

# The Barbee Banner

## Pastor's Note:

As we enter into the unknown of 2019, you may be experiencing feelings of despair. You may be asking, where is God's good will to men in a world as terrible as ours can often be? Where is God in times of famine, drought, disaster and extreme poverty or in the dark and quiet spaces of our minds when we feel lonely, fearful, and riddled with anxiety? If God loves us, came to live amongst us, why does He allow the evils around us to persist?

In the beginning stanzas of Henry Wadsworth Longfellow's 1863 poem entitled, "Christmas Bells," he captured our own questions of God's seemingly absent love following the death of his beloved wife and the wounding of his son in the American Civil War. He wrote:

***And in despair I bowed my head; "There is no peace on earth," I said;  
"For hate is strong, and mocks the song of peace on earth, good-will to men!"***

I think that you would agree that this disbelief in God's goodness is more common to the human condition than we let on. Many of us Christians go our entire lives believing that God is there but struggle to accept that He is who He says He is. In the scriptures, we read promises of God's faithfulness; He withholds no good thing from those who walk in His ways; the plans He has for us are better than anything we could ask or imagine; His love is steadfast and endures forever. But for many Christians, we kind of 'buy' the reality of God's goodness, but with great hesitancy. We've got one foot in and one foot out of Scripture's promises for our lives. As a result, when it comes down to it, worry, fear, and anxiety tend to take over more often than not.

For Mary and Joseph, the 'good news' imparted to them from the angel of God, didn't look like a perfect path forward. The angel's words certainly did not ensure an easy, carefree life free of challenges, pain or suffering. I suspect both Mary and Joseph had many questions that at times were filled with doubt. That is only human. To trust in God's goodness, ultimately, isn't to live a life free of struggle or strife, and to never doubt in the midst of them. Nor is it to never question God's providence or wonder, like Longfellow, where peace on earth and good will to men have gone to. How then are we to grasp what we sometimes feel is ungraspable?

We are challenged to live a life in step with our good God by recognizing that the evils of this world have, ultimately, met their end in the Risen Christ. And through His life, His sacrifice, and His resurrection, sin and death and suffering will one day be no more. The lame shall walk, the blind shall see, and the dead shall be raised. These are the promises Christ's coming ushered in for the people of God. The Apostle Paul writes, the redemption we see now in part, we shall one day see more fully in His coming kingdom. This perseverance of faith is aptly captured by Longfellow in the final stanza of "Christmas Bells."

***Then pealed the bells more loud and deep: "God is not dead, nor doth He sleep;  
The Wrong shall fail, the Right prevail, with peace on earth, good-will to men."***

Doubts are not wrong, but they do give us a moment to choose faith just as Joseph and Mary did. And, that's even in hard times. Rather than living in a world of constant questions, we are to allow this tiny babe in a manger to give us the answer: "God is not dead, nor doth he sleep." As we move into 2019, let us remind ourselves that Jesus is here, God has come to us and He is good. So much better than we could possibly ever imagine. Choose faith my friends.

May 2019 be filled with His blessings, Dan

## Scripture of the Month:

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“You were taught, with regard to your former way of life, to put off your old self, which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires; to be made new in the attitude of your minds; and to put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness.”

Ephesians 4: 22-24

## Nursery Schedule:

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January 6 – Joan Edwards

January 13 – Teri Smith

January 20 – Deb Napier

January 27 – Shawna Stombaugh

## Nursery Coordinator/Nursery Attendant Opportunities:

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Shawna Stombaugh will be stepping down as our Nursery Coordinator. If you feel drawn to fulfill this opportunity to serve the Barbee congregation, please contact Pastor Dan for details.

Also, we have opportunities for you to serve our youngest attendees by assisting Rita in the nursery on Sunday mornings during Small Groups and worship. Please contact Pastor Dan if you are willing to bless the child, the parents and God.

