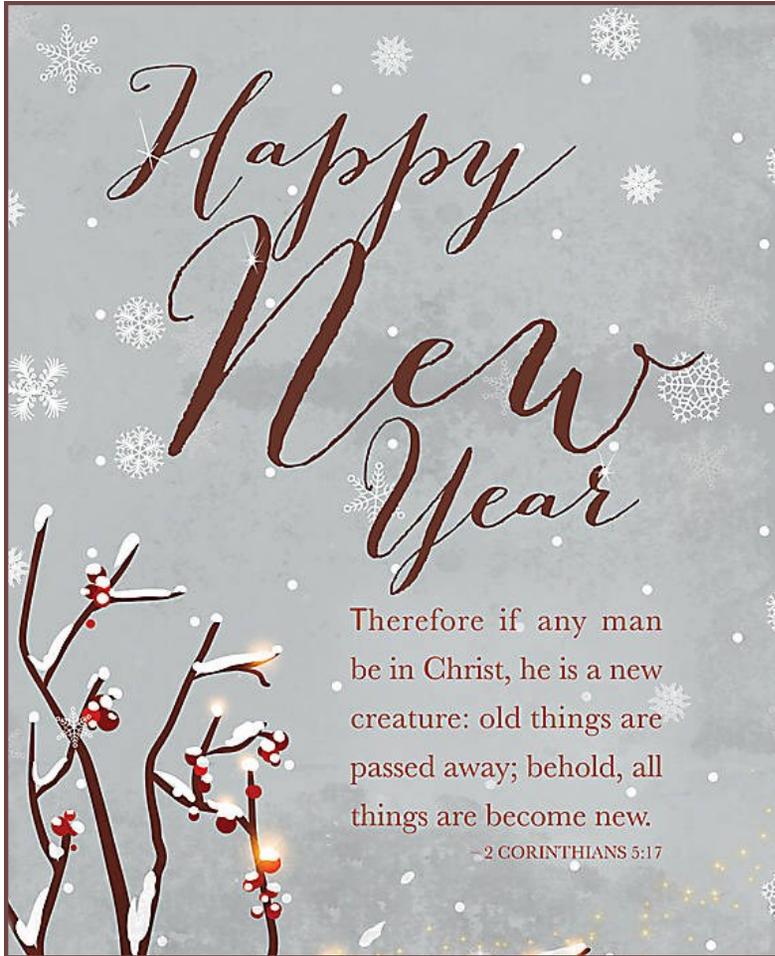


January 2018

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Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.

—2 CORINTHIANS 5:17

January Memory Verse:

This book of the law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do according to all that is written in it; for then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have success. **Joshua 1:8**

Marrable Hill Chapel

110 Chapel Avenue, El Dorado, AR 71730

Phone 870-863-5189 - Email: mhchapel@suddenlinkmail.com

Birthdays January 2018



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



This month **Golden Heirs** will meet **Friday, January 12th**, at **6:30 pm** for their monthly fellowship meal.

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

UPCOMING EVENTS:

January 3rd — AWANA and Youth Resumes from break

January 21st @ 6:30pm — Church Safety with Chris Lutman

Ladies Christmas Party



“It was a dark and stormy night.” Twenty-nine ladies gathered at Laura Rogers’ house on December 19th for a time of food, fun, stories and fellowship. As usual this time of year, Laura had her house decked out in Christmas decorations! It was fun seeing what she has collected over the years and how she arranged everything.

The food was delicious! We chose from several types of sub sandwiches and two types of soups and desserts. Coffee, apple cider, and hot chocolate were available to warm us on this stormy night.

After a time of fellowship and visiting, we were entertained by Vicki Evans with a game time. She had us draw a piece of paper with a name of a Christmas song on it. We then had to walk around the room humming our song until all 7 women with the same song found each other. Once united we had to sing the song out loud as a group. It was a lot of fun and chaotic hearing the humming of “Joy To The World”, “Rudolph, The Red-nosed Reindeer”, “Silent Night” and other favorites at the same time. Later in the evening we played a game where we had to write down a Christmas-related word for every letter of the alphabet. Both games were a lot of fun!

