Mark’s Mark... Watching for the Strugglers

The United States Coast Guard Search and Rescue recently identified five characteristics of a drowning person. These characteristics are probably not as obvious as you might think.

1. Drowning people rarely scream for help. They are more focused on breathing than yelling.

2. Drowning people can only keep their heads above water for short periods of time.

3. Drowning people can’t wave for help. Their arms are busy trying to keep their heads above water.

4. Drowning people are physically unable to move toward a rescuer or to grab rescue equipment.

5. Drowning people can usually only struggle above water for 20-60 seconds before sinking out of sight.

So what does a drowning victim have to do with the church? Every day there are people in our congregations who are quietly drowning in troubles. We focus on the baptisms, the new people placing membership and people having babies and don’t recognize the people who slowly slip away from the church. Their burdens drag them down, and we hardly hear a whimper. Church leaders and Bible school teachers just look around one day and notice that the strugglers are missing. “Why didn’t they let someone know they were hurting or in trouble?” Drowning people simply can’t muster the strength to yell for help.

Just as potential drowning victims depend on watchful parents, friends, or a lifeguard, people in trouble at church need the watchful vigilance of others in order to survive. Once they slip beneath the waters of life’s storms, they are rarely recovered alive. As our “brother’s keepers,” Christians are responsible for keeping a watchful eye on our section of life’s beach. Souls depend on us.

Our Vision: Striving to be the Hands of Jesus

Our Values: Worship, Spiritual Growth, Edification, Christian Living, Outreach, Benevolence
PRAYERS

Regarding the Sick

Sue Cope is now home from the nursing home and would like to have people sit with her. If you can help, please let her know.

Britt Holsenback will have his tonsils out Monday, December 22nd.

Walker Jones had eye surgery Friday, the 19th, at Vanderbilt.

Joshua Phillips, infant nephew of Scott Phillips, is in critical condition at Vanderbilt.

Florence Robertson is in Baptist Health Room 465 with the flu and pneumonia.

Gerry Scott is in Parkview Nursing and Rehab. Cards can be mailed to Room 1008 Bed 2, 544 Lone Oak Rd. Paducah, KY 42003.

Continue to remember: Gerald, Dorothy & Sandy Bean, Steve Bennett, Ryan Bohannon, Larry Brummett, Glen Burse, Sue Cope, Wilma Darnell, Jerry Hancock, Mike Harrison, Bill Hicks, Barbara Holley, Pat Jarrett, Flo Jones, Irene Morgan, Betty Stevenson, Bobbie Travis, Joan Travis, Weldon Tyree, and Todd Walker.

Elders

Doug Lyles 527-9093
Sonny Rommelman 527-8956
Keith Travis 227-0253
Lonnie Woodruff 703-8161
Bob York 354-6891

Ministers

Mark Ray 270-703-1134 bentonspreacher@gmail.com
Travis Terrell 270-703-1332 sundropyouth@yahoo.com

Deacons

Adam Lyles 252-5525 5th Grade and Under
Brad Miller 527-5932 Middle School
Jared Morgan 577-8276 Foreign Mission
Jason Perry 906-5354 Prison Ministry
Luke Phillips 703-7681 5th Grade and Under
Scott Phillips 703-2227 Technology
Gerald Rainey 703-0465 Outside Grounds
Matt Ross 527-8705 Worship

Byron Rudd 527-1533 Sound
Phillip Rudd 527-3682 WITB Radio
Jerry Sells 527-1477 Library & Christian Scholarship
Paul Thurman 527-3773 Cemetery & Church Finance
Dennis Tucker 527-3948 Kitchen Supplies & Furniture
Don Walker 205-2096 Special Events
Cory Westerfield 437-3872 After School
NEWS & NOTES

The middle school Christmas party will be December 21st after evening worship at the Gunn's house. Please bring $5.

Church and Office Schedule for Holidays:

**Wednesday services** have been moved for the week of Christmas and the New Year. We will be having our mid-week services on Tuesday, December 23rd and Tuesday, December 30th. In addition, there will not be a bulletin either of those weeks. Please pay close attention to the December servers list.

Due to the holidays, the next **Wednesday night potluck** will be January 7th.

We will be taking a **mission trip to Lewistown, Montana**, June 29th-July 5th. If you would like to go, please call or email Jared Morgan by February 1st. A planning meeting is scheduled for early February.

