

# The Watering Can

DECEMBER 2012

*“Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests (Luke 2:14).”*

I was really blessed by the Community Thanksgiving Service which was held at Caswell Springs this year. The sanctuary was filled with people who call themselves Baptist, Methodist, Assembly of God, Pentecostal, Church of God, and a few others tucked here and there. Each minister present was given the opportunity to speak or pray, and we were led in worship by the praise team from Three Rivers Assembly.

We sang some songs I knew and few I did not. A stirring **challenged** was given to us by Rev. Mark Pearman from Abundant Grace Church for the Church to be the Church. He reminded us that **it** we need to quit pandering to the world and quit waiting for the government to make all things right in the world. It is the Church's responsibility to be the change agent to the world through the Gospel of Jesus Christ. At the end of the service, we joined together for a banquet feast in the name of our Risen Savior, Jesus.



This was a wonderful celebration to bring us through Thanksgiving and into the seasons of Advent and Christmas. As I think about watching my brothers and sisters in Christ worship together, I am reminded of the angels in the Christmas story who broke through the silence of the fields around Bethlehem with their great hymn proclaiming the birth of the Messiah who brings peace to all who reach out to Him. The message was given, not to separate us. The message was given to unite us as one.

As I remember the meal we shared together, I am reminded of the promise that Jesus will return to call us all home to share in the wedding feast of God as the bride of Christ. There we will not be Methodist, Baptist, Pentecostal or anything else. We will not have labels. We will just be Children of God.

So, as we enter Christmas, don't get entangled in the push to buy the newest and greatest gifts that will leave no imprint on anyone's life. Choose to set aside differences. Instead of spreading rumors, share grace and blessings. Instead of trying to instill a sense of entitlement to your children, instill in them the gift of sharing. Be like the angels and share the message of "peace and goodwill" that is the story of Jesus Christ. May the joy of Thanksgiving fill your soul and may the message of Christmas be your guiding light.

**Because of His Extravagant Grace, Brian.**



**Rev. Brian Scott**

# His Way

In March 2006, three people ventured out with great faith and hope to begin a new ministry at Caswell Springs. Avis Cumbest, Nelda Miles and Bob Pearson started "His Way Ministry" with little more than a hope and a prayer. Six years later it is the successful program in which we continue to feed our shut-ins and those in great need. His Way feeds an average of 115 people per week.

Today, my good friend and champion of His Way, Bob Pearson, passed away. The verse below is fitting for all Bob's faithful work in His Way.

## *2 Corinthians 9:6-8*

*"But this I say: He who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. So let each one give as he purposes in his heart, not grudgingly or of necessity; for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to make all grace abound toward you, that you, always having all sufficiency in all things, may have abundance for every good work.*

Bob, Avis and Nelda had faith and hope and were willing to give not out of necessity but as cheerful givers. Our community has been blessed with abundance through His Way and I am thankful for Bob and his part in its success. It was a blessing to have known and worked with Bob. He will be missed.



## Merry Christmas everyone!

What blessed people we are! I want to say a special "Thank You" for the pantry bags. We are fully stocked again and ready to serve all who come to us in need. I'm reminded every year that this season doesn't bring joy to everyone. There're many in our community who dread this time of year due to loneliness or poverty or sad memories. But, I heard some good news in my Sunday School class just this past week. Our wonderful, loving God has provided for ALL needs. There is a message of hope for anyone who will hear it. Dr. Jason Pugh referred to it as a Divine Benefits Package and it is found in Psalm 103. We should all read it often. We clearly hear God's promise of

forgiveness, healing, redemption and love with the added bonus of no retribution. Our God doesn't hold grudges. He doesn't wish to "make us pay" for our mistakes. He only wants us to love him enough to share His love and mercy with the broken world around us. So, this Christmas and Thanksgiving Season, give someone the ultimate gift. Share our Lord with someone. Tell someone

*Go, therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.  
Matt.28:19*

of His goodness and love. Tell someone that they aren't alone and forgotten. There are many ways to help others and it doesn't have to come from the church. We do, however, have several opportunities to show the love of Jesus. Our Pantry, our financial assistance, Backpack Buddies (both canned goods and the Rotation SS mission to fill 110 stockings), the Angel tree in Hurley, the Salvation Army Angels (both of these are great for groups or SS classes), Angels over the Children (kids with cancer at USA

Hosp. \*see Donna Golson) Christmas Jars, and Community of Hope. We could invite someone to supper. Take someone shopping. Make a phone call. But whatever you choose, don't forget the most important gift of all...Jesus. Give them Jesus.

