

**FROM THE PASTOR'S PEN .....**

The year is half over so we should look ahead to our March to the Manger. This has become a very important way to celebrate the "Spirit of Christmas." To make the most of the event, we need to have plans on how we will determine the size of the gift to Jesus and how we will go about it. Some will match a month's offering. Others might find other things they do to put back a significant amount. Perhaps you want to eat out less and give that money as a gift. How about giving up some of your soft drinks during the year? The spiritual blessing is directly related to the thought and actions you take.

Remember, we will place our gift in a white envelope or wrap it in white paper. This symbolizes the purity of Christ and our victory through him. After your gift is wrapped, tie a red ribbon or bow on it to symbolize the blood shed for our sins.

On a Sunday near Christmas, we will have our "March to the Manger" during our worship. Those who have experienced this often talk about how inspiring the process is. It is like the icing on the Christmas birthday cake.

Pastor Larry

**MEN'S GROUP**

Men's Group will meet on Monday, August 5, at 6:30p.m. We will continue our study of Genesis, beginning with Genesis 28. Attendees may want to study two or three

chapters so you are fully prepared. All men of the church are invited to attend.

**OUTREACH/MISSIONS**

In July, Missions collected 72 rolls of paper towels for the Smithville Food Pantry. The August collection for the pantry is toothpaste and toothbrushes.

The Missions Committee truly appreciates everyone's continued support of these mission projects. If you have questions or suggestions regarding missions and outreach, please contact Linda East or a member of the committee.

**AUGUST MESSAGES**

The August worship messages are as follows:

August 4 (Pastor Judy) - **"Turn, Turn, Turn"** from Ecclesiastes 1:1-11;

August 11 (Pastor Larry) - **"What is Faith?"** from Hebrews 11:1-3, 8-16;

August 18 (Pastor Judy) - **"The Unshakable Essentials"** from Hebrews 12:18-29; and

August 25 (Pastor Larry) - **"Tear Down and Build Up"** from Jeremiah 1:4-10.

**SUNDAY SCHOOL**

Here is the schedule for the month of August:

August 4 – Welcome breakfast for Pastor Judy & Ed Frost

August 11 – Fellowship Sunday

August 18 – James Moore study

August 25 – James Moore study

## **ICE CREAM SOCIAL**

Homemade ice cream!! Come take a break from the heat at the annual Ice Cream Social on Sunday, August 25, at 4:00p.m. All are welcome and it is a great time to bring a friend or neighbor. Sign-up sheets are at the back of the sanctuary for anyone who would like to bring homemade ice cream or a dessert. A free-will offering will be taken during the ice cream social and the proceeds will be donated to the Smithville Meals on Wheels program.

## **FISH FRY/SILENT AUCTION**

This year's Fish Fry and Silent Auction are scheduled for Saturday, September 21, from 5:00 to 7:00p.m. at the church. The committee, which consists thus far of Shay East, Rick Lincoln, the Walters, the Roes, the Heilmans, Mona VanWey, and Rebecca Wohlford, has already met to start making plans for the event.

If you are interested in serving on the committee, please plan to attend the next meeting, which is scheduled for Sunday, August 11, during the fellowship hour. A number of volunteers are also going to be needed the day of the event to help set up, serve food, assist with the silent auction, and clean up.

Tickets, which will cover the cost of your meal, are \$8 for adults and anyone over the age of 9. The menu this year includes fried fish, chicken, hot dogs, potato salad, cole slaw, baked beans, corn muffins, chips, and homemade desserts. Tickets should be available to purchase and/or sell shortly after the next committee meeting.

The committee needs your help in donating items for the silent auction. The items should

be new or in excellent condition. Examples of items donated in the past include a flat screen television, rocking chair, shotgun and rifle, high tech jumper cables, and gift baskets. If you have items to donate, please bring them to the church by the end of August or, if you need assistance with getting the items to the church, please see Shay or Rick. Any questions regarding the silent auction should be directed to Rick.

## **WHEELCHAIR**

The church is in need of a wheelchair to occasionally assist individuals who attend our services. If you or someone you know has a wheelchair they would be willing to donate to the church, please advise one of the pastors or Shay East.

## **MONTHLY REPORT**

The Monthly Report as of July 31, 2012, is as follows:

Beginning Balance:	\$11,143.08
Offerings:	+\$3,795.01
Expenses:	-\$4,455.77
Ending Balance:	\$10,482.32