



Weekly Newsletter

December 27, 2009

## Order of Worship

### *Welcome*

Clay Joseph

### *Song Leader*

Jon Ewing

**#627 (v.1,3)**

**#618 (v.1,3)**

### *Opening Prayer*

Justin Hatfield

**#495**

### *Communion*

David Kern

**#268 (v.1,2,4)**

### *Contribution*

David Kern

**#500 (v.1,3)**

**#543 (v.1,3)**

### *Lesson*

Bill McFarland

**#336**

### *Announcements*

Clay Joseph

**#756 (v.1,3)**

### *Closing Prayer*

Porter Barnes

*You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. (Matt. 5:14)*

## *Evangelistic Atheism*

Bill McFarland

*I know, I know. The title of this article is a contradiction. To “evangelize,” in whatever setting the term may be used, means nothing other than to announce good news. “Atheism,” the claim that there is no God, means there is no good news to tell. These two terms obviously don’t belong together.*

*But have you been paying attention? Atheist groups have been sponsoring billboards in cities across the country this holiday season. The huge signs are decorated like cards, but they proclaim announcements like “Heathen’s Greetings” or “Yes, Virginia, There Is No God.” This comes at the conclusion of a year in which we have heard of groups of unbelievers banding together for potlucks or family days. Sounds like “religious” fervor, doesn’t it?*

*A few observations are in order. One is that people who declare themselves free from religion do not, merely for having done so, cease to have the human needs they have because they are made in the image of the God whom they deny. They need to belong. They need the affirmation of those who share their “faith.” They need a cause to “believe in” and for which they may stand.*

*What, then, is the “good news” which the “freedom from religion” folks are so eager to hold forth? That you came from nowhere, mean nothing, and will cease to be. That the only meaning your life will have is what you choose to attach to it. That the lone standard to govern the use you make of it is whatever gives you the most pleasure. The “evangelistic” zeal of atheism arises from the devotion of the adherents to the sovereignty of their own preferences.*

*So the assumptions which have been underlying entertainment, academics and politics for so long—that we are the masters of the universe—now have to be announced on holiday signs. You may notice that they are aimed (in the minds of the sponsors) at Christianity. Can you imagine things like this being aimed at the popular imagination regarding Islam or Judaism? Have you wondered why?*

*At least in part, it’s because we Christians insist that our hope has an objective basis in history. We believe in, and we present to the world, not merely a personal philosophy from within ourselves, but truth from outside ourselves which has been demonstrated in a Person. His presence is the ultimate challenge to the sovereignty of personal preference.*

*Evangelistic atheism is a reminder to us not to fall for the idea that we should not talk of our faith in public life. Unbelief is aggressive. We must be able and willing to speak of the Good News and why we believe it.*



## Today's Sermons

Morning: The Subsequent Glories

Evening: Songs of the King, #3: Simeon's Song

# Prayer Lists and Announcements

## Welcome Visitors

We are honored that you joined us. We hope you will be blessed by your time with us. We have an attended nursery, a cry/training room and a nursing mother's room for your convenience if you have small children. Please fill out an attendance card and pass it to the end of the pew so that we may thank you for your visit.

### For The Record December 20

Bible Study:	281
Morning:	384
Evening:	267
Wednesday:	224
Contribution:	\$ 8,538



Elder of the Month  
Barney Crawford

- ◆ Pew Packers meet this evening at 4:45
- ◆ LTC Scrapbookers will meet on January 3 after morning services. Bring money for fast food. See Julie Alexander if you have questions.
- ◆ SNAC January 3—taco night—see sign-up sheet in foyer

Ladies,

If you would like to renew your subscription to Christian Woman Magazine or subscribe for the first time, please give your check in the amount of \$15.98 to Johnnie by December 30.



Be sure to pick up your 2010 Contribution Envelopes from the table by Johnnie's office. You will need to include your name in addition to the contribution amount on your envelope for the first two or three weeks. Thereafter we only need your contribution amount.

### Daily Bible Reading

Copies of our 2010 schedule are available in the foyer if you did not receive your copy last week. Join us for a wonderful journey through the Scriptures.

