**Think of the Possibilities in 2017**

When the new year comes and the old year passes, two activities are common - we look backward; we look forward. Let us look forward for a moment…

As we look forward with expectancy and anticipation, consider some of the possibilities. In the next year....

* I wonder who will decide to become a Christian.
* I wonder how many will decide to become Christians.
* I wonder who may return home to God.
* I wonder how much we will be able to grow spiritually.
* I wonder how much we will be able to grow numerically.
* I wonder who our new members will be. I wonder what talents and backgrounds they will bring to enrich this church.
* I wonder how much I will be able to grow in the grace and knowledge of the Lord.
* I wonder what great things God will do through his willing servants here in the coming year.

These are some of the things I am anticipating. What would you add to the list?

***Mars Hill***

#### At A Glance

**January 8** – Ted Knight report at a.m. worship service

**January 8** – Progressive Dinner for the Elders and Deacons

**January 10-16** – Costa Rica Mission Trip

**January 13-15** – Youth Outreach University

**January 14** – JOY group trip to Hidden Valley Catfish House and movie at the building. 4:00

**January 21** – Hobo Stew. 5 p.m.

**January 22** - Baby Shower for Brandy and Lonnie Holland. 3:30 p.m.

**January 22** – Elders/Deacons Meeting 3:30 p.m.

**February 18 –** Area-Wide Fellowship Meal and Singing at Areopagus. 12 Noon

**April 21-22 –** Sewing Workshop for Healing Hands International at Camp Areopagus

**Bible Class Lessons**

Sunday, Jan. 1: Lesson #324 – Luke 13:22-14:14

Wed., Jan. 4: Lesson #325 – Luke 14:15-35

Sunday, Jan. 8: Lesson #326 – Luke 15

Wed, Jan. 11: Lesson #327: Luke 16:1-18

**January 8, 2017**

**Nursery**

Kim Wells

**SOUND ROOM**

Dan Blair

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Mark Mauney

**SCRIPTURE READING**

Jarod Partee

**A.M. SERVICE**

LEAD SINGING

Curtis Sawrie

LEAD PRAYER

Josh Moore

Bob Johnston

**LORD’S TABLE**

Rodger Harlan, b.

Clay Winn, c.

Roy Bulice, o.

Mike Widner

Jack Hancock

Stanley Gordon

**P.M. SERVICE**

LEAD SINGING

Eddy Jones

LEAD PRAYER

Harold Moody

Mike Widner

LORD’S TABLE

Curtis Sawrie

Rodney Partee

**Wed., Jan. 11, 2017**

LEAD SINGING

Randy Riddle

LEAD PRAYER

Roy Bulice

Stanley Gordon

DEVOTIONAL

Dan Blair

n

**January 1, 2017**

**Nursery**

Kim Wells

**SOUND ROOM**

Dan Blair

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Mark Mauney

**SCRIPTURE READING**

Rodney Partee

**A.M. SERVICE**

LEAD SINGING

Jacob Moore

LEAD PRAYER

Mike Widner

Caleb Shock

**LORD’S TABLE**

Steve Shock, b.

Dan Blair, c.

Curtis Sawrie, o.

Rodney Partee

Jarod Partee

Carey Wells

**P.M. SERVICE**

LEAD SINGING

Bob Johnston

LEAD PRAYER

Thurman Brown

Gary Lambert

LORD’S TABLE

Steve Shock

Dan Blair

**Wed., January 4, 2017**

LEAD SINGING

Jade Smith

LEAD PRAYER

Rodger Harlan

Clay Winn

DEVOTIONAL

Steve Shock

n

# Elders

##### Thomas Martin 796-3741

David Riley 472-5108

# Deacons

##### Rodger Harlan 207-2334

##### Rodger Moore 288-0135

##### Curtis Sawrie 849-2365

##### Steve Shock 796-8889

# Evangelist

##### David Riley 796-2052

**Youth Minister**

Dan Blair 514-3450

# CONTACT INFORMATION

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# SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

Sunday

Bible Class 9:30 a.m.

Worship 10:15 a.m.

Evening Service 5:00 p.m.

# Wednesday

Bible Class 7:00 p.m.

Tuesday

Ladies’ Bible Class……10:00 a.m.

# Missions

* **Ted & Barbara Knight (U.S.A., Romania)**
* **Roberto Sarmiento,**

**Costa Rica**

* **Main Street Church of Christ (Stuttgart, Arkansas)**
* **Youth Outreach University**

**Youthourreachuniversity.com**

* **Truth For Today World Mission School**
* **Gospel Chariot (Africa)**
* **Gospel Crusade (Local)**
* **Camp Areopagus**

##### The

###### Messenger

**January 1, 2017**

**Whatever You Do, Don’t Miss Heaven!**

There was an old preacher who loved his children dearly and longed for them to live right.  As they grew older, he did not want to browbeat them or make them think he was always “preaching at them,” so he looked for a way to lovingly and gently encourage them.  He came up with his own heartfelt catchphrase, “Whatever you do, don’t miss heaven!”

