

VILLAGE BIBLE CHURCH

family NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 2017

First Christmas – *Rediscovering The Awe*

Pastor Mark D. Cain

I still remember my first Christmas. Well, not my first Christmas *physically*, but my first Christmas *spiritually*. I had become a Christian in November, and although I was eighteen years old physically, I was only weeks old spiritually when December came. The songs, the manger scenes, the Scripture readings were all familiar, but now for the first time “I got it” – or, at least, was *beginning* to “get it.” I remember thinking, “So this is what it’s really all about!” The experience was like watching an old familiar movie, but for the first time it was now in full color instead of grainy black and white. I was discovering awe.

That was more than four decades ago. I would like to say that every year has continued to be a spiritual high, from one mountain peak to the next. But that would be false. Like you, perhaps, “the old, old story” has occasionally remained ... just old. But I want it to be fresh, new and spiritually enriching this year. Full of awe.

I want to join the magi in rejoicing “exceedingly with great joy” (Matthew 2:10).

Like the shepherds I want to be moved to action by “this thing that has happened which the Lord has made known to us” (Luke 2:15).

I want to be like Mary, “treasur[ing] all these things, pondering them in [my] heart” (Luke 2:19).

In short, I want to *rediscover the awe* of that first Christmas. I want to sincerely echo from the heart, 2 Corinthians 9:15, “Thanks be to God for His indescribable gift!”

How can we receive the gift of Jesus afresh, week after week, experiencing His sufficiency for whatever we are facing? Advent can help.

The word *advent* comes from Latin and means *coming*. Historically, the advent season begins the fourth Sunday before Christmas and ends Christmas Eve. This means that, unlike Lent, which is always the 40 days leading to Easter, Advent varies in length. What John the Baptist did for Israel, Advent can do for us – “make ready a people prepared for the Lord” (Luke 1:17). Spiritual preparation.

Starting with our Christmas Concert, December 1, centered on *Jesus, The One*, I want to enter in to the Advent season with heart, not body alone.

Our Sunday services will incorporate a brief video that will orient us toward the biblical teaching for the day.

First Christmas – Rediscovering The Awe

Dec. 3 – Advent Week 1 – Mary, Luke 1

Dec. 10 – Advent Week 2 – Joseph, Matthew 1:18-25

Dec. 17 – Advent Week 3 – Innkeeper, Matthew 1; Luke 2

Dec. 24 – Advent Week 4 – Shepherds, Luke 2

Dec. 24 – Christmas Eve – Wise Men, Matthew 2

I like to also remember that *advent* is the root for *adventure*. Advent – some things, such as awe, are too important not to prepare for.

Prepare for the adventure of *rediscovering the awe* by discovering more of Jesus to you personally this year.

Joining With You,

Pastor Mark



Financial Report October 2017

"Every man shall give as he is able, according to the blessing of the LORD your God which He has given you." Deuteronomy 16:17

Current Year to Date

Prior Year to Date

JAN 1 - OCT 31, 2017

JAN 1 - OCT 31, 2016

	Actual	Budget	Actual
Income/Collections	\$818,778	\$793,000	\$766,419
Expenses	\$774,426	\$795,915	\$795,446
Net Income (deficit)	\$44,352	\$(2,915)	\$(29,027)

ANNIVERSARIES



- Jerry & Donna Matthews 12/05
- Tony & Pat Seabaugh 12/06
- Jim & Patsy Bicknell 12/07
- James & Evelyn Andrews 12/17
- Wynn & Joanie Jones 12/19
- Daniel & Cynthia Schanink 12/24
- Wendell & Connie Sharpton 12/26
- Kurtis & Sue Sutley 12/27
- Bob & Ana MacKendrick 12/28

If you'd like your wedding anniversary announced in our newsletter, call the office and check with Barbi, 501-922-0404.

Dear Village Bible Church,

Thank you for your sincere expressions of love and support as Lindi and I step into the next phase of our journey together. It has truly been my privilege to be your pastor over the last 7 years. I look forward to hearing about the wonderful things God will continue to accomplish through VBC.

Pastor Mike Kelly

VBC Ministry Staff

Dr. Mark D. Cain, Senior Pastor
922-0404 email - mark@vbchsv.org

Jim Neal, Associate Pastor
766-6789 email - jim@vbchsv.org

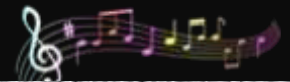
Rev. Levan Hubbard, Pastor of Worship & Care
353-3040 email - levan@vbchsv.org

Barbi Mirenda, Office Manager, Assistant to Pastor Mark
922-0404 email - barbi@vbchsv.org

Mary Buffington, Administrative Assistant
922-0404 email - mary@vbchsv.org



Teen Challenge Choir will be singing for us on December 31st, during the morning worship service. Be sure to come enjoy their music!



