



Victory newsletter

Winter 2017

VicTurkey Day!

Our church has offered a family Thanksgiving service for many years now. This is generally well-attended by the families of our church who bring their out-of-town relatives and friends to be a part of the National Celebration.

This year we named the event “VicTurkey Day” as a pun for fun. Not only did the name change, but the activities did also. It began with a tremendous catered dinner from Pig N Chik. Also, many desserts



Thanksgiving Day Trivia

were provided which made for a delicious, no-stress dinner for everyone. This dinner was funded and provided by the Student Ministries led by Nathan Harper. Also, photograph portraits were made by Bob Raymer at the entrance using a background display made by June Owen. Following dinner, the entire attendance was

invited to play Thanksgiving Day Trivia. Teams were divided and almost everyone participated. It was operated like a team-driven, trivia game show. Throughout the main room of the church facility, there were interactive, Thanksgiving games for the kids to play.

Another component of VicTurkey Day was a service project. We collected food, items, and money for the Missionary Baptist Seminary in Little Rock pantry and the Texarkana Baptist Children’s Home. Both of these ministries were overwhelmed and very thankful for the generous gifts from our church.



Photo Booth

The attendance was a record for any recent Wednesday night event at our church. There were numerous guests and family members. The contacts from Trunk or Treat were invited—and many of them returned for this event! We thank God for such a great celebration to offer Thanks with our eternal family!



Donations

CALL Mall: Children of Arkansas Loved for a Lifetime

The past few months have been very busy for the Sherwood CALL Mall at Victory Baptist Church. We have had a constant flow of donations, especially between Thanksgiving and Christmas! Many gently used toys and a lot of winter clothing have been brought in to be sorted and put out for the children. We continue to be blessed by having new foster families coming to the Mall along with familiar faces.

The children of Oasis Church in Little Rock donated new toys for the foster children for Christmas. There were a lot of games, dolls, craft items, and figurines for boys and girls. The families who came in were very excited about them and enjoyed picking some out for their foster children. The Sherwood Mall, along with other Malls in the area, received donations of clothing, shoes, and school supplies from Mattress Firm. Many companies and organizations have become aware of the CALL and the Malls in Central Arkansas and have joined in caring for the foster children. We thank these groups for their desire to help. Several of our volunteers, including Carolyn's granddaughter Laura and her friend, met one Saturday to sort and put out clothing and toys.



Laura and friend, CALL volunteers



Mary Carol Pederson

Sherwood CALL Mall at Victory Baptist invited the CALL's co-founder/Pulaski County CALL Coordinator Mary Carol Pederson to visit the Mall. She came on Friday, December 9th. Mary Carol was very impressed and excited with all that we have done, the supply of items available to foster children, and the number of volunteers (19!) from Victory Baptist who take care of the CALL Mall. The family from Victory has been very supportive and Mary Carol thanked us for that support.



Mary Carol, Carolyn, Elsie

On January 6th, a small group of 4th and 5th grade girls will be coming to volunteer to sort and hang up clothing at the Mall. This group is part of the Greater Little Rock Chapter of Jack and Jill, which is an organization of women who have children from ages 2-19 dedicated to nurturing future African American leaders by strengthening children through leadership development, volunteer service, philanthropic giving, and civic duty. We are excited to meet these girls and to get to work alongside them in the Mall! It's always great to have young children and teens volunteer their time to help foster children. We have had other groups interested in doing volunteer activities for the Mall which would also be appreciated.

2017 has started out with a bang!

Children

LEARNING: Our Children's Department enjoyed a 12-week Wednesday night program entitled "Roller Coaster Life." In the series, we followed the life and trials of Elijah and **learned** how God can carry us through the ups and downs of our everyday lives. The children were tasked with memorizing scripture and were rewarded for their hard work with an ice cream party! Starting January 11, we will begin a new series called "God Speaks!" The children will **learn** what it means to seek out and listen for God's voice.