PS., a pantry item needed that was left off , mayonnaise.

## We Give Thanks... I Chronicles 16:34

*Oh give thanks to the Lord, for He is good; for His loving kindness is everlasting.*

This holiday season is the second that Community of Hope has officially been together as an organization and team, working as God's hands and feet all around Jackson and George counties. Our ministry continues to grow in many ways, and we are grateful for how God has opened doors for us continue helping others. During this time of Thanksgiving, we are thankful for:

*Close ties:* We thank YOU Caswell Springs United Methodist Church - the church administration and the members - for your ongoing support. Not only have you given your financial support, you have given volunteer time, let us use the church facilities, and supported our fundraisers. Your recent gift of over \$9,000.00 is very appreciated by our ministry, and we cannot thank you enough. These funds will help us help those recently affected by Isaac and many others who are in need.

*Partnership opportunities:* We are branching out and making new friends in the community - living up to our name "Community" of Hope. We have been meeting with other churches and reaching out to civic organizations. Wade Baptist Men's Group and Family Life Church welcomed us to speak with them. We've also worked with Sanctuary Church in Pascagoula and have developed a strong partnership with Pascagoula First United Methodist Church. Vancleave United Methodist Church has partnered with us on multiple occasions and taken on projects in their area with the assistance of COH. We are thankful for the enthusiasm in which we have been received and look forward to working with these new friends and continuing to work with our partners.

*Strong friendships:* Working alongside the Smith family has been a blessing to us! We have enjoyed our time with Mrs. Billie, Mr. Terkey and all of the Smiths! As bittersweet as it will be for this journey to end for COH, we know they are happy to see the light at the end of the tunnel. We love you!

*New encounters:* Each new client comes to us with a unique need. On paper it may appear that our clients are "plumbing maintenance" or "transportation assistance" or "roof repairs". However, our goal is to provide them with much more than material assistance. Many clients are facing hardships and feel a sense of loss and hopelessness. Our ultimate goal is to show that God loves them. It is our wish that the work we do is an example of *His loving kindness*.

Two instances profoundly stand out: recently, while working on a flooded home, the homeowner got news that she has cancer. As anyone would be, she was devastated. Our team was there to when she received the test results, and we were able to pray with her and comfort her. Through Community of Hope we will be able to provide her with emotional and spiritual support as well as help with her family's home repair. The other occasion was when COH provided food and gifts to a family at Christmas. This act does not seem unusual during the holidays, however, the family was invited to a Christmas service here at CSUMC where the 6 year old boy *first* heard about Jesus when he listened to the Christmas story. He had never even heard of Jesus or knew the reason for Christmas.

For these reasons, that we are able to work in Christ's name - and hopefully introduce our friends and neighbors to a peaceful walk with Him - we are thankful.

Blessings to you and yours,  
COH

# 12 Days of Christmas

Here are some wonderful ideas for your family to use during the Christmas season to teach the True meaning of Christmas!

## Day 1:

Luke 2: 8-20 and Psalm 91: 1

CRAFT: Make Angels.

FAMILY DISCUSSION: God created angels to be His heavenly messengers. They tell people on earth God's words. Angels Praise God. God sent the angel Gabriel to tell Mary and Joseph that they would have a baby who would be God's son. The angel told them to name the baby "Jesus".

## Day 2:

Bring out your largest Bible and show the kids the two sections of the Bible. Explain that the Old testament was the telling of a Savior that was to come, and the New Testament tells of a savior who arrives.

SCRIPTURE: Matthew 2: 1-12

CRAFT: Make Christmas ornaments from pictures on christmas cards. Try to find a picture with Bethlehem and add glitter or yarn around the edges. Cut out a donkey from a christmas card or from felt to make an ornament of a donkey.

FAMILY DISCUSSION: Joseph and Mary had to go to Bethlehem. They rode on a donkey. It was a long way to Bethlehem and there were no cars, trains or airplanes for them to ride. The donkey is a symbol of peace and humbleness.

## Day 3:

SCRIPTURE: 1 John 4:9 "God showed how much He loved us by sending His only son into the world so that we might have eternal life through Him."

CRAFT: Make a decorated cross from paper or a cross ornament.

FAMILY DISCUSSION: God chose Mary and Joseph to be the earthly parents of His son Jesus. If you accept Jesus as your savior you become part of God's family. God is your heavenly Father and you are His special child.