After humming the songs, Beth Cook read the Christmas Story from the Bible. She also read Bro. Sam Shepperson’s traditional Christmas story about Conrad. It is a story that Grandpa Jones recorded called “The



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Child-like Faith

Working in the office of a church provides many types of opportunities to learn and grow. I, Natalie, recently had the privilege to entertain a 4-year old boy and talk with his parents while they waited to receive some donations of clothing and household items. His family lost everything, including beloved pets and Christmas presents, due to a fire that destroyed their home during the Christmas season.

I enjoyed talking with him about his Paw Patrol dog. The dog even talked and barked back. We played football — throwing and catching the soft, pillow football that sits on my PC’s desk. He turned our football game into soccer — kicking it back and forth with me. Soon the dog had to join in and he too kicked the ball. Giggles and laughter and a lot of energy filled the office!

Watching him running around carefree, just being a kid, made me think. Here was a young boy that had just faced and is still facing a traumatic event in his life, but he was a happy, carefree kid. Under his parents’ watchful eyes, he knew that everything was going to be OK. He knew that his parents cared for him and loved him. He was safe under their protection. Isn’t that how we should act when we are going through life’s storms — relaxing in and trusting our heavenly Father?

If we have accepted Jesus as our Savior, we know that we are God’s children. John 1:12-13 says, “Yet to all who did receive Him, to those who believed in His name, He gave the right to become children of God—children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband’s will, but born of God.” As God’s children, we should have a child-like faith and trust God to be with us and take care of us. Romans 15:13 says, “May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in Him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.”

I am sure that the boy may have times where he will be frightened and upset. During those times, he will run to his father and cling to him — receiving comfort, love and assurance. Like him we should “cling to our heavenly Father”.

Candlelight Communion 2017

Each year Marrable Hill Chapel celebrates the birth of our Lord and Savior by holding a Candlelight Communion. This year we celebrated on Christmas Eve — the eve of the day that we celebrate the birth of Jesus.



This year was incredible! It started with a beautiful prelude performed by some of our church's praise team — Nadine Williams, Nancy Murphy, Jan Cooksey, and Vicki Evans. Janett Luker then narrated the Christmas Story in between the prelude, special song performances, and congregational singing.



There was a praise team made up of Stephanie Butcher, Hannah Cheshier, Jacob Cheshier, Beth Endel, Danny Endel, Blake Goff, Deanna Hopson, Johnny Richardson, and Tracy Richardson that led the congregational singing of songs like “Your Name (Christmas Version)”, “Joy To The World”, and “O Come, All Ye Faithful”.



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RightNow Conference

We, Kay Johnston & Ruth Guinn, attended the RightNow conference in Dallas, TX back in November. We found out about this conference from Sharon (Hershberger) Schulte. She provided us free tickets to conference that had been purchased by her church. We were very grateful!



The theme of the conference this year was “The Mission of the Church”. Well-known speakers like Francis Chan, Matt Chandler, Bianca Olthoff, and Eric Mason along with normal, everyday people spoke at this year's conference. Kay said that even though the well-known speakers were great, she enjoyed hearing the everyday speakers more. She related to them and their messages.

At least two messages stand out from the conference. One was on being open to everyone in your every day life. Notice the people around you and what they may be going through. Talk to them and pray for/with them. Meet their needs.

Another message was on prayer and how we can sometimes get in a rut in our prayer lives — praying more out of habit than heart. The speaker recommended that you have a prayer partner that you regularly meet with face-to-face. You should share what is on your heart that needs prayer and support each other emotionally. You don't even have to pray out loud. God can use this time to help you grow spiritually.

Prior to each session, there was a 20-30 minute time of worship that was led by the local church's praise team. This time was a very special time that helped prepare us to focus on God and what we were about to learn in the sessions.

We were amazed at the demographics of the attendees. Over 50%

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Christmas Guest”. If you haven’t read it or heard it, there are links on Marrable Hill Chapel’s Facebook page to a video rendition by Grandpa Jones and a copy of the printed words.

As a part of the party, warm items were collected to hand out to the kids at the Agape House and the families of South Arkansas Fights AIDS (SAFA). We were able to provide hats, gloves, T-shirts, and thermals. These donations were timely considering the cold spell that we have been under the end of December.

At the end of the evening, we all received gifts of a small ornament with the date of the party on it and a delicious milk chocolate bar. Jeff Rogers was quite the gentleman and escorted us ladies to our vehicles in the pouring rain!



