

# The Barbee Banner

## Pastor's Note:

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During a recent gathering of pastors, the subject of decreasing church attendance on Sunday mornings in both small and large churches came up for discussion. Heads nodded affirmatively. One pastor noted that the lower attendance, often experienced during the travelling months of summer, is now becoming the norm for all the months of the year. This reality, where Sunday worship attendance is becoming optional, is but another nail in the proverbial coffin for plateauing and declining churches that are trying to keep their lips above the water line. The pastors in this roundtable discussion were asked what they thought was contributing to this trend. The following is a listing of some of their explanations and observations.

1. More kid's activities on Sundays draws the family away from Sunday services.
2. A long, demanding work week is justification for the need to rest more on the weekend.
3. Political perceptions and preferences have tainted the message on both sides of the pulpit.
4. Grandparents have become the de facto weekend babysitters.
5. Technology enables the listener to 'connect' without leaving the house.
6. Physical disabilities, declining health, loneliness and the threat of inclement weather significantly alter the attendance of aging congregations.
7. Affluence in western society provides a greater number of choices to travel.
8. Fewer Christians see the need to regularly hear, read and share the Word.
9. There is a growing number of hearers rather than listeners.
10. Fewer witnesses of the Word is leading to fewer invitations to receive the Word.
11. Cultural Christianity is all but dead.
12. Less engagement is leading to less attendance.
13. Many Christians have allowed themselves to become more passive than participatory.
14. Fewer Christian parents are modelling to their children what they say they believe.
15. Many churches say they are making disciples but in reality, they are not.
16. People are more mobile.
17. Attendees have not been challenged.
18. Many attendees chose to not participate in a small group.
19. Many long term attendees still prefer drinking milk over chewing on meat.

As you can imagine, the room became very quiet after the final observation was shared. For those who strive to 'be' pastors and 'do' ministry, decreasing Sunday morning attendance is but one hurdle that lies ahead in the life and death of the American Christian church. What can you do to reverse the trend? Give it some thought. Pray about it. Let me know what you think. I ask now, because before you know it, it may all become a moot point.

Blessings, Dan

## Scripture of the Month:

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“Love must be sincere. Hate what is evil; cling to what is good.” Romans 12:9

## Nursery Schedule:

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February 3 – Joan Edwards  
February 10 – Teri Smith  
February 17 – Deb Napier  
February – Shawna Stombaugh

## Hospitalizations:

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Sharon Foster  
Marion O’Dell  
George Hiser

## Thank You:

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I want to thank my church family for the beautiful cards, gifts, visits and attendance at my 100th birthday party. I was so happy to see everyone and enjoyed being with so many of you! Drop by any time! Thanks, again! Betty Cheek

I want to thank my church family for coming to Mother’s 100<sup>th</sup> birthday party. Thanks to Beth & Earl Humphreys, Joan and Ralph Edwards and Jennifer Simpson for the wonderful help carrying in and carrying out things for the party, keeping the kitchen needs going, cleaning, cutting, mixing, pouring! You were awesome and so very much appreciated by me and my family! Elaine Vassmer

P.S. I want to thank everyone for their prayers, calls, texts and cards since breaking my heel. The worst is over, except I am not to walk on it until toward the end of February! Continued prayers appreciated. ☺



## Belated Grandchild Congratulations!

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We congratulate Charlie and Lori Shockley on the birth of granddaughter Sophia Lynn Loyd, born to Alec and Elisa Loyd June 26, 2018. Sophia weighed 5 lbs. 10 oz. and was 19.5 inches long. Great grandmother is Linda Shockley.

## Email Update:

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Judy Clark has a new email address. It is jclark802@gmail.com.

## Recipe of the Month: Crunchy Ham and Cheese Ball

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|                     |                             |
|---------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1 pkg. cream cheese | 1 tsp. minced onion         |
| ¼ cup mayo          | ¼ tsp. hot pepper sauce     |
| 2 cups ground ham   | ½ cup chopped nuts (pecans) |

Beat softened cream cheese and mayo until smooth. Stir ham, minced onion, and hot pepper sauce to cheese mixture. Cover and chill several hours. Form ball and roll in nuts. This will make 1 large or 2 medium balls.

You can add a dash of worcestershire sauce or more hot pepper sauce to change the taste.

Serve with crackers of your choice.