Radio Ministry



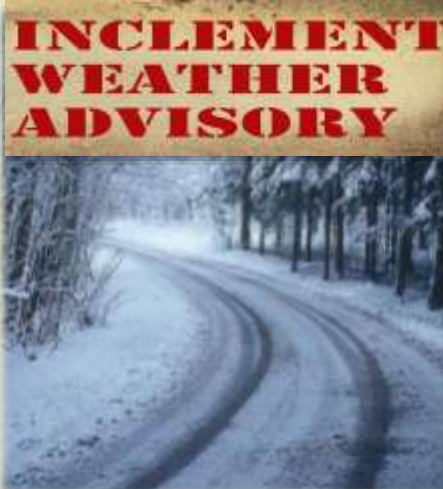
Our radio ministry is designed as an outreach for the unchurched. Please remember to mention our broadcast to those you know who do not have a church home. Visit the Welcome Center and pick up some of the small imprinted cards to share with friends and neighbors. Sunday's sermons are broadcast on station KVRE (92.9 FM) at 9:00 am on Sundays.

Note: Since the sermons are previously recorded, they will not be heard on the same Sunday as preached at VBC.

In case of inclement weather, you may check the following information sources for VBC service schedules or cancellations.

KVRE 92.9
(Village Radio Station)
KARK TV, Channel 4
KLEZ 101.5
(Village Radio Station)

VBC Website: vbchsv.org or call the church office: 501-922-0404



CARE NEEDS

If you have an emergency from 8:30 AM to 5:00 PM, Monday –Thursday, call the office and they will reach the appropriate person for you. After hours, please call Pastor Levan, 501-353-3040. If I am not in town, which is extremely rare, there will be details on the answering machine as to who is available to assist you. Should you need someone Friday - Sunday, on-call personnel details will be on the answering machine at the church phone number, which is 501-922-0404.

Caring for you . . . Pastor Levan

CHURCH DIRECTORY UPDATES

Mrs. Jeanette Jones
c/o The Hattons
3414 Valley View Lane
Garland, TX 75043

Inge Schilder
900 Glarner Drive, Apt. 103
New Glarus, WI 53574
Ph. 608-636-2012

Levan Hubbard
31 West Villena Drive
Hot Springs Village, AR 71909

Jack McKinney
121 Cortez Rd. Apt. 231
Hot Springs Village, AR 71909



Dinner for Six



The month of December **ya'll** we will have the opportunity to sign up for **"DINNER for SIX."** It will begin in January and go thru March. NOT limited to couples, it can be two friends, two singles and of course couples. Please sign up via the communication card in the bulletin or at the Welcome Center.

"DINNER for SIX" is a great opportunity to get to know some new folks or connect with old friends as well. You will meet in a different "host home" each month. The host provides the entrée and the other "couples" bring a salad or dessert.

Sooooo, come on...football season is almost over. It tends to be kind of dark and dreary this time of year. What could be better than meeting new people, having fun conversations and enjoying wonderful comfort food! A winning combination and a great way to begin 2018.

If you have any questions, call Roxy Tooley at 922-0700

HELP US WELCOME OUR NEW VBC MEMBER!

We are excited to welcome **Teri Garrett** to VBC membership! Teri is an Arkansan coming from Perryville. You can find Teri and her friendly smile during the week at Edward Jones as Senior Branch Office Administrator. She was baptized in a creek when she was 8 and had true knowledge of God's love and grace when she turned 19. We look forward to Teri discovering her place of service in our congregation.



VOICE OF THE MARTYRS



We are excited to announce the Mission Trip to Voice of the Martyrs, in Bartlesville, Oklahoma on April 2nd through April 7th, 2018. This is a great opportunity to serve. The work is not strenuous and the accommodations are good! Make sure to reserve these dates on your calendar and be watching for trip details.

For information,
Contact Jim Boyd,
501-922-6669.

Church Office Holiday Hours

Closed Christmas & New Year's
December 25, 26, 27 & Jan 1, 2



Benevolence Fund

This fund is used to aid VBC family when there is a special need. Any donation to the fund would be appreciated, but should be over and above your regular giving amount. Please make your check payable to Village Bible Church and designate "Benevolence Fund" on your check or envelope. If you know of a need within our body, please notify any elder or pastor. Thank you.

VBC Historical Books

The pre-ordered VBC Historical Books are in! They are wonderful and filled with a treasure trove of information, photos and the rich history of our church. pick up your copy at the church office, only \$15!

