



"We believe a Great Commitment to the Great Commandment and the Great Commission will grow a Great Church"

Inside this issue:

A Note from our Pastor	1
The Body of Christ	1
Worship Ministry	3
Birthdays	4
Ministries	4

**Christmas Day Service
Sunday, December 25**

What a special occasion to have Christmas Day on Sunday! May we rejoice and celebrate our Savior's birth! We will have the Lord's Supper and a special service December 25th. Merry Christmas!

WCC Cookbooks

Our WCC Cookbooks are now available for only \$10 each. Consider buying a few for your family and friends. They make a great Christmas gift. All proceeds benefit the Children's Ministry. Thank you!

As always, if you would like to have the newsletter sent to you via email, please send a request to davidjoyner@bellsouth.net.

A Note from our Pastor

Dear Church Family,

"It was just like a scene from a snow globe," said Amy, who was being interviewed by the NEW YORK DAILY NEWS. "All of a sudden he was on one knee with this ring asking me to marry him. How do you say no when people are staring at you and someone is on their knee in Central Park?"



Amy was one of several women mentioned in the article, but the headline gave the rest of the story: "THE BREAK-UP: WHAT TO DO WHEN YOU CALL OFF YOUR WEDDING." Amy's brief snow-globe moment was shattered a decade ago, but talking about it still brings tears to her eyes. Her memories are still fragile.

A British paper used a similar quote describing a traffic accident in which a motor home collided with a train. A 71-year-old

man, who had been a professional driver before he retired, faced a split-second decision when the brakes on his vehicle failed while approaching a railroad crossing. A car was stopped at the tracks, and the man realized if he hit the car he'd send it into the path of the train. He veered to the side and slammed into the train himself. Though injured, he survived and is recovering. His daughter, inspecting the wreckage, told the newspaper, "It looked like the whole motor home had been picked up and shaken like a snow globe."

Our lives are full of snow-globe moments, but they're not always picture perfect. Life is fragile, and sometimes things get shaken up, damaged, or broken. Though remarkably tough, snow globes aren't indestructible. They're usually made of glass with a base of wood, metal, or resin, and are filled with distilled water around a delicate scene. Drop one on a carpeted floor and it will probably survive. Drop it on the brick hearth

Continued on page 2...

The Body Of Christ...

by Vivian England

*"Together you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of that body."
1 Corinthians 12:27*

Meet BJ and Tammi Phillips, a brother and sister in Christ.

BJ was born in Memphis, but grew up in Oakland, Tennessee. He attended Oakland Elementary School from Kindergarten until the second half of his sixth grade year. He then transferred to Fayette Academy and finished his sixth grade year through the twelfth grade. During high school, BJ loved football, baseball, and track. He was a member of the First Baptist Church of Oakland. He was, also, a member of Pride Performing, a youth group for Sobriety Against Drugs and Alcohol. After



graduating from Fayette Academy, he attended Tennessee Tech for one semester. He worked for Walker Machine; and then, went to work for Oakland Concrete where he worked

Continued on page 2...

A Note from our Pastor (...continued from page 1)

and it may shatter. In any event, they're not for playing catch.

In the same way, our globe is pretty tough, but not unbreakable. I can't think of a Christmas season in which I've felt more apprehension about the state of our world. Having preached the series of sermons recently called "WOULD YOU HAVE EVER BELIEVED?", I can't help but notice every downturn of the global economy, every uprising of an Arab state, every new sign that our world is sliding into secularism like a sled down an icy mountain.

Theologian Frederick Buechner observed, "There is no doubt that the world is fragile...The return of chaos is a perpetual possibility. There is always another holocaust getting ready to blaze up. There is always another Ivan the Terrible or Idi Amin or Saddam Hussein waiting in the wings. The missiles are always in their silos needing only the push of the wrong finger on the right button to unleash the unthinkable."

What's true of the globe is paralleled in our personal worlds. Broken engagements. Car wrecks. A thousand cracks.

Body of Christ (...continued from page 1)

for the next ten years. He now works for NES Rentals. BJ is now the head football coach for West Junior High, which happened to win their first Football game in over five years, this year.

At the tent revival in Oakland, BJ heard the call of the Lord as the minister spoke the words of Isaiah (Isaiah 6:8), "Here am I, send me." BJ is currently attending Belhaven University working on his Bachelor of Arts degree in Biblical Studies. When his education is completed, he plans to become a Pastor. Even now, BJ has preached the Gospel at several small churches. He has also had the opportunity to lead chapel at Rossville Christian Academy.

