

## From the Pastor's Pen

"I have one passion only: It is He! It is He!"

-Nikolaus Ludwig von Zinzendorf

Early in my Christian life my church taught me that I came to Christ so I could give Him and others my life. Upon salvation I became His servant, the church's servant, and a servant to the world. Coming to Christ meant I lost my right to self-determination. We heard often Jesus' own words, "For the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many" (Mark 10:45). We learned these priceless gems of biblical truth over 12 months in three discipleship training modules during a meeting before Sunday evening worship that we called Church Training. (The world, the flesh and the devil have all but killed such effective ministries in most places).

A few years after my conversion I began to hear church people not involved in such ministries comment about some churches "I am not fed there," or "I am not a good fit there," or "I do not get much out of the services" or "no one spoke to me." I noticed that churches would advertise special studies and events for such people and then be embarrassed when a smaller than expected crowd materialized and nothing changed. Such people never seemed satisfied or "satisfiable." These were strange things to my eyes and ears. I felt like I was witnessing something less than the Christian faith.

It never occurred to me that I involved myself in Christ and His church for my personal benefit. Discipleship training had taught me otherwise. It taught me that I involved myself in a church for other's benefit, especially for the benefit, or glory, of Jesus Christ. I was free to look after His work and the needs of others, because He would take care of me. The only motivation I needed to attend and serve I thought was Jesus Himself. His birth, death, resurrection, commands, and promised return provided adequate fuel to light my fire. Churches did not need to market themselves to me. Jesus was enough. I rarely read the monthly church newsletter or the weekly bulletin. I didn't need to. I was already pre-committed to attending no matter what the church offered, and this was before I ever entered the ministry.

*Continued on page 2*

## *The Secret(s) of the Blessed Life*

with Ronnie Hill

Sunday, December 4

10:30 a.m. - Worship Center



### **December @ Beech Haven**

**Friday, December 2 - Family Christmas Party** at 6:00 p.m.

**Saturday, December 3 - Student Christmas Party** at 6:00 p.m.  
at the Pittman's

**Sunday, December 4 - "Light of the World" Worship Service**  
at 6:30 p.m. Invite your friends and coworkers.

**Monday, December 5 - College Christmas Party** at 8:00 p.m.  
at the Fountains.

**Thursday, December 8 - Churchwide Caroling** at 6:00 p.m.  
Meet in Atrium. Sign-up here.

**Saturday, December 24 - Christmas Eve Service** at 4:00 p.m.  
Childcare for babies through Kindergarten. Christian Concern  
Offering will be taken.

**Sunday, December 25 - Christmas Day Service** at 12:00 noon  
with Lord's Supper. Childcare provided for babies through  
Kindergarten.

## From the Pastor's Pen Continued from front page

I was just an ordinary high school and college student. My conviction was that I needed to be the kind of church member I expected my future congregants to be.

Boy, oh, boy was I in for a shock in my first church. People did not think the way I thought. They expected the church to meet their needs and had no discernable interest in Christ's glory or other's needs. The church existed for them, though they did not have the credentials to demand such attention; no one who hasn't been crucified does. I was saddened to learn, and am saddened now, that many American congregations and church members are more like consumers than they are like Christ.

At Beech Haven, we are different. We do not do what we do in order to gain anything for ourselves; we do what we do to give everything to Jesus. We come to serve but not be served. We aspire to be like Jesus, not like that narcissistic, whiny crowd that falls to pieces when its perceived needs go unmet. For our people at Beech Haven, Jesus is enough, and He is the best thing about us. What matters to Him matters most to us. He'll take care of our needs, but we are the only ones on earth who look after His work.