DON'T MISS OUT, GET ONE TODAY!

The Christmas Eve Candlelight service is December 24th at 5 PM and is a long-standing traditional at VBC. Come and make Christmas more memorable this year. Enjoy singing favorite carols along with a Christmas devotional. Yes, bring the kids, we thought of them too! The service ends by lighting a single candle and sharing the light that symbolizes sending the light of Christ into a dark world.

Christmas Eve
CANDELIGHT SERVICE



DISCOVER VBC

The New Testament calls us to a high commitment to the Body of Christ on Earth - that is, the local church. Church membership is the outward expression reflecting our inner commitment to the Gospel message. Membership is much like believers' baptism or the marriage ceremony as outward expressions of our inner beliefs. This class is designed for those who are interested in becoming members of VBC, as well as those who may want more information about our church. **Discover VBC is a two part series that will be held on January 21st and January 28th.** You may sign-up at www.vbchsv.org, or on the communication card in the bulletin.

You may also call the church office at 501-922-0404, to reserve your spot.



Come support Fellowship of Christian Athletes (FCA). FCA Uses the platform of sports and the leadership of middle school and high school athletes to spread the Gospel of Jesus to students. Village Bible Church will host a luncheon on Friday, February 2nd, from 11 AM to 2 PM. Hear students and coaches give testimonies. Lunch costs only \$5.00 per person and includes a sandwich, chips, and drink. Please RSVP by January 19th, by calling the church office at 501-922-0404.



The Collingsworth Family Concert
January 14, 2018 at 5:00 PM

Dear Village Bible Church,

We want to thank our VBC family for the many prayers and support.

Henson & Elaine Dunn

Chaplain Rich & Robi Heffington Race Track Ministry

The Oaklawn Race Track Chaplaincy will host their 3rd annual Filly Feed Luncheon to pamper the (back of the track) women workers. It was an overwhelming success last January. Many of these women are hesitant to enter a church and may have never had God's love extended to them in an

unconditional way. Robi Heffington is preparing gift bags for 100-125 women, and requests items listed below. Please Donate: lotions, creams, moisturizers, small perfumes, deodorant, shampoo and conditioners, combs, brushes, toothpaste, toothbrushes, emery boards and nail clippers. Gently used scarves and jewelry was a big hit by the women. Candles are not allowed by the race track. Cash donations will be used for gift cards for boots because of the cold and wet weather. Please make checks payable to Oaklawn Chapel.

All donations are due by December 6th and may be placed in the "race track box" in the hallway (between room 109 and the kitchen).

This is a great opportunity for Small Groups and Bible Study classes to be involved in this ministry. If you have any questions, please contact **Cheryl Kastner** at **501-802-2082**



Third Annual Filly Feed Luncheon



Our Daily Bread for December through February are now available

These compact, powerful devotionals are located in the hallway, underneath the name tag board. Stop by & pick up one today!

Save the Date! **A HEALTHY MOVE** begins 01/31

For all women new to VBC or the Village or in a new phase of their life! Contact Alice Hill for more information 501-209-0072





Women's Ministry Christmas Fellowship

Christmas Comfort *It's a Wonderful Love*

December 7th from
5:00 PM - 7:30 PM

Come enjoy the buffet dinner - nothing to bring but
YOUR warm smile and comfortable personality!

**Photo props for photo ops
available for fun group shots!**

Register by December 3rd

All are welcome! See you there!

Annual meeting

Responding to numerous suggestions, the VBC Annual Congregational Meeting will be held Sunday morning, January 28, 2018, during the Bible School hour, 10:50 AM. This is to encourage greater attendance. Note: Non-members are encouraged to attend, but only VBC members will be able to vote.



Christmas Food Boxes



Every year VBC has contributed food boxes to families with children in the Mountain Pine and Fountain Lake School Districts. It has been our past experience that the cost of each campaign has amounted to approximately \$110 per family.

By contributing financially and/or by participating in the packing distribution of the food boxes, you have an opportunity to give a blessed Christmas to families in our community.

If contributing financially please make your check payable to VBC with the notation in the "for" section of the check to:

Mercy Ministry Fund

**For more details, please call
Gary George 219-730-9808**



ELDER BOARD REPORT

Hopefully, when you read this report you will have attended the VBC Christmas Concert. Even though it has not happened at this writing, we are sure it was another tribute to our Savior. Thanks to Pastor Levan and all those who contributed to such an important ministry of VBC.

On a different note, at the time of writing this, there are six very important VBC committees in need of a chairperson.

