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# TIMBER RIDGE CHRISTIAN CHURCH

## NEWSLETTER

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November 2018

### Happy Thanksgiving!

#### CALENDAR OF EVENTS

NOV 4 –	SUNDAY SCHOOL 10 AM
	WORSHIP SERVICE 11 AM
	GUEST MINISTER – JON THOMPSON
	LUNCH FOLLOWING SERVICE
	DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME ENDS
NOV 6 -	AMY BRILL'S BIRTHDAY
NOV 10 -	SETH VANDERLINDEN'S BIRTHDAY
	RURITAN VETERANS BREAKFAST 7:30-10 AM
NOV 11 –	VETERANS DAY HOLIDAY
	SUNDAY SCHOOL 10 AM
	WORSHIP SERVICE 11 AM
	GUEST MINISTER – REV DAVE DORST
	LAST DAY FOR OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD
	(SEE ARTICLE)
NOV 12 -	TIM WINGFIELD'S BIRTHDAY
NOV 18 -	SUNDAY SCHOOL 10 AM
	WORSHIP SERVICE 11 AM
	7 PM -COMMUNITY THANKSGIVING SERVICE
NOV 20 -	AMBER CAMPBELL'S BIRTHDAY
NOV 21 –	LOGAN SPAID'S BIRTHDAY
NOV 23-	TOM PUGH'S BIRTHDAY
NOV 24 -	HAROLD & SHELVA SWITZER'S
	ANNIVERSARY
NOV 25 -	SUNDAY SCHOOL 10 AM
	WORSHIP SERVICE 11 AM
NOV 28 -	GALEN SPAID'S BIRTHDAY
NOV 30 -	ED & JANET KLINE'S ANNIVERSARY
	TOM & SHARON JENKINS' ANNIVERSARY
DEC 2 -	SUNDAY SCHOOL 10 AM
	WORSHIP SERVICE 11 AM
	DECORATE SANCTUARY (SEE ARTICLE)

### TURKEY & OYSTER DINNER

Our annual Turkey & Oyster dinner was quite a success, serving approximately 253 dinners, netting approximately \$2,275.00. Everyone seemed to have a good time in spite of all the hard work and we thank everyone for all of their efforts.

### VETERANS DAY

On November 11<sup>th</sup> we will celebrate Veterans Day. This is a time when we remember those who have served our country in the armed forces. There are several folks associated with our congregation who we would like to recognize as veterans:

Grady Bradfield (USN) Jonathan Brill (USA)

Steven Szelmeczki (USN)

Thomas Pugh (USA) Randall Brill (USA)

Galen Spaid (USA) Gerald Whitacre (USA)

Harry Spaid (USA) Tim Wingfield (USAF)

Harold Switzer (ANG) Robert Triplett (USA)

Please remember to thank those who have served our country for their service and dedication to the principles upon which this country was founded.

We apologize if we missed including anyone on the listing. We are maintaining a list of veterans, who are also church members, so please let us know if there are others that we need to include.

We welcome any comments and suggestions.  
Alan & Ginger Brill, [abrill@frontiernet.net](mailto:abrill@frontiernet.net),  
(304) 856-3635

### **OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD**

Operation Christmas Child has started and will end on November 11<sup>th</sup>. Please provide the suggested items (as outlined on the list) for the children by November 11<sup>th</sup>. Decorated boxes were purchased and are now available to be used for this purpose. Please affix one of the provided labels to the box indicating whether the box is for a boy or girl. The Mission Committee will pay for the postage. Anyone having questions should see Harry Spaid.

### **KENYA MISSION TRIP/GUEST MINISTERS**

Our interim pastor, Mike VanDerLinden, will be on his mission trip to Kenya over the first two weeks in November. During his trip, we will have two guest ministers; Jon Thompson on November 4<sup>th</sup> and Rev. Dave Dorst on November 11<sup>th</sup>. We wish Mike well on his mission and we will be praying for a successful and safe trip.

### **DECORATING THE CHURCH FOR THE CHRISTMAS SEASON**

As has been the case for the past several years, we will be decorating the church and Parish Hall for the Christmas season on the first Sunday in Advent, which is December 2<sup>nd</sup> following the worship service. More details will follow as we get closer to the date.

### **NEWSLETTER ITEMS**

Forms have been placed in the pews for the purpose of having items placed into the monthly newsletter. This would include birthdays and anniversaries that we do not already have and also any events and newsworthy items that should be included. If you have any items to include, please complete the form and place in the offering plate or give to Alan or Ginger. The reverse of the form also includes a prayer request and a removal from the prayer list section.

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### *PASTOR'S PEN*

#### **I Never Planned on Going to Africa**

My upcoming trip to Kenya has a very long backstory. It is a story of God's providence. A story of how God is willing and able to rule over my life. It is a story of how God is able to do this without any damage to my own desires for my life. The story of how I ended up going to Africa all began in 2013 as I began planning to go to Chile.

In the fall of 2013 I was planning on traveling to Chile, South America, to help a pastor renovate his home. This pastor, along with his wife, were planting a church in Valparaiso. I wrote my support letter and then sent it out. The team put together a slide show with pictures of where we were going. But, right in the middle of our planning the government of Chile began to have discussions with the local pastor. The government then decided, since the work the local church was doing was so useful, they would help pay for some local contractors to do the needed work! This was a huge praise, while at the same time slightly disappointing since we would now not need to go. Sadly, there was a huge fire that ripped through much of Valparaiso in 2014, and the government was no longer able to do the work. But in God's providence my daughter Kate went there in 2016 on a team that was able to accomplish the work – God is good!

Well, in 2013, since we were still in the middle of fundraising and a team was needed in Uganda, Africa, we were asked if we might be willing to change our plans slightly and go to a different continent altogether. Our team talked about it, prayed about it, and said yes! None of this was a surprise to God. In His providence, He knew the details of each situation, even that Kate would do the work in 2016 that I had planned for in 2013. So in 2014 I went with a team of men from around the country to Uganda. We served in a little town on the western border called Bundibugyo, Africa. There is a team of missionaries there who serve on two fronts. Some serve in a local hospital where they work on delivering medical care for locals and nutritional programs for children at risk. Others serve at a local Christ-centered boarding school. Our time there has been spent construction a new building large enough to house a gathering of all the students for worship and other student activities (I've been there three separate times).

This year, I was supposed to go to Lima, Peru, and work on some renovations of a building used for orphans. When it began to look like they would have plenty of help on that trip, I was asked if I would be willing to switch to a trip to Kenya (since I had all my shots anyhow – and it's harder to get people to go to Africa). You know my answer - I said, "sure!" God had again worked out His good and right purposes without dragging me somewhere I didn't also want to go myself.

When I look back at my life I see this principal at work over and over again. I never planned on being an Air Traffic Controller, I never planned on living in VA, I never planned on having a Master's degree, I never planned on being a pastor (each of these has their own long back-story). But God in His goodness had a plan for my life that was far more wonderful than my own. He gently prepared me, moved me, showed me, and led me in His plan ... and I wouldn't have it any other way.

Do you see God at work in your life in this way? He is you know. I would encourage you to look back and see where God has been at work, guiding, teaching, encouraging, even chastising you so that you are ready for the wonderful plan He is unfolding in your life. I pray that we would all have the eyes to see how God is working.

~ Mike