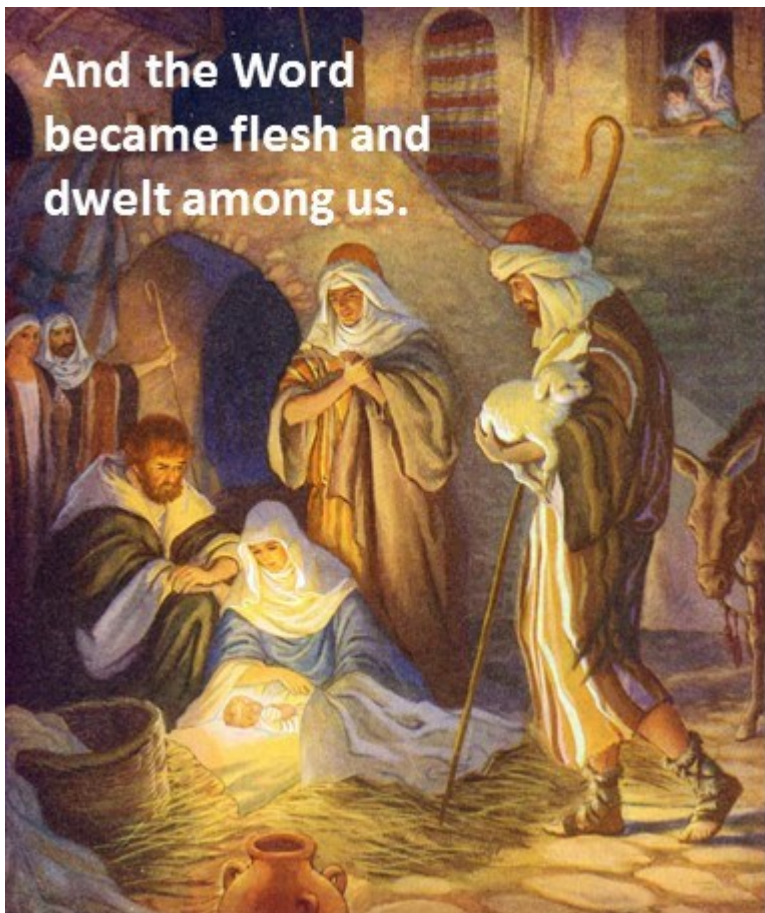


December 2017



And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us.

December Memory Verse:

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. ¹⁴And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us....

John 1:1-2,14

Marrable Hill Chapel

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Birthdays

December 2017



To protect from identity theft, birthdays are not listed in the on-line version of the Chapel Communique. Thank you for understanding!



GOLDEN HEIRS

This month **Golden Heirs** will meet **Friday, December 8th, at 6:30 pm** for their monthly fellowship meal. We will be having a traditional Christmas potluck. A Christmas story will be told and Christmas carols will be sung. For those that would like to participate, there will be a "Christmas Gift Exchange" of gifts under \$10. Please bring friends and families.

If you need a ride, please call the office by Thursday.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

- December 17th @ Noon** — Kids Caroling and Pizza
- @ 5:30pm** — Neighborhood Candy Canes
- December 19th @ 6pm** — Ladies Christmas Party
- December 24th @ 6pm** — Candlelight Communion
- December 25th-26th** — Office Closed

Holidays

By Natalie Butcher

Holidays... Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Year's Eve are times of family, friends, and fun. We give thanks during Thanksgiving, celebrate the birth of our Savior at Christmas, and excitedly anticipate a new year. As the song goes, "It's the most wonderful time of the year!", but is it for everyone?

While we enjoy gathering with others, many people are hurting. Some are hurting due to it being the first year that there has been a holiday after the passing away of a loved one. It could also be that a loved one died near or on a holiday.

Today (December 2nd) I attended the memorial of a Louisiana Tech international student from Vietnam. While traveling Thanksgiving night from Arkansas to Alabama, Linh Nguyen died in a tragic car accident south of Birmingham, Alabama. She was 28 years old. A driver that was possibly drunk drove northbound on a southbound interstate lane with her lights off. The driver of Linh's truck didn't see the other car coming and crashed head-on into the car. Besides Linh, another passenger in her truck was killed along with the driver of the other vehicle. From now on, Thanksgiving will be a time of thinking about the loss of Linh for those that knew and loved her.

If you were here when some of the international students came and sang for us during a worship service several years ago, you will remember Linh. Once you met her, you never forgot her. She was bubbly and full of life. Using her best British accent, she explained how she learned "British" English. Switching to her Southern accent she told us what a surprise it was that she was sent as a high school foreign exchange student to Rison, Arkansas. Besides singing, she has also performed a traditional Vietnamese fan dance for us and many others.