## Day 4:

SCRIPTURE: 2 Corinthians 9:14b,15 "...because of the surpassing Grace God has give you. Thanks be to God for his indescribable Gift."

and Romans 5:5 "Hope does not disappoint us, because God has poured out His love into our Hearts by the Holy Spirit, whom He has given us."

CRAFT: Paint Heart ornaments for the tree, or cut out your favorite pictures in the shape of hearts and place on the christmas tree. Place clear contact paper on the front and back of the pictures before you cut them out. This protects the pictures for many years.

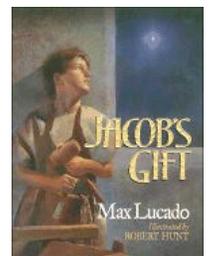
FAMILY DISCUSSION: God gave us a wonderful gift, His only son, Jesus Christ. He was born as a baby. He died on a cross for our sins. He did this because He loves us, not because we deserve His love, but because of His grace. Grace is God's free gift to us, His children, because He loves us.

## Day 5:

Story: "Jacob's Gift" by Max Lucado

CRAFT: Find some Christmas cards with the word "JOY" written on them. Make ornaments and write Joy on it. You can paint wooden ornaments from the craft store that already have JOY printed on them.

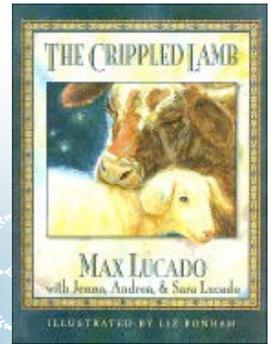
FAMILY DISCUSSION: Jacob gave his beautiful wood work as a gift to the baby Jesus because he needed a place to sleep. You can also share what you have with those less fortunate. We enjoy selecting a special gift for some child who's family cannot afford to buy them a gift. It brings our hearts JOY when we share with those in need.



**Day 6** SCRIPTURE: Luke 2 : 15-17, 20

CRAFT: Make lambs using cotton balls and cardboard from cereal boxes. Cut the cereal boxes into the shape of a lamb, and then use glue sticks to add the cotton balls.

STORY: "The Crippled Lamb" by Max Lucado



**Day 7** SCRIPTURES: Luke 2: 13-14, Luke 1: 31-32 and Matthew 1: 22-23

CRAFT: Cut out a string of paper-doll-style angels joined at the wings, for a garland of angels for your tree.

**Day 8** SCRIPTURES: James 1:17 "Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the father." John 3:19 "The light from heaven came into the world."

CRAFT: Make presents to give away such as a watercolor painting, a coloring page, or write a special prayer for someone.

FAMILY DISCUSSION: Discuss why the shepherds wanted to go see the baby Jesus. Do you think you would have wanted to go too?

**DAY 9** SCRIPTURE: Psalm 46: 10 "Be still and know that I am God."

CRAFT: Make ornaments using candy canes. You can make deer ornaments by adding pipe cleaners for antlers and little beaded eyes, and a small red ball for the red nose. Or you can just place candy canes on the tree for decorations.

FAMILY DISCUSSION: Christmas is less than a week away. Today let us stop and take a few minutes to forget about everything and quietly think about the true reason that we celebrate Christmas - The birth of Jesus.

**DAY 10** SCRIPTURE: Matthew 2:9

CRAFT: Make stars using cardboard and aluminum foil. Cut out a star shape from the cardboard. Then use the foil to wrap the star so that it is shiny.

FAMILY DISCUSSION: Would you had walked all that way and followed the star?

### **Day 11**

Scripture : Matthew 2:7-12 FAMILIY DISCUSSION: The wise men followed that twinkling star to Bethlehem to find the new born King, baby Jesus. They presented him with gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. These were very valuable gifts and helped Mary and Joseph take care of their new son. What gift can you give to Jesus this Christmas?

### **Day 12**

SCRIPTURE: Luke 2: 18-19 CRAFT: Make a treasure chest out of a box, let the kids decorate the outside with jewels, stickers, markers, etc. Then on the inside write in big black letters, JESUS. Jesus is the greatest Christmas treasure we will ever receive.

FAMILY DISCUSSION: The Bible tells us that God is watching over us and never slumbers or sleeps. God always loves us and takes care of us. So sleep well tonight knowing that you have made Jesus happy this Advent season because you remembered the true meaning of Christmas - JESUS!