Children's Pastor Josh Clinton with some of our kids.



Caroling

LOVING: On December 21, we had the great privilege of taking a group of lively carolers to visit the Senior Residents of Sherwood Retirement Village. With bells and cymbals in hand, they got to share God's **love** to many grateful people. The residents were overjoyed at the sight of our children and greeted them with tears and hugs! It was a beautiful night for all involved as we spread the joy of Christmas.

LIVING: Life here at Victory has been so jam-packed and exciting over the holidays! On December 7, we took a bus of over 50 people to Antioch Baptist Church in Conway for "Bethlehem Revisited." We also welcomed our



new Children's Pastor, Josh Clinton, his wife Shannon, and their son Atticus. After weeks of prayer and planning, Josh began our Children's Sunday worship service, "POGO", which teaches our children to have "Praying hearts, Open eyes, Giving hands, and Obedient feet!" Thank you to all the volunteers who helped make



Bethlehem Revisited!

this happen! Courtney Swilley, Jeff Starks, Steffany Hale, Meredith McGinty, Garrett Morgan—THANK YOU! To the Wednesday night crew—THANK YOU! The enthusiasm and love you are pouring into the **lives** of our children is making a huge difference. We are all so excited to see how God will use you in 2017!

ONE Student Ministry

One Student Ministry is kicked-off and full torque! Please be mindful to encourage and invite students to our Wednesday night and Sunday morning services! Our first quarter is in place with off-site services the last Wednesday of each month. Come enjoy a warm meal with us at 6:30 on Wednesday evenings (excluding last Wednesday of the month) and worship Jesus with us!

Pictured on the right are Sydney Harris and Deon Youngblood, winners of the "\$50 Dash" contest the students participated in during our skating trip in December. Congratulations to Sydney and Deon!



Trunk Or Treat

About 10 years ago, the church held its first Trunk or Treat at 515 Sherwood Avenue. It was sparsely attended by the neighborhood, but there were about 40-50 people from the area who attended (in addition to our church family who were present). The event was moved to the 10000 Brockington Road location about five years ago, where it has thrived. This year, the church was ready to meet the community when they came to visit because now we also worship here! The candy collection goal of 20,000 pieces was surpassed—the final count was 23,000 individually wrapped pieces! It was a good thing this many pieces were gathered because the parking lot was busy with hundreds of children for the entire two hours of the event! Kids were coming from all over the city to be a part of the fun which included games at every car, a hayride, hotdogs, a dunk tank, and a drawing for a gift card.



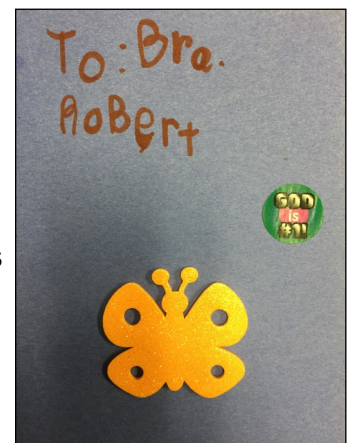
It was an unseasonably warm night with fair weather. There were numerous teens on hand to assist the adults who were working hard to accommodate and fellowship with the people who came. Nearly 100 informational cards were filled out for future contacts so that our church may continue to build a bridge from our building to their hearts.



Sweet Things

Here in the south we like our sweet tea. We like Krispy Kreme donuts. And we LOVE Dairy Queen! However, there are some things with a sweetness far better than sugar. These are the kind graces and gratitude of those we serve.

