

Teen News

Good morning everyone. It is good to see you all this morning. I hope you all are enjoying your Christmas break from school, I know I always did. Due to the holiday we will not be having a devotional today as I know that some of you are already out of town. I hope you all enjoyed the Christmas party last Sunday night. Destiny, Emery REALLY loves the cell phone, she plays with it every time she gets in my truck! Have a Merry Christmas everyone. See you all tonight.

BLAKE

WELCOME VISITORS

A big hearty welcome to those visiting today. Allow us to meet and greet you following the worship service this morning. At the end of the service today you will be given a gift bag from our congregation. "It is a small gift, but it comes from big hearts." Thanks again for coming.

The Friday after Thanks-giving is referred to as "Black Friday" by many in the financial industry. This is the day when American shoppers rise early, flock to the stores and unleash a month of buying that is without precedent any other time of the year. It is called "Black Friday" because the financial bottom line for many retailers turns from red (loss) to black (profit). The Christmas Season has become a consumer spectacular that is seemingly crucial to our nation's economy. *Is that why Santa Claus, in many instances, is more revered than Jesus Christ?*

What's in a Name?

During the American War for Independence, there was a military leader who accomplished great victories for the Continental Army. He joined with Ethan Allen's Green Mountain Boys for the capture of Fort Ticonderoga, acquiring critical armaments for the American forces. This Major General of the Continental Army also played critical command roles in the Battles of Valcour Island, Ridgetree Connecticut, Quebec City, and Saratoga. He was injured in battle at Saratoga and then given command of the garrison at Philadelphia. He ended his American military career while in command of the American fort at West Point. In the Old Cadet Chapel at the current U.S. Military Academy at West Point there are memorial plaques bearing the names of the generals who commanded the fort during the War. The one for this commander has no name, only a rank and birth date. There is another monument at Saratoga National Battlefield Park near the point where this general was wounded in combat. It is a stone boot bearing no name, only an inscription on the back anonymously describes who it memorializes. Why? Because the name of this general is Benedict Arnold. His name is not, however, remembered for these achievements, but for high treason. During that final command at West Point, Arnold's path down the road to betrayal culminated when he attempted to hand the fort over to the British. This path was littered with injuries to Arnold's pride, social status and military career by political adversaries. Instead of honoring the oath of loyalty he took, he succumbed to pride, ambition, and a selfish desire for recognition. Instead of being remembered as a key military leader in the war for our freedom, the name Benedict Arnold is habitually assigned to individuals who betray loyalty to others. The Lord God expects our name and reputation to be according to the example of Jesus Christ.

DOOR GREETERS Dec 29, 2013

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MINISTERS

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Blake Baker
Youth Minister

ELDERS

Dan D. Manuel
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DEACONS

Henry Baker
Sam Ellis
Dwight Franklin
Adam Harding
Kyle Lock

SECRETARY

Lorelee Reeder

MISSIONS & OUTREACH

Brown Trail School of
Preaching, Bedford, TX
Jose Cuadras—Mexico
School of Preaching
Hershel Bearden
India Mission
Central TX Children's
Home—Buda, TX
Tipton Children's Home
Tipton, OK
GBN T.V. NETWORK
GIVE ME THE BIBLE
T.V. Program
KETK-56 Tyler, TX.
FOX 44—Waco, TX.
FOX 29, Bryan-College
Station, TX.
NBC 53—Lufkin, TX.

ASSEMBLY TIMES

Sun: 9:30 AM Class
10:30 AM Worship
6:00 PM Evening
Wed: 7:00 PM



May God bless you during this season of joy and happiness. We hope that each of you have a wonderful holiday season with your family and friends.

