



Victory newsletter

Fall 2017

Deacon Ordination

Victory Baptist Church believes the qualifications of the office of deacon are set forth in the Bible in 1 Timothy and Titus. We also believe this office is an important one in our local church. Therefore, when our deacons recommended that we elect more deacons, they let the congregation know and asked for nominations. When the time of nominations was over, two deacon candidates were presented to be examined by the church, Michael Driggers and Eric Farmer. The church approved both men, and a date was set for the ordination. On the afternoon of Sunday, June 23, 2017, members and friends of Victory gathered at Ten Grand to witness the event. In addition to our current deacons, we had several guests here to sit on the presbytery. There was a time for the presbytery to question the candidates, and each had an opportunity to answer each question. They both gave satisfactory answers that demonstrated a knowledge and belief in the Bible and a personal relationship with Jesus, and the church voted to accept Michael and Eric as deacons for Victory Baptist Church.

The event concluded with a reception as a time to congratulate both men and welcome them to their new position in our church family. We were happy to see members of the Driggers and Farmer families join us to celebrate this important event for our church and these families!



Eric Farmer and Michael Driggers



Michael and Linda Driggers, Kaden Hepp and Matthew Hepp



Quinn, Eric, Chandler and Mica Farmer

Children's Ministry

LEARNING: Proverbs 27:17 states that “As iron sharpens iron, so one person sharpens another.” God wants us to have quality friendships, and the kids have been **learning** all about that in our Wednesday night series “You’ve Got a Friend in Me!” We’ve been focusing on the most famous friendships of the Bible, and **learning** that not only do we need to find Godly friends, we need to BE Godly friends! Our kiddos have even “made” some colorful friends of their own, which are now decorating our hallways!



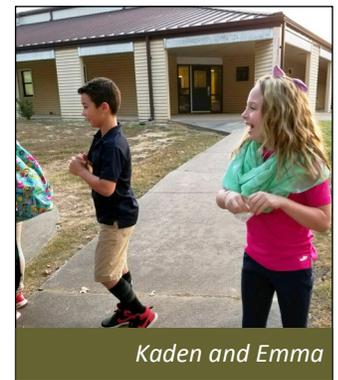
Emma Mitchell

LOVING: Our kids have learned that **loving** God is more than just reading their Bible—it can be expressed in their words, actions, attitudes, and talents! Our own Emma Mitchell has a talent for hand-knitting colorful scarves, and she felt a desire to turn those talents into something that can give glory to God and share God’s **love** with others. She has been selling her scarves all over,

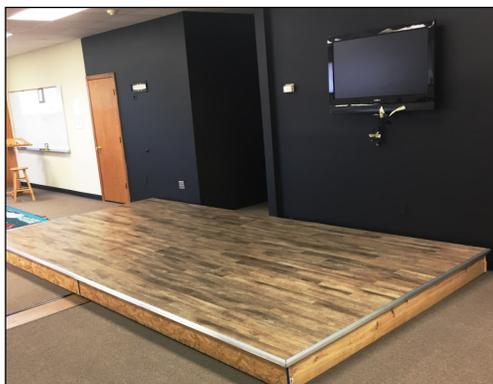
and 100% of the money goes toward our Children’s offering. This quarter, the offering will be used to aid the Sherwood Police Department’s toy drives. Another way of sharing God’s **love** is through praying for others. On September 27th, kids around the country gathered at their schools for “See You At the Pole” to pray for their schools, teachers, and friends. Brother Josh showed up at Oakbrook Elementary, donuts in hand, to pray with some of his kid-leaders and their parents. What started as a small trickling turned into a crowd! It was an awesome moment when Emma and Kaden Hepp led their peers in prayer. We are so thankful for young leaders setting a powerful example! Next year, Brother Josh will remember to bring more donuts. A LOT more!



