My Gift for Jesus" campaign – and a goal was set to raise \$25,000. As of Wednesday night, January 4, Betty McDougald reported that \$24,835.00 had been received – leaving us just \$165.00 short of the \$25,000 goal – and somehow I figure a few more checks just might arrive this Sunday to put us over the top.

Our goal is NOT to wallow in cash – rather, our goal is to rejoice in the ministries God can set in motion – indeed, REJOICE in what He wants to accomplish – by supplying nearly 20% of our 2012 projected budget in the first four days of the year!

We have every reason to start the new year by dropping to our knees, and humbly praying for God's favor and direction upon us as He leads us to unprecedented levels of fruitfulness in the seasons to come. Fasten your seatbelt – this just might become the ride of your life with Jesus! Rest your mind on Ephesians 3:20-21!

See you Sunday for Sunday School and church?

Love in Christ—Pastor Mike

Welcome New Members...

By Baptism: Jarrod Luna
Lisa Senter
Allison Tanner

Congratulations...to Ashley Woodrum on the birth of her daughter, Cassidy Jade, on December 19th. She weighed 5 lbs. 2 oz. The proud great-grandmother is Nancy Woodrum.

Men's Bible Study begins January 7th



All men (including high school youth and up) are encouraged to join us in the fellowship hall at 9:00 a.m. as we learn how God created us to be warriors.

Two Discipleship Opportunities

Beginning Sunday, January 22nd at 5:30, we will offer 2 new Sunday evening studies

- 1) **Mercy Triumphs** with Beth Moore—a study of James, led by Allison Taylor (workbooks will be \$14.95 + tax). Please sign up in the church foyer or see Allison Taylor to determine the number of workbooks we will need. Scholarships are available if needed.
- 2) **Biblical Principles of Managing Money** led by Mike Taylor. Pastor Mike will be using the workbook "More Than Finances" that he co-authored with Larry Burkett. Workbooks will be \$10 each and will be available on the 22nd. Our **Through the Bible** class led by Wallace Millwood will resume on the 22nd as well.

CHURCH GROWTH

(December)

Sunday School Average	136
Morning Worship Average	180
Evening Worship Average	84
Budget Receipts	\$27,784.18
Budget Receipts to date	\$318,682.79
Budget Requirement to date	\$346,270.82
Budget Expenditures to date	\$292,840.10
Building Fund Receipts to date	\$77,850.58
Building Fund Needs to date	\$52,785.62
Lottie Moon Offering Goal	\$3,000.00
Lottie Moon Offering Received	\$3,133.00

Youth Prayer Study Weekend

January 13th–14th

All youth are encouraged to join us for this week-end study as we focus on prayer. We will meet in the fellowship hall on Friday at 4:30 pm and conclude on Saturday at 5:30. See Justin for more details.

Little Lambs Backpack Ministry



This ministry to students at Oakwood & Flowery Branch Elementary Schools has been such a blessing to all involved. We are now filling 20 backpacks each week and so many of you continue to provide food for these families in need. Some of these families have responded with such gratitude and we say "thank you" to those who have offered your help. If you would like to donate nonperishable food items—you may leave them in the baskets in the church foyer or in the church office. We appreciate your efforts and hope to continue sharing the love of Jesus with others.

Senior Adult Winter Rally

Thursday, January 26th @ 10:30 am

Pleasant Hill Baptist Church

Concert by "Sounds of Jericho"

Lunch will be served @ noon (\$5.00 per person) Please contact the CBA office (770-532-3371) to make reservations by Monday, January 23rd.

Our outreach program resumes Thursday, January 12 @ 6:00 p.m. A meal will be provided. Remember, we are not reaching for us, we are "Reaching for Him." Our team is excited and would love for you to join us for this time of outreach.

SupberBowl Sunday

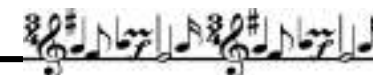
February 5th

6:00 pm

Fellowship Hall



Join us for this time of fellowship. Chili and hotdogs will be served. All attending, please bring chips/dip, desserts or 2 liter drinks. For your own comfort, bring camping or lawn chairs. There will be no evening worship or discipleship on this night and Pastor Mike will present a half-time devotion.



Notes from Jeff...

What a wonderful season of music we had at Christmas. I want to thank all of the choirs for doing an outstanding job sharing with us and helping us celebrate the birth of Jesus. I would also like to thank all those who participated in the Chrismon and Christmas Eve services. Now that we have had some time to rest our voices, we are ready to begin looking toward Easter and preparing music for Sunday mornings. We will resume choir rehearsal on Wednesday, January 11th, following prayer meeting.

Education...

2012 is here!! Are your Twitter and Facebook accounts ready? Look around and see who is not here. Now is the time to start inviting those you don't see in church. God is moving in a mighty way and those who are not here are going to miss out on a wonderful blessing by simply not being here. Call, tweet, facebook, e-mail, and even regular mail those who need to be contacted. Remember, our goal is to have 200 in Sunday School and 300 in worship attendance on Easter Sunday morning.

Have a Happy and Blessed New Year!

Chick-Fil-A offer

For those of you not aware—every Monday night—Chick-Fil-A @ Oakwood offers a free chicken sandwich with any purchase when you present your church bulletin. The Flowery Branch location offers a free medium drink instead of a chicken sandwich with your bulletin.



"Do you like the new steeple?
I bought it on eBay."