*In Christian Love,
The Elders and Deacons*

VOLUME 49

NUMBER 51

Dec. 22, 2013

Merry Christmas to each of you. Enjoy your time with your family & friends



From Dan's desk:

This coming Wednesday will be Christmas Day. We sincerely hope and trust that each of you will have a wonderful Christmas. May your days be filled with many wonderful memories of the past and may you make memories with your loved ones. We will not be having midweek services this Wednesday. Many will be out of town for the holidays and many will want to be with their families on this special occasion. The very first Christmas saw Mary and Joseph alone with their new baby, sharing moments together. We hope that you and your family will have a great holiday season and we will look forward to seeing you next Sunday. Thanks for your quick response to the call to help underprivileged children in Anderson County. All the names were taken by Sunday night. Those gifts have been or will be delivered before Christmas. Because of you some children will see the love in God's Children and know that in this world that there are those who really care. Your kindness will never be forgotten. Thanks to those who helped with the devotional last Wednesday night. Times like these always have a way of drawing us closer together. We love and appreciate each of you so much. Thanks to Pam Gallaway for opening her home last Monday for the "Christmas Card Signing". It was great. Thanks also to those who went to the Nursing Home to sing last Sunday. The folks really appreciated you coming. Thanks also to David and Jennifer Sparks for opening their home for the Annual Christmas fellowship tonight after worship services. Please plan to join us. We will take the church bus for anyone who would like to go. We will leave right after services tonight. See you tonight.

PLEASE TURN OFF ALL CELL PHONES



**TO KEEP
IN OUR PRAYERS**

DAVID LAMB is still having trouble following eye surgery.

NANCY MILLER had surgery on her legs last Friday in Tyler. She is better.

ROBERT CARPENTER, uncle of Deanna Chapman Douglas, leukemia and is seriously ill.

KENNETH & ANN HOLLAND'S Granddaughter-in-law EMILY DAVIS has a brain tumor and they have requested our prayers. She will undergo treatment.

Several that we have mentioned of late are: GEORGE MITCHELL, OLA PEARL REEVES, GARY BRILEY, who are all improving.

Please check the prayer list in the foyer for additional members and friends who have been ill are have ongoing illnesses.

Remember JASON MOTTERN in Afghanistan and other U.S. military personal serving around the world.

NEW YEAR'S FELLOWSHIP

On TUESDAY night, December 31st, we will meet at 6 PM for a meal of soups, cornbread, black eyed peas and desserts We will have a devotional service at 7 P.M. In the chapel. We will go back to the activity building for games and fellowship to bring in the New Year 2014. You are encouraged to bring finger foods and join us for a wonderful evening.



The Forgiven, Forgive

The forgiven forgive. At least that is God's plan. Joseph decided to follow God's plan of forgiveness. His brothers had mocked him, sold him, and lied about him. During the following years he served as a slave, prisoner, and finally an official in Egypt. During a terrible famine, his brothers in desperation, came to buy grain from Egypt. Although they didn't recognize him, he recognized them. He didn't seek vengeance, instead he made provisions for them and his father, Jacob, to move to Egypt. He and Pharaoh provided abundantly for them. But eventually Jacob died. The brothers became very nervous believing Joseph's kindness was only for his father. Would he strike back at them now that their father was dead? Notice Joseph's answers.

Joseph said to them, "Do not be afraid, for am I in the place of God? But as for you, you meant evil against me; but God meant it for good, in order to bring it about as it is this day, to save many people alive. Now therefore, do not be afraid; I will provide for you and your little ones. And he comforted them and spoke kindly to them Gen. 50:19-21.

Joseph Knew...Vengeance is God's Place. There are some shoes that are simply too big for us.

Vengeance is God's, He will repay (Romans 12:9). When we fail to forgive, we create an environment to seek vengeance. God Works all Things

Together for Good. Joseph knew his brothers plans were wicked, but God can always trump man's plans. Joseph knew God used their wicked plan (and Joseph's faithful service) to save many lives. Can you say, "And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose (Romans 8:28)?" If you are truly living according God's purpose, evil people cannot hinder you and God from filling His purpose! So there is no need to seek vengeance because God's plans will not be stopped!

SELECTED