

CEDAR GROVE BAPTIST CHURCH

NEWSLETTER — JANUARY 2014



We believe that salvation is the gift of God brought to man by grace and received through personal faith in the Lord Jesus Christ plus nothing. His precious blood was shed on Calvary for the forgiveness of our sins. The salvation of the ill-deserving sinner is based on the finished work of Jesus Christ, who became the sinner's substitute before God and died a provisionary sacrifice for the sins of the whole world.

THE PASTOR'S CORNER

I know most of you are probably saying "is it already 2014?" I cannot help but to think back to a class I had in what is now called Middle School it was called Junior High in my day. Our teacher was talking about the 21st century and in particular I remember her saying 2015. Her question was what you want to have accomplished by 2015. I still remember thinking 2015 is a fairy tale it is unobtainable but if we live another 12 months it will be 2015. My point is time keeps flying by and we need to ask ourselves are we making the most out of what we are given.

When I look at all that has been accomplished in 2013 I am a very proud pastor but we did not reach all of the goals that I had set out for. We have averaged between 50-60 people in our worship services this year, we have seen several people baptized, our pews were recovered and we have had a great year of ministry with our kids. For this we should celebrate but we need to ask ourselves are we totally happy with these things or do we want to see God do more in our church.

I personally believe that God wants to bless His people and that includes Cedar Grove. I think the problem is that we as God's people either lose our focus or we be-

lieve that God just blesses some elite group somewhere. I want to challenge everyone that reads this article to ask God to do something in our church that only God can do in 2014 and then I challenge you to give it a hundred percent of your effort in prayer, labor and finances and let's see if God is still in the miraculous business or if He has retired. Folks we need to be redeeming the time as Paul says in Ephesians 5:16 because the days are evil. I believe that we have enough time to get what needs to be done accomplished in the 24 hours God gives us each day because He would never give us more to do than we can do. We just need to be better investors of our time and quit wasting the life that God has entrusted to us. We have the answers to the problems and that answer is Jesus Christ. Let's make 2014 the best year of our lives and the best year that Cedar Grove has ever had.

Pastor Marty

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PERSECUTION

We American Christians sometimes complain of government encroachment upon our religious liberty. We should be aware of the erosion of our liberty, but we also need to remember our brothers and sisters in Christ who would dearly love to have the freedoms that we so often take for granted. These two items were found on the internet at FoxNews.com and at persecution.com

IRAQ

Iraq, which was once home to more than 1 million Christians, has seen an exodus as persecution has risen, according to Open Doors, a human rights group which monitors treatment of Christians in the Middle East. There are now an estimated 330,000 Christians in Iraq, and the nation ranks No. 4 on Open Doors' 2013 list of nations considered the worst persecutors of Christians. North Korea, Saudi Arabia and Afghanistan rank as the top three.

IRAN

Three Christians were arrested this month because of Christian activities in Iran. On Dec. 2, Christian convert Rasoul Abdollahi was moved to Ward 350 of Evin Prison in Iran to serve a three-year sentence for "collusion against the government and



ANNIVERSARIES

Jeremy & Heather Brewer	January 13
Andrew & Trish Carter	January 22
Drew & Taylor Danckert	January 22

SCHEDULED EVENTS

January 12	Benevolence Offering
January 12	Soup Lunch following Morning Service
January 19	Sanctity of Life Sunday

evangelism." Two days later, Christian bloggers Kiavosh Soutoudeh and Jamshid Jabbari, were arrested on Dec. 4 just outside Kerman University and taken to an unknown location. They were part of a group identified as being internet activists and having connections with foreign agents.

It is unclear if Rasoul, who is reported to have been transferred to Evin prison, was previously held elsewhere in Iran or was out on temporary bail. Iran's government often allows prisoners to be released on temporary bail with the provision that they can re-arrest them months or years later on the same charges. Rasoul's three-year sentence stems from a wave of raids that occurred Dec. 26, 2010 in Tehran when Rasoul was attending a Christmas service with his church.



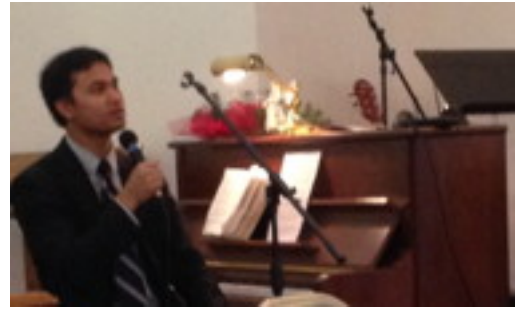
BIRTHDAYS

Leland Bingham	January 01
Denise Brewer	January 04
Lori Owens	January 04
Lewis Dabbs	January 07
Makayla Wilson	January 17
Bill Heath	January 20
Sharon Grainger	January 25
Leondia Leonary	January 25
Darrell Johnson	January 28
Jerry Leonard	January 31
Sean Carswell	February 02
Coy Curry	February 05
Doris McHenry	February 05

