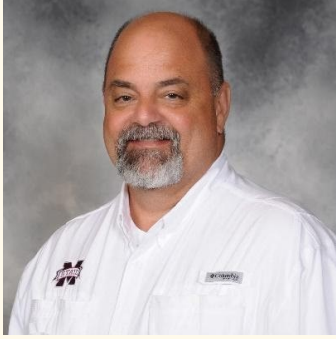


THE CIRCUIT RIDER



January 2024

Brother Cecil is on vacation in the mountains. It is newsletter time and with the hustle and bustle of Christmas, we failed to prepare his Pastor's Report ahead of time. Via text messaging, Cecil suggested I find a guest columnist. One of the studies Cecil led this year focused on the fact that everyone has a story to tell, and we need to tell that story. Recently, I read a Facebook post written by Nancy Pollard where she shared her story. With Nancy's permission-Here is her story.

I had not been to Church in nearly 50 years. I never really read the bible. When I moved to Franklinton, I was driving past a little church in town and although I will never know what compelled me to do so, I stopped and went in. I have been a member of Centenary Methodist Church for 8 years now. All the people there are like one big family. We all will help a 'family' member at moments notice. Our minister Brother Cecil is amazing and dearly loved by everyone. I am learning in the bible about Jesus' life and his miraculous works. I get up at 4 a.m. every morning for devotion time. Each morning I read a little book called 'The Upper Room'. There are stories every day written by people sharing how their lives are 100% better with Christ. If it were not for Him, I wouldn't be here today. Three strokes, open heart surgery and no major deficits-Yes, I am truly blessed. One story was written by a woman who is a retired Air Force veteran who was struggling with her very lonely life after retirement. God gave her the will to move forward. She is pursuing a PhD in theology. She now has a purpose. We all need to thrive. So, for all you retirees who are stuck in a rut, find something to do to give you purpose. These little stories are so uplifting in this broken world. They show us God does hear our prayers 24-7 and he does answer them in his own time, and in his own way. Sometimes his answer is No, because he has a better plan. So as we celebrate Jesus' birth, let us remember why he is here!

Blessings,

Nancy

THE ONE AND ONLY ORIGINAL CHRISTMAS FACTORY

What a blessing! Our Mini-Methodist did an outstanding job on Sunday, December 17th. Their performance was appreciated by all in attendance. Thanks to our kids and their parents for getting them to all the practices. Thanks to Callie Foreman and John Allen for playing their roles. Thanks to Patri Gast for directing and her faithful assistants (Jamie Matisse, Jessica Walker, Lenora Frazier, and Laura Logan).

WHAT DO YOU HAVE PLANNED FOR NEXT YEAR?



FRANKLINTON CHRISTMAS PARADE

Our Mini-Methodist were joined by several adults on the Nativity Float for the Christmas Parade. Centenary has sponsored this float since the inception of the parade. Thanks to all the participants and the builders of the float.



2024 MISSION TEAM

2023 was a successful year for our Mission Program. The team met and has a plan developed for 2024. The Methodist Children's Home will benefit from a Chicken Dinner on February 24th at the Farmer's Market. The Church Picnic and Campout will be held at the Bogue Chitto State Park on Saturday, April 27th. The Pregnancy Crisis Center (opening in January in Bogalusa) will benefit from a Jambalaya fundraiser on June 8th. Aide will be given to three Ruston Methodist Children's Home young men who have aged out of the home. The second half of 2024 will be planned in detail later. Everyone is encouraged to participate with our mission team. If you have questions on how to get involved, call the church office. Pictured below is Brother Cecil, Senator Beth Mizell, the Director of the Pregnancy Crisis Center and a board member. Cecil is presenting them with a check to help the organization as they plan for a January opening.



MEN'S BREAKFAST

The Centenary Methodist Men met on Sunday, December 3rd and shared fellowship and a delicious breakfast prepared by Barry, Jack, and Ben Bickham.

The program that day was the Waverley Club's Santa and Mrs. Claus (who will remain nameless) as they shared the history of the Waverley's Santa Float and their experiences in visiting the various schools around Franklinton. In attendance were several elves from previous years who now shared stories of their rides.

The club made a donation to the Waverley's Decoration Fund to help with the expenses of maintaining the float and also the decorations at the Waverley Hut.

The January program will be Rayah Hope Spinks and Ainsley Richardson representing the Ddembe Ministries which is an organization that serves widows and orphans in the Jinja, Uganda area of Africa.

We urge all men of Centenary to come out and enjoy a great breakfast and learn about this exciting ministry.



METHODIST WOMEN'S CHRISTMAS PARTY

The annual Methodist Women's Christmas Party was held in December. Everyone enjoyed the refreshments and the ornament exchange. The January meeting will be at noon on January 2nd.



BOOKCLUB

The January gathering will be on Monday, January 15th at 11 am. Come prepared to select new reading material for the coming months.