The party was a lot of fun! We look forward to Laura’s next Christmas party in 2018. I would like to thank Laura Rogers, Phoebe Sellers, and Kay Johnston for organizing the party. I would also like to thank Beth Cook for reading the stories and Vicki Evans for leading the game times. A special shout out goes to Jeff for helping us to our vehicles as dry as possible!



(RIGHTNOW — Continued from page 6)

were men. Everyone came from a variety of backgrounds — preachers, youth pastors, presidents of companies, janitors, teachers, and checkers from grocery stores.



This was such an awesome event and we would love more people from MHC attend it with us in 2018. It will be November 7th-9th of 2018 in Dallas, TX. If you are interested in attending, please let Kay Johnston, Natalie Butcher, or Ruth Guinn know.



Christmas Gift Cards for Agape House Children

On December 17th, DeeDee Harrison, Danny and Kathy Vinson's daughter, delivered gift cards to the foster children of the Agape House. Marrable Hill Chapel (MHC) collected donations so that each child could purchase clothing or other items, go out to eat, and have fun at a movie. The cards included \$50 at Walmart, \$65 at McDonalds, \$100 at JC Penney, and \$100 Stars Cinema 6. Thanks to all that contributed!!! They really appreciated it.

DeeDee will be working on organizing fund-raisers to assist the Agape House on a project to build a second home for children that are aging out of their program. The second home, the Hope House, will provide care, an array of programs, and transitional services to bridge the gap from childhood to young adulthood. Thank you DeeDee for being willing to help Marrable Hill Chapel serve the Agape House.



Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: *to look after orphans and widows in their distress* and to keep oneself from being polluted by the world.
James 1:27

(CANDLELIGHT — Continued from page 5)

Several specials were sung throughout the service. Wow! The Lord has really blessed the Marrable Hill Chapel family with talent!



The first special was “Breath of Heaven”. It was sung by Hannah Cheshier and signed by Stephanie Butcher. It was incredible being able to hear and see how Mary may have contemplated the birth of the Child that she was carrying.

Blake Goff sang the next special, “Mary, Did You Know?” He sang about the future miracles that Jesus would perform and ultimately the salvation that He would provide those that would accept Him. It was amazing how Blake could powerfully sing the chorus and then bring his voice back down to softly sing the next verse.



The next special, “Messiah”, was sung by Beth Endel. It is a new song that Francesca Battistelli recorded this year. Beth beautifully sang of how this baby, Jesus, was the long-awaited Messiah and how we fall down on our knees before Him.

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Timothy Evans and Jacob Cheshier returned to MHC to help celebrate this evening by singing “O Holy Night”. Wow! I have heard that they were a part of the group “Rock Solid” back in the day. Listening to them sing really makes me wish that I would have been here back then.



Later in the program, we heard Stephanie Butcher proclaim “Glory in the Highest”. It is a song that was recorded by Meredith Andrews. Stephanie sang of the angels speaking of and celebrating the birth of Jesus. I really enjoy how the song has a bridge that brings in the well-known Latin phrase “Gloria in excelsis deo!” — “Glory to God in the highest!”

Jacob Cheshier sang the last special, “Mystery”. What a powerful voice and a powerful song! This song talks about the unfathomable mystery of how God could love us so much that He would send His Son to die for us and that Jesus, even though He was fully capable of preventing Himself from dying on the cross, chose to die for us.



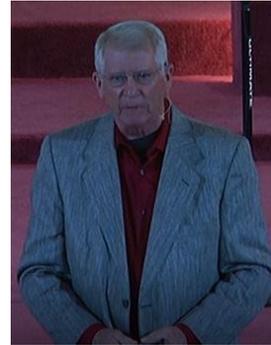
Originally, Cara Wiebe was going to sing “Fullness of Grace” as our last special, but due to illness she was not able to perform. Let’s pray that she will regain her voice and be able to bless us with her singing prior to her returning as a missionary in Mexico.

Of course, Candlelight Communion could not be Candlelight Communion without “communion” — the Lord’s Supper. Bro. Ben explained the Lord’s Supper — how the bread represents Christ’s

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body that was broken for us and the juice that represents the blood that He shed for us. The Elders served the congregation the bread and juice.



The evening ended by the traditional lighting of candles. “Silent Night, Holy Night” was sung by the congregation during the lighting of the candles. The lit candles in the dark reminds us that we are the light of the world and that we need to let our light shine.



