9:00 A.M. ORDER OF WORSHIP

Song Leader – Tom Ritchie
Welcome – Nick McNabb
Song – Hark! The Herald Angels Sing
Song – Joy to the World
Song – O Come, All Ye Faithful
Prayer – Kent Giboney
Scripture – Luke 2:4-14 – Dale Manor
Song – One Day
Communion & Offering – Bruce McLarty
Song – Why Did My Savior Come to Earth?
"Why Did Our Savior Come to Earth?" – Noel Whitlock
Song – Angels We Have Heard on High
Shepherd's Prayer – Glen Metheny

HOLIDAY SCHEDULE

There will be ONE 9:00 a.m. service through January 10. Bible class will be at 10:15 a.m.

Wednesday, December 23: NO Bible class
Sunday, December 27: ONE 9:00 a.m. service; NO Bible class
Wednesday, December 30: NO Bible class

Due to the holidays, there will not be a church bulletin on December 27 and January 3.

LAST WEEK

12/13/2020:
9:00 Worship— 323
Bible Classes —233/ Children's Worship — dismissed
Worship 5:00 p.m. — 93/ Worship 7:15 p.m. —dismissed

FINANCES

Budget for 12/13/2020.....$45,352.00
Giving for 12/13/2020.....$47,382.62
Budget through Week 15.....$704,872.00
Giving through Week 15.....$672,433.77

CONTACT INFORMATION

Office Hours: 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. M-F
Closed daily 12-1 p.m. for lunch
712 E Race Ave, HU Box 10798
Searcy, AR 72143
www.collegechurchofchrist.org
ccoc@collegechurchofchrist.org
or elders@collegechurchofchrist.org
501-268-7156 FAX: 501-268-2684
College/Community Outreach 268-4191
Bulletin Deadline - NOON, THURSDAYS

December 20, 2020

COLLEGE
CHURCH OF CHRIST

Intentionally connected to God, His Word, His world, and to each other.

Glimpses of God at Christmas

Sometimes we plan and are disappointed. I never got the red cowgirl suit, tasseled majorette boots, or Hoppity Horse for Christmas, even though I circled them repeatedly in the Sears *Wishbook* 1972 AND 73 editions.

Sometimes you plan a wedding, graduation, or trip, and a pandemic comes along. The unexpected happens.

Maybe you are a young, sweet Jewish girl who is engaged, and God tells you that you will have a baby before you are even married. I imagine this was not the way Mary envisioned motherhood. It was a time of social unrest, uncertainty, and economic depression. Sound familiar? Why would anyone bring a baby into the midst of chaos?

I'm sure the manger scene was not pretty or sterile. No one on emergency labor-and-delivery duty at the stable that night. No mother, grandma, or midwife. No nurses to relieve pain or clean up, no church ladies to bring food. This young couple may have been overwhelmed, or even terrified.

Yet they weren't alone. God was there—Emmanuel, God with us in the form of a tiny baby. In the midst of a dark stable, a light came. He came into a messy, stressful, chaotic world. God doesn't mind the messy; He was born into it.

Many this time of year are looking for a glimpse of God. Sometimes we look in the wrong place. Would anyone have thought to look in a feeding trough for God? Yet He is right in front of us in unexpected places. God does that. He shows up in the middle of chaos, in a stable, a storm, a pandemic. During hard things, there are blessings to find. There are always glimpses of God, and maybe where you wouldn't expect.

Christmas is not all presents and family, especially this year when we may be apart. Look for ways to help and shine in your small corner. Even the tiniest light brightens a dark room. YOU may be the glimpse of God someone is looking for.

Maybe this year hasn't been what you expected. God takes our disappointments and shattered dreams and puts them back together in HIS time. Sometimes when things are darkest, God shines the brightest. In the meantime, we trust: "I watch in hope for the LORD, I wait for God my Savior; my God will hear me" (Micah 7:7).

Cheryl White

NOEL'S NOTES

2020, the toughest and most challenging year in recent memory, is almost over. Can I get an Amen?!

Back in mid-March, none of us could have imagined the disruption the virus would cause to our jobs, schools, churches and daily lives. We pray the new vaccine will be effective, and we can all worship together in person soon. In the meantime, we thank God for our members who have recovered from Covid and ask His blessings on those who may still be infected.

Despite cancellations and postponements, we experienced some significant victories in 2020! His House and Caring-and-Sharing managed to get some food and clothing to Searcy residents. Great Commission Sunday was truly a triumph for evangelism. The Coat Drive kept hundreds warmer this winter, and the Holiday Gift Outreach helped dozens of families have a merry Christmas. And this partial list does not begin to cover all our ministries or the many private acts of charity from our members. Thank you for living as true disciples of Jesus!

As a minister, I am often asked to comfort others. In **Lael's** time of need, you all have been there to comfort us. I thank those who prayed for her and me and continue to do so. We treasure every card, Facebook message, text and email. Thankfully, she received a good report from the Mayo Clinic. It will take time, but she is on the mend. Thank you for loving our family.

As the New Year approaches, we have a chance to renew our commitment to reading God's Word. Located on the front tables in the auditorium and in the Welcome Center, you will find Daily-Bible-Reading Schedules, by our own **Dale Manor**. Our shepherds always encourage us to make God's Word a part of our weekly routine. The most reliable spiritual road map for our families is the Bible. Don't allow it to become merely a symbol or relic. Pick up your copy of the 2021 reading schedule and make the Word part of the daily fabric of your lives.