These Committees include:

- Inreach
- Outreach
- Christian Education
- Missions
- Mercy Ministry
- Connections

Perhaps some have been filled by the time you read this, for whatever openings remain, VBC needs you to prayerfully come forward if you feel God's leading you toward one of these opportunities. While the committee leadership is restricted to VBC members, serving on the committee is not. We encourage regular attendees to let us know of your interest in serving on one of these committees.

Finally, with Holiday traveling underway, please be safe.
We look forward to all being together in the New Year.

Thanks for another blessed year at Village Bible Church,

Bruce Davis
Elder



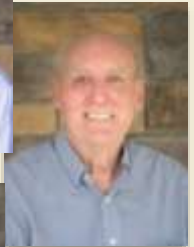
Dr. Mark D. Cain



Dennis Gullickson



Glenn McCaleb



John Sowers



Dick Leach



Larry Collins



Bruce Davis



Teen Challenge holidays

Teen Challenge feeds as many as 50 families and students during the Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays. Their needs are great for: turkeys, hams, pies, carrots, stuffing, turkey gravy mix, instant potatoes, green beans, corn, sweet potatoes, dinner rolls, butter, tea and coffee. You could get your small group together and donate a turkey or gift certificate to a grocery store (to purchase the turkey). All items may be dropped off at Teen Challenge, 155 Walnut Valley Road or call Tank Jones, 501-624-2446, extension 301.

Hurting Moms Support Group

January through May we'll be studying the book: **Prayer Worth Repeating**, Praying Together for our Adult Children, a Stonecroft study

True or False?

You're heavy-hearted over a child, or grandchild who's in an addiction, or estranged from the family?
 You've prayed for so many years, that now you're just saying words, but not really expecting an answer?
 You've given up on praying for your child because it hurts too much to even say his/her name?
 You're so full of guilt and shame that you quietly hid your hurting heart from your friends?
 If you've answered "YES," continue reading.

Stonecroft introduction to **Prayer Worth Repeating** is... "As the mother of adult children, you know that the "hands-on" stage of parenting is behind you. Yet your heart is just as connected to your children as when you had full oversight of their well-being. While you will always have a significant influence in their lives, your impact now takes a different shape. **The purpose of this study is to connect mothers with God on behalf of their adult children who are not actively engaged with Him — Moms who want to maximize their impact through the power of Scripture-focused prayer.**" If you have a hurting heart for your prodigal child, come; meet with other Hurting Moms as we learn together on how to impact our children through the power of Scripture-focused prayer.



We'll meet the first SATURDAY of each month at Village Bible Church in the Loft. Fellowship and coffee begins at 10:15 AM and the meeting is from 10:30 to Noon. To order your book (cost \$8.00), call Ruth Neal 501-626-7726 or email ruthneal@aol.com



During the Christmas season VBC will have a Christmas tree in the foyer that we call the Angel Tree. The name, age and size of a child living in the Fountain Lake and Mountain Pine area will be provided on a separate sheet for each child.

Beginning **November 26th** sheets of information on each child will be available for you to choose and will have information as to name, age, gender, sizes and gift requests. If you cannot purchase all the items on the list, we are suggesting that you team up with someone to complete the list. Please return the wrapped and marked gifts to the Angel Tree by **December 10th**. The Angel Tree gifts, which include clothing items and an age appropriate toy, along with a food basket are then delivered to families for their Christmas.

"Mercy Ministers" of VBC prepare and deliver these gifts. As you select a child from the Angel Tree list to make a contribution to the food baskets, you become a part of this great ministry outreach. Think of your gift as an opportunity to reach out to those who are in need and give them the joy of Christmas with these gifts and Christian love. **For further questions**, please contact Chuck Hulbert at 501-204-2151.

Mark your calendars now
 for these special VBC events:

Friday, December 1	Christmas Concert, 3 PM & 7 PM
Thursday, December 7	Women's Christmas Fellowship, 5 PM
Sunday, December 24	Christmas Eve Morning Service, 9:15 AM – NO Bible Study
Sunday, December 24	Christmas Eve Candlelight Service, 5:00 PM
Sunday, December 31	New Year's Eve Morning Service Only 9:15 AM - NO Bible Study
Sunday, January 14	The Collingsworth Family Concert, 5 PM

THE WITNESS!

ARKANSAS' MUSICAL PASSION PLAY

THE WITNESS RETURNS
TO HOT SPRINGS FOR CHRISTMAS



DECEMBER 2, 2017 AT 7:00PM
HOT SPRINGS CONVENTION CENTER
HORNER HALL

The Hot Springs Convention Center hosts this Special Christmas Presentation of The Witness. Come join us for this free community event as we celebrate the birth, life, ministry, death, and glorious resurrection of Jesus Christ.



