

Winter 2018

## Have a Cup and a Smile

These days a commonplace fixture in growing churches is a coffee station and an area for the church family to visit before and after services. Our church family has determined where this should be by their own practice. Since relocating to Brockington Road, folks gather in the outer office areas, taking a seat and sharing the news of their life. Coffee has been available to them for their enjoyment as well. At this time, some improvements are taking place to open up and streamline the functionality of this area. Tommy



McCarty has overseen the work that is being done while Joe Owen, Chris Davis, Darren Austin, and Clint Bearden have pitched in many volunteer hours and expenses to make it happen. Thanks to everyone who has helped to create this space to accommodate the intersection of the people of God at Victory!

---

## Welcome Josh & Amanda Thomas!

We want to issue a special welcome to Josh, Amanda, and their family to Victory! (See picture on page 4.) We agree that God has convicted him to move his family to the area in order to volunteer here at our church. His work will be to coordinate the talents and instrumentation found in Sunday morning worship services, create an order around the sermon, and add new features to the things we already do. Josh will accomplish this so that each facet of our service (from 10 am until it finishes) will be uniquely crafted to fit each week into a complimentary support of the sermon.

Josh will be operating with gradually increasing presence so that we will have time to get used to his ways. We are glad you are here Josh, and look forward to God's blessings through you!

# Children's Ministry

**LEARNING:** As the temperature drops in December, the Victory kids start to get excited. To them, the cold weather means two things: Christmas, and our annual trip to 'Bethlehem Revisited' at Antioch Church in Conway! Over 30 kids and adults piled into the bus and braved the cold, going back in time to a recreation of the city of Bethlehem on the night of Jesus' birth. It's an amazing **learning** experience! The kids got to interact with blacksmiths, fish mongers, carpenters, and Roman centurions. One of the highlights of the trip was two of our boys, Titan Dinwiddie and Jonathan Ladd, being read an excerpt of the book of Isaiah in Hebrew. The "rabbi" then translated the Hebrew to them word for word, and the boys **learned** about the prophecy of the Messiah, and how God always keeps his promises.

**LOVING:** The boys and girls of Victory have become well-acquainted with the saying, "others first, me last." It is a biblical principal that is often ignored in our instant, "me-first" society. Brother Josh has worked hard at encouraging our kids that if they truly **love** God, it will show up in sacrificial **love** for others—just like Jesus. One such young man, Rand Foster, lives it out in his daily life. This year was Victory's first to host the POGO Store. All year long our children receive what are called "POGO points" for a variety of reasons, and at Christmas time they are able to spend those points on a number of awesome prizes. Rand was worried about some of the newer and younger children not having enough points to buy anything—so he sacrificed his own! He handed out some of his hard-earned points to the other kids, and even bought a prize another child was wanting and gave it to them as a gift. The other children quickly followed his example and soon every child in the room was focused on helping someone else. In all his years of children's ministry, Brother Josh has never seen such a group of **loving** kids as these! Please pray that their sacrificial love will spread to other areas of their lives, and that this will be a generation of "others first, me last!"



Emma at the "fish monger" stall



Titan and Jonathan hearing scripture in Hebrew



POGO Store



Rand Foster



## Children's Ministry (continued)

**LIVING: Life** throws curve-balls. It's just a matter of fact. Our Sunday morning kids service, POGO, had to make some radical changes recently due to technical difficulties. For a solid month Brother Josh and his team of POGO Peeps have had to take a fairly state-of-the-art, high energy service and transform it into something a little more old-school. And you know what? It has been an absolute blast! The worship in POGO has become more passionate and the kids are more focused on the Biblical lessons. Now that it's a new year, Brother Josh will be retooling the POGO service. It will still be just as fun as ever, but elements are being rearranged to make sure that Jesus is the absolute main focus. It just goes to show that you don't need a lot of flash to run a great children's ministry—all you need is a group of kids and leaders whose **lives** are focused on one thing—loving Jesus.

## Youth Pastor

Victory has found herself without a full-time Youth Pastor since mid-September of 2017. Several young men have been interviewed, and two have been considered for the job. So far, no one has been brought to the forefront as a final candidate. Please join the congregation in prayer as we seek the right man for the job. This position is the only other full-time job besides the pastor, so it is very important to fill with the right person. God has sent quality leadership to our church for this job in the past and there is no doubt He will again. Sometimes a church has to be patient when waiting on the Lord.



But don't rush to the conclusion that the teens have been ignored while we've been without a Youth Pastor! One of our own, Brother Jason Burke, realized the need and volunteered to step up and fill in. Brother Jason has been teaching the teen classes on Sunday morning and Wednesday evening. He has also helped with some activities outside of class. He coordinated the production of a "skit" the teens performed for passengers on the hayride at Trunk or Treat. From all accounts, they did a "frighteningly" good job! (See the "Trunk or Treat" article on page 10.) As the tradition is in our society, they also got together on New Year's Eve to bring in the New Year!

