

CHATHAM CHRISTIAN CHURCH
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Sunday Worship Service 9:15 AM
Bible School 10:45 AM

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Bonnie recently mentioned how much she enjoyed still seeing Jack's picture on the bulletin board. It's there along with pictures of Nancy Montgomery, Joe Carter, and Jim and Mary Sexton. We lost the physical presence of all five within the last year or so, and their absence is keenly felt. Especially during the holidays.

I recently read that Henry Wadsworth Longfellow was likewise feeling the loss of a wife who died in childbirth, a second wife who died when her dress caught fire, and worrying about a son who was clinging to life after being wounded in the Civil War when, during the Christmas season, he wrote "Christmas Bells."

I heard the bells on Christmas Day
Their old, familial carols play,
And wild and sweet
The words repeat
Of peace on earth, good-will to men.
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!"

An empty chair at the table, gifts no longer shared, and an empty stocking are painful reminders of lost loved ones. But the gift we received on that first Christmas brings with it the promise that if the babe of Bethlehem is received as our mutual risen Lord, the separation is only temporary. The tears we shed will one day be wiped away, the wrongs we suffered will be made right, and peace will actually become a reality.

Longfellow believed that to be true, and reminding himself of it went on to write one more verse.

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."
Merry Christmas & God Bless,
Rick



THE CHATHAM MESSENGER

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Christmas Eve Candlelight Communion Service 7:00 p.m.

STATISTICS		
	12/5	
Worship		98
Offering		\$8,011.00
	12/12	
Worship		NC
Offering		\$8,031.98

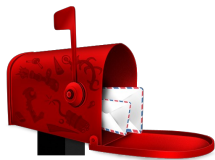


Christmas Eve Candlelight Communion Service

Our 51st Christmas Eve Candlelight Communion Service will be held on Friday, December 24th at 7:00. The service will include carols, musical presentations, the Lord's Supper, and the traditional lighting of candles.

THE AFFIRMATION OF ELDER'S AND FINANCIAL PROJECTION

The congregation will be given the opportunity during the worship service this Sunday to affirm that Casey Blakley, Paul Hunley, Chris Luzio, and Jonathan Sperry continue serving as elders in 2022, and that the financial projection is in keeping with good stewardship. The projected need is for \$288,900, and will require an average weekly offering of \$5,556.



The Christmas mail box is in the hallway. Feel free to use it to send and receive congregational Christmas greetings.



CAROLING

Everyone is invited to meet at the church this Sunday evening, December 19th, at 6:00 to go Christmas caroling. We will be taking the van and car-pooling to the nursing home in Virden, and to several homes in Chatham. After singing we will head back to the church for goodies.

Holiday Scheduling

Due to the holidays, we'll not be offering Wednesday night Bible study on Dec. 22 or 29, nor Sunday night adult study and youth groups on Dec. 26th. Regular scheduling will resume for the new year on January 2nd.

NEWSLETTER REQUEST

With a circulation that doesn't meet the minimum for bulk mailing, and increased costs, we are considering sending our church paper first-class to those who regularly attend our services, and to those who make it known they desire it. Those who have moved away, or have special connections with our church, and who desire to continue receiving the physical newsletter are therefore asked to text Rick at 217-836-4971, or to email him at Rick@chathamchristian.org. Those who simply desire a copy by email can always go to chathamchristian.org and click under "newsletter" where directed to do so.

It's our desire that all who enjoy receiving our church paper in the mail will make it known that they still wish to do so.



I loved our time together last Sunday. It was a joy for me to watch my oldest grandson introduce his new little brother to the congregation. That Theo is something else. Then, while watching our kids do an amazing job with the Christmas musical, I looked around to see so many in attendance who at one time participated in the annual musical. This included my son, who will soon have a son of his own in the musical. Time marches on, but the fact that so many of you pour into our youth has remained consistent over the years. God is good and I am thankful to worship with such a wonderful church family.



It is great to report that with the contributions collected over the past two Sundays, we were able to purchase over \$200 worth of gift cards to help foster care families over the holiday season. That is in addition to the two boys the Ladies' group shopped for earlier in December. Thanks again for your support of this important ministry.



Jr/Sr High

A great big "Thank You" to the junior and senior high school students for raking my leaves this past Saturday. You are the best!

Judith Marlow



Kindergarten—5th Grade

Over the past few years, during Christmas break, we have scheduled a trip to Sky Zone to get some exercise in after a Christmas season of eating cookies and pie. This year, let's put Thursday, December 30th in the calendar for our Sky Zone outing.

We will be gathering here at the church at 11:30am to pile in the church van and head out for a quick lunch. Then, it is on to Sky Zone. For two hours of jumping and climbing, the cost is \$22 per person. We should be returning to the church by 3:30 that afternoon. Please put your name down on the sign-up sheet located on the bulletin board if you are planning to go!



Jr/Sr High

A favorite activities every year is the hour of broomball we usually play during the winter time version of the Amazing Race. Since we have moved the Amazing Race to the summer in order to change up the tasks a bit, the overwhelming majority of you still wanted to schedule a broomball evening to make sure we play it this year. Let's look at Saturday, January 8th as the date to hold for this activity. We will go out for dinner, I heard the Pizza Ranch thrown out as an option, then head to the rink for some broomball.