On behalf of the church office staff and ministry team, I want to wish each of you a very happy holiday season and a whole lot more fun in 2021! God has been so good to this church, and this church has been particularly good to our families. We give thanks daily for each of you! May God richly bless your lives in the New Year!

OFFICE HOURS

The church office will be closed Thursday, December 24-Friday, January 1.



PRAYER & PRAISE

Prayers:
Ernie Clifton; Sarah Cobb; Johnice Hearn; **Carolyn Kenney**; **LaNelle Stamps**; **Lael Whitlock.**

Sympathy:
Margaret Parker, mother of **Peggy Heusel**, passed away Sunday, December 13. Services were Thursday, December 17, in Edmond, Oklahoma.

Angelyn Smith, sister of **Jan Britt**, passed away Tuesday, December 15, in Dexter, MO. There will be a private service.

Jo Yaeger, mother of **Cindy Curtis** and **Doug Yaeger**, grandmother of **Aaron Curtis**, passed away Wednesday, December 16. She formerly attended College church. There will be a family memorial at a later date.

New Baby:
Shawn & Mallory Turner announce the birth of a daughter, Reese Everlee Turner, born Tuesday, December 8, weighing 7 pounds and 13 ounces.

BABY SUNDAY

We will have Baby Sunday on January 3 to pray for our children born in 2019-2020. If you would like for your child to be included, but have not been contacted, please email **Kerri Behel** at behelfamily@yahoo.com.

DIRECTORY UPDATE

Moved in town: Jean Waldrop, 414 Crain Drive.

CARING & SHARING

Our weekly Caring-and-Sharing meal is postponed until after the first of the year.

HIS HOUSE

His House needs blankets and towels.

HOLIDAY GIFT OUTREACH





The generosity it takes for Holiday Gift Outreach to happen is on display in the above photos: a representative of Riser-Harness Ford delivers one of the dozens of bikes they donated to The Original Rock House this year, and two College Church members, **Anna Grace Glenn** (left) and **Makenna Oliver** (right), pose with children's gifts they bought with money donated to HGO.

Pictured below is HGO recipient Cameron, holding on to one of the gifts delivered by his sponsoring College Church family. Judging by the faces in these three photos, you might conclude that it really is more blessed to give than receive! But take our word for it—Cam was happy, just a little intimidated by the camera and the masked man using it.



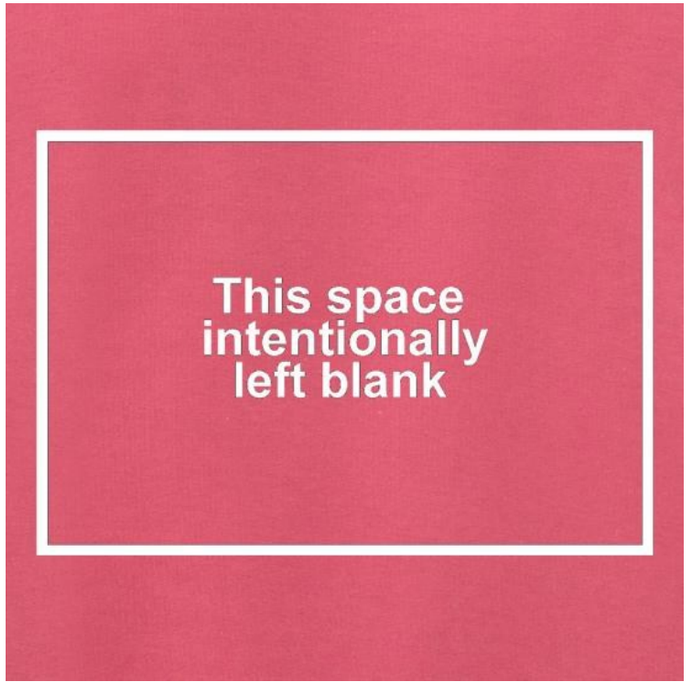
It's nice to know that, thanks to The Original Rock House and our donors, Cameron and 214 other children will have a reason to smile on Christmas morning!

FAMILY CONCERNS

Briarwood Nursing & Rehab: **Ellen Brown** 104.
The House of Three: LR: **Bill Diles**.
The Crossing at Riverside: **Mable Carpenter** 309; **Louise Ganus**; **Eloise Muncy** 212B; **Joe Hurd's** mother, Patsy Hurd 216A; **Sharon Manor's** father, Harvie Reynolds 105; **Sharon Manor's** mother, Opal Reynolds 114.
Oakdale: **Carolyn Boutell** 117; **Rick Boutell** 117.
Providence: **Laura Smith** 308.
Searcy Healthcare: **Clarene Keesling** 82.
Hickory Heights: LR: **Larry Heusel**

5:00 P.M. ORDER OF WORSHIP

Song Leaders – Will Francis & David Cole
Welcome – Noel Whitlock
Song – You Are Holy
Song – Peace, Perfect Peace
Prayer – Milo Hadwin
Scripture – Isaiah 9:2-7 – Harry Riggs
Song – It Came Upon a Midnight Clear
Song – God Himself is With Us
"Prince of Peace" – Noel Whitlock
Song – It is Well With My Soul
Song – To Us a Child of Hope is Born
Noel Whitlock
Song – In His Presence
Song – Wonderful
Song – Praise the Name of Jesus
Noel Whitlock
Song – Blessed Assurance
Noel Whitlock
Song – Prince of Peace, Control My Will
Song – Savior Grant Me Rest and Peace
(Lord's Supper is served in Room 100)
Song – The Lord Bless You and Keep You
Prayer – Bob Diles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