Armed with that mindset, we will be an unstoppable force for His majesty, His people, and His mission. That is why this Sunday December 4 will be such an effective Sunday. As I have announced since this summer, Dr. Ronnie Hill will share the message "Secrets of the Blessed Life" in the morning service. In the evening service, our Music and Worship Ministry will lead us in a Christmas celebration of "Light of the World." In addition, our Christmas Eve service December 24 at 4:00 p.m. and Christmas Day service at 12:00 p.m. will be well attended. Finally, changes to worship will be effective. Coming around the first of 2017, we will project the texts of sermons into Spanish and English (for the hearing impaired) on a monitor. Children grades K-3 will participate in the first part of our worship service, and before the sermon we will play an appropriate video so they can transition out of the worship center into the children's worship area.

It is with this mindset (Jesus is enough, and He is the best thing about us) that we will advance in our God given mission. He will take care of our needs; we must see to it that He is glorified, other's edified, the world evangelized, and hell left horrified.

I Stand Amazed,  
David Mills

### Worship & Music Ministry Notes

*"I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which He has called you... and the incomparably great power for us who believe." Ephesians 1:18-19*

Armed with a vivid imagination and a healthy dose of creativity, my playtime as a child was not powered by batteries. A single Hot-Wheels car and a long church hallway could entertain me for hours (and often did during lengthy Choir practices!). At best, battery powered toys merely enhanced the play.

In our society today, we've largely forgotten the true power behind Christmas. Oh, we're quick to jump into the "Christmas spirit," so long as we don't actually define it. And we love celebrating our generosity as we give gifts. We even enjoy the vague spirituality as we wish for peace on earth and goodwill toward men.

But just as my battery-powered toys could never truly "power" or create my play as a child, no amount of glittery decorations, festive parties, or even generic "good will" truly empowers us. They might provide momentary enjoyment, but January is a miserable month for those whose only hope is in the "Christmas spirit."

The focus, the significance, and indeed the power of Christmas is all centered on Christ. Without Him, everything else is a shallow festival which lasts only a moment. With Him, Christmas celebrates the arrival of true and eternal hope and joy.

But even Christ's birth can't stand alone. The virgin birth is indeed miraculous and crucial, but it means little without the cross and resurrection. God became man for one purpose, not so that we could give gifts and wish for peace, but so that He could die in our place and provide a way for us to know the saving power of God.

The power which grants us true joy, peace, hope, and love, the power which sustains us and guides us year-round, the power which equips and enables us to do His good and perfect will - that power is the power of Christ in us. And it's only when we have Christ that we can recognize the truest significance of Christmas.

May we then make every effort to demonstrate and to share the power of Christ.

Tim Cotten

## Meg Doster Serves Beech Haven for 10 Years!

Meg began her service to Beech Haven in December 2006. For ten years, the church has benefitted from her work and ministry as a Membership Support Staff Member. Meg displays confidence in her tasks. For years, her primary duties centered around managing the church's database, coordinating Sunday School records and materials, Wednesday Night Supper reservations, and far, far more. With the arrival of a new Senior Pastor in 2012, Meg assumed the functions as the primary point of contact for Dr. Mills, managing his calendar and correspondence, and generally keeping him out of trouble!

What the church family is most familiar with are not the work items which she deftly handles. The church most recognizes Meg's warm and gracious tone and spirit. The delight of her personality and engaging demeanor is what the church readily associates with Meg. Her gifts of interacting with people, making folks feel welcomed and appreciated, and her capacity to smooth things out are manifestations of the Lord's presence in her life.

Please make a point to express to Meg your appreciation for her decade of good work!

## CALL TO PRAYER

### Call to Prayer

#### Tuesdays

Precisely at 8:00 a.m. - Conference Room

#### Tuesday Morning Prayer Schedule

- 1st Tuesday of Month: Deacon Team 1/2, College, Coed 20s, Coed 25 - 35
- 2nd Tuesday of Month: Deacon Team 3/4, Coed 36 - 49, 50 - 64
- 3rd Tuesday of Month: Deacon Team 5/6, Coed 65+, Coed 75+, Men, Median Women, Median & Mature Ladies
- 4th Tuesday of Month: Deacon Team 7/8, Working Retired I/II, Parents of Children/Youth, SS Workers of Preschool, Children, Youth, Median/Mature Singles
- 5th Tuesday of the Month: Staff

## Ministry Staff Reassignments

Pastor Mills announced at the November 18 Senior Adult Luncheon that **John Walker** has assumed the role of **Senior Adult Minister**. John will provide vision and direction to the Senior Adult Ministry while expanding the participation and focus of the ministry. A Ministerial Staff member dedicated to the ministry ensures the interests, energies and gifts of senior adults are integrated into the life and vision of the church. John continues serving as Associate Pastor of Administration.