Tammi was born in Memphis, but grew up in Bartlett, Tennessee. She attended Bartlett Elementary School and high school at First Assembly Christian School. She loved to play volleyball, softball, and basketball, but her first love was cheerleading. She served as Class President her sophomore, junior, and senior years

Jagged glass. This fragility is especially apparent at Christmas with all its activities and emotions. Perhaps you're suffering some stress fracture now. Maybe a few cracks are showing up in your world.

We're living in a fragile world, but we have a faithful God. The word "faithful" means He is utterly trustworthy in maintaining His consistency and keeping His Word. That's the great lesson of Christmas as it relates to God's character. In the O.T. God promised to send a Redeemer, a descendant of Abraham and David, who would enter the world in Bethlehem in the fullness of time by means of the virgin birth. Each of these prophecies – and many more – were fulfilled in exacting detail.

We're told the Messiah would be the Rock of Ages, left for us – the stone the builders rejected, the chief cornerstone (Psalm 118:22), a precious cornerstone (Isaiah 28:16), a living stone (1 Peter 2:4-5), a tried stone (Isaiah 28:16), a stone cut without hands (Daniel 2:45), and a rock of refuge for His people (Psalm 94:22). There's nothing fragile about a stone and there's

nothing weak about people who say: "On Christ the solid rock I stand."

The fulfilled promises of Christmas should remind us that we are not forgotten; we're under His care and He loves us. If we feel depressed during the holidays, if loved ones can't join us, if we haven't the means to purchase the gifts we long to give – the Lord knows all about it. It doesn't diminish His presence or provision.

I like the way Samuel Medley put it on his deathbed. Medley was an eighteenth-century British pastor and hymnist who spent much of his ministry in Liverpool. His health failed in 1799, and he took to his deathbed. Friends came calling somberly and sadly. But Medley greeted them with these cheerful words:

"You see me now on my dying bed; and a sweet bed it is to me. What mercies am I enjoying it! Thanks be to God, I have now little or no pain. What blessings I have in my family! All my eight children are a comfort to me. I am full of comfort and consolations, and able yet to recollect God's precious Word. The promises are like an army of sol-

Continued on page 3...

band. Skylar is a cheerleader. Ian, 11, attends West Junior High and plays football. The family has a cabin at luka, Mississippi and love to spend time on the water. The family's favorite trip was to Disneyworld four years ago and they are saving up to go again sometime in the near future.

BJ and Tammi are very involved in ministry at WCC. They currently help lead the Student Ministry. BJ coaches basketball every year. Tammi coaches cheerleading and sings on the Praise Team. The whole family participated in Judgement House this year.

When asked what they love about Warren Community Church, they stated they love to hear Brother Ken preach the Word and are thrilled that their children love the Church.

Until next time.....

Vivian England

WORSHIP MINISTRY

“What does it really mean...?”

Dear Friends,

As Thanksgiving approached this year, my mind drifted to the many wonderful childhood memories that surround this holiday. We as a family would celebrate together first at the Wednesday night service, then we would get together on Thursday either at Grandma's house or my folks' house. No school on Thursday or Friday was always really sweet. The really cool thing for me was that I got to celebrate this holiday twice! You see, the little Baptist church that I was raised in was very German. Germans celebrate their version of Thanksgiving nearly two months earlier. It's called "Erntedankfest", which literally translated means harvest-thanks-fest. It's primarily a religious observation by all the churches in Germany, not the big huge national holiday like here in the US. Every year on the first Sunday in October, we as a bunch of German Baptist Churches in the Milwaukee area (some from even as far as Chicago) would get together and celebrate with great music, great messages, and of course, great FOOD! Every year I remember the huge cornucopia of fresh produce & goodies set up in front of the pulpit. I have to be honest here, for a moment; I don't remember much from the messages (sorry, Brother Ken!)

because, along with the visual distraction in front of the pulpit, was this incredible aroma of dinner wafting into the sanctuary from the fellowship hall... hard to concentrate, to say the least! I remember bonfires & church-wide tackle football games, and some years sledding and ice-skating! Ah, memories...

I think people in general understand the concept of the Thanksgiving holiday: Gratefulness. Unfortunately, I feel that we as a nation have strayed a bunch from the original intent of this holiday, which is indeed gratefulness, but gratefulness to God!

"What are you truly thankful for this Thanksgiving?" is a question I often hear around this holiday. I think it's just as important to remember Whom we are thankful to! The scriptures exhort us to "enter His gates with thanksgiving (Ps 100:4), and to "by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. Just in my little study bible concordance alone thankfulness is referenced 28 times, all but one directed straight at God.

