

**Ongoing Activities**

**Wednesdays**

- Adult Discipleship, 6:30-8 p.m.

*The Henry Center food pantry and financial assistance is open Thursday, December 22nd - no clothes closet.. The entire Henry Center will be closed the week between Christmas and New Year’s, and will reopen on Tuesday, January 3rd.*

The office will be closed on Monday, December 26th and on Monday, January 2nd.

Pastor Paul will be out of the office December 27th through December 30th. Theresa Johnson (931-224-8864) will be available Tuesday & Wednesday, the 27th & 28th, and Jeff Harrison (931-434-2373) will be available Thursday & Friday, the 29th & 30th, for hospital visitation and any other ministerial needs that may arise.

**TEXT IN CHURCH**

Would you like to receive Text messages and Emails from the church to keep you in the loop about everything that is going on? Just text the word CHURCH to 931-452-4747 and click on the response. Once your form is filled out, we will begin sending you all the info you'll need. If you don't text or email, please make sure you call the church with a current phone number so we can update our all church phone tree.

**The Message—Pastor Paul Purdue**

How far are you traveling this Christmas? The first Christmas story involves a lot of travel when considering that ancient travel meant walking or straining to stay atop a horse or camel. Zechariah travels to the Jerusalem Temple from the hill country of Judea. A pregnant teenage Mary walks away from her Nazareth home to find shelter with her godly Aunt Elizabeth and Uncle Zechariah. After hearing from angels in a dream, Joseph fetches Mary and takes her as his wife. Perhaps Mary made a multi-mile journey in each of her trimesters! Caesar Augustus’ desire to collect taxes forces Joseph and the expecting Mary to travel some 70 to 90 miles from Nazareth to Jerusalem. When they arrive they find no room in the inn, so they must walk around back to the stable. The angels travel whatever the distance is from heaven to earth in order to announce “the Good News of Great Joy for all people that our Savior is born.” Shepherds will leave their fields and guided by moonlight and lanterns hunt for the newborn king. The shepherds return home praising and glorifying God. Mary and Joseph carry an eight day old Jesus six miles from Bethlehem to Jerusalem to name him within the Temple! The Magi travel hundreds of miles from the East to make an offering to the newborn Prince of Peace.

How far will we travel this Christmas? What is keeping our Christmas destination just out of reach? Will we leave behind fields, flocks, fears, failings, cozy camps, proud palaces, or preconception of precious stuff so that we might bow before the feedbox throne where God lavished love on the world? Will we follow a star on a too-long journey, past a dangerous deposit, simply to bow low, laying our treasures before our Savior? Are we pilgrims willing to jettison our possessions and distractions and give our undivided worship to the One who alone gives us peace beyond our understanding, love exceeding our shame and sin, hope driving back our deepest fears, and joy exceeding our expectations? Most people in Bethlehem missed the first Christmas! Will you make the not-so-easy spiritual journey? Will you seek first the Kingdom of God? Come, let us leave our pretty wrapping papers, overstuffed stockings, wonderful aromas, and holiday bowls, and instead travel together to the manger, unwrapping hope, love, joy, and peace!

On Christmas Eve, we offer three wonderfully different services. At 10 a.m. is our modern worship experience in our First Light worship area with our praise band and screens. At 6 p.m. our Halos children’s choir will begin our candlelight communion service in our Historic Sanctuary. At 10:30 p.m. we begin a service of lessons, carols, special music, and candlelight communion with a selection of special Christmas music; we conclude this beautiful reflective service just before midnight.

On Christmas Day, we will worship at 11 a.m. in the historic sanctuary in a relaxed festive service. We welcome you to come in your PJ’s, jeans, kerchiefs and caps, or carrying a new toy! Come let us worship the Lord!

*Grace and Love,  
Pastor Paul*

**\*\*\*There will be no newsletter next week.\*\*\***

# Senior VIBES

## Ongoing Events...

### Adult Art Group

Will not be meeting in the month of December



### Knitting Group

Will not be meeting in the month of December



## Coming Events...

**January 10th** – Basket Weaving (limited to 8): see sign-up list on board

**February 19th** – Senior Adult Valentine Luncheon

(I know it seems early, but committees need to be formed to make this event a success. Please see sign-up on Senior Board.)