## Hospitalizations:

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Mary Lou Smith

Sharon Foster

## Thank You:

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Thank you to Chapel Bells and Chancel Choir members and Barbee Men for the very generous gifts of a restaurant gift card and check. I appreciate your generosity. Blessings for the New Year, Elaine Vassmer

I give thanks to my Lord for a beautiful 90<sup>th</sup> birthday party! He has blessed me with a very special family including my church family and other friends. May He richly bless you too! Love to you all, Pat Lamb

## Birth Announcement:

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Congratulations to the family of Zayne Hayden who was born December 2 and weighed 6 lbs 15 oz. Baby Zayne was 21 inches long . Parents are Justin and Tia (Rider) Veals. Grandparents are Eddy & Kim Barrera, great-grandmother Carol Nolting.



## Recipe of the Month: “Angel Biscuits” – Vassmer Family

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1 pkg. yeast (dry or cake)	3 teaspoons baking powder
½ cup warm water	1 teaspoon salt
5 cups sifted flour	¾ cup vegetable shortening or margarine
1 teaspoon baking soda	2 cups buttermilk

Dissolve yeast in warm water. Mix all dry ingredients together. Cut in shortening. Add buttermilk and yeast. Mix until moist but do not beat. Drop by spoonful onto a cooking sheet and bake at 400 degrees until brown as desired. You can keep extra batter in refrigerator for approximately a week.

## “Open Hearts in Bethlehem”

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It is with great appreciation and humility that I praise God and give thanks to both members and non-members of the Barbee congregation, who on December 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup>, performed a four scene play entitled, “Open Hearts in Bethlehem.” When you take the first steps of the journey to perform a play you are unaware of how many total number of hours will be invested through both individual and corporate time in the preparation of the backdrop, the stage ‘wall,’ props, lighting, sound, and of course, rehearsals. What was finally accomplished was not because of one person’s efforts but was the result of a group of individuals who worked tirelessly together to glorify God.

God has blessed this congregation with individuals who were willing to share their talents, insights, and experiences to bring the ‘Good News’ to the community. For each person’s efforts I will be eternally indebted.



**Seated:** Logan Houston, Caitlin Bunts, Addison Smith

**Kneeling:** Andrew Harness, Judy Clark, Grace Harriger, Brooke Chapman, Paul Mayfield

**Standing:** Sharon Senger, Landen Summers, Jerry Summers, Clark Pugh, Jackson Houston, Drew Summers, Ethan Chapman, Dan Clark, Ken Fields, Teri Smith, David Mayfield

Not pictured: Gary Hinze, backdrop painting and Jeff Henson, wall design

## 100<sup>th</sup> Birthday Celebration for Betty Cheek:

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The family of Betty Cheek invites you to her 100<sup>th</sup> birthday party, on Saturday, January 19, from 2-4 p.m. in the fellowship hall. Please join us for this special celebration. Your presence is her gift. If you are unable to attend but would like to send a card, please do so at P.O. Box 174; Excelsior Springs, MO 64024

## “Called Congregational Meeting”:

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**On Sunday, January 27<sup>th</sup>, following the worship service, we will convene for our annual “Called Congregational Meeting.”** This gathering has several purposes: election of new Elders, and Deacons to serve for the next three years\*; selection of three active church members from the congregation-at-large to serve on the 2019 Officer Nominating Committee; treasurer’s review of the Session approved 2019 church budget and the pastor’s “Terms of Call.”

The following people have been nominated and have accepted to serve the Barbee congregation as Elders and Deacons:

**Elders:** Grace Harriger, Sharon Senger

**Deacons:** Jon Deere, Janet Stewart, Shawna Stombaugh (\*one year)

An opportunity to nominate others from the floor by active members of Barbee Memorial Presbyterian Church will be made available during the “Called Congregational Meeting”. **However, those who are nominated from the floor during the “Called Congregational Meeting,” must have been contacted ahead of time, have met with the pastor, have agreed to serve a full three years, have been an active member at Barbee Memorial Presbyterian Church for at least one year, are in good standing, are active in the life of the church and accept the Reformed tradition of governance, the “Essential Tenets of Faith”, and the Westminster Confession of Faith as required by the Evangelical Presbyterian Church.**

Only members on the active roll are permitted to vote.