Great to serve when watching a ballgame of your choice!

## Symbols of Christmas – December 30:

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Wrapping up 2018 while Pastor Dan was on vacation, congregants enjoyed choosing and singing Christmas carols for the last time in the season. Also during the service, “Symbols of Christmas” was presented by Elaine Vassmer and helpers Bob Gerdes, Grace Harriger, Jerry Summers and Opal Fields. During the presentation, they shared about the colors and symbols of Christmas, adding Scripture as well. Some of things shared about were: the Nativity, Wise Men and their gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh, the Christmas tree and wreaths, angels, Chrismons tree and its colors and symbols, poinsettias, the star and candy cane.

## Clark Pugh and "Where Are You?":

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January 6, Clark Pugh led the service in the absence of Pastor Dan. In addition to his explanation of Epiphany, Clark's message shared entitled "Where Are You?".

Chancel Choir sang "We Three Kings" with solos by Gary Hinze, Jerry Summers and Ken Fields, each wearing a headdress representing the Wise Men, Melchior, Caspar and Balthazar.



# Ministry Team Updates:

## CHILDREN'S C.E. TEAM:

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The Children's CE Team met at 5:30 on Wednesday, January 9<sup>th</sup> at the church. The proposed CE budget for 2019 was discussed for a second time. The group is discussing possible short term goals for CE to set during 2019, which should be accomplished within a 90 day time frame. There will be more discussion about goals at the February CE meeting. Special activities for the children are being scheduled on the fifth Sundays during 2019, which are in March, June, September, and December. Tentative plans are being made for a trip to the bowling alley and Cool Crest miniature golf and arcade. More discussion will follow in upcoming meetings. The next scheduled meeting is 5:30 on Wednesday, February 6<sup>th</sup> at the church.

## JOY WOMEN ACTIVITIES:

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**JOY (formerly Westminster) Circle:** The JOY Circle has dealt with inclement weather on our meeting days the past few months, which forced the cancellation of our scheduled meetings. As a result, the JOY Circle has not met since last Fall. If we don't encounter any more delays, we are scheduled to meet at 10:00 on Monday, February 11<sup>th</sup> at the church. Our focus will be Lesson 10: "God Calls us to Obedience." Contact Carol Spencer(carolspencer52@gmail.com or 816-392-8349) if you need a copy of the lesson. All Barbee women and their friends are invited to attend.

**JOY "LUNCH BUNCH":** On January 17<sup>th</sup>, eight Barbee women enjoyed a time of fun and fellowship as they met for their monthly "Lunch Bunch" gathering. The group met for the first time at "Ventana Grill" in downtown Excelsior Springs. Everyone enjoyed the conversation, friendship, and laughter. The next get together is scheduled for 12:00 on Thursday, February 21<sup>st</sup> at "Opportunity Café." All Barbee women and their friends are invited to join the group for an hour or two. It's a wonderful way to get better acquainted with women you see at church on Sunday, but haven't had the opportunity to visit with in depth. Hope to see you there!

## MISSION HAPPENINGS:

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### Good Samaritan Food Pantry Collection:

February collection is personal hygiene items. This includes toothpaste, shampoo, conditioner, deodorant, disposable razors, soap, body wash, mouthwash, floss, sanitary napkins and tampons.

## MUSIC NOTES:

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It is amazing how often the anthems selected on Wednesday evening fit with the sermons Dan shares on Sunday. It is so wonderful how God goes before us.

The month of January has been one that has been dominated by bad weather. We have missed a Sunday and 3 rehearsals due to weather. We are hoping to get back on schedule next month.

Choirs are beginning to rehearse music for Lent and the celebration of Barbee Memorial's 125th birthday, or quasiquicentennial.

If you are interested in singing or ringing with us, please let me know.

Choir rehearsals are listed in The Banner on the calendar.

Let us all show love this month and always.

Blessings,

Elaine

## NOAH'S ARK CHRISTIAN PRESCHOOL:

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The children were thrilled to be back at school after their Christmas break. You could see and hear their excitement as they greeted one another and settled back into their school routines!

While the first week they returned was spent reviewing, it was clear that they have made a great deal of progress already this school year. At mid-year, 99% of our Pre-K children can write their first and last name. They are excelling in phonics and letter recognition, number, shapes and colors. It's amazing to see their maturity and academic success.