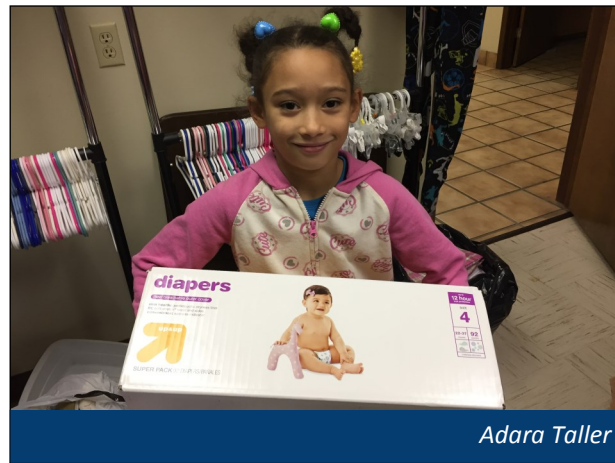
The children of God everywhere work to do the good deeds that God has foreordained that they should walk in (Ephesians 2:10). Too often these faithful servants never know the impact of their work because the people they help are like the nine lepers who received healing from Jesus yet were not grateful. At Victory, we want to do our part to show a better way. The teachers in the Children's Department regularly lead their pupils to write letters and cards of thankfulness. The children have to be shown the light that it is godly to be grateful. We are grateful to God that our young people know how to receive blessings by reciprocating with sweet things.



Unsung Heroes

In a day when people love to trumpet their accomplishments and pat themselves on the back for every little good deed, there are still those who do faithful acts for the simple pleasure of obedience and grace. Adara Taller, daughter of KiMontie and Crystal Taller, had an idea that she wanted to help the babies of the CALL Mall. She asked her mother to help her purchase the needed diapers. On November 30, after loading the other two children, Crystal drove them from Cabot to deliver the supplies to our CALL Mall in the middle of a weekday. They did not bring them on a Sunday morning or a Wednesday night when others might see them. Instead, they came quietly when the office was about to close for the day so they could slip in and out quietly.

This article was not written because they wanted it to be this way. It is because some heroes need to be celebrated when it is clear they operate in the Spirit and for the glory of God alone. Such humble, quiet servitude is the heartbeat of Christian service.



Adara Taller

Financial News

The church members who have been in our Team Meetings the past few months have heard much talk about church finances. One thing pointed out is that our monthly offerings for this fiscal year have been under budget. Our pastor has reminded us that offerings always fluctuate throughout the year, and that if we continue praying for our church, continue following God, and give to our church as the Bible commands us, God will provide His church with her needs.

As the table to the right shows, the average weekly offering needed to meet our current budget is \$7,805.48. So far this year, our average weekly offerings have been below that amount. However, December offerings were high enough to make up for the shortfall in the previous four months, and even put us a little ahead! Praise God for his provision!

VICTORY BAPTIST CHURCH

Notes for December 2016 Financial Report

Average weekly Offerings required to meet Budget	7,805.48	***
Average weekly Offerings through December 2016	<u>8,320.54</u>	
Average Weekly Offerings above or (under) Budget	<u>515.06</u>	
Budgeted Offerings to Date	132,693.17	
Actual Offerings to Date	<u>141,449.22</u>	
Actual Offerings to Date - over/(under) Budget	8,756.05	***
Offerings for Month of December 2016 (4 Sundays)	<u>49,872.16</u>	
Weekly Average for December	<u><u>12,468.04</u></u>	

Offerings during December were up dramatically, catching us up with the budget. However, January has started slowly, which is a normal pattern.

Donations for the Staff Love Offering were overwhelming!

Please continue to keep our church, its ministries and its finances in your prayers!

Choir

Have you ever heard some say "I hate music?" Neither have I. Maybe one dislikes a certain type of music, but you would be hard-pressed to find someone who hates all music. For some reason God has placed an internal affinity for a melodic line of notes in our being. Okay, yes, maybe I am trying to prove you just may be destined to join the choir program. Not a bad quest for this year. We are looking for "A Few Good Men....and Women" who have a desire in this realm of God's work. Emphasis on work, but oh, the joy that floods your soul!

We do hope you enjoyed the Christmas program. It's always amazing to witness a group of God's people in one accord delivering a single message of God's love. And as I often say, doing good work will always yield a reward . . . more work. I pray it will never end.

