A HOUSE OF PRAYER FOR ALL PEOPLE

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- Christmas Program Recap
- Anniversaries and Birthdays
- Prayer requests and church news
- Phil's corner

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SCIPC Newsletter

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Sale Creek Christmas Program Featured Many Acts

The Second Annual Sale Creek Christmas program took place on December 14 at 6:30 PM. Each year we coax more and more musicians out of the closet. This year's performance featured the Brown family again who always entertain with harp, guitar, and singing, but the newest addition was The Big Band featuring three trombones, accordion, keyboard, violin, guitar, and piano.



Dave & Ninette Cox Fred & Grace Ely Bob & Carol Evaul Alec & Tammy Harrison Dick & Sara Hart Hazel Neddo

Our Prayer Supported Missionaries

Mark & Candy Garrett David & Marcia Jones Reginald Lisemby

February Anniversaries

February 16—Jason and Jennifer Welch

February 18—Robert and Marlene Patterson

February & MarchNursery Schedule

February 1—Roger Coulter and Myriam Herron February 8— Linda Lane and Betty Ray February 15—Raymond Weaver and Mary Gray February 22—Jim and Shari Dvorak March 1—Melinda Evaul and Curtis Coulter March 8—Linda Lane and Charlotte Blake March 15— Mark or Mo Davis and Betty Ray March 22—Raymond Weave and Mary Gray March 29—Jim and Shari Dvorak

If you are available to help, please contact Melinda so that she can add you to the list. We will continue to post a nursery schedule in case we have the need in the future.

January and February Birthdays

January 21—Kathy Shelley

January 24—Jeff Davis

January 26—Susan Iles

January 28—Sarah Hart

January 29—Daniel Hart and Barbara Metzger

January 30—Keith Hubbard and Amanda Writesman

February 2—Jordan Hubbard

February 3—Allison Coulter

February 11—Emily Hubbard

February 19—Elijah Coulter



C.J. Meyers, Chloe, and Jack enjoy refreshments together after the program. At right: Robert Patterson enjoyed a cup of coffee and conversation with others.





Phil's Corner—Phil Evaul

STATE OF THE CHURCH

Every January the President delivers a "State of the Union" address. I'm not real sure what the original purpose of the speech was – perhaps it was an opportunity for the President to outline how he thought the country was doing; in other words, the state of the union.

Ever since I started watching those addresses, however, it seems the speech has morphed into an opportunity for the President to tell us where he wants to take the union. "The State of the Union As It Should Be in My Vision," it should be called. The Presidents have used this occasion to lay out new programs they want to institute (free community college to go along with a chicken in every pot!), new taxes they want to levy, and areas where government should grow.

Ah, but I'm getting a little off the subject. Here's where I'm going with this: Perhaps this is a good opportunity for us to speak about the State of the Church.

Although we are a small and aging bunch, I continue to be impressed with the spiritual maturity of our church family. I delight in telling outsiders that our people love the Lord, they love His Word, and they love one another. It is encouraging to see folks bringing their Bibles to church. I was at a church many years ago where no one brought their Bibles – they weren't needed, sad to say. It is also encouraging to see that you know your way around your Bible, and you know what the Bible says. I have to stay on my toes. I can't be careless about what I say, because many of you will check me on it. I don't mind being questioned or challenged; in fact, I like that. You are and should be good Bereans.

I see ways in which many of you show love toward one another. You are praying for one another, crying together, rejoicing together. You seem to genuinely care about what's going on in the lives of those around you. You also are generous toward addressing needs outside our church family. We support several missionaries and organizations with our prayers and finances, and have a small pantry of canned goods for needy neighbors. And you are certainly generous in your care for your pastor and his wife.

For those of you who are not able to attend services regularly, let me catch you up to speed. On Sunday mornings we're about half way through our study of 1 John. From there we'll proceed right into 2nd & 3rd John, and then Jude.

On Sunday evenings we've studied Israel during the time of the kings. We've just finished 2 Kings and 2 Chronicles, and will proceed with Ezra, Nehemiah, Esther, and the other post-exilic books.

On Wednesdays we take a brief look at some of the prayers in the Bible, and then we spend several minutes in prayer. As long as I'm here we will continue to be committed to the inerrancy of God's Word, its authority in our lives, and the primacy of teaching and preaching the Word.

Financially, we continue to be amazed at how the Lord provides through your faithfulness and sacrificial giving. We have had some major expenses in the last couple of years. Replacing all the plumbing in the entire building, and major

repairs on our HVAC units are two of the most recent large projects.

In spring our parking lot will finally be resurfaced. The water company is going to pay for paving the parts that the broken water main damaged, and we will pay to resurface the undamaged areas, to give us a uniform and smooth surface. Our share of the costs will be around \$7000.

Meanwhile, some of the ladies are cleaning, organizing and updating the kitchen. The cost of a new stove has already been underwritten by one of our members.

Here are two opportunities for you to give above and beyond your usual contributions, if you are so inclined. I am grateful that we have not had to make constant appeals for money. You all have been very generous, and our Elders and Deacons have tried to be good stewards of your gifts. If you would like to make a special gift toward the parking lot or the kitchen, please indicate so on your check.

We noted in a recent message that we are at a stage in our church's life where we don't have any children or young people. On the one hand, that is very sad and we'd like to see new families with kids join us. On the other hand, we recognize that right now the Lord's purpose for us is to minister to older folks. The focus of my job is to get us ready for heaven. I embrace that calling. Pray with us that we will be faithful in ministering to –shall we say – a more mature group.