GREENLEAVES

Greenleaves is set to begin a new year. The January meeting is on Tuesday the 16th at noon. The meal will be provided by Debbie Brock. **BRING A GUEST!** Everyone is encouraged to invite a friend. In December the group enjoyed soup provided by Cecil and Lenora, chips/dips and salads.

CHURCH FLOWERS

Each Sunday flowers are placed in the sanctuary to honor or remember family members and friends. The church has several nice artificial arrangements that can be used instead of purchasing flowers. We ask for a \$25 donation to use these so we can purchase more arrangements. We have 13 open dates on our calendar for 2024. If you are interested, please call the church office.

PIECEMAKERS

January 23rd at 9:30 a.m.
Fellowship Hall

DECEMBER ATTENDANCE REPORT

| | | |
|-------------|-------|-------------|
| December 3 | SS-47 | Worship-101 |
| December 10 | SS-38 | Worship-58 |
| December 17 | SS-52 | Worship-126 |
| December 24 | SS-34 | Worship-80 |

2024 Centenary Officers

Chairperson: Craig Myer

Church Secretary: Faith Bahm

Lay Leader: Jimmy Burris

Lay Delegate: Jimmy Burris

Lay Delegate Alternate: Mike Mobley

Board of Trustees: Dick Richardson

Finance Chair: Robert Tilghman

Treasurer: Julie Foret

SPRC: Clyde Bickham

Worship: Amy Oyler

Missions: Mike McCormick

Evangelism: Ron Brumfield

Education: Patri Gast

Methodist Women: Mary Beverly

Methodist Men: Jimmy Burris

Youth: Brenda Locke

Children: Jamie Matise

At Large: Mary Jo Poole

At Large: Huey Beverly

January 18th is next meeting.

1/3 Patri Gast

1/5 Aaron Logan

1/6 Sandi Miller

1/6 Jessica Walker

1/9 Fabian Logan

1/15 Genevive Brannon

1/15 Kay McCain

1/17 Ben Bickham

1/18 Elizabeth Ard

1/20 Ellen Meyer

1/20 Jennifer Green

1/21 Clyde Oyler

1/29 AnaMarie Locke



PRAYER LIST

Judy Alston, Irvin Andre, Kathy Andre, Clara Jo Beaushaw, Don Bernard, Hallie Blalock, Genevieve Brannon, Greg Brooks, Jr., Haylee Brooks, Izzy Brooks, Al Bontrager, Lynn Bourgoyne, Stacey Breaux, Jewell Burch, Bob Burris, Sharon Bush, Steve Bush, Polly Carter, Roland Carter, Willie Chauvin, Amy Dudley, Lee Anna Dudley, Linda Durden, Kathy Dykes, Donald Folse, Elaine Forrest, Lenora Frazier, Jim Gilbert, Mike Gill, Barrett Green, Jessica Hornsby, David James, Ryan Jenkins, Sue Johnson, Melissa Lebo, Margerite Lipani, Donna Locke, Betty Logan, Ed Lyles, Peggy Lyles, David McBride, Bobby McInnis, Lylia McInnis, Margie McInnis, Mike Mobley, Leighann Morel, George L. Morris III, Lindsay O'Donnell, Mason Pepin, Mary Elizabeth Richardson, Tom & Rene Riggs, Tanda Schilling, Mike Sharp, Dianne Smith, Brent Thomas, Corey Thomas, Yvonne Thomas, Jerilyn Wild..

REMEMBER THESE FAMILIES

Pam Cook Forrest, Jerry Millet, Susan Suarez, Charlie Wild, Reggie Simmons, Thomas Hood III, Babs Fowler, Laura Parnell, Myrna Schilling, Freida Welch, Craig Forrest.

TEDDY BEAR BABIES

Baby Bryan: Parents: Keeley & Katelin Bryan, Centenary Great Aunt & Uncle: Brenda & Cecil Locke

Baby Oliver Blake Ginn-Parents: Faith & Zachary Ginn, Grandmother: Christine Beverly Ginn, Centenary Great-Grandparents: Huey & Mary Beverly.

OUR MILITARY FAMILY AND FRIENDS

Gavin Berne, Carson Fontenot, Megan McCain, Kelly Reiss, Brody Schilling, Dr. Rebekah Schott, Lee McCain, Jackson Stewart, Chad Penny, T. J. Smith, Josh Magee, Andrew Darbonne, Gavin Brumfield.

**IF YOU NEED TO CONTACT THE CHURCH DURING OFFICE HOURS
CALL 985-839-3808. OTHERWISE 985-515-0134 OR 985-335-7662.**

Pastor: Cecil Locke
Secretary: Faith Bahm
Custodian: Lee Dudley

Choir Director: Bonnie Pope
Treasurer: Julie Foret

CENTENARY METHODIST CHURCH

office@centenarymethodist.com

1015 Cleveland Street, Franklinton, Louisiana 70438

Happy New Year

Centenary Methodist Church
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Franklinton, Louisiana 70438