Dear Friends, this Thanksgiving let us not only be thankful for what we've been blessed with, but more specifically to God for all He's done!

**Count your many blessings, Name them one by one;
Count your many blessings, see what God hath done.**

Amen!

Gery the worship guy!!

A Note from our Pastor (...continued from page 2)

diers; when I have finished with one, another presents itself. The doctrines I have preached; I am full persuaded, are of the truth. They are now the support and consolation of my mind."

Philippians 4:6-7 says: "Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus."

The word "guard" is translated from a Greek military term meaning to protect as with soldiers. Think of God's promises as a legion of soldiers sent to guard and protect your mind from anxious thoughts. When we have benefited from one, another presents itself. These troops never tire. Never fall asleep while on guard duty. Never lose their nerve. Never flee in battle.

God's promises are untiring, unending, innumerable soldiers. Each is equipped

for a special task and there's a promise for every worry you harbor and for every need you face. The fulfillment of Messianic prophecy at our Lord's birth is a sign of God's faithfulness to all His promises. And that's why we can stand on a solid rock in a fragile world.

I like to think of Christmas as commemorating the time Jesus endured a human birth to give us a spiritual birth. He occupied a stable so we could occupy a mansion. Christmas is Jesus having an earthly mother to give us a Heavenly Father. He became a slave that we could be free. He was welcomed at His birth by shepherds so we could be welcomed by angels at our death. He came down so we could go up.

Recently the Mayor of snowy Milwaukee had an important announcement to make about a city-wide winter event. Organizers created a giant snow globe on the stage. It was a clear plastic bubble about twelve feet tall, attached to a blue base and pumped full of air. Two

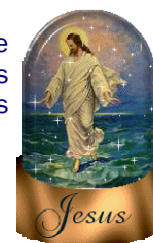
Christmas trees were inside against a snowy backdrop. On one side was a carefully sealed entrance. When the Mayor and his associates stepped into the snow globe, it looked for all the world like they were in a winter wonderland. The announcement was festive and memorable - and thankfully no vandal showed up to puncture the scene.

I hope your Christmas is so wonderful this year that it's like living in a snow globe. But if there are some cracks, fractures, punctures, or shakeups, remember: Christ is with you in your world! He has stepped into your earthly sphere. He came as promised, and His promises never fail.

Rest in Him. Find peace in Him. And celebrate His love as you celebrate His birth.

Acts 4:12

Ken



Please deliver to:

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- 3 Christina Deeken
- 4 Janice Campbell
- 10 Caleb Malone
- 11 Joey Barton
- 13 Donna Feathers
Caitlyn Patrick
- 15 Rebecca Griffith
- 16 Lori Graves
Jenna Roland
- 18 Ola Joyner
- 22 Zach Anderson
- 27 Maggie Barton
- 29 Brian Culver
- 30 Andrea Baker
- 31 Barbara Sartin



CHURCH MINISTRIES

SUNDAYS

Adult Bible Study9:00 a.m.
 Fellowship/Coffee9:30 a.m.
 Worship Service..... 10:00 a.m.
 Youth Ministry.....6:00 p.m.
 Women's Bible Study6:00 p.m.
 Men's Bible Study6:00 p.m.

TUESDAYS

Women's Bible Study6:00 p.m.

WEDNESDAYS

Youth Ministry.....6:00 p.m.
 Family Bible Study.....6:00 p.m.
 ("Connection" Bible Studies located at various homes. Please see Pastor Ken for information regarding the "Connection" Bible Studies)

THURSDAYS

Music Ministries6:30 p.m.
 (Active Worship Band, Praise Team and Praise Power Choir Rehearsal)

DISCIPLESHIP

C.L.A.S.S.-Christian Life And Services Seminars

C.L.A.S.S. 101

Discovering Church Membership

C.L.A.S.S. 201

Discovering My Maturity

C.L.A.S.S. 301

Discovering My Ministry

C.L.A.S.S. 401

Discovering My Mission

If class is scheduled for two nights, you must attend both nights to complete the course. Please see Pastor Ken for information about signing up.

Can Collection

We are collecting cans as a fundraiser to support our Children & Student Ministries.

Please save your cans and deliver to the storage building located behind the church.

Should you have any questions, you may contact Claude Lundy 465-0056.



SR. PASTOR

Dr. Kenneth Culver, Sr.

PRAISE & WORSHIP MINISTRY

Gery Niess, Leader

STUDENT MINISTRY

Wayne Craig, Student Pastor

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

Michaelee Price, Leader

WE'RE ON THE WEB!

Look us up at :

www.warrencommunitychurch.org