It has been a delight, a pleasure, a privilege, and an honor to be a part of this church family for going on 19 years. You are all very patient and tolerant with me, a sinner saved by grace. Thank you.

May all that we do – as individuals and as a congregation – in 2015 be fully to the honor of the Lord Jesus Christ.



It was good to see Brian Evaul at the Christmas program. Here he talks with Alex Cooper. Alex played a solo verse of Silent Night on his guitar. Alex also sang a solo of a song he had written.

Sale Creek Christmas Was Another Success





Above: Rachel and Hannah visit during refreshments. At right: Jeff looked like Santa Claus. Below: Karin and Shari shared a laugh together.





Sale Creek Christmas Was Another Success







Above left: Elaine waves for the camera. Previous page top: The Big Band makes its first performance with Ian, Phil, and Jeff on trombone, Jack on accordion, Alex on guitar, Cur-



tis on violin, Elaine on piano, and Kathy on the keyboard. Above center: Barbara Molloy attended and sang Silent Night. Far right: Jim and Kathy sang White Christmas as Elaine and Curtis played the violin and piano. Below left: Roger performed his annual ritual of the "giving of the brown bag treat." Bottom center: Myriam started the program off with a reading of the Christmas story from the Bible. C.J. signed Silent Night while the Big Band played. Bottom right: C.J. Meyers









Church News and Prayer Requests

The parking lot is still in the news. The water company's insurance company denied the claim for damage to our parking lot caused by the burst water main on Griffith Street. The Northwest Utility District (formerly Sale Creek Utility District) has agreed to pay for the damage to the parking lot that was caused by the burst main. This represents around \$7,000 but just for about half of the parking lot since only half was affected by the damage. Therefore, it is up to the church to determine how to fix the rest. The consensus opinion was that packed crusher run or some relatively inexpensive fix was not acceptable or in the best interest of the church because dust from such an alternative would be tracked into the church. Therefore, we have no other valid option at this time than to pay \$7,000 to have the remaining half of the parking lot resurfaced with asphalt at the same time as the water company's work. The work will be postponed until spring when warm weather can be expected. With the above in mind, we would like to encourage anyone who can spare it to make a special offering to defray the \$7,000 expense. We ask for this additional amount above regular offering because at the same time a number of ladies in the church are wishing to do some much needed upgrades and improvements to the kitchen. Please keep these two projects in your thoughts and prayers as you determine how you can best assist with your giving.

Jim Dvorak has been sick recently with flu-like symptoms. It is very unusual for Jim to miss church, so when he is gone for two or three weeks, it is very noticeable. Please keep Jim in your prayers that he will get over this soon.

Barbara Metzger has come up with an idea that she would like to propose to everyone. Barbara states, "We would like to start something called "Fellowship Dinners" here at the Church. Here's how it would work: there is a Host Home and that person provides the main course and drinks. Then names of the people who want to participate are put in a hat and 4 or 6 other names are drawn out at random. Then the host family calls those on her list to set day, time and what side dish the others will bring. It's just a fun way to get to know folks in a casual way and enjoy a good meal and fellowship. Also, it might be a good outreach by inviting an un-churched family that you know. They might enjoy coming and getting to know us in a nonthreatening, casual atmosphere instead of a "church" setting and might be more apt to come to church later. Never know how God can use small things.

So, if you would like to be involved either as a host family or a dinner guest, please let me know by replying to this e-mail or calling. If hosting, decide how many others you want to fit around your dining room table. The date, time, etc. can be decided by Hostess after talking to those on your list of dinner guests. Pick an evening, or even Sunday after church for those who would rather not be out at night - go with whatever day and time works best for those on your list. Remember, we don't need as many Host families as we do "diners" so if you aren't comfortable hosting or your time is short, please sign up to come and bring a side dish and enjoy a fun evening.

Remember the Outreach aspect of this also! Thanks so much for considering this fun way to fellowship with our church family and hopefully some from outside our church."

Roger Coulter has been involved in his annual marathon with H&R Block in the tax preparation time of the year. He works many hours during the week after his regular job at Robinson's Manufacturing. Please keep Roger in your prayers for strength as he does all of this additional work. Roger is very good at tax preparation, and many of us are very appreciative of his time and effort.

Raymond Weaver informs us that Nathan is being moved to a minimum security prison in upper East Tennessee. This prison does a lot of flooring woodworking which is for what Nathan is interested. The pay given to inmates doing that work is much greater than regular jobs in other parts of the prison.

Liz Davis is currently still at home and seems to be doing OK. Siskin is supposed to send a therapist to her home to help her with rehabilitation. Please keep Liz and her family in your prayers.

It has been good seeing June in church during these last few cold, winter weeks. It is always good to see her. She told Phil last Sunday that she was feeling OK.

We welcome Bill and Sandy Lovett and Don and Helen Hutchings. Bill and Sandy are from Dayton where Bill owns a printing company. Bill and Sandy live on Highwater Road in Soddy Daisy. It is wonderful to have Bill, Sandy, Don, and Helen worship with us.

March is a month with five Sundays in it. As is usual in five Sunday months, we will be having a sandwich and soup dinner that night. Please keep this in mind and plan to make your favorite soup, chili, or sandwich specialty and bring it to share with everyone during this time of informal fellowship in God's house.

We just received news that Liz and Derek Reid are expecting a second baby in August. Congratulations to Liz and Derek.

The ground hog saw his shadow! Six more weeks of this stuff! Thanks a lot, Howie!!

Howie D. Groundhog



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