As each child graduated and moved out of the house, he heartily urged, “Whatever you do, don’t miss heaven!”  As they began to experiment with the “pleasures” and the “ways” of the world, he gently implored, “Whatever you do, don’t miss heaven!”  Then, as they all gathered around his bed, with tears in their eyes, watching their adoring father take his last breaths on this side of eternity, they heard him whisper again, “Whatever you do, don’t miss heaven!”

What sage advice!  Consider how this should become the motto for each of us!

**When Satan comes calling, whatever you do, don’t miss heaven!** There is certainly a momentary pleasure to be found in sin, but Moses learned to weigh temptation in the balance and see the lasting pleasure in “the reward” that awaited him (Heb. 11:24-26).  View every temptation through the eternal ramifications that it can have.

**When considering the one whom you will marry, whatever you do, don’t miss heaven!** When the children of Israel moved into the temporal Promised Land of Canaan and married those of a different faith, “they forgot the Lord their God” and “served their gods” (Judg. 3:5-7), and they missed the eternal Promised Land of heaven.  View your future spouse through the eternal impact he/she will have on you.

**When considering your choice of career and your choice of hobbies, whatever you do, don’t miss heaven!** Some things in life (like a job) are a necessity; some things in life (like hobbies) are optional.  Yet, all things in life (whether we consider them necessities or options) must be evaluated in light of that which is “earthly” and that which is “eternal” (2 Cor. 5:1-8).  View every decision of life through the eternal effect that it will have on your soul.

**When considering the place of the church in your life, whatever you do, don’t miss heaven!** The church cannot take a secondary role in your life, off to the side, with occasional attention, for Jesus taught that we must “seek [it] first” (Matt. 6:33).  View the priority to which you give the church through the eternal magnitude that it will have on you.

Friend, what is heaven worth to you?  Have you “set your mind on things above” or “on things of the earth” (Col. 3:1-2)?  Whatever you do, don’t miss heaven!

David

**PRAYERS NEEDED**

**Shelia Riddle** is in the Springhill Hospital room 218 suffering with heart issues.

**Tom Hedrick** is recovering from back surgery.

**Nathan Mills**, Karen Mills’ infant, is very sick.

**Bill Ward** is improving from some serious reactions to medication.

**Kevin Hawks** is recovering from surgery to repair his foot.

**Carolyn Brown** is at home under hospice care.

**Bob Johnston** is recovering from hip surgery. The hip is not healing well.

**Alex Lafferty** is in need of our prayers.

**Extended Sick List:** Shelia Riddle, Martha Walker, Monteen Ward, Nell Bostic,Nita Patrom Jeane Harvey, Mark Allen, Paula Stocks, Pam Webb, Linda Brown, Mary Bronson, Judy Riley, Allie Sawrie, Robie Permenter, Jerry Walker, Charlene Lasley, Tami Baker, Gordon Newsome, Ava Walker, John Riddle, Jerry Almond, Anna Kay Jones, Barbara Fowlkes, Jim Canter

**FAMILY NEWS**.

Sympathy: Our love and sympathy is extended to Allan Myers and his family. Allan’s mother passed away this past week.

Building Fund: Last week’s contribution to the building payment was $4,752. Thank you for your generosity.

Family Fellowship Meal: Everyone is invited to a meal on Wednesday at 6:15. Come a little early for a time of visiting. This week’s menu: Vegetable soup, crackers, and cornbread.

Y.O.U.: January 13-15 for 7-9th graders. The registration fee is $15 and must be turned in to Dan or Sara Beth today.

Mission Report: Ted Knight will be at Mars Hill next Sunday morning to report on his mission efforts.

Progressive Dinner: A Progressive Dinner honoring the Elders and Deacons will be held after the morning service next Sunday.

Mission Trip: Mike and Treva Widner, Bonnie Adkission, and Carol Milner will be in Costa Rica January 10-16. Please pray for a successful trip.

JOY: The JOY Group will go to Hidden Valley Catfish House on Saturday, January 14th, at 4 p.m. After the meal, they will come to the building for a movie (5:30 p.m.).

Hobo Stew: Saturday, January 21st, at the Mars Hill building. Everyone is invited to bring a can of ingredients to contribute to the stew and cornbread or dessert. Invite others to join us.

Baby Shower: Sunday, January 22nd, at 3:30 p.m. for Brandy Holland and her baby boy. She is registered at Wal-Mart and Target.

**Cherish yesterday, Dream tomorrow, Live today. (*Richard Bach)***