MONTAGNARD THANK YOU SERVICE @ CEDAR GROVE BAPTIST CHURCH



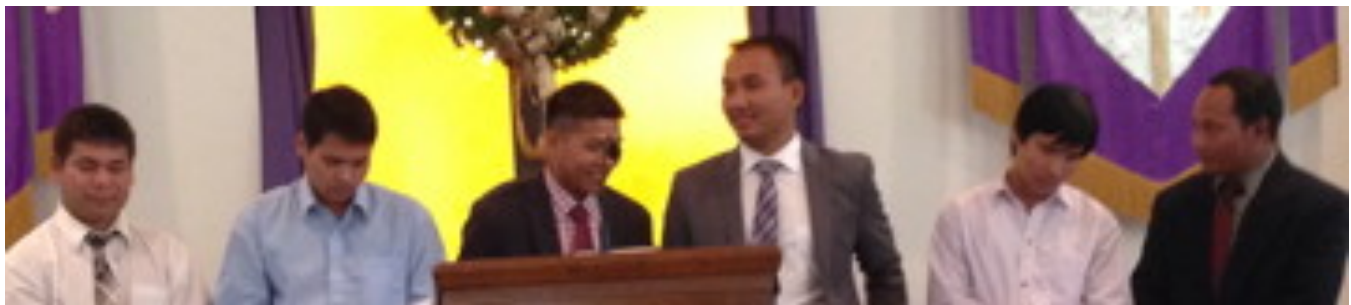
Pastor K'Them



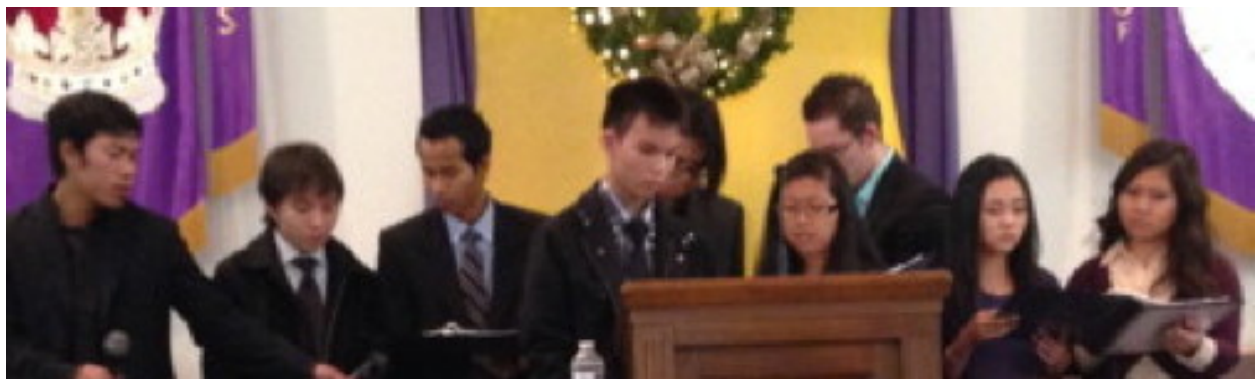
Singer, Translator, Musician



New Pastors with their wives



Future Pastors



Youth Group

CHRISTMAS PLAY

@ CEDAR GROVE BAPTIST CHURCH

Unfortunately , lighting in the sanctuary did not allow anyone to take usable pictures during the play, but we did get Baby Jesus—Who is the most important Character in the universe. Not sure of the identity of those other people in the picture.



FIFTH SUNDAY EVENING



Stix

Those girls were good



SANCTITY OF LIFE

In case you are not familiar with Sanctity of Life Sunday, I have collected a few items to give you a more clear picture of the meaning of this special Sunday.



The Southern Baptist Convention recognizes the third Sunday in January as Sanctity of Human Life Sunday (SOHL).



January 22nd is the annual anniversary when our country remembers the tragic decision made by the Supreme Court of the United States legalizing abortion. The weekend of January 19th, 2014 churches across the country will remember and pray for this tremendous cause.

We hope you will join us in prayer and mourning for the loss of over 55 million babies and the pain suffered by those who are suffering the loss from those decisions.



Sanctity of Human Life Sunday is held on the Sunday in January that falls closest to the day on which the *Roe v. Wade* and *Doe v. Bolton* decisions were handed down by the U.S. Supreme Court on January 22, 1973. The next SOHLS will take place on January 19, 2014. How can you be involved?



Sanctity of Human Life Sunday 2014 commemorates 41 years since the January 22, 1973 *Roe v. Wade* U.S. Supreme Court that legalized abortion in our country. Since then, more than 55 million abortions have taken place in the U.S. The human lives lost to abortion exceed the number of people currently living in our Great Lakes Region!