Our teens enjoy hanging out and having fun outside of church; thank you, Brother Jason, for providing opportunities for their spiritual *and* social growth!



*Ringin' in the new year!*

## New Members!

We are happy to welcome our new members to the church family!

Nita Jasper is a neighbor of Tony and Colette Green. She began visiting several months ago, decided to join, and has been a regular ever since!

We also welcome Josh, Amanda, Evie Thomas! Josh grew up at Victory, moved away for a few years, and now he's back with his family! (You can read more about Josh in the article on page 1.)



Nita Jasper



Josh, Amanda, Evie, Fiona, Gwen, Gus, & Isla

## I Can See Clearly

Since relocating to Brockington Road, one concern that has badgered the leadership with regard to night services is the need for improved lighting. Some efforts have been made (an example of this is pictured) but still have not remedied the problem satisfactorily. The same folks who worked to bring the excellent lighting to the Sanctuary are now turning their attention to the parking lot. Their objective is to create a well-lit halo around the entrance so those who attend can feel comfortable about parking near and approaching the building. Then, as funds and permission permit, a plan to light the entire lot more effectively will be presented and implemented. It is important that night services continue freely without concerns the low-lighting might bring to those who attend. Thank you to everyone for their feedback and their continued desire for excellence!



## RIM: Remote Island Ministries

Glen Knight is the missionary Victory Baptist Church supports. Brother Glen calls his mission work "Remote Island Ministries," or RIM. He makes his home, along with his family, on a boat named RIM Nativia, and his goal is to reach people with the message of God's love. On the RIM Nativia, Brother Glen takes this message to remote islands of Micronesia in the western Pacific Ocean. To learn more about Brother Glen and RIM, visit our website at [victory1st.com](http://victory1st.com) and click on the "MISSIONS" tab. There you will see a brief description of the ministry, and also links to the latest Newsletters about the work.





# Safety First

Of course, safety isn't the *most* important thing for a church to focus on—Jesus is! Though safety *is* helpful for the people of God to be able to worship in peace when it is possible. It is a terrible thing to have to admit, but in our world today, people are entering into houses of worship and causing harm to attendees or stealing the things of value they may find there. As a result, Low Voltage Systems, under the leadership of Bro. Jeff Lemaire, has installed an incredible camera and alarm system for our congregation. It will be able to take high-quality footage of our entrances and outer perimeter in case we need this. Also, we will have people at monitors during worship to keep an eye on things so that safety will not have to be a concern for those who attend. We know God is good, and He has enabled His people to be vigilant and prepared.



## Upcoming Events and Dates

January 19	CALL Mall	March 11	Daylight Saving Begins (forward)
January 20	CALL Mall		WINGS
January 21	Small Groups	March 13	JOY Breakfast
January 23	JOY Potluck	March 14	Team Meeting
January 24	Team Meeting	March 16	CALL Mall
January 26	Men's Breakfast; CALL Mall	March 17	St. Patrick's Day; CALL Mall
February 2	CALL Mall	March 18	Small Groups
February 3	CALL Mall	March 19-23	Spring Break
February 4	Men's Chili Cook-Off; Small Groups	March 20	Most Awesome CARE Team
February 6	Coollest CARE Team	March 23	Men's Breakfast; CALL Mall
February 9	Men's Breakfast; CALL Mall	March 27	JOY Potluck
February 11	WINGS	March 30	Good Friday; CALL Mall
February 13	JOY Breakfast	April 1	Easter
February 14	Valentine's Day; Team Meeting	April 3	Coollest CARE Team
February 16	CALL Mall	April 6-7	AYC
February 17	CALL Mall	April 6	Men's Breakfast; CALL Mall
February 18	Small Groups	April 7	CALL Mall
February 19	President's Day	April 8	WINGS
February 20	Most Awesome CARE Team	April 10	JOY Breakfast
February 23	Men's Breakfast; CALL Mall	April 11	Team Meeting
February 27	JOY Potluck	April 13	CALL Mall
March 2	CALL Mall	April 15	Small Groups
March 3	CALL Mall	April 17	Most Awesome CARE Team
March 4	Small Groups	April 20	Men's Breakfast; CALL Mall
March 6	Coollest CARE Team	April 21	CALL Mall
March 9	Men's Breakfast; CALL Mall	April 24	JOY Potluck
		April 27	CALL Mall

## JOY: Just Older Youth

We had another great time at the JOY breakfast in January. Carole George just retired and is our new addition!! Everyone is welcome to join us!