See You at the Pole



Kaden and Emma



LIVING: “POGO,” our Sunday morning kids worship service, has taken another great leap forward! The stage has new flooring and trim, and our backdrop has gotten a fresh paint job. Newer, comfier chairs have also been put into place! Soon new lighting and decoration will also be installed. Thank you to all who have helped with this great endeavor, **living** out your conviction that kids ministry is something worth investing in! We have also added two new members to our “POGO Peeps,” the adult leaders who volunteer on Sunday mornings. Garret Morgan and Seth McGhee

Children's Ministry (continued)

are now officially our kids worship leaders! They have truly breathed new **life** into our services and are doing a phenomenal job leading our kids in worshipping our Lord. If you know of anyone with children in search of a new church home, check out our newly revamped victory1st.com and click on the new "Kids!" page. There you'll find a message from Brother Josh explaining what we're all about, as well as information detailing all of the services and activities we offer.



Praying Hearts, Open Eyes, Giving Hands, Obedient Feet

CALL Mall: Children of Arkansas Loved for a Lifetime

The CALL Mall continues to be busy on Fridays and Saturdays. There are new foster parents coming into the mall. The parents continually tell us how grateful they are for the CALL Mall. We let them know we are thankful for them taking on the calling of being foster parents and loving these children who need stability and love in their lives.

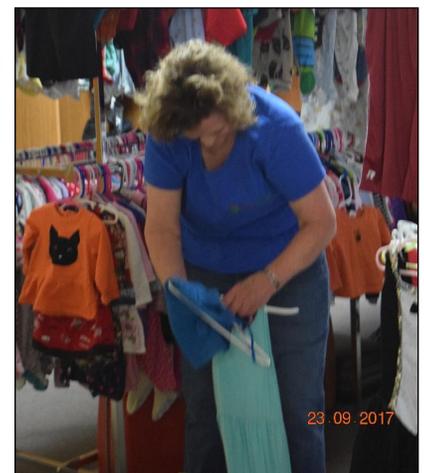
We want to thank Becky Ferris for crocheting the really nice kitchen cloths that with a donation of \$5 to the Mall, you receive a dishcloth. She has raised a donation of over \$400 so far for the CALL Mall! She still has some left if you would like to donate money to the Mall. As a group of volunteers, we will talk about how to use this money. The foster parents are so appreciative of whatever Victory does for the foster children and parents.

Saturday, September 23, the Mall was changed from spring/summer clothing to fall/winter clothing. Thank you to Deanna and Dennis Grimes, Fay Hubbard, Elsie Morgan, Robin South, and new members Anna and Shelby Haver for your time and help!!

Coming up on October 7th and 8th, Victory Church will be hosting a PRIDE training for CALL foster parents. There will be a second weekend on October 21st and 22nd for the training. All we are asked to do is provide a room, lunch, and snacks for the training.

Coming up next month on November 12, we will observe Orphan Sunday. This is a national event to educate people about the need for foster parents and how the church can provide support to foster families in their church and community. We ask that you pray for these children who have been mistreated, neglected, or abused and have had to be pulled from their homes. They and the foster parents need to be loved on and shown that we as a church care for them.

Thank you to Victory Baptist Church for being so supportive and caring, and showing God's love to these children through the Mall!



Facilities

Does it honor God? Is it making the best use of the Lord's money? Does it further the Kingdom of Christ? These are the three questions I ask myself as I pursue issues pertaining to our Church. I hope that you all do the same concerning your participation, giving, and time spent with our Church Family here at Victory Baptist. Exciting things are happening here at Victory, both within the confines of the walls of our buildings, and outside our walls and into our community. Victory Baptist is on the move and we need your help. Please see where you can help and get plugged in. For those of you who stand ready to help whenever called upon, thank you. Garrett Morgan has stepped up big. His "crew" continues the cleanup of the playground area and beyond. Anytime I have called on "McGarrett," his answer is "Yessir!"

1. Facilities Items Fill Out Form: Thank you for continuing to use the forms to inform, fuss, love on me, or whatever the reason. I love hearing from you...keep'em coming!
2. Storage Room Clean Up: With my limited time to spend, our storage room cleanup has slowed. The chairs need to be gone through to cull out the ones that need to be moved to The Barn or discarded. After consulting with WINGS, we need to have the number of chairs in the storage area reduced to 150, and move the remainder out to The Barn. I have gotten the metal rack cleared off but still need it moved to The Barn.
3. We are 100% self-servicing our property! The new mower is here and mowing magnificently (although it's been so dry of late, our growth has subsided). To date, our Mow Team consists of: Eric and Quinn Farmer, Darren and Hayden Austin, Dennis Dodd, Joe Owen, Bill Driggers, Steve George, and Gary Cook. I am still working on a few pieces of the old equipment to get them "up to snuff," but the Teens have been very gracious in letting us use their Serve Week equipment as well. As always, if you come by the facilities and see someone out there mowing, trimming, or blowing the sidewalks, bring them a cold water or Sonic slushy...it will be appreciated!