We will have a special year-end devotional in the auditorium Wednesday evening. Plan to be with us if you are in town!!

Water Mill has adopted Saturday, January 2, for our members to donate blood in the Community Blood Center's annual "Miracle of Giving" blood drive. Please sign up at the Information Desk if you can donate.



Do not forget to do good and to share with others.

Heb. 13:16

## Prayer List

Jaycee Simons will have her tonsils out tomorrow  
Seldon Essex will have back surgery Tuesday at Cox South  
Judy Todd is not doing well  
Friends and Family:  
 Clay & Sharon's daughter-in-law, Lori Joseph, as she goes through tests for thyroid problems

### Special Prayer Request

Monty & Lucy Lewis and Dale Lewis and his children; Dale's address is: Gratiot Co. Jail, 226 East Center St., Ithaca, MI 48847-1438.

### Long-Term

Joy & Alice Allen  
 Paul Bratcher  
 Doris Burch  
 Bonnie Cole  
 Thelma Fain  
 Lucille/Milton Ford  
 Gerald/June Jean  
 Clay Joseph  
 Carol Mahon  
 Jarita Nimmo  
 Doris Tobler  
 Judy Todd  
 Pat Woods  
Military:  
 Cody Newman

### Shut-ins:

Shirley Bartlett  
 Doris Batzel Iorg  
 Fern Davis  
 Irene Johnson  
 Carol Law  
 John Luallin  
 Wilma Melton  
 Aulsie Moore  
 Annie Overstreet  
 Ella Smith  
 Wilma Spoor  
 Don/  
 Wanda Starkey  
 Doris Thomason  
 Cathy White

- James River Nursing Home: All who can are asked to participate in the devo/singing on Saturday at 3 p.m.
- Golden Agers will meet next Sunday at 4 p.m. in room 126.
- Elders will meet January 10 at 2 pm.
- Bible Institute of Missouri - New evening classes begin 1/11 - see flyer on bulletin board

## IMPORTANT NOTICE TO ALL OUR READERS

In an effort to cut down on duplication through mail, e-mail and handout, beginning the first week in January we will reduce the number of mail-out bulletins.

- ⇒ We will continue to mail to our shut-ins but not to our regular members unless you notify us
  - ⇒ You can receive the bulletin by e-mail; notify the office at [info@watermillchurchofchrist.org](mailto:info@watermillchurchofchrist.org) to be added to our e-mail list or you can view it online at [www.watermillchurchofchrist.org](http://www.watermillchurchofchrist.org)
  - ⇒ All others, if you wish to continue receiving the bulletin by mail, please contact the office at 417-866-0915 or drop us a note in the mail.
- We want you to continue receiving the bulletin but we will need you to let us know which you prefer.  
Thanks for your help.

May the Lord direct your hearts  
into God's love and Christ's perseverance.  
2 Thes. 3:5



## "OUT OF EGYPT HAVE I CALLED...."

By Dennis R. Smith

The land of Egypt, mentioned first in the book of Genesis and last in the Revelation, is a name used by the inspiration of God for many purposes in the Bible. The story of Joseph, one of the twelve sons of Jacob, is a case in point. . As Joseph was sold by his brothers and became a victim of Egyptian slavery to his becoming governor of the land, one can see in this story the **power, protection and providence of God**. In Matthew 2:15, God had spoken to another Joseph in a dream and commanded him to take the young child, Jesus, into the land of Egypt in order to protect him from the jealous and wicked hand of King Herod. Joseph obeyed the voice of God. When the crisis was over, he again responds to God's command and returns to the city of Nazareth. There Jesus lived in safety during his childhood years. These are just two of the times God carried out his promise of taking care of His Children. However, the bottom line depends on our "hearing and believing" what God tells us through His Word. God's calling His Son out of Egypt was in fulfillment of Hosea 11:1 and can be called a "type" of our being called by the Gospel (2<sup>nd</sup> Thes. 2:14). Egypt is also a type of our being in the bondage of sin. May we hear the Gospel Call which has the power to save (Rom. 1:16) and translate us out of the land of Egypt (sin) into the Kingdom of God's dear Son"(Col. 1:13).