Please check our prayer list in the newsletter and on the church's white board outside the office. Help the staff stay in touch! If you have knowledge of any of our Senior Adult Members who would like to be remembered in prayer or would like a visit from our pastoral staff, please do not hesitate to let us know. Also, we acknowledge birthdays of Senior Adult Members weekly in the newsletter; if you would like to be added to the list give me a call (Esther: 455-5434).

## Senior Ministry—Esther J. Sims

Thought of the Week: *“Let’s allow the joy of Christ’s birth to be reflected on our faces and heard in our glad singing of praises to Him all through this Christmas season.”*

*Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all of you!*

### Happy Birthday!!!

<b>December 20</b>	<b>Patty Gadeken</b>	<b>December 30</b>	<b>Joanne Robertson</b>
<b>20</b>	<b>RE Alexander</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>Brac Thoma</b>
<b>21</b>	<b>Carl Ledbetter</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>Cathy Diller</b>
<b>25</b>	<b>Dewitt Cox</b>	<b>January 2</b>	<b>Jerry Mathis</b>
<b>27</b>	<b>Marty Bond</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>Nancy Washburn</b>
<b>27</b>	<b>Amanda Kaupp</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>Debbie Brown</b>
<b>27</b>	<b>Shirley Miller</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>Margaret Collinsworth</b>
<b>30</b>	<b>Mary Jackson</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>Arej Jean Barton</b>

## Youth Ministry—Theresa Johnson

Hey everyone,

I hope you're all having a fantastic Christmas break so far! We had a great turnout for our Saturday of Service at our Henry Center with about 10 youth serving. They were a HUGE help getting things ready in our food pantry and in our clothes closet. We also had a great time at Casa Mexico for lunch after helping at the Henry Center. Then Sunday we had an awesome time at our Christmas party caroling to some of our shut-ins, then at our host homes for food and gift exchange. Thank you so much to the Purdue's, Graddy's, and Cindy Prebola and Michelle Anderson for chaperoning, as well as George for driving the bus.



### Upcoming events:

- Youth seeing Rogue One at Tullahoma theatre on Wednesday, December 21st. Drop off at theatre at 11:45 a.m. Pick up at theatre around 2:30 p.m.
- Wednesday night youth group resumes on January 4th.
- Ski Trip January 13th-16th (average cost \$330. \$150 deposit due now. We still have a few slots left!)
- Warmth in Winter January 27th-29th (\$155 per person. \$50 deposit due Dec. 30th. Final payment due January 4th.)

To be added to our youth text group, text "youth" to the number 931-452-4747. I hope everyone has a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Peace in Christ,

Theresa (theresajfumc@lighttube.net or 931-224-8864)

## First Light & Outreach Ministry—Jeff Harrison



Hey Everyone,

I want to personally wish all of you a very Merry Christmas. It is my prayer that God richly bless you in 2017. My hope and prayer is that we see an explosion of God's presence and power in the coming year. In Matthew and Luke, Jesus says, the harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. We have a great opportunity to be co-laborers in the work of God's kingdom here in Tullahoma. Can we work harder in 2017 to bring in the harvest? Can we recruit some new workers? Will God bless all of our efforts in the coming year? The answer to all of those questions is YES! I hope you have a wonderful Christmas and look forward to working with you in the coming year.

*In Christ,  
Jeff*

## Children's Ministry—Julie Uehlein



On Sunday, Dawn Utley completed her last Sunday School class as the Pre-K teacher after 32 years. Dawn has been an amazing blessing to the many children and parents thru the years and will be greatly missed.

During Sunday School, Pastor Paul treated the children to a reading of the birth of Jesus. It is always a treat and delight to the children when the pastor visits. We are so thankful for you, Pastor Paul!!



During Sunday School and Children's Church, the children visited the Nativity museum in the basement. What a beautiful sight to see the faces of the children and their awe of the beauty.

Join us on Christmas morning at the unified 11 a.m. service in the Sanctuary; wear your PJ's! I will have something special to give the children in attendance.

I am so thankful for all of our families and children. Prayers and blessings to you all and may you have a very, Merry CHRISTmas.