As a foreign exchange student, she was very curious about



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Hygiene Bags

Carolyn Haley introduced the "Hygiene Bags" ministry to the Faith Sunday School class in 2011. Originally, she saw a need at the Clothes Closet. Each lady made up bags with hygiene & toiletry items of their choice. These proved to be very popular at the Clothes Closet.



This ministry was modified to specific items and introduced to Marrable Hill Chapel church members in 2013. So many members were involved in Victory in June, we gave hygiene bags to the clients of South Arkansas Fights AIDS (SAFA) that month instead of their usual desserts. This was a surprise to them and they really appreciated the bags. Since then SAFA has been the recipients of this ministry in June and October.

The Red Cross contacted us about this ministry for burn out victims in our area, so baggies again reached out to others. Fires swept through many parts of the Houston area and due to our close relation with Homer Allison in Magnolia, TX we learned of a great need for hygiene bags there. We started making bags for disaster needs.

In 2014, Charlene Sanders volunteered to oversee this ministry. She bought, organized, and delivered baggies regularly. During that year 155 bags were distributed to the Red Cross, SAFA, Clothes Closet, and victims of a tornado. 173 bags were given to the Red Cross, SAFA, and Clothes Closet and 149 in 2016. So far in 2017, 298 bags have been sent out — from Hurricane Harvey to the Clothes Closet. There has been a great need this year. We are now taking bags to Turning Point (a comprehensive domestic violence center) and Red Cross on an "as needed" basis.

In October of this year, Charlene resigned and Gidget Johnston volunteered to work with this mission. She said she has received a blessing from the very first buying trip.

So remember our Hygiene Bag Ministry with your donations as there is always a need.



Getting to Know You Rodney Hopson

Rodney Hopson has been married to his wife, Deanna Hopson, for almost 30 years. They have four children — Audra “Claire” (27), Benjamin (24), Christa “Nicole” (21), and Hannah (20). The girls live in Fayetteville and Benjamin is in Minneapolis, MN.



Rodney and his family started attending Marrable Hill Chapel (MHC) about 10 years ago. He was working with Chris Brantley who at the time was playing the drums on the praise team at MHC. Chris knew that Rodney played bass guitar and asked him to come. At the time, they were attending Second Baptist Church — now known as Cross Life Church. They had been thinking about changing churches, because of changes that were happening at their church.

Rodney grew up listening to his mother read Bible stories to him every night. She witnessed to him constantly, in words and in deeds. Rodney believes that he was saved at 8 years old — although he had some doubts. At 17 years old, he wanted to make sure that he was saved so he dedicated his life to following the Lord.

Rodney is a mechanical engineer. Most of his work experience has been in maintenance at chemical or petrochemical process facilities. Before he returned to school at the age of 26, he drove an 18 wheeler for 5 years. In his spare time, he loves to read. He is always reading something — even while watching TV or doing other things. He loves music and sports, primarily football.

Rodney is an elder at MHC. He plays the bass guitar in the praise team. He and Deanna have helped with the MHC Youth on Wednesday nights. When he is not on stage playing the guitar during Sunday Morning Worship, he can be found sitting with his family on the front pew on the organ side of the sanctuary. Because he plays guitar and Deanna frequently sings on the praise team, they sit there to help them easily get on and off the “stage”.

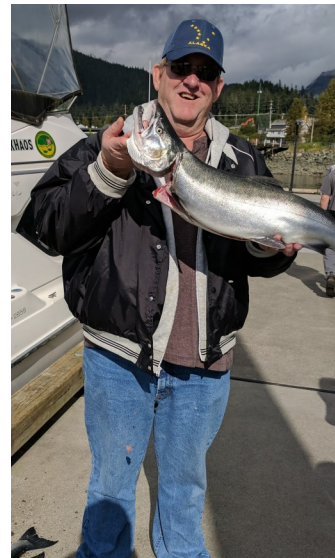
Golden Heirs

On November 10th, the Golden Heirs “traveled” to Alaska. Danny and Beth Endel along with Richard and Natalie Butcher graciously shared their visit with us through pictures of what they saw when they recently traveled there on vacation. The scenery was awe-inspiring and reflected the unspoiled beauty of God’s creation.

Danny and Richard enjoyed a fishing excursion for salmon and hooked some nice ones. They even have the pictures to prove it.

All agreed that it was a wonderful trip. In fact, Richard says he is ready to go back tomorrow to live there.

A special Christmas program is being planned for our meeting on December 8th. Come join us!



SAFA Thanksgiving Meal

On November 20th, Marrable Hill Chapel held their annual SAFA (South Arkansas Fights AIDS) Thanksgiving meal. Volunteers from MHC served chicken, ham, turkey, dressing, cranberry sauce, green beans, fruit salads, desserts and other sides to SAFA clients and their families. Many of our church family not only served, but ate and visited with those that were served. It was interesting seeing the variety of people that attended — from a young couple with a baby in diapers and preschool daughter to older individuals.