Recently we began to see some of the new sound system appearing. Hallelujah! I truly think the church will notice a dramatic difference in the musical sounds and voices. The choir has already started on new pieces that I feel will be worthy of your attention.

Join Bro. Michael and me as we seek to give God the glory he deserves. I sing the mighty power of God!
I sing the mighty power of God, Bro. John Hanks

CARE: Caring Actions, Real Experiences

Calling all CARE warriors! CARE is Victory's outreach program that is a consistent way for church members to actively stay in touch with fellow members and visitors. CARE meetings include visits, calls, and contacts via cards, Facebook, text, etc. as well as helping members with minor home needs (examples: fix a meal, change a light bulb, weed a flowerbed).

Different CARE teams meet the first and third Tuesday nights of each month from 6:30 to 7:30. the First Tuesday is the Coolest CARE Team and the third Tuesday is the Most Awesome CARE Team. Both teams have a lot of fun and sweet fellowship as they meet for these outreach efforts. This outreach is a very special way to be involved and fellowship with different members while providing a special service. Select a Tuesday each month and choose the activity you want to do. Join a team and be a CARE warrior! You will be blessed while blessing others!

JOY: Just Older Youth

JOY events welcome all Victory members and guests providing opportunities to fellowship together, share prayer requests and blessings, and build friendships.

JOY Breakfast meets on the second Tuesday morning of each month at 8:00 at Cracker Barrel in North Little Rock.

On the fourth Tuesday, join us for potluck lunch at noon at Victory. Bring your favorite dish and a friend or neighbor. If you work nearby, just drop in—there will be plenty of food for you. Check it out!



JOY Breakfast at Cracker Barrel

Media

On December 6, the last of the multimedia installation took place in our Worship Room. Jeff Lemaire, Aaron McGinty, Joanna Bearden, and Rick Ferris worked to oversee that the right equipment for our church's use was selected and that it was installed properly. We thank Jeff for utilizing some of his own work crew from Low Voltage Systems to make sure the job was done right.

Those who remember the projection from the old location will recall how dark it could seem to be. Sometimes it would even have interference which caused stripes in the picture. The new equipment is much brighter and sharper. We thank God for providing the needs of our church in these times when technology is so integrated in contemporary worship.



New Stage



Can you imagine a church without a stage? It is sort of hard to think of a congregation without the ever-present structure standing before them upon which the leadership of worship takes their position. Since relocating to Brockington, Victory Baptist has utilized the existing small stage from Victory Baptist School.

That all changed in late November when John Hanks, along with his sons Brandon and Kyle, spent many hours designing, supplying and building the stage according to their professional knowledge and standards. We are blessed that we have such talented

brothers in the faith at Victory who can create such a beautiful creation as this.

The compliments have been far too many to count. Most begin with exclamations about how big the stage is! But more than being far bigger than the old one, it is much more beautiful. God is our provider and sustainer. We thank Him for each "stage" of progress we make.

Men's Breakfast

On Friday mornings at 6:00, a group of men from Victory meet at church for a delicious, home made breakfast. Tommy McCarty organizes the breakfast by setting up the day before. On Friday morning, some arrive early to begin cooking, and they all pitch in to prepare and enjoy breakfast and Christian fellowship.

Men of all ages are welcome! Talk to Tommy for more details, or just show up on Friday morning to enjoy the food and fellowship!



WINGS: Women IN God's Service

Happy New Year!

In October, **WINGS** held our annual Pumpkin Decorating Contest. There were some really creative entries this year! In the Adult Division, the winners were as follows: 1st place, Carolyn Hanks; 2nd place, Patty Davis; 3rd place, Cynthia Phillips and Debbie Pennington. The Youth Division winners were: 1st place, Lydia Burke; 2nd place, Lizzie Davis; and 3rd place went to Hannah Burke. People's Choice winners were: Adults, Alice and Holly Austin; Youth, Adara Taller and Kaden Hepp (tie). Thank you for your participation; we raised over \$800!