**Sunday, December**

**25th**

**Nursery Hours**

10:45 a.m. - 12 noon

**No Sunday School**

**Save the Date**

**December 24th**

6 p.m. Halos perform

*Jesus said, "Let the Little Children come to me and do not hinder them for the Kingdom of God belongs to such as these"*  
**Mark 10:14-1**

*Partnering WITH You,  
 Miss Julie*

## Mission Moment—Holt Cason



Over the past dozen years our church has sent VIM teams to Liepa, Latvia to work at the HOPE Center, a home for teenage girls and their new babies. Today, the Center is struggling. Black mold is beginning to affect the babies and mothers. The problem has been identified as faulty roof construction that needs to be repaired. A fire exit must be installed on the second floor. Much of the furniture needs to be replaced after 8 years of constant usage. We cannot remedy all these problems at once, but we can raise \$4-5 thousand dollars to replace the furniture and give these babies a better place to live. Please consider giving thru Renee, to the HOPE CENTER FURNITURE FUND.

## Henry Center—Theresa Johnson



Hey everyone,

We had a great experience with our open Saturday hours last weekend. We had about 10 of our youth help out and probably around 20 other volunteers from the church. The Henry Center will be closed the week of December 26-30. Everyone also please remember our Christmas Eve Communion offering for our Henry Center. This offering is always a big source of financial support for the great work we do in the name of our Lord for our community. We also have a great need for volunteers in both our clothes closet and food pantry on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons as well as our every other Monday morning for our Aldi's food pick up. Please contact me if you have questions or can help in any way. Thanks so much, and Merry Christmas.

Peace in Christ,

Theresa (theresajfumc@lighttube.net or 931-224-8864)

## Trustees—Bill Bates

We have a need for Bus drivers. At present we have only three, and availability is sometimes an issue. Drivers must be at least 25 and no more than 75 (unless otherwise approved). A Commercial Drivers License is required to drive the bus (but not the van). If you know of someone who has an interest, please contact me or Mandy in the church office for a complete copy of our Transportation Policy.

**Worship Attendance (Dec. 18th)**

8:00 a.m. 59  
 First Light 94  
 11:00 a.m. 105  
**Total 258**

Sunday School 72

**Dossett Chapel Wednesday 62**

**Offering Counters (Dec. 25th)**

Jim & Helen McClure  
 Mike & Jan Dent

**Greeters/Welcome Teams (December 25th)**

Lynn Cason  
 Ross Roepke  
 Rosemary Crabtree  
 Claire Bobo  
 Elaine Kohl

**Keeping In Prayers**

Elise Walker (daughter of LE & Judy Wright)	Billy Roy Murray (Nancy Wright's family)	Mario Braston (friend of Bertha Smith)
Jimmye Lou Smith	Leon Smith	Walter Glazener (friend of Evelyn Childers)
Joe Henry	Don Bond	Anthony Robinson, Scott Dowling & Mary Lundy (family of Wilma Finchum)
RE Alexander	Joyce Mathis	
William F. Johnson (friend of the Cook family)	Ed & Bobbie Prater (brother & sister-in-law of Bob Prater)	
Forrest Frame		

*Please keep **Rusty Williamson** and his family in your thoughts and prayers. His father passed away on December 4th. A Celebration of Life service was held December 19th in Memphis, TN.*

*Please keep the family and friends of **Mrs. Irene Mason** in your thoughts and prayers. Mrs. Mason passed away Sunday, December 18th. Services were held Wednesday, December 21st.*

Thank you so much to our congregation for your generosity and all of your help with our *Angel Tree*. It was very much appreciated!

**Save the Date!**

Sunday, January 1st, 2017 at 2 p.m. we will be taking down the Christmas decorations in the Sanctuary. We would love for you to join us!

**Connect****Senior Pastor**

Administrative Assistant  
 First Light/Outreach Ministry  
 Interim Dir. of Ministry w/ Youth  
 Children's Ministry  
 Senior's Ministry  
 Henry Center Ministry  
 Dossett Chapel  
 Organist and Accompanist  
 Music Director  
 Music Ministry (First Light)  
 Financial Secretary  
 Facilitator  
 Stephen Ministries

**931.455.5434****Pastor Paul Purdue**

Mandy White  
 Jeff Harrison  
 Theresa Johnson  
 Julie Uehlein  
 Esther J. Sims  
 Theresa Johnson  
 Jim Carter  
 Michelle Anderson  
 Doug Clark  
 John Cook  
 Renee Evans  
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