# Ministry Team Updates:

## CHILDREN'S C.E. TEAM:

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The Children's CE Team met on November 20<sup>th</sup> to discuss their 2019 budget. It was decided that the budget would be divided into 4 separate categories, which include: Curriculum, Snacks, Classroom Supplies, and Recreation Equipment and Activities. The proposed budget will be increased from the 2018 amount due to growth in our numbers of older youth and in planning more activities. Everyone also liked the idea of scheduling children's activities on the 5<sup>th</sup> Sundays during 2019, which include the months of March, June, September, and December. The next meeting is scheduled for January 9<sup>th</sup>, 2019 at 5:30 p.m. at the church.

## JOY WOMEN ACTIVITIES:

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**JOY Circle:** The women of JOY Circle did not meet for their regular meeting during the month of December. Instead, everyone enjoyed getting together with other Barbee women at Elaine Vassmer's annual Christmas Brunch, which was held in her home on Saturday, December 1<sup>st</sup>. Elaine is always a wonderful hostess and her home was beautifully decorated for the Christmas season. Our next JOY Circle meeting will be Monday, January 14<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 at the church. Cheryl Carpenter will be our study leader and hostess as we study Lesson 10: "God Calls us to Obedience." Contact Carol Spencer ([carolspencer52@gmail.com](mailto:carolspencer52@gmail.com)) if you need a copy of the lesson. All Barbee women and their friends are welcome to attend.

**JOY "LUNCH BUNCH":** The JOY "Lunch Bunch" did not meet during the month of December due to busy Christmas schedules and preparations. The group is scheduled to meet at 12:00 on Thursday, January 17<sup>th</sup> at the "Opportunity Café" next to "Meet the Need." As always, all Barbee women and their friends are invited to come join us for food, fun, and fellowship.

## MISSION HAPPENINGS:

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Barbee's Mission Ministry team will meet again on Tuesday, January 8<sup>th</sup> at 7 p.m. We invite YOU to attend. We will be discussing 2019 events and fund raisers.



It's COMING!!!!..... FEBRUARY 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2019 Souper Bowl Sunday is just around the corner!!!!

Do you have an award-winning soup or chili recipe?... ok..so maybe "award-winning" within your own family. We are calling all chefs to whip up their best chili or soup for our annual Souper Bowl Sunday luncheon.

Please be prepared to bring cans of SOUP to donate during this event for the Good Samaritan Center. Stay tuned!!

## Good Samaritan Food Pantry Collection:

January collection is fruit. This includes canned applesauce, peaches, pears, raisins and fruit juices.

## MUSIC NOTES:

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The Advent season at Barbee was wonderful, musically speaking! Chancel Choir sang at the end of the play, "Open Hearts In Bethlehem" on Dec. 6 & 7.

Chancel Choir also sang every Sunday of the month and we enjoyed beautiful special music from Chapel Bells on December 2: (Joan Edwards, Cheryl Faulkner, Opal Fields, Shari Gale, Gary Hinze, Beth Humphreys, Sabrina Hunter, Dorothy Kennedy, Susan Martin, Jennifer Simpson, Teri Smith and Margo Taylor. Other special music during December was Jerry Summers, Mixed Quartet (Gary Hinze, Mike Carpenter, Beth Humphreys and myself) and Debbie Lehmann. I also enjoyed singing with Debbie on Christmas Eve. Chancel Choir presented "Good News from Home" on the 16<sup>th</sup> during the worship service. Jennifer Simpson narrated the cantata, which was accompanied by Debbie Lehmann. Paul Mayfield projected lovely slides on the screen to enhance the musical selections. Those singing were as follows: Soprano- Sabrina Hunter, Sharon Senger and Trisha Vassmer. Alto- Opal Fields, Grace Harriger and Beth Humphreys. Tenor- Mike Carpenter,

Ken Fields, Rick Lammert and Ron Teegarden. Bass – Bob Gerdes, Gary Hinze, Clark Pugh, Phil Senger, Jerry Summers and Jim Vassmer. Barbee has truly been blessed with wonderful musicians who are willing to share their talent.

A party for the Adult Choirs was held at the Vassmer's on Friday, December 28 with 20+ attending.