In biblical terms, the sanctity of human life is rooted and grounded in creation. Mankind is not viewed as a cosmic accident but as the product of a carefully executed creation by an eternal God. Human dignity is derived from God. Man as a finite, dependent, contingent creature is assigned a high value by his Creator.

The creation account in Genesis provides the framework for human dignity: “Then God said, ‘Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. And let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.’ So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them” (Gen. 1:26–27).

Creation in the image of God is what sets humans apart from all other creatures. The stamp of the image and likeness of God connects God and mankind uniquely. Though there is no biblical warrant for seeing man as godlike, there is a high dignity associated with this unique relationship to the Creator.

It has often been suggested that whatever dignity was given mankind through creation was erased or canceled through the fall. Since evil mars the countenance of human beings, is the original image still intact?

...

Man may no longer be pure, but he is still human. Insofar as we are still human, we retain the image of God in the wider sense. We are still valuable creatures. We may no longer be worthy, but we still have worth. This is the resounding biblical message of redemption. The creatures God created are the same creatures He is moved to redeem.¹

¹ R. C. Sproul, *Abortion: A Rational Look at an Emotional Issue*, 20th anniversary ed. (Lake Mary, FL: Reformation Trust Publishing, 2010), 21–22.

WHAT IF EDWARD KIMBALL HAD NOT TOLD A SHOE CLERK IN BOSTON ABOUT CHRIST?

If Sunday school teacher Edward Kimball had not been faithful to share his faith with a Boston shoe clerk, the world might not have heard about Dwight L. Moody, Billy Sunday, or Billy Graham. But Kimball was faithful, and in 1856 Dwight L. Moody came to faith in Christ, and the world has never been the same. God called Moody into evangelism, and in 1879 while he was preaching in England, an evangelistic fervor was awakened in the heart of Frederick B. Meyer, the pastor of a small church.

Years later while Meyer was preaching on an American college campus, a student named J. Wilbur Chapman professed faith in Christ. Chapman went on to hold evangelistic meetings across America. He later hired a new convert (and former major league baseball player), Billy Sunday, to work as an advance man in his ministry. In a few years Chapman went into the pastorate, and Sunday began to lead his own evangelistic crusades.

In 1924 Billy Sunday held a crusade in Charlotte, North Carolina. After the meetings about thirty men formed the Charlotte Men's Club, which met on a regular basis for prayer. Ten years later the club met for a day of prayer and fasting in a grove of trees at Frank Graham's dairy farm. The main focus of the day was to prepare for an upcoming crusade to be held in Charlotte. One of the men, Vernon Patterson, prayed that "out of Charlotte the Lord would raise up someone to preach the Gospel to the ends of the earth." Patterson had no idea that the answer to his prayer was a few hundred yards away, pitching hay into feeding troughs. During the crusade led by Mordecai Ham, Frank Graham's son Billy committed his life to Christ.

Because Edward Kimball was faithful, the world has been blessed by the ministries of Dwight L. Moody, J. Wilbur Chapman, Billy Sunday, Mordecai Ham, Billy Graham,

and thousands of other men and women the world has never heard of, like Vernon Patterson. Church history is in large part a record of the faithfulness of people like Edward Kimball and Vernon Patterson.

Based on information from the *Encyclopedia of 7,700 Illustrations: Signs of the Times*, Paul Lee Tan, ed. (Rockville, Md.: Assurance Publishers, 1979) and *A Prophet with Honor: The Billy Graham Story* by William Martin (New York: William Morrow, 1991).²

When I first heard this story, it included a note that Kimball left the shoe store feeling totally defeated because he believed that he had done a terrible job in sharing the Gospel with young D L Moody, but he was obviously incorrect in that assumption. Remember this chain whenever you have an opportunity to share the good news of Jesus Christ with someone else. You never know what God will do with that testimony.



WHOSOEVER MEANETH ME

Ed McConnell, born in Atlanta on January 12, 1892, was a pioneer of religious broadcasting and children's television. In 1922, he began broadcasting the radio show Hymn Time on the National Broadcasting Company. Between 1929 and 1953, he hosted the children's television classic Smilin' Ed McConnell and His Buster Brown Gang, assisted by his animal cohorts, Midnight the Cat and Squeaky the Mouse. Years before, McConnell had written "Whosoever Meaneth Me" while assisting his father in evangelistic meetings in Spirit Lake, Iowa. He was eighteen years old at the time.³

² James P. Eckman, *Exploring Church History* (Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 2002), 92.

³ Robert J. Morgan, *Near to the Heart of God: Meditations on 366 Best-Loved Hymns* (Grand Rapids, MI: Revell, 2010).