NOT AGAIN!
by Pastor Dave Smith

I can just hear someone saying, “Not again,” when they learn that we are changing worship times, beginning Sabbath, Jan. 5, 2013. At my request, the Church Board voted November 29 to change the times of the worship services. Why? Well, if the worship times are changed, children’s Sabbath school leaders will be better prepared for children when they arrive, parents with young children will have more time to prepare the family to attend first service, more people who attend Sabbath schools might attend the Renewal service, and the Connect and Renewal services might start at the same time. What are the new worship service times?

- Adoration I: 9:00 - 10:00
- Adoration II: 10:15 - 11:15
- Renewal: 11:35 - 12:35
- Connect: 11:35 - 12:35

We realize that making these time changes necessitates good planning and time sensitivity for our services, but we believe that the benefits of these changes will outweigh any challenges.

Pray that the Spirit will continue to lead our services as He has in the past. I am so grateful for God’s blessings when we worship together and am jealous for those blessings to continue.

GET OUT YOUR HULA SKIRTS!

Join CAYA Youth, the Children’s Ministries Development Team, and Family Life for a Christmas Luau Pool Party at Southern’s pool on Saturday, Dec. 15, from 6:00 to 10:00 p.m. The movie “Soul Surfer” will be shown at 10:00 p.m. in the Youth Room.

We will be playing Family Survivor, a game inspired by Survivor and The Amazing Race. Visit collegedalechurch.com for game rules. Other activities include sundown worship, open swim, Christmas family portraits, pool games, and hula dancing.

Dress in your best Hawaiian outfit. Bring a modest swimsuit and a beach towel or chair. Also, bring food according to your last name:

- A-F  Vegetable tray
- G-L  Cookies/brownies/other dessert
- M-R  Fruit tray
- S-Z  Banana/pineapple/or other bread
BUT I PAY TITHE

by Pastor Dave Smith

We are reminded in 2 Corinthians 9: 7 that “God loves a cheerful giver.” In the same verse we learn that people who give to God should do so willingly, without compulsion. That’s something I appreciate about our members. They don’t have to be manipulated to give. They give from their hearts, and I know that God is pleased.

But I do wonder if those who are giving from their hearts understand that returning tithe is not the same as contributing to the church operating budget. Returning tithe is Scriptural and important. But tithe money does not go to the local church. So the local church depends on members contributing to church budget in addition to returning tithe in order to support the ministries of the church.

This year both tithe paying and giving to the church budget are down from last year. There may be very good reasons for this. However, I would encourage you to consider returning tithe and contributing to church budget if God moves on your heart to do so cheerfully and willingly. Because we base our church budget on the budget results of the previous year, right now some of our ministries will be shortchanged next year unless more money comes in for the budget. It is painful to think that next year we might be doing less rather than more ministry as a church.

Fortunately, we know that God is over all. I am trusting Him to provide what we need in the way He knows best. Thank you for supporting our church and its ministries and for being cheerful, gracious givers. May God bless you for your wonderful spirit.

A NEW NAME

by Abby Houtchens

The Church’s Counseling Center has a new name and logo! With inspiration from God, positive feedback and agreement from the Pastoral staff, the new name for the counseling center is Next Step: Christian Counseling & Education Center.

You might be thinking the name is Loooong…and you’re right, it is! Yet every word is important in understanding your counseling center’s outreach.

The words, “Next Step” characterize the courage and awareness it takes to reach out for support in taking the “next step” toward wellness. “Christian” is at the core of your Center’s belief system and worldview and is the first leg of balance. “Counseling” is one of two outreach efforts, making it the second leg of balance, while “Education” is the third leg to complete a balanced Center whose mission is: “To Cooperate with God in developing strong minds and well balanced characters.

From Next Step, we wish you a peaceful and blessed holiday season. If you are facing overwhelming challenges or ongoing stressors that are separating you from the “joy” of the season, call (423) 396-2134 ext. 26.
Gifts for Jesus will be collected for the Samaritan Center on December 22.

These gifts are organized and given out to people in crisis throughout the year. They provide birthday gifts for children who would otherwise have none. They provide personal hygiene products for people who cannot purchase them with food stamps. They give hope to hurting families by letting them know that someone they have never met cared enough to provide these gifts. Gifts for Jesus draws its name from scripture. “As you did it unto one of the least of these my brethren, you did it to me,” Matthew 25:40. In this way, a gift for a hurting person is a Gift for Jesus.

We invite you to join this year’s drive. We will have a special time during the December 22 worship service for you to bring your gifts to the front. Or, if you will be gone that day, gifts may be left at the Church Office or taken to the Samaritan Center.

**GIFT SUGGESTIONS**

- **Men, Women, and Children always need:** Socks, Warm Pajamas, T-shirts, Briefs, Pants, Slippers, Tennis Shoes, Insulated Underwear, Hats, Mittens, Gloves, and Coats.
- **Personal Care Items:** Shampoo, Lotion, Soap, Deodorant, and Sanitary Products.
- **Babies and Toddlers:** Disposable Diapers, Onesies, Bottles, Activity Toys and Books, Sleepers, Stuffed Animals, and Receiving Blankets.
- **Children:** Crayons and Coloring Books, Books, Ribbons and Hairclips, School Supplies, Puzzles, and Games.
- **Adult Clothing (Especially L, XL, XXL):** Flannel Shirts, Flannel Nightgowns, and Sweat Suits.
- **Junior High and Teen:** Cologne, School Supplies, Hairclips.

**Other:** Stamps, Stationery and Envelopes, Greeting Cards, Sewing Kits, Batteries, Umbrellas, Crossword Puzzles, Jigsaw Puzzles, Nail Clippers, Emery Boards, Pens, Markers, Boxes of Tissues...Something you would like yourself.

**CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE**

The Christmas Eve Service is Monday, Dec. 24, at 6:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary. The one-hour service will include vocal and instrumental music, readings, stories, and scripture that help us reflect on the meaning of Christmas.

**DISHWASHER OPERATORS NEEDED by Elaine Dodd**

Food for Bereaved Ministry teams (mostly women & many unable to lift heavy trays of glasses) would appreciate volunteers willing to operate the Church dishwashing machine after bereavement meals.

Men and young people are welcome to volunteer serving twice during a specific month, or to be placed on a list made available for team leaders to call throughout the year. Trainers are available, and while the process is not difficult, it can involve more than an hour of time. Also, there is usually enough food at the meals for the team and the dishwasher to partake as well.

Email or call me with contact information if you wish to be part of this comforting and rewarding ministry: 423-667-9413 or edodd@epbfi.com.

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**Membership Transfers**

The following names were presented for transfer.

**IN—** Christopher Bispham from Miami, FL; Ronnie Ennis from Standifer Gap; Dell O Evans from Takoma Park, MD; Don & Cynthia Gettys from McDonald Road; William & Shelley Hurtado from Days Creek, OR; J Paul & Corleen Martz from Worthington, OH; Ronnie Norton from Collegedale Community; Smirna Paz from Gainesville, FL; Kimberly Rafey from Miami, FL; Charles Taylor from Collegedale Community; and Jonathan Taylor from Collegedale Community.

**OUT—** James Alexander to Redwood Valley, CA; Richard Cavanaugh to Benton, TN; June Sara Frederick to Napa, CA; Bob & Sharon Fulford to Tellico Plains Company; Brad & Ivette Keller to Collegedale Community; Hae Ran (Helen) Lee to Collegedale Korean; David Leonard to Standifer Gap; James McKamey to Collegedale Community; Vasilisa Milis to Moldova, Russia; Jack Parker to McDonald Road; Chris & Jodie Swafford to Avondale, NSW Australia; Eunice Tull to Calhoun, GA; and Bob & Betty Willauer to Sylvan Lake, AB.
AW SPALDING ELEMENTARY SCHOOL is planning its Kindergarten Round-up. If you are a parent of a 5 year old or have a child that will be 5 by August 15, join us at 9:00 a.m. January 18 to discover what AW Spalding is all about. Call Rebekah at (423) 396-2122 for more information and let us know if you plan to attend our Kindergarten open house.

THE SCHOOL OF MUSIC Christmas Concert is Sabbath, Dec. 15, at 4:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary. Celebrate the joys of the season with Southern’s choirs, symphony orchestra, brass ensemble and handbells. The repertoire will feature Ralph Vaughan Williams’ Fantasia on Christmas Carols.

JOEY TOLBERT AND KIM NEAL of Message of Mercy invite you to come and experience Christmas.

WOULD YOU LIKE a place for senior citizens to come together one day a week for a lunch and varied activities such as guest speakers, games, Bible study, films, music, etc.? If you are interested in exploring this option, by participating, planning, or helping with this project, contact Shelly Litchfield at shelly.litch@gmail.com or (423) 413-1954. This project will only move forward if there is enough interest to warrant it, so your response is important.

IN MEMORY

Stan Andreik, father of Stanley and Shane and a former assistant-manager of the Village Market, passed away December 3 in Modesto, CA.

Marvin Eckhart, father of Rick Eckhart, passed away December 3. Services will be held December 10 in Fresno, CA.

Marion Merchant, sister of Bob Merchant and aunt of Cherie Smith, passed away December 5. Services will be held in Mexico.

Susie M. Smith, mother of Carl Smith, passed away November 29. Memorial services will be held Saturday, Dec. 15, at 3:00 p.m. at McDonald Road Church.

Bonnie Weron, mother of Rachel Weron, passed away November 29. Services were held December 4. Memorial contributions may be given to the “The Bonnie Weron Revocable Trust”. The memorial will be going to Rachel Weron’s education. Send to Duane Michael Haefner, 16805 206th Circle, Hutchinson, MN 55350.