The boys checking out the new mower

4. I'm still looking for that special someone, or group, to step up and take on The Barn as a project. We have much need for organization of that area, as well as some purging. If you would like to get a personal tour of this area, reach out to me. I'd be happy to show you around.
5. We have mulch in abundance out by The Barn. If you have a need, help yourself!
6. The Firepit area needs someone to take it and run with it. If you want further information on this, please let me know.
7. I am working on a plan to sell the MCI Coach that we have used for many years. I had an opportunity to show it off to a prospective buyer recently and they went on and on about how well cared for the bus was...A tip of the hat to Bob Raymer, as well as those of you who used the bus and took care of it as if it were your own. Help me spread the word as we look for a new home for this ministry tool.

As always, thank you for this opportunity you have given me. Teamwork makes the dream work, and I pray our dream is centered around Jesus Christ and telling our community, city, and the world of Him. I love you all! —Michael Driggers

CARE: Caring Actions, Real Experiences

There are a few adjustments to the CARE schedule this quarter. In November, both CARE Teams, the Coolest and the Most Awesome, will meet on the same night, November 7; in December, they will both meet on December 12. In January we will resume our regular meeting dates, the Coolest Team on the first Tuesday and the Awesome Team on the third Tuesday. The meeting time is 6:30 pm.

JOY: Just Older Youth

There are also some adjustments to the JOY schedule this last quarter of 2017. The JOY lunch on Tuesday, October 24, will be at Barnhill's Steak and Buffet, 500 Gregory Street, Jacksonville, at 11:30 am. We hope everyone can come! There will be no JOY lunches in November or December due to the busy holiday season. We will resume our normal schedule in January, with the JOY breakfast at Cracker Barrel in North Little Rock on the second Tuesday of each month at 8:00 am, and a potluck at church on the fourth Tuesday at noon.

CALL P.N.O

On July 28, the church hosted a parents night out (PNO) for parents of foster children associated with the CALL. Victory arranged for a night of great experiences for the children who attended. The kids had pizza and snacks, a visit from the Sherwood Police and Fire Departments, crafts, games, and a special presentation by Pastor Josh Clinton. He performed some illusions for them and taught them some important lessons about Jesus. The volunteers and children both had a great time, and the CALL at Victory will arrange for more nights like these in the future. God loves children, and so does Victory!



Pastor Josh wowing the kids

Church Family

At Victory, we stand by each other in good times and bad. The Bible says in **Romans 12:15**, *“Rejoice with those who rejoice, and weep with those who weep.”* The hope of this newsletter is that if you haven't been attending in a short while or a long time, that you will reconnect with the church where you hold membership. Church membership is more than being a part of an organization—it's being a part of a family. Family are the ones who are there for you when you need them, but who also get the very best of yourself as well.

Why not come back to Victory this week and see what you've been missing? *We've been missing you!*



New Members!

We have had several additions to our church family lately!

Barbara Arnold's granddaughter Ami has been visiting recently. It didn't take her long to decide she wanted to be a part of our family, so she transferred her letter!

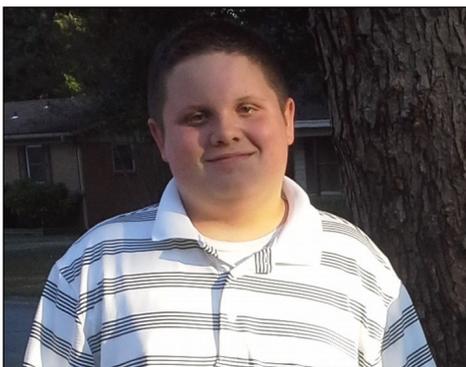
James has been attending with his parents for several years, and after his salvation, he realized it was time for him to obey the Lord and be baptized!