## December Anniversaries

1	David/Debbie Kern	34 yrs.
2	Tim/Becky Marsoff	29 yrs.
5	Lonnie/Wanda Wilkinson	57 yrs.
15	Hoyt/Judy Kirby	37 yrs.
17	Dennis/Carolyn Smith	57 yrs.
27	Joy & Alice Allen	42 yrs.

Best Wishes To All

*Thank You*

Thank you all so much for your love and support of Uncle Bob over the years and during our loss. We are truly grateful for all you did during the visitation and funeral. We appreciate the visits during Uncle Bob's hospital stay. We feel more blessed than we can express. May God be with each of you.

Michael Solomon & Family

Thank you so much to the carolers who came out Sunday night. It was a real treat and such a joy to see so many young people giving of their time.

Chloe Gaddis

## NEWS FROM ANN THIESEN ...

"The earthquake that hit Malawi was 500 miles north of here at Karonga close to where we raised our family. There was one death and several injuries and quite a bit of damage. When we lived up that way we often had tremors but nothing serious. We are all fine but Mark and Dana do have malaria and have felt bad for a few days but are a little better."

**Ann will be returning home this week. Keep her in your prayers.**

### Schedule of Services

Sunday Morning Bible Study ....9:00 AM  
 Sunday Morning Worship.....10:00 AM  
 Sunday Evening Worship... .....5:00 PM  
 Wednesday Night Bible Class....7:00 PM

### OUR MISSION POINTS

Mark & Era Thiesen, Malawi, Africa  
 Joey & Tammy Treat, Northern Mariana Islands  
 Jeremiah Akamah, Cameroon, Africa  
 Voice of Truth International

"The Living Word"  
 7:30 A.M. Sundays  
 KOLR TV 10

"In Search Of  
 The Lord's Way"  
 7:00 A.M. Sundays  
 KOLR TV 10

"Know Your Bible"  
 10:30 A.M. Sundays  
 Springfield 33  
 KSPR-TV



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Office Hours:

9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesday - Friday



## Service Rosters

### THIS MORNING

**AM Nursery:** Linda Currier/Leona Snider  
**Greeters:** Les & Pat Malanowski  
**Van Driver:** Russell Lilly/839-4021  
**KYB Phone:** Debbie/Daniel Meinsen  
**Serve**  
**Communion:** Verl Duncan/Blanton Glenn  
 Don Essex/Oran Green  
 Gene Lund/Shannon Haddock  
 Briley Ewing/Sam Hansen  
 Jackie Freeze/Byrle Hayter

### THIS EVENING

**Song Leader:** Travis Morrison  
**Opening Prayer:** Tim Bowling  
**Speaker:** Bill McFarland  
**Closing Prayer:** Jackie Buck  
**Communion:** Tim/Kyle Buckner  
**Nursery:** Glenda Thurlkill

### NEXT WEEK, January 3

	MORNING	EVENING
<b>Song Leader:</b>	Kerry Cole	Andrew Morton
<b>Opening Prayer:</b>	Jon Ewing	David Kern
<b>Communion:</b>	John Mahon	Scott/Adam Barton
<b>Closing Prayer:</b>	Jackie Freeze	Todd Kraus
<b>AM Nursery:</b>	Donna Jordan/Michelle Hulett	
<b>PM Nursery:</b>	Lisa Stayton/Emily Simons	
<b>Greeters:</b>	Eddie & Donna Sanders	
<b>Van Driver:</b>	Travis Morrison/742-1970	

### THE MONTH OF DECEMBER

**Ushers:** Adam Stipp  
 Grant Wheeler  
**AV Room:** Scott Barton/  
 Jeremy Thurlkill  
**Secure**  
**Building:** Paul Lines

### Wednesday, December 30

**Devotional:** Bill McFarland  
**Song Leader:** Larry Baggett  
**Opening Prayer:** Tom Easterly  
**Closing Prayer:** Jim Elliff