**French African Christian Education** (F.A.C.E.) has hired **David Simmons** in the new position of Executive Director for the Advancement of F.A.C.E. David will be focused on development, fundraising, and sponsor communications in support of the Benin mission work. He will work alongside Ed Jones, who is the Executive Director for the Operations of the Bible Training Center (BTC). If you would like to learn more about the work in West Africa, please see David to discuss ways that you can get involved.

Thanks to **Don Walker** for his help with the blood drive!

Congratulations to **Paul Thurman** on his **retirement** from Heritage Bank!

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**On the Calendar**

**Sunday, December 21:**
- 9:00 Morning Worship
- 4:00 Elders/Deacons Meeting
- 5:00 Evening Worship

**Tuesday, December 23:**
- 6:30 Mid-week Services

**Birthdays**
- December 21: Jason Perry
- December 23: Larry Spears, Madeline Moss
- December 24: Blake Moss
- December 26: Betty Stevenson
- December 27: Audrey Grace Brown, Cindy Yates

**Anniversaries**
- December 22: Matt & Kim Ross, Lonnie & Sherry Woodruff
- December 23: Jeff & Christy Smith

**Care Crew**

December 22  Holiday Dinner Items
Please remember your pledge!

**Adult Classes**

**Sunday 10:00**
- Aud Hebrews
- Rm 51 Walking with God-Life Principles
- Rm 52 Romans
- Rm 35 New Converts

**Wednesday 6:30**
- Aud The Church in the Old Testament
- Rm 51 Between the Testaments
- Rm 52 Ladies Class-Living Fully
- Gym New Converts

**Our Record**

December 14, 2014
- Sunday AM 281
- Bible Study 245
- Sunday PM 195
- Wednesday 189
- Contribution $11,786
- YTD Actual $574,691
- YTD Budget $567,500
THOSE TO SERVE
December 21, 2014

AM Service
Shepherd's Welcome: Doug Lyles
Song Leader: Matt Ross
Opening Prayer: Dan Hall
Lord's Supper & Offering: Jared Vincent
Lord's Supper:
    Randy Jackson, Paul Jones
    Scott Phillips, Jared Morgan
    Van Wood, Marty Johnson
    Jerry Sells, Dennis Tucker
Scripture Reading: Mike Stewart, Mark 16:1-6
Sermon: Mark Ray

Pictures of the Cross
Shepherd's Benediction: Sonny Rommelman
Greeters: (North) Ed & Judy Jones
          (Center) Darla Ham & Betty Henson
          (South) Eddie & Lana Phillips
Nursery Attendants: Julia Lyles & Christina Brown
Unable to Serve Call: Aaron Lyles 270-559-4207

PM Service
Shepherd's Welcome: Sonny Rommelman
Song Leader: Mike Darnall
Opening Prayer: Brad Miller
Scripture Reading: John Walker, 2 Cor. 5:17-21
Sermon: Mark Ray

Three Ways to Know You're Saved
Lord's Supper: Cory Westerfield
Closing Prayer: Jason Jones
Camera Monitor/Door: Scott Brown
Sound: Byron Rudd
Unable to Serve Call: Scott Chambers 270-906-5944

Bus Driver: Bob Hines 270-994-4765
Lord's Supper for Shutt-ins: Logan Ross & Bryce Rudd
Kitchen Kleeners for Dec: Laura Stegall & Shanda Walker

THOSE TO SERVE
December 28, 2014

AM Service
Shepherd's Welcome: Sonny Rommelman
Song Leader: Matt Ross
Opening Prayer: Brad Miller
Lord's Supper & Offering: Jason Miller
Lord's Supper:
    Mike Darnall, Gene Phillips
    Collin Gunn, Jeff Levan
Scripture Reading: Dave Simmons
Sermon: Mark Ray

Singing Night
Shepherd's Welcome: Sonny Rommelman
Opening Prayer: Gerald Rainey
Closing Prayer: Jared Morgan
Camera Monitor/Door: Dennis Tucker
Sound: Scott Brown
Unable to Serve Call: Scott Chambers 270-906-5944

Lord's Supper for Shutt-ins: Jeff Jones & Travis Ross
Kitchen Kleeners for Dec: Laura Stegall & Shanda Walker

Bus Driver: Bob Hines 270-994-4765

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Find us on Facebook under Benton church of Christ

Elder in Charge: Sonny Rommelman  Deacon in Charge: Gerald Rainey