It takes a lot of work to successfully present a program like Candlelight Communion. I would like to thank those that participated in this service. Beth and Danny Endel spent a lot of time and effort

(CANDLELIGHT — Continued on page 13)

(CANDLELIGHT — Continued from page 12)



creating this program and coordinating all of the talents. The performers, from narrator to musicians to singers and signer, did an incredible job of learning their parts and performing which made this program a special night. Bro. Ben and the Elders helped us focus on meaning of and partake in the “Lord’s Supper”. The video crew (Randy Snider and Sam Bailey) worked hard recording and editing the video of this night. Joey McGoogan worked the sound board and Natalie Butcher ran the computer display. The sanctuary looked outstanding due to the decorations that Nancy Murphy setup for December and the candles setup by Michael Noone. I am also thankful for the congregation and their participation in this program. Thank you! Last, but definitely not least, I would like to thank God. It is from Him all blessings flow! He provided the talents and abilities of everyone that was involved in this program. He also helped keep almost everyone healthy at a time that the flu and other illnesses are raging in our area.

If the Lord is willing, see you again next year!



CHRISTMAS IN NOVEMBER?

WHAT AN AMAZING GIFT!

By Bill Harding (MHC Supported Missionary)

Thirty two years ago Grace and Bill, young zealous missionaries in their 2nd year in remote southern Ethiopia, were between the anvil and the hammer of ruthless, dominating Marxist-Leninist government... all for the sake of the gospel.

Bill had heard that church leaders were put in prison in a community called Molicha located on a distant mountain. In anger and some sense of justice, Bill determined to visit them, pray and seek release of these church leaders who were beaten, tortured and incarcerated for their faith. That is all that Bill remembered.

On a recent trip, Bill heard from a young man, Berhanu, who was a young boy in Molicha at that time and now a church leader leading 241 churches in the district. He stated to Bill that the Molicha Church has waited 32 years to celebrate what transpired shortly after Bill left that dark, rainy day.



Now, for the rest of the story.

On Sunday, November 19, 2017, after much preparation, the Molicha local church invited Bill and his guests, John and Deb Tornfelt, to
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(HARDING — Continued from page 14)

come. They arrived to witness hundreds of people inside and hundreds outside the church singing with great jubilation with a welcome only deserved by a king. With a welcome banner on the front of the church, the sustained cadence of clapping began until they were seated.

The leading elder, with tears of joy, began to tell what had happened after Bill had left and that Bill knew nothing of all these years. (I had no clue of any of this.)

The elder and former prisoner said, "We were charged by young Communist cadres flexing their Marxist-Leninist ideology and intimidating us with AK-47 weapons for worshiping a white man's religion instead of the ideology they were propagating. After beating us, they threw us in prison ridiculing and cursing us. We had heard the guards say "No white guy has ever been in here and will ever come here, especially a capitalist".

Then one day this young white man showed up tired, covered in mud and soaked by rain using a walking stick to navigate the slippery mountainous terrain. He did nothing but lifted his arms and prayed out loud to God Almighty for His grace and our release. He then left going down the mountain. We have not seen Bill until today!



What Bill did not know was that the vicious guards were shocked and speechless by Bill's presence after holding us prisoner for nineteen days. When the guards looked at us, they saw us as dressed in white, like angels. They were so ashamed of what they

(HARDING — Continued on page 16)

(HARDING — Continued from page 15)

had done and released all of us after Bill had left. We have waited 32 years for Bill to come back to us to celebrate what God has done...setting the captives free through the power of prayer and a brave demonstration of love."

The celebration went on for four hours with intense worship in singing, dancing, testimonies of those elders who were incarcerated for their faith as well as a drama put on by the young people... a message passed on to the next generation! John said "It was the fastest four hours of worship that he has ever participated in!"

The elders had made some candles out of bees' wax shaped as a 3 and 2. As the congregation clapped and sang they invited Bill to come forward and light the two candles celebrating and acknowledging the act of God's deliverance and testimony to HIS saving power. Praise be to the One who sets the captives free!

We may never know what God has done through us until we get to Glory. Sometimes, we get a glimpse of this as I did that Sunday in November in Molicha, southern Ethiopia. Thank you Lord, for this Christmas gift!