Donations are encouraged and will benefit
Teen Challenge of Arkansas!
Call (501) 623-1935 for group reservations.
(20 or more)



On November 12th, members of the Baseline-Meridian Chapter United States Daughters of 1812 (U.S.D.1812) and Village Bible Church recognized 69 Veterans of the church with a special Flag lapel pin affixed to a red/white/blue ribbon. This is the fifth year for the traditional “pinning” of the Veterans. The 69 Veterans included four ladies who served our nation.



The VBC Staff would like to wish everyone
a very blessed and Merry Christmas!



VBC END-OF-YEAR GIVING

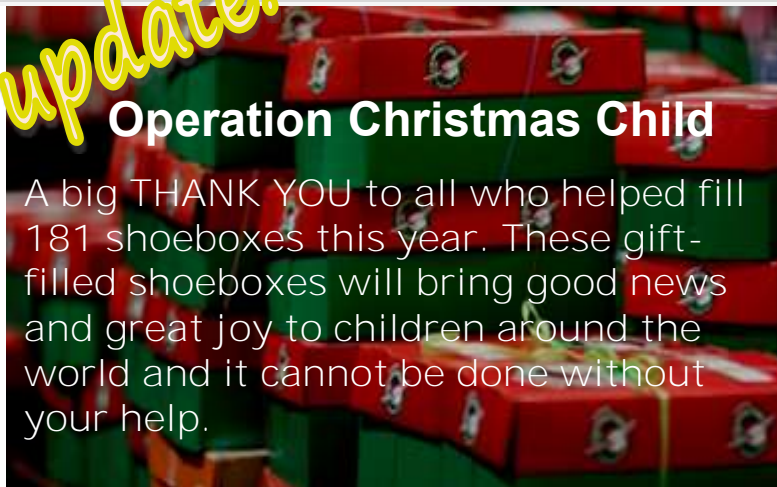
At Christmas, we celebrate and emulate God's generous and loving pattern by enjoying the tradition of giving to friends and family. In addition, many use the occasion to offer extra gifts to the Lord's work at Village Bible Church. December is usually our largest month in terms of offerings. It's a great blessing and a wonderful way to end the year. The following is some important information as you consider your giving plans for December.

Day by day and week after week, the ministry of Village Bible Church continues. The Bible is held high, many are taught, sermons are preached, fellowship is developed, missionaries are supported, and so much more. All of this is made possible by the regular gifts of God's people who count Village Bible Church their church home. About \$79,000 per week is required to keep the lights on and the ministries operating. If you ever have a question about the best place to designate your gift, the general fund is usually a wise choice.

In the past, Congress generally waited until December every year to extend the law that allows people to make a tax-free donation of up to \$100,000 from their IRA, leaving some to scramble to make the contribution before the Required Minimum Distribution (RMD) deadline. But Congress made the law permanent last year, so if you're 70½ or older, you can transfer your 2017 (RMD) to charity at any time. If you have questions, be sure to contact the office staff and we'll get you in touch with the right folks.

God continues to bless the ministries of VBC and we are grateful for the long-standing tradition of generosity of our church family. We pray that God would continue to be honored and exalted through the VBC family in 2018, and

We thank our trustees for their
wonderful, selfless ministry for our church.



update!
Operation Christmas Child
A big THANK YOU to all who helped fill 181 shoeboxes this year. These gift-filled shoeboxes will bring good news and great joy to children around the world and it cannot be done without your help.

OFFERING ENVELOPES

Your 2018 contribution envelopes will be available December 10th and can be picked up from the table in the church foyer marked "2018 Giving Envelopes." If you have not used these envelopes previously but would like to have a set please fill out a request form from the table located under the nametag board. The envelopes are used to generate giving statements at the end of the year.

DECEMBER

- 1 Christmas Concert
- 7 Women's Christmas Fellowship
- 24 Christmas Eve Morning Service
- 24 Christmas Eve Candlelight Service
- 31 NYE Morning Service Only

JANUARY

- 14 Collingsworth Family Concert
- 21 Discover VBC
- 28 Annual Meeting
- 31 Healthy Move



Applying the Bible
to daily life.

Village Bible Church ♦ 100 Ponderosa Way ♦ Hot Springs Village, AR 71909
Phone: 501-922-0404 ♦ Fax: 501-922-3697 ♦ E-mail Office@vbchsv.org
Website: vbchsv.org

VILLAGE BIBLE CHURCH UPCOMING EVENTS



Nonprofit Organization
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
Hot Springs, AR
Permit No. 185

Or current resident



Village Bible Church
100 Ponderosa Way
Hot Springs Village, AR 71909