We concentrated on the letters M, N, O, P and Q in January. This means our Bible stories focused on Moses, Names (of the disciples), Opposites (like Mary and Martha), the Prodigal son and Queen Esther. The children are learning about rectangles, the colors blue and white, and the numbers 11, 12, 13 and 14.

Before the holidays, the parents were given an opportunity to schedule time for "*Build and Brag*" with the teachers. This time was spent sharing the children's accomplishments with the parents as well as offering tools and suggestions to encourage and support their efforts at home.

Early Enrollment for the 2019-2020 school year has officially begun. If you know of someone looking for a Christian preschool for their three or four-year-old, please have them contact Carol Spencer. It has been a huge blessing to have two full classes this year. We hope to see that continue in the years to come.

Please continue to pray for Noah's Ark Christian Preschool, its teachers, aides, children, their parents and their grandparents! Your prayers make ALL the difference. We are Noah's Ark Christian Preschool...where the Son shines every day!!

## SESSION:

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### MINUTES OF THE STATED MEETING OF THE SESSION

#### OF BARBEE MEMORIAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

January 21, 2018

The Session of Barbee Memorial held its Stated Meeting on January 21, 2019 at 6:30 p.m. in the Adult Classroom of the church. Elders present: Laura Mayfield, Clark Pugh, Bill Spencer, Linda Chapman, Jim Vassmer, and Beth Humphreys, Jerry Summers and Elder Elect, Sharon Senger and Grace Harriger. A quorum was established. Also present: Dan Clark, Pastor and Moderator, Carol Nolting, Treasurer. and Clerk of Session, Cheryl Faulkner.

The meeting was called to order at 6:32 p.m. and opened with prayer by Pastor Dan Clark.

The Agenda was reviewed and accepted with the additions of Youth report under "consent agenda" items, vote on Treasurer and Clerk of Session, plus change of date for Called Congregational meeting and Correspondence from EPC under "New Business".

#### **Consent Agenda Items:**

Clerk's report

Minutes of Regular Session meeting December 17, 2018 were approved by email vote by December 21, 2018.

A motion was made by Clark Pugh and seconded by Bill Spencer to accept the Agenda with the additional items, as well as approve the Consent Agenda items. Passed.

#### **Financial – Carol Nolting**

Carol requested feedback from Elders on receiving reports by e-mail versus hard copy; Laura Mayfield and Sharon Senger asked to have hard copy of financial reports. Remaining Elders will receive e-mailed information.

Detailed reporting of the Preliminary Summary Actual to Budget for 2018 was provided. The reporting was clear and a motion to accept the report was made by Jerry Summers and seconded by Linda Chapman. Passed.

Carol reported that she had provided financial information to the Personnel team. They recommended a 2% increase for staff and figures were provided indicating the small amount increase in the overall budget. Staff that asked to opt out of the increase were Pastor Dan Clark, Judy Clark (custodian), and Carol Spencer (church administrator). A motion was made by Jerry Summers and seconded by Bill Spencer to accept the proposed increases for Debbie Lehman,(organist/pianist), Elaine Vassmer (choir/bell directory) and Rita May (nursery attendant). Passed.

The 2019 proposed budget was thoroughly reviewed, line by line, with clear explanation of increases/decreases/changes. Carol was open to questions and answered those to the satisfaction of the Session. Clark Pugh, representing the Missions Ministry team, asked that Carol remove two items from that ministry team's budget be removed; Carol will make the necessary changes, as requested.

A motion was made by Bill Spencer, seconded by Jerry Summers, to accept the budget with changes as identified by Clark Pugh. Passed.

#### **Unfinished Business:**

**Noah's Ark Preschool:** The staff of the preschool would like Session approval to have a Spaghetti dinner and Silent Auction fundraiser for the "This Little Light of Mine" scholarship fund. Following discussion about the location for cooking food and checking with Clay County Health for providing food items to the community at our church, Session was in agreement to allow the event. Beth Humphreys made to the motion, seconded by Jerry Summers, to permit the fundraiser once permission is received through the Health Department. Passed. Team members, Bill Spencer and Cheryl Faulkner, will share the information with Preschool leaders.