Adults (L-R): 1st place; 2nd place; 3rd place; People's Choice



Youth (L-R): 1st place; 2nd place; 3rd place; People's Choice (tie)

Our ladies and guests enjoyed a beautiful Christmas fellowship on Monday, December 5th. In addition to the good and plentiful food, we were entertained by sister Sherri Harris and her mother, Betty Davidson, as they relived some of their favorite Christmas songs while 'driving' and riding in their car.

We were so happy to have Shannon Clinton as our guest speaker. She did a beautiful job sharing about



her family and her Christian journey thus far. We are so happy to have Shannon and her husband Josh here at Victory!

A new year brings with it new opportunities. If you have not been a part of **WINGS**, why not start this year? We are a very active group of women who love the Lord and love each other. **WINGS** meets the second Sunday of each month at 6:00 p.m. in Room 105.



Sunday Night Worship

These days, there are so many wonderful opportunities for service and fellowship at Victory. I would especially like to invite everyone to be a part of our Sunday Night Worship service. Come and join us each Sunday evening at 6:00 as we worship God with prayer, singing, and Bible study. Our service is a traditional one—no frills, just a group of ordinary people who come together to show love for God and love for each other. And, may I say, we have a great time doing both on Sunday nights!

Right now in our study, we are journeying through the story of The Exodus, one of the greatest and most awe-inspiring events in history. With each week's lesson, we see a little bit more of the awesome power and holiness of God. There is so much you can learn from joining us in our study!

- Do you want to know more about who God is and what He is like? Exodus is a fresh introduction to God. It's the story of how He reveals to mankind His character, His priorities, and His plan. Starting with the basics, God shows his people who He is, instead of just telling them.
- Do you want to know more about yourself and how God feels about you? Exodus paints a beautiful picture of God's mercy and love toward mankind, as well as his justice and holiness. This story teaches us how much we need God, and it foreshadows the great sacrifice he would make through Jesus, just because He loves us.

With a new year comes the opportunity for renewal in your relationship with God. I ask that you consider Sunday Night Worship at Victory as a way to grow closer to God and our church family. I look forward to seeing you there!

Your Brother in Christ, Jason Burke

RIM: Remote Island Ministries

Glen Knight left the United States during the first week of December. He went to Bacolod City in the Philippines to reunite with his stepson Justin, the crew, and *Nativa 2*. Upon their arrival, Glen and family supplied the vessel and went on a short-term mission voyage to Manila Bay. As they traveled, they met with various churches to encourage and supply.

Near Manila Bay, they brought the *Nativa 2* into dry dock. There they would receive some much-needed maintenance to chisel off barnacles, repaint the hull, and reapply the water line markers. Once completed, they have remained in Manila Bay awaiting the arrival of the shipping containers from the United States that are due to arrive on the 12th of January.

Glen's immediate plans are to make some mission stops along the eastern coasts of the Philippines as he heads to the Helena Islands. Ultimately, he will make his way to the Republic of Palau under whose flag he now sails the *Nativa 2*. Please check in with us in weekly services for any updates, or follow along on Facebook for further information.



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.

Witness and Growth

Our Lord has told us that we are to be in this world, but not of this world. While we are in this world, we have to operate here in peace and be a good witness of Christ. We have to work, pay taxes, be a good neighbor, and attend school.

Our students at Sylvan Hills Public Schools are numerous. Many of them are in the High School Choir. During the Christmas season, there was a phenomenal program performed by this choir. Many sacred songs were sung with excellence which proclaimed the majestic story of the birth of our Lord. Both the students of our church and former students of Victory Baptist School were featured in the program. They are demonstrating an excellent witness while growing in the Lord to know how to live in this world as His children.

The effect of such a choir and a proper attitude is very apparent to us at Victory Baptist. Our Sunday morning worship is led by two different men who were trained in the Sylvan Hills Choir!