If you are interested in singing or ringing with Barbee Choirs, contact me any time or check the rehearsal dates and times on the calendar and join us!

Blessings for the New Year! Elaine Vassmer 816-726-3117



## SESSION:

### MINUTES OF THE STATED MEETING OF THE SESSION OF BARBEE MEMORIAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH December 17, 2018

The Session of Barbee Memorial held its Stated Meeting on December 17, 2018 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. 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 6:34 p.m. and opened with prayer by Pastor Dan Clark.

The Agenda was reviewed and accepted without changes or additions.

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

Clerk's report - correction of attendance numbers was noted; report revised

Minutes of Regular Session meeting November 19, 2018 were accepted by email vote November 30, 2018. The minutes were signed by the Moderator and Clerk of Session.

#### **Ministry Team reports summarized:**

Worship Ministry team - no meeting in December.

Hospitality team – no meeting in December

Children's CE Ministry meeting minutes: Items discussed were Road to Resurrection at Easter; according to their minutes the Road to Resurrection was tabled for 2019 with the possibility of having it in 2020. The budget was created in four categories: curriculum, snacks, classroom supplies and recreation activities. Next meeting slated for January 9.

Noah's Ark Preschool team- - no December meeting.

Mission Ministry - Next meeting will be January 8, 2019.

A motion to accept the consent agenda was made by Jerry Summers, seconded by Bill Spencer - passed.

#### **Financial: Carol Nolting**

Carol provided a review of general operations financials followed by line items to be added for the 2019 budget. Carol encouraged all Elders to carefully review all the financial reports; she told all present to pose questions when they were not clear on any of the items. Bill Spencer made the motion to accept the financials as presented, seconded by Jerry Summers – passed.

The preliminary 2019 proposed budget was presented, noting that adjustments/changes may be needed once all pledges have been received. She explained line items for increases and/or decreases per area. The budget will be finalized at the end of December. Elders were asked to review the proposed budget for areas that may need to be changed, in case of a budget shortfall.

Bill Spencer reported for Noah's Ark that staff will receive a 2.5% pay increase; Elders reviewed the handout. No Session action was needed since the preschool budget is separate from the church.

Clerk of Session, Cheryl Faulkner, presented the letter from Presbytery concerning “per member asking” for 2018 and 2019. Email clarification has been requested from Brad Werner, Treasurer of Presbytery, concerning the “asking” amount for EPC National. Barbee has not contributed in 2018 due to budget shortages. Following discussion, Bill Spencer made the motion to send \$1500 to the Mid-America Presbytery for our 2018 contribution. (This contribution was based on 100 current active members for 2018 at \$15 per active member.) Seconded by Jerry Summers. Motion passed. Clerk of Session will correspond with Brad Werner concerning the 2019 contribution.

**Unfinished Business:**

Land survey: Pastor Clark reported that the survey and necessary legal paperwork has been completed. The question before Session is whether to pursue an appraisal of the split-lot property, SE of the outside shed, surveyed at 1.44 available acres. Following extensive discussion, Bill Spencer made the motion to pursue an appraisal of the property, seconded by Jerry Summers. The motion passed with 6 in agreement and 1 opposed.

Appraisal bids had been received and were presented. Appraisalytics provided a quote of \$1450 and Pryor appraisers provided a quote of \$1000. Questions and discussion focused on commercial versus private property areas of expertise. Jim Vassmer made the motion to go with Pryor appraisers, cost \$1000; seconded by Beth Humphreys. Motion passed with 6 for and 1 opposed. Pastor Dan will follow-up with Pryor appraisers.

**Card Reader:** Carol Nolting reported that the lease terms for this were not acceptable and would not be pursued at this time.

**Remote Deposit Machine:** Carol Nolting reported that we will utilize this service for check scanning and immediate deposit of checks. The date of installation is set for Dec. 28<sup>th</sup>; it will be tested for full functioning and be up and running by January 2019. This item has been budgeted for 2019

**Pulpit Opportunities:**

Pastor Dan will be away December 30<sup>th</sup> and January 6<sup>th</sup>. Choir Director, Elaine Vassmer has requested the December 30<sup>th</sup> date. Clark Pugh requested the opportunity to fill the pulpit on January 6<sup>th</sup>, 2019.