Jonah has been attending Victory since he was born, and has been a regular in POGO since it started. The continued teaching of God's Word led him to an important decision, and he was soon baptized!

The Reed family began attending Victory when Jeff and Stacy Starks invited them over a year ago. They must have liked us, because they continued coming! Amanda soon transferred her letter, and now Kelly and Gage have joined by baptism.



Ami Arnold



James Smith



Jonah Patterson



Kelly and Gage Reed

Financial News

We were very blessed financially for the first month of our fiscal year! The chart below shows offerings for September 2017, and as you can see, they were significantly above our budgeted amount. This is a result of the "Better than 20" effort found at Victory! When we stay committed to following Biblical guidelines and commands in our daily life, the results can be seen. As you continue to give of your time and resources, Victory will continue spreading God's Word and showing His love in our community!

Thank you for your generous contributions to God's work, Victory!

Average weekly offerings required to meet budget	7,637.60
Average Weekly offerings for September 2017	<u>10,622.16</u>
Average weekly offerings above or (under) budget	2,984.56
Budgeted offerings to date	30,550.38
Actual offerings to date	<u>42,488.64</u>
Actual offerings to date over/(under) budget	11,938.26

Small Groups

Small Groups continue to be a successful and growing part of our Sunday night efforts to edify the church and glorify the Lord. We consistently run over 70 people on these nights, and if absenteeism were eradicated, it would be around 100! This is in addition to the number who meet at the church building on Sunday nights. These groups are strong in fellowship, Bible Study, prayer, discussion, and good works. If you are not involved and you would like to be, please phone Alice at the church or Bro. Harris on his cell. You will be able to get connected with a Group right away, and get going on growing in friendship and in the Lord.



The Niche

The Niche is the Sunday School class at Victory for young adults between the ages of 18 and 24. They have been active and doing well together. They have been learning life wisdom in their Sunday morning meetings with series on the subjects of values, character, and success. They have taken trips, been out to eat, worked on projects together, and held some great discussion sessions. They plan to do some events soon, such as trips and cooking sweets for targeted recipients for the holidays. They are called 'The Niche' because they are a specific group for a unique stage of life. Please pray for them as they learn their place in life and in the church.



Choir

What would it be like if singing was prohibited? I can just see the underground and back-alley choirs forming, rebelling against such a ridiculous atrocity levied against our freedom of expression! Thankfully, I don't ever see that happening. But sometimes we forget how important something is to us until it is taken away. We should and need to sing, especially praises to our Lord, as often as we can. The scriptures teach us to make a joyful noise unto the Lord "All Ye."

The choir is in the midst of learning choral pieces for Christmas. Wow, already upon us! But there are ample times to worship Christ before then. Join us as Michael and I try to lead you in worship each Sunday morning.

Let's sing and worship like it may be taken away tomorrow! God Bless! —Bro. Hanks

Get Fit

God has provided Victory Baptist Church with a building, and we want to use it to reach our community—not just on Sundays and Wednesday nights, but also during the week! Sherri Harris realized our facility is the perfect place to host an exercise class to the public. She attended a training program provided by the Pulaski County Cooperative Extension Service and is now qualified to lead their Get Fit exercise class. The Get Fit class is designed help adults increase strength, flexibility, and balance using free weights and ankle weights, improving fitness in a fun and relaxed one-hour class. Sherri now teaches this class twice a week at Victory, on Tuesday and Friday at 9:00 am. The class is not limited to members of Victory, and several of our neighbors from across Teague Lane are attending. The class has been meeting for about a month now, and members of the class have reported they have already noticed an improvement in their fitness level! They will tell you that this class is an effective way to take care of the earthly temple God has given us!