Merry Christmas everyone,  
Amy French

### **Upcoming Calendar Events:**

Club Outreach- which is a mission team for 5th and 6th graders will be delivering Christmas cards and Christmas cheer to the nursing home on Dec. 23. We will leave the church at 4:30pm. If you have any questions, please see Amy French.

There will not be any Sunday night children's activities on Dec. 23 & Dec. 30.

# Happy Birthday



01 Jessie Goff  
02 Erin Taylor  
03 Mary Diamond  
04 Ondra Smith  
05 Rev. Sheila Cumbest  
05 Shelley Anderson  
05 Stacey Smith  
06 Breanna Pierce  
06 Jean Goff  
07 Avis Cumbest  
08 Brandi Pierce  
10 Jamie Hadley  
10 Roy Jenkins  
10 Sara Dale  
10 Emily Cumbest  
11 Brylee White  
12 Niece Cumbest  
12 Abby Stockman  
13 Matt Freeman

13 Katlin Shouse  
14 Michelle Hall  
15 Ginger Shouse  
16 Reagan Watkins  
16 Michael Pugh  
17 Vincent Prestianni  
17 Jack Hamilton, Jr.  
17 Jackie White  
18 Robena Dobson  
18 Yvonne Lewelling  
18 Shane Allen  
19 Joyce Hammond  
19 Rusty Tynes  
19 Margaret Ann Goff  
20 Rhonda Havard  
21 Brooxanne Crump  
22 Kelvin Thomas  
22 Parker Goff



22 Amber Blackledge  
23 Denvil Scarbrough  
23 Randon Brockway  
24 Tai Cupit  
24 Johnny Cumbest  
26 Ray Triplett  
26 Nicky Cumbest  
27 Paul Balcer  
27 Micha Cumbest  
27 Amie Goff  
28 Chadd Cumbest  
29 Barry Cumbest  
29 Amber McGhee  
30 Skyler Adams  
30 Wesley Miles  
31 Herbert Dryden  
31 Russell Fisher  
31 Lynn Wilson



6 John & Gay Rudolf  
7 George & Ella Scarbrough  
9 Lionel III & Stephanie Dale  
14 Chris & Michelle Goff  
17 Jason & Deanna Pugh

20 Kirk & Annie Miles  
22 Manly & Sarah Barton  
22 Edgar & Lettie Goff  
23 Jody & Jennie Goff  
28 Brian & Rebekah Knight

# December 2012

Sun      Mon      Tue      Wed      Thu      Fri      Sat

						1	
2 Pot Luck Christmas 	3 	4 His Way	5 5:30 pm Supper 6:30 pm Activities	6 Men's Prayer Group 5:30 am Trustees 6 pm	7	8  	
9 Administrative Board Mtg. 4:30 pm	10	11 His Way	12 5:30 pm Supper 6:30 pm Activities	13 Men's Prayer Group 5:30 am	14 	15	
16 Children's Christmas Program 6 pm	17 	18 His Way	19 5:30 pm Supper 6:30 pm Activities	20 Men's Prayer Group 5:30 am	21	22	
23 	24 Christmas Com- munion 5 & 6 pm	25	26	27	28	29	
30	31  						



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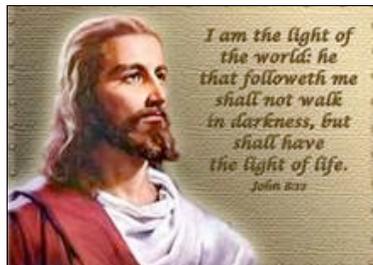
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*Filling up and overflowing  
with Christ's Love.*



## Sarah and Manly Barton

After 17 years on staff in youth ministry at Caswell Springs UMC, Manly and Sarah Barton have submitted their resignation. Caswell Springs praises God for the fruit He has given us through their service. May God bless them as they continue to serve Him.



## Christmas Tree

Each year in our sanctuary, we have a Christmas tree with ornaments that represent families in our church. If you are a new family to the church or if you have never given an ornament, we invite you to bring one on Sunday, December 2. There will be a special time in the service for your family to hang these. After the Advent season, your ornament will be carefully packed away until the next year.



## Epiphany Sunday

December 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday cluster event in January. Keyboards at Christmas on Epiphany Sunday January 6<sup>th</sup> at 6 pm at Safe Harbor. Don't miss this wonderful musical to the tunes of the Christmas Season. A love offering will be received.