For whatever reason, the turnout of SAFA clients was lower than normal. It was a little disappointing that there were so few. Do you know what? God already knew that the number was going to be lower than normal and already had a plan. After we loaded up the SAFA clients with plenty of left-

overs, Kay Johnston headed home with the remaining left-overs. She wasn't sure what to do with them other than freezing. As she drove, a thought came to her mind. What about the women of Turning Point? Turning Point is a ministry that helps victims of domestic violence. They run a shelter for battered women. Kay contacted them and drove to the shelter with the leftovers. The women excitedly came and unloaded the food. They exclaimed that they now had something for Thanksgiving! God knew there was a need that we hadn't thought about. He provided! God is GOOD!

For those that helped with this event, from providing food to serving and fellowshiping, thank you! We were able to not only show the love of Christ to SAFA clients and families, but also to the women of Turning Point!



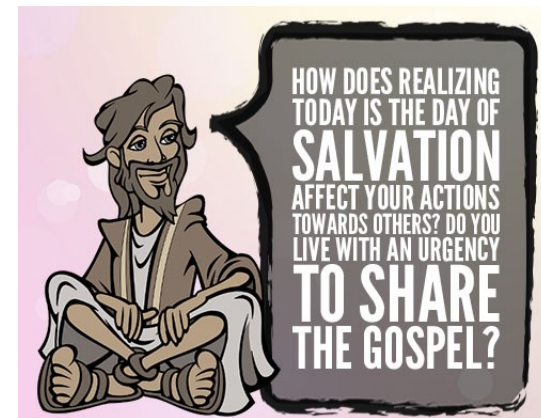
HOLIDAYS (Cont. from Page 3)

Christianity. Even before she arrived in the USA, she was full of questions for her host family. Her host mother bought her a Bible in Vietnamese and English which she read and studied diligently. While a freshman in college, she accepted Jesus as her Lord and Savior. Can you imagine what God did with someone so full of life?

The memorial service is over and it leaves many of us asking, "Why?" We don't know why God would allow someone so young to die, but we do know where she is now — heaven — due to her placing her trust in Jesus.

Ecclesiastes 3:1-8 says that there is a time for everything. "A time to be born and a time to die... A time to weep and a time to laugh. A time to mourn and a time to dance ." For those that knew Linh, there will be a time of mourning — even as believers. Thanksgiving will forever be changed. However, we know that we believers will see her again, because she was a believer and that provides a comfort that the lost do not have. 1 Thessalonians 4:13-14 says, "Brothers and sisters, we do not want you to be uninformed about those who sleep in death, so that you do not grieve like the rest of mankind, who have no hope. For we believe that Jesus died and rose again, and so we believe that God will bring with Jesus those who have fallen asleep in him."

Become aware of the people around you that are hurting. See people as God sees them and provide love, comfort and help. If you are hurting, seek someone to help you. There are people around that care, but may not be aware of your hurt.



Wiebe Family on Furlough



Jacob, Linda, and Cara Wiebe are Marrable Hill Chapel supported missionaries in Nuevo Ideal (New Idea), Mexico. For over the past year, they have been back in the states on furlough. What do missionaries do when they come home on furlough? They serve!

Cara, Jacob and Linda's daughter, has spent the last year on the MHC praise team — playing her acoustic guitar and singing specials. God has blessed her with an incredible voice and we have been blessed by hearing her sing specials like “The Power of the Cross”. On Wednesday nights, she can be seen serving in the AWANA (Approved Workmen Are Not Ashamed) program as a Sparks leader of a group of girls. While serving in AWANAs, she has also helped during story time and music time. Vicki Evans, AWANA Director, says that Cara's stories were so compelling that she would forget that she was the director and think that she was one of the students!

Jacob, Linda, and Cara have helped at Victory Bible Camp (VBC) with cleaning and setting up for camp. Jacob has used his skills to help with several projects at camp. The Wiebe family has also served as counselors! In Jacob's cabin, three boys were saved and he had the privilege of baptizing them at camp!

While on furlough, Jacob has been going through the process to become a United States Citizen. On November 15th, Jacob had his final interview/oral test and was approved for citizenship! During the November 19th worship service, Jacob was presented a United States flag in celebration of his



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becoming a citizen.

During their furlough, we at Marrable Hill Chapel have been blessed with the opportunity to get to know this Jesus-loving, servant-minded family. If you haven't had an opportunity to get to know them, please spend some time with them in the upcoming weeks before they return to Mexico.



MHC Communique

If you would like to receive the Communique via e-mail, please let the office know (mhchapel@suddenlinkmail.com). Thanks!