The Get Fit exercise class

Events and Dates

October 22	Pumpkin Decorating Contest	December 8	Men's Breakfast; CALL Mall
October 24	JOY Lunch, Barnhill's in Jax	December 12	JOY Breakfast; CARE, both
October 27	Men's Breakfast; CALL Mall	December 13	Team Meeting
October 31	Halloween/Trunk or Treat	December 15	Men's Breakfast; CALL Mall
November 2-3	State Assoc. of MBC	December 16	CALL Mall
November 3	Men's Breakfast; CALL Mall	December 17	Small Groups
November 4	CALL Mall	December 22	Men's Breakfast; CALL Mall
November 5	Daylight Saving Time Ends (fall back)	December 25	Christmas Day
	Baby Shower, Maeli Clinton	January 1	New Year's Day
	Small Groups	January 2	Coolest CARE Team
November 7	Coolest and Awesome CARE	January 5	Men's Breakfast; CALL Mall
November 10	Men's Breakfast; CALL Mall		Eberle/Howell wedding
November 11	Veteran's Day	January 6	CALL Mall
November 12	Orphan Sunday; WINGS	January 7	Small Groups
November 14	JOY Breakfast	January 9	JOY Breakfast
November 15	Team Meeting	January 12	Men's Breakfast; CALL Mall
November 17	Men's Breakfast; CALL Mall	January 14	WINGS
November 18	CALL Mall	January 15	MLK Day
November 19	Wedding Shower, Eberle/Howell	January 16	Awesome CARE Team
	Small Groups	January 17	Team Meeting
November 23	Thanksgiving	January 19	Men's Breakfast; CALL Mall
December 1	Men's Breakfast; CALL Mall	January 20	CALL Mall
December 2	CALL Mall	January 21	Small Groups
December 3	Small Groups	January 23	JOY Potluck
December 4	WINGS Christmas Party	January 26	CALL Mall

WINGS: Women IN God's Service

June Owen presented a floral arrangement demonstration in August. Several ladies attended and enjoyed some professional instruction and a lot of laughter! After the arrangements were made, June suggested that each one share theirs with someone who was ill or just needed a 'pick me up'. We are so grateful for June and her selfless example!



Ladies Floral Arrangement class

The Women's ABA Retreat was held on September 15 and 16 at the Benton Event Center, and Victory was well represented with 18 attendees. This year's theme was Road Trip ~ Proverbs 3:6, "In all thy ways acknowledge him and he shall direct thy paths." We enjoyed some beautiful music along with guest

speakers Cindy Elkins and Jill Sellers, who challenged us to "Test, Rest and Press" based on Philippians 4:8.



'Road Trip' to the Ladies Retreat!

Our Pumpkin Decorating contest is underway! Please have your entry in by Sunday, October 22. We will have a Potluck that day and winners will be announced at that time.

Please be reminded that WINGS will be accepting donations through the end of November for African

Medical Missions. This money will be presented to Comfort Lambert, daughter of missionaries Livingstone and Angellah Lambert (Tanzania, Africa), at our WINGS Christmas Party on Monday, December 4. Comfort will be returning to Africa after the first of the year upon graduation from ASU Beebe and will use our donations for medical supplies in her village. We have set a goal of \$2,000! If you would like to help, please make your check out to Victory Baptist Church and designate it to African Medical Supplies.

ALL LADIES are encouraged and invited to attend our Christmas Party scheduled for Monday, December 4. This is always a special time to enjoy some really great food and some really great company, and maybe even a surprise or two! As a bonus, Comfort Lambert will be our guest speaker. Please mark your calendars and make plans to attend....and bring a friend!

WINGS is an active group of ladies who love the Lord and love each other. If you are not a part of WINGS, we would love to have you join us! We meet the second Sunday of each month at 6:00 p.m. in Room 105.



Some of our furry friends at Victory . . .



. . . found Easter eggs the kids didn't!

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

If you do not wish to receive this newsletter or are receiving it in error, please call or text 501-658-0813 and leave your name/address.

Houston Relief

On Sunday, September 10, Victory received a special offering for Hurricane Relief in the city of Houston. The total amount of giving was in excess of \$1,400.00! The church sprang into action to put this money to work. With the help of Peggy Hallmon and Wilma Weeks at the Neighborhood Market in Sherwood, a large shipment of cleaning supplies was loaded into a UHAUL truck donated by WWBeds of North Little Rock. Neil Ladd, Garrett Morgan, and Bro. Harris took the load of supplies to Houston on September 12 where they were delivered to Pastor Kim Williams who has a relief center open and a strategy to reach truly needy people with the aid. All the reports since this effort have been positive, and we pray that God's gospel will be promoted through the effort of good will in this time of need.

