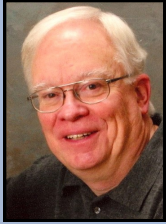


MWCFM CHURCH NEWS

January/February 2016

A NOTE FROM OUR PASTOR



We enter 2016 confident of God's grace and guidance! We are thankful for all who came to new faith in Christ during 2015, and for all who are new to the fellowship of the church. On the final Sunday of the old year, we had the privilege of baptizing new believers, *Angel Lopez-Jakowski* and *Jessica Cathey*, and receiving as new members *Dale and Kathy Arnold*. Others are already in preparation for baptism and membership as this year begins.

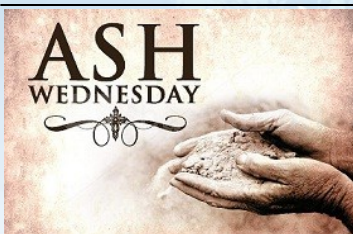
The season of the church year following Christmas, is called "Epiphany," meaning the *revealing* of Jesus to the world. Our Sunday sermon series through February 7, "*Seeing Jesus Again for the First Time*," is designed to help us see things we may not have seen before, in Jesus' life, work, and character. The goal is that we can be transformed to become more like him!

This month we said "farewell" to **Sarah Baird**, who has served as Director of Student Ministries for three years, and been a part of our fellowship all her life. Sarah has accepted a position with CTI, International, a ministry of music, witness and training, headquartered in Minnesota, sending teams of young people across the country and around the world. Our prayers are with her as she begins a new ministry assignment, and we hope to continue to see her from time to time. More youth news on next page!

Our purpose as a church is to help people know God through Jesus and function as his friends and servants in our community and world. Let us know how we might make this more real and effective for you!

In the Love of Christ,
Pastor Dwight T Gregory

LENT has been celebrated in churches around the world for many centuries, in the six weeks leading up to Easter Sunday. During this time we focus on why Jesus died, and why we need the forgiveness and new birth bought through his giving his life for us. It is a time for examining ourselves to discover anything standing in the way of our close relationship with Christ, and finding freedom through repentance and faith. Many people celebrate Lent by giving up some sort of food, entertainment, or other practice in order to focus more energy on prayer and spiritual growth. This is helpful, but what is even more helpful is to ask God to show us *permanent* changes we need in our lives! Lent begins on February 10th with our **Ash Wednesday Service**.



The entire church community will meet for an Ash Wednesday service on February 10 at 7PM. Ash Wednesday is the beginning of the Lenten Season. During the service the sign of the cross will be placed on either the forehead or the right hand of each person. The ashes are from the burnt palm leaves of the previous year's Palm Sunday and reserved for this sacred time. Hymns, prayers, Scripture readings and the Lord's Supper will all be part of the service.

LENTEN PRAYER TIMES

In connection with Lent, we are also beginning a **new prayer emphasis**.

The church will be open for prayer, with at least one staff member present, three times a week, at hours chosen so everyone can participate in one of the sessions: 7:00AM on Tuesday, Noon on Wednesday, and 6:00PM on Thursday. This will begin February 11th, with prayer times at all three hours that day, and then on the designated days until Easter. These will not be "services" but simply a time to pray! Come join us!



Church and Youth News

Contact the Church office to find a group that works for you



Senior Adult Luncheon

Our Senior Adults are planning a Valentine Lunch on Friday, February 12, at Denny's, Douglas Boulevard, just south of SE 29th St. Lunch is at 1:00 PM, with devotional following, led by James Farley. For more information, contact Mary Nixon at 974-1250.

LADIES BIBLE STUDY

The Ladies Bible Study is on the second and fourth Tuesday of each month at 10 AM at the church. If you are interested in being a part please call Martha Borgers at 590.9792.

Volunteer Opportunities



IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN VOLUNTEERING CONTACT THE CHURCH OFFICE 405.732.0648.

CANDLELIGHT MEMORIAL SERVICE

A Candlelight Memorial Service will be held on Saturday, February 27th at 11AM. This is a time in which we remember and celebrate the lives of our loved ones who passed away during the previous calendar year. If you lost a loved one in 2014, we would like to honor him or her. Please send a photograph with the name of your loved one to the church office, attention: Pastor Paula, or email her at jandpfarley@gmail.com by Friday, February 19th. There will be a reception following the ceremony. You may RSVP to Pastor Paula Farley 618.9595.



Valentine's Day

Youth Ministry News

Twelve of our youth have returned from an intensive winter retreat in Rockwall, Texas, involving active service to victims of last month's Rowlett tornado, spiritual input, and lots of fun. Thanks to Sarah, Courtney, and youth sponsor Tyler Braswell for accompanying them and contributing to the success.

While we seek the Lord's choice for a new long-term youth ministry leader, our youth ministry will continue, with an excellent team of workers and sponsors, under the supervision of our Christian Education Director, Anita Baird. We have a great youth ministry team, including Pastors Jim Gillis and Jeremy Smith along with Tyler Braswell and John Lang. Week-to-week activities will be coordinated by our Youth Ministry Intern, Courtney Traylor, from Southwestern Christian University, who is increasing her hours of work with us each week. Pray for the teens, parents, and leaders and expect great things!



SUPER BOWL
SAN FRANCISCO 2 · 7 · 2016

ON FEBRUARY 7TH THE YOUTH ARE HAVING A SUPER BOWL 50 PARTY: KICK-OFF IS AT 6:30PM SO ARRIVE AT 6PM TO GET GOOD SEATS AND GET READY TO EAT, HANG OUT WITH FRIENDS AND PLAY GAMES. EACH PERSON PLEASE BRING A SNACK TO SHARE AND INVITE YOUR FRIENDS AND FAMILY TO COME AND WATCH SOME FOOTBALL!