**Land Appraisal:** Pastor Dan Clark presented the appraisal figures for the unused/empty property south of the church as \$225,000. The Elders were asked for input whether to list the property and, if so, with a local relator or a commercial realtor. Pastor Dan Clark asked Linda Chapman for her input, as well as requesting others for contacts for possible listing of property. Linda provided the name of Charles Small, a Reece Nichols contact in Liberty, MO. Grace Harriger also provided a possible contact in Kearney, MO. Pastor Dan Clark will pursue additional information and will keep Elders updated through e-mail; additional discussion is planned for the February Session meeting on the 18<sup>th</sup>.

#### **New Business**

**Presbytery meeting:** The EPC meeting is slated for this Friday and Saturday, 1/25 and 1/26. Those planning to attend are Pastor Dan Clark on Friday evening only; Clark Pugh and Bill Spencer will attend both Friday and Saturday.

**Personnel:** Recommendations were addressed during the financial reporting done by Carol Nolting. Items to be addressed in 2019 involve having the personnel team complete evaluations of staff, rather than the Pastor.

**Vote for Treasurer and Clerk of Session :** Pastor Clark asked for a vote to allow retention of Carol Nolting, as treasurer, and Cheryl Faulkner as Clerk of Session. Beth Humphreys made the motion, seconded by Linda Chapman, to retain both individuals. Motion passed with ease.

**Called Congregational Meeting:** The date originally slated for this meeting was January 27<sup>th</sup>; due to report preparation requirements, the requested change date for the meeting is February 10<sup>th</sup>. Jerry Summers made the motion to change the date to the 10<sup>th</sup> of February; seconded by Laura Mayfield; passed.

**Correspondence:** A letter received from the EPC was shared with Session. The brochure and letter were given to Beth Humphreys to share with the women's groups, informing them of resources for future use.

**FYI:** Carol Nolting will be scheduling annual review of our Edward Jones investments for the March Session meeting. Also, a review of our insurance through Church Mutual will be needed in March. She asked for Elders to assist in this meeting; volunteering to assist are Jim Vassmer and Bill Spencer.

#### **Facility Use Request:** None

Laura Mayfield made the motion to adjourn at 8:00 pm, and seconded by Linda Chapman. Motion passed. Pastor Dan closed the meeting in prayer.

**The next scheduled meeting is February 18 , 2019 at 6:30, adult classroom at the church.**

Cheryl Faulkner, Clerk of Session



## STEPHEN MINISTRY: WHAT DO YOU THINK?

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Are you wondering about Stephen Ministry, like “do we still have Stephen Ministry?”

This quiet ministry requires the utmost care to maintain confidentiality for our care receivers.....that’s why you hear so little about it!

We are looking forward this year with patience, persistence and questions.

Is it time for new leaders? Is it time to initiate a new class to add caregivers (Stephen Ministers)? Does this ministry support our vision and mission? Should we continue?

Good questions.....what do you think?

Galatians 6:2 states, “Bear one another’s burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ.” Does Stephen Ministry do this? Yes, it does. It is a one-to-one lay caring ministry, providing high quality, CONFIDENTIAL, Christ-centered care to people who are hurting.

Yes, it supports our vision and mission.

What do you think? Are you ready to serve as a Stephen Minister?

Submitted by,  
Cheryl Faulkner

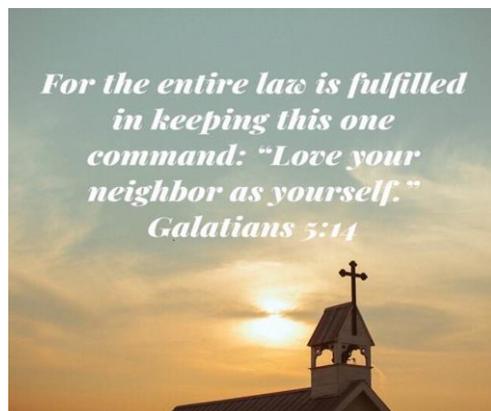
## YOUTH UPDATE:

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The Youth ministry leaders met on December 29th to discuss plans for the first three months of 2019. It was decided to continue the partnership with Excelsior Springs Church of Nazarene in combining our youth groups to meet on Sunday evenings. The weekly meetings will continue to be held at Barbee. Brett Knox of ESCON and Paul Mayfield of Barbee will continue leading the lesson time and Jeff Callister of ESCON and Ashley St. Julien of Barbee will continue to lead the activity time each Sunday. We greatly appreciate the added adult leadership of Laura Mayfield and Sherry Summers who have been very good to attend on Sunday evenings and lend a hand wherever needed. On Saturday January 26th, we are planning to attend the Winterjam concert at the Sprint Center in Kansas City. The youth are being asked to pay \$5 of the \$15 cost to attend with the youth ministry covering the remainder of the cost. On February 3rd, we will have a Superbowl party that will be hosted at ESCON where we will have a fun evening of food, fellowship and watching the "big game". In the middle of February, our lessons will center around lessons in the leader guide that came in our 30 Hour Famine kit and continue weekly until the 30 Hour Famine event that will be hosted by ESCON during the youth's spring break from school on Friday March 22 into March 23.

Unfortunately, in the past week, I have come to the realization that the mission trip to Eureka Springs, AR that was planned for the first week in June is going to have to be postponed until next summer. This will allow us more time to do some fund raisers and raise the necessary funds to cover the cost of next year's trip, wherever we decide to serve. In the past, we have gone every other year, going to Joplin in June of 2016 and to the Texas Gulf Coast in June of 2018. We will look to continue that pattern for the summer of 2020. Thank you to those that expressed interest in participating with the youth for the Eureka Springs trip. I hope that you will still be willing and able to participate in the 2020 mission trip.

Thank you and God bless,  
Paul Mayfield



# February 2019

| Sunday   | Monday   | Tuesday                   | Wednesday   | Thursday  | Friday                | Saturday  |
|--|--|---------------------------|---|---|-----------------------|---|
|  |  |                           |   |   | 1                     | 2<br>5 pm SNA Small Grp                         |
| 3<br>9 am Sm Grps/Youth SS<br>10:45 am Worship Svc<br>12 noon Souper Bowl<br>5 pm Youth Group                    | 4<br>5:30 pm Praying Together                              | 5<br>6:30 pm Worship Team | 6<br>5:30 pm Children's CE<br>6:30 pm Chapel Bells<br>7:45 pm Chancel Choir | 7   | 8                     | 9<br>5 pm SNA Small Grp                         |
| 10<br>Scout Sunday<br>9 am Sm Grps/Youth SS<br>10:45 am Worship Svc<br>Called Congr. Meeting<br>6 pm Youth Group | 11<br>10 am JOY<br>6 pm Small Group mtg<br>6:30 pm Deacons | 12                        | 13<br>6:30 pm Chapel Bells<br>7:45 pm Chancel Choir                         | 14<br>12 Noon Noah's Ark mtg<br>Valentine's Day | 15                    | 16<br>10 am Meet the Need<br>5 pm SNA Small Grp |
| 17<br>9 am Sm Grps/Youth SS<br>10:45 am Worship Svc<br>2pm ES Nursing & Rehab<br>6 pm Youth Group                | 18<br>6:30 pm Session<br>President's Day                   | 19<br>6:30 pm Men's Choir | 20<br>6:30 pm Chapel Bells<br>7:45 pm Chancel Choir                         | 21<br>12 Noon JOY Lunch                         | 22<br>BANNER DEADLINE | 23<br>5 pm SNA Small Grp                        |
| 24<br>9 am Sm Grps/Youth SS<br>10:45 am Worship Svc<br>6 pm Youth Group  | 25<br>6:30 pm Hospitality mtg                              | 26                        | 27<br>6:30 pm Chapel Bells<br>7:45 pm Chancel Choir                         | 28  |                       |   |

Sunday Services

Children's Sunday School & Young Believers 9:00 AM  
Worship Service 10:45 AM

Contacts

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CUSTODIAN – Judy Clark  
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Happy Birthdays!

**FEBRUARY**

Dick Farrow – 1  
Sue Farrow – 5  
Jack Taylor, Jr. – 6

Dan Fuller – 8  
Jeff Henson – 28  
Dorothy Kennedy – 29

Anniversary Greetings!

Mr. & Mrs. Paul Mayfield – 19  
Mr. & Mrs. Dick Farrow – 22  
Mr. & Mrs. Marion O'Dell – 25



The Banner Deadline for March is **February 22, 2019**. Please help us prepare the Banner by sharing articles about things happening at Barbee, recipes and other items of interest. Please put them in the Secretary's box in the office. If you would like to email your info, the email address is: barbeepc@barbeepc.org.