**Facility Use Request:** Elaine Vassmer requests use of Fellowship Hall to celebrate her mother’s, Betty Cheek’s, 100th birthday. Motion made by Beth Humphreys and seconded by Linda Chapman to grant use of Fellowship Hall for the BIG event; passed.

**The next scheduled meeting is January 21, 2019**

Bill Spencer made the motion to adjourn. It was seconded by Laura Mayfield. Motion passed.

Pastor Dan closed the meeting in prayer at 8:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Cheryl Faulkner, Clerk of Session

**SMALL GROUP NOTES:**

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Overall 2018 has been a positive year for Small Groups in our Church. We currently have three groups meeting, two on Sunday morning and one on Saturday night. Approximately 50 individuals are members of a small group and while good, we want to do better. We would like to see everyone in a small group. We want to become not a Church with Small Groups but a Church of Small Groups. It is our goal to have everyone who is able to be active in a Small Group. To do this people need to be encouraged to join. So I encourage you to investigate what is available now and if nothing meets your needs, or meets on at a time that is inconvenient please let myself or Pastor Dan know of your ideas. We welcome input, suggestions and even criticism if it is meant to help. As the New Year unfolds let us work together to build up our Small Groups and in the process build up our Church to both serve the community and to bring glory to God.

Jim Vassmer

# January 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 New Year's day	2	3	4	5 5 pm SNA Small Grp
6 9 am Sm Grps/Youth SS 10:45 am Worship Svc 6 pm Youth Group	7 5:30 pm Praying Together	8 7 pm Missions Ministry	9 5:30 pm Children's CE 6:30 pm Chapel Bells 7:45 pm Chancel Choir	10 12 Noon Noah's Ark mtg	11	12 5 pm SNA Small Grp
13 9 am Sm Grps/Youth SS 10:45 am Worship Svc 6 pm Youth Group	14 10 am JOY 6:30 pm Deacons	15	16 6:30 pm Chapel Bells 7:45 pm Chancel Choir	17 12 Noon JOY Lunch 6pm Stephen Ministry	18	19 10 am Meet the Need 2 pm Betty Cheek's Party
20 9 am Sm Grps/Youth SS 10:45 am Worship Svc 2pm ES Nursing & Rehab 6 pm Youth Group	21 6:30 pm Session	22	23 6:30 pm Chapel Bells 7:45 pm Chancel Choir	24 BANNER DEADLINE	25	26 5 pm SNA Small Grp
27 9 am Sm Grps/Youth SS 10:45 am Worship Svc Noon Called Congr. Mtg 6 pm Youth Group	28 6:30 pm Hospitality mtg	29	30 6:30 pm Chapel Bells 7:45 pm Chancel Choir	31		

***“YOU ARE ALWAYS WELCOME AT THE FRIENDLY CHURCH ON THE HILL”***

Sunday Services

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

Contacts

PASTOR – Dan Clark  
(816) 500-4668  
dclark@barbeepc.org

MUSIC DIRECTOR – Elaine Vassmer  
qyrdir@yahoo.com  
(816) 726-3117

ORGANIST – Debbie Lehmann  
delouise54@yahoo.com  
(847) 454-5586

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT – Carol Spencer  
(816) 630-3459  
barbeepc@barbeepc.org

PRESCHOOL ADMINISTRATOR – Carol Spencer  
(816) 392-8349  
noahsark@barbeepc.org

BUILDING & GROUNDS – Bill Spencer  
(816) 392-8394  
wmlspencer@gmail.com

Happy Birthdays!

**JANUARY**

Carol Stockwell – 4	Woody Aull – 23
Joan Edwards – 11	Pat Lamb – 24
Glenda Prewitt – 12	James Kennedy – 25
Betty Cheek – 23	Landen Summers – 27
Opal Fields – 23	Abby & Drew Summers – 28
	Michael Carpenter - 31

Anniversary Greetings!



The Banner Deadline for February is **January 24, 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](mailto:barbeepc@barbeepc.org).