**Pastor Mills** has assumed the responsibilities for leading the **Sunday School Ministry** working with Sunday School Director Bill Thomas. Sunday School is a foundational ministry for Beech Haven about which Pastor Mills is passionate.

Encourage Pastor Mills and John in their new roles and encourage them with your thoughts, questions and participation!

Bob Molleur

Personnel Committee Chairman

## Message from John

Joy and humility are in my heart as I assume leadership with our retired and senior adults! I'm grateful for the opportunity to serve the Lord, Athens, and Beech Haven through this ministry.

How do we get Retired and Senior Adults mobilized for ministry? This question will form the heart, structure, and work of our Senior Adult Ministry.

A Senior Adult Ministry that makes Great Commissionaries of the seniors in our community will be involved in the priorities of the church. Senior adults can be mobilized as Great Commissionaries through the church, their neighborhoods, and their families by serving, praying, and giving.

Being involved in the Great Commission does not complete the church's vision. The goal is that the recipients of our ministry participate in the Great Commission themselves. On the mission field, this is called "Third Generation Thinking" and captures the direction Paul gives in 2 Timothy 2:2, "What you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses, commit to faithful men who will be able to teach others also."

As the new year begins, I will be creating a Senior Adult Ministry Team to help give focus and effort to the church's vision. Let me know if you are interested in being involved or have ideas to share.

In Christ,  
John Walker

## 2016 Contributions

The tithes and offerings of God's people make all our ministries at OUR CHURCH possible. Thank you for giving and please remember that to claim a charitable contribution for 2016, contributions must be:

- Delivered to the Church Office on or before December 30 or
- Mailed to the Church Office with a postmark of December 31 or earlier or
- Online contributions must be made before midnight December 31st or earlier.

Contributions placed in the offering plate on the first Sunday of January 2017 will not qualify for a charitable contribution deduction in 2016 (even if the check is backdated to 2016 or was actually written in 2016). These requirements are set by the IRS.

## 2017 Budget Discussion & Vote

Sunday, December 4

5:30 p.m. - Room 247

Discussion

Click [here](#) to review proposed budget

Sunday, December 11

10:25 a.m.

Vote

## Give by Text

You can now make a contribution to Beech Haven with a quick **text message!**

Simply send a text to **Beech Haven Give by 706-550-9534** with the amount you would like to contribute. Make sure to include the dollar sign before the amount (example: \$25). Within a few minutes, you'll be sent a text with a link to register. Click on the link and enter your cardholder name and credit or debit card information. Once your registration is complete, you will receive a text verification and a receipt via email.

For future giving, simply send a text with the amount you wish to give, and it will process automatically!

Thank you for supporting our vision.

## Stewardship Corner

### Charitable Giving Strategies

**Gift of appreciated real estate.** If the real estate is given to the church and the church sells the real estate, then the church pays no taxes, and the donor receives a charitable deduction for the fair market value of the real estate given to the church. The fair market value of such real estate will be deemed to be the price at which the real estate was sold by the church.

When considering a gift of real estate to the church, it may be helpful to ask the following questions:

- (a) Do you have any current use for this property?
- (b) Do you have a financial need to retain this property?
- (c) Would a large capital gains tax be due if you sold this property?

If you answered "yes" to any of these questions, you may want to consider making a gift of the property to the church.

## Thank You

For fifty years (most often here) I have at least partially made my living with words. Amazing then that they do not come tumbling out so easily now. The November 20th service in which you surprised me with the honor "Pastor Emeritus" will stand as one of the great memories of my life. We spent almost thirty one years as pastor and people, and they were some of the church's greatest years. You have blessed me with love, understanding, support, respect and action. I don't recall ever having appealed to you for a financial ministry need that you did not meet. You returned personal ministry to me in my own times of sorrow and loss. You allowed me to be who I was, to focus on my own strengths. The positive steps made by the church were more than could be named. After five years of doing interim pastorates I am taking some time off, and it will be a joy to spend more time with you, my loved ones. You are God's blessing to me, rolled up into one large family! My wife joins me in sending a giant, "We love you!" and "We thank you!"

Stewart & Dianne Simms

## God Blessed

### November

Monthly Requirement .....	\$117,916
November Receipts .....	\$107,311
November Christian Concern .....	\$7,581

Online giving available

[www.BeechHaven.net/give](http://www.BeechHaven.net/give)







***the gospel resounds***

2016 Lottie Moon Christmas Offering

**100%** of your gifts help send and sustain International Mission Board Missionaries

Beech Haven Goal.....\$25,000  
 Given to Date.....\$629

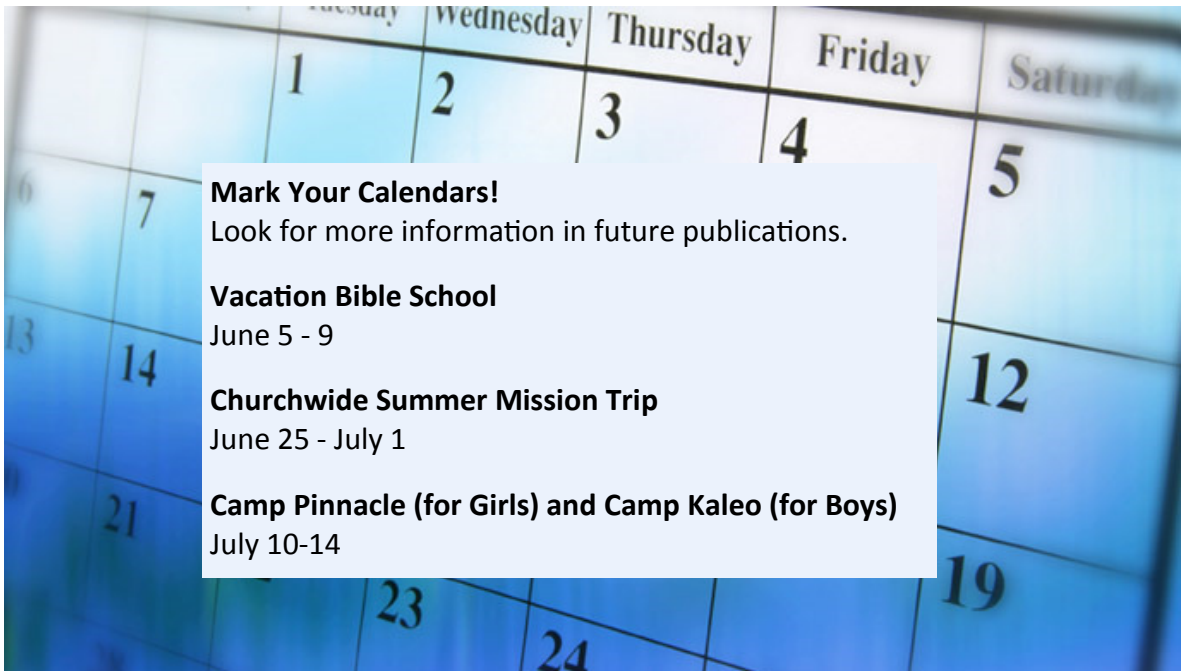
Prayer Guides available in the church office and at entrances to Worship Center.

**New Bible Study Begins in January**

***Christ's Mission, My Commission:  
 A Study of Missions from the Gospel of Matthew***

Wednesdays, January 11 - April 19  
 4:00 & 6:00 p.m.  
 Building D

Registration cards are available in Sunday School folders, in the church office or you can [register here](#).



## Preschool & Children's Ministry

### Children's Choir Christmas Program

Wednesday, December 14

6:00 p.m.

Worship Center

### Upward Basketball and Cheerleading

Saturdays, January 7 - February 25

Beginning at 9:00 a.m.

The Beech Haven family is invited and encouraged to attend!

### Hiding God's Word in their hearts . . .

Each Sunday night during Awana, children recite the verses they have memorized throughout the week to their leaders or listeners. We are in need of more listeners. A listener's only responsibility is to hear children recite their verses and initial in the student handbook indicating they have correctly recited the verse(s).

If you can help, please contact Cassie Brown at [cassieb@beechhaven.net](mailto:cassieb@beechhaven.net) or Jonathon Tolbert at [pjtolbert@gmail.com](mailto:pjtolbert@gmail.com)

### Upward Café Workers Needed

Saturdays, January 7 - February 25

Two hour blocks are available. Contact Jerry Davis at 706-540-5822 if you are able to serve.

## Student Ministry

### Student Ministry Christmas Party

Saturday, December 3rd at 6:00 p.m. at the Pittman's

Guys need to bring drinks and girls need to bring chips and desserts.

### Church Choir Christmas Program

Sunday, December 4 @ 6:30 p.m.

This will be in place of PULSE

### Pulse Game Night

Sunday, December 11 @ 6:00 p.m.

This is the last PULSE of the year. Resumes on January 8

### Mandatory Winter Xtreme Parent Meeting

Sunday, December 11

7:15 p.m. - Building D

We will start accepting the balance for the trip at this meeting and will have all the information you need about the trip including schedule and packing list.

### Winter Xtreme

Saturday, December 31 - Monday, January 2

The balance for this trip must be paid before we leave.

## College Ministry

### College Ministry Christmas Party

Monday, December 5<sup>th</sup>

8:00pm @ The Fountain's

### Study at the Beech Café

Tuesday December 6<sup>th</sup> through Monday, December 12<sup>th</sup>

Back of Building D

See Tommy or Clay to sign up for a time to study for finals.

### Wednesday Night Supper

(Reservations Required)

5:00 - 5:45 p.m. - Fellowship Hall

Cost: Adults - \$4.50

Children (under 10) - \$2.00

Family Maximum - \$16.00

### December 7

Breakfast: Scrambled eggs, Bacon, Sausage, Grits, Biscuits & Gravy, Fruit and Juice

### December 14

Chicken strips, French fries  
Baked Beans, Salad, Rolls

### December 21 & 28

No Supper/No Evening Activities

### Supper Reservations

- Complete the Sunday morning Worship Guide Insert, and place it in the offering plate, or
- Call the church office at 706.548.2246 by **noon on Tuesday**, or
- Email [cassieb@BeechHaven.org](mailto:cassieb@BeechHaven.org) by **noon on Tuesday**.
- Request **Permanent Reservation** status through May, 2017, using any of the above methods.
- If you have made reservations and do not cancel, we still need you to pay for your meal. Thanks!

## December Servants

### Sunday, December 4

#### Extended Session

Coordinators: Eric & Heather Harris  
 Sandi Franklin  
 Dennis & Kathy McDaniel  
 Mallory Fountain, Susan Sheffield  
 Sharon McKeithan, Lisa Rhymer

#### Children's Worship

Squeaky Drewry, Ashley Ivey

#### Usher Team

Mike Mauldin, Gene Couch

#### Shuttle Bus Driver

Mike Mauldin

#### Worship Hour Prayer Team

#### Counting Team for Monday

Sherry Reed, Marie Moran  
 Lanie Lafayette

### Sunday, December 11

#### Extended Session

Coordinators: Kenneth & Stephanie Bowman  
 Debbie Jones, Nikki Menjivar  
 Dale & Nancy Wallace  
 Mike Campbell and Thomas Campbell  
 Jason & Lynn Booth

#### Children's Worship

Brent & Meredith Dykes

#### Usher Team

Len Griffin, Daniel Lackey  
 Tom McCormack, Franklin Scott  
 Ted Screws, George Windate

#### Shuttle Bus Driver

Alan Parrish

#### Worship Hour Prayer Team

Leslie Sinyard

#### Counting Team for Monday

Linda Pickering, Allene Carteaux  
 Joyce Hartley

### Sunday, December 18

#### Extended Session

Coordinators: Eric & Rosie Ingram  
 Mike & Peggy Mauldin  
 Stacie Leggett  
 Jake Johnson, Cameron Sowers  
 Mary Deaton

#### Children's Worship

Tracy McKeithan, Amy Tolbert

#### Usher Team

Bill Crowe, Don Pickering  
 Robert Sinyard, Steve Starnes  
 Jerry Whiteside

#### Shuttle Bus Driver

Eric Ingram

#### Worship Hour Prayer Team

#### Counting Team for Monday

Jane Poole, Emily McClure  
 Mary Deaton

### Sunday, December 25

#### Extended Session

Childcare available babies through  
 Kindergarten

#### Children's Worship

Children attend worship  
 with their family

#### Usher Team

John Zellely  
 James Nix, Dickie Riggs

#### Shuttle Bus Driver

Jerry Davis

#### Worship Hour Prayer Team

John and Kate Walker

#### Counting Team for Monday

Doug & Faye Owens

## December Calendar

### Thursdays, December 1, 8, 15

9:30 a.m. - International Friends

### Friday, December 2

6:00 p.m. - Family CMAS Party

### Saturday, December 3

6:30 p.m. - Student CMAS Party

### Sunday, December 4

10:30 a.m. - Ronnie Hill

5:30 p.m. - Budget Discussion (Rm 247)

6:30 p.m. - CMAS Worship Service

### Tuesdays, December 6, 13, 20, 27

8:00 a.m. - Call to Prayer, Conf Rm  
 (see schedule on page 3)

9:00 a.m. - Precept Bible Study  
 (12/6 & 12/13)

### Wednesday, December 7

4:00 p.m. - WoW

5:00 p.m. - Supper

6:00 p.m. - WoW

6:00 p.m. - Children's Choir

7:00 p.m. - Adult Choir

### Thursday, December 8

10:00 a.m. - Women on Mission

### Sunday, December 11

9:15 a.m. - Sunday School

10:30 a.m. - Worship

5:45 p.m. - Awana

6:00 p.m. - Prayer Meeting

6:00 p.m. - Adult Bible Study

6:00 p.m. - Youth Pulse Game Night

### Tuesday, December 13

6:00 p.m. - Ladies Night Out

### Sunday, December 18

9:15 a.m. - Sunday School

10:30 a.m. - Worship

6:00 p.m. - Prayer Meeting

### Friday, December 23 and

### Monday, December 26

Office Closed

### Saturday, December 24

4:00 p.m. - CMAS Service with Christian  
 Concern Offering

### Sunday, December 25

12:00 - Worship Service

### Sunday, January 1

9:15 a.m. - Sunday School

10:30 a.m. - Worship

### Monday, January 2

Church Office Closed

### Ministry Staff

David Mills..... Pastor ..... dmills@beechhaven.net  
 John Walker .....Associate Pastor of Administration & Education ..... jwalker@beechhaven.net  
 Tim Cotten..... Minister of Music & Worship ..... tcotten@beechhaven.net  
 Tommy Fountain, Jr..... Student and Collegiate Minister ..... tfountain@beechhaven.net  
 Jonathan Tolbert ..... Interim Family & Children's Minister ..... children@beechhaven.net  
 Jennifer Adolphson..... Interim Director of Preschool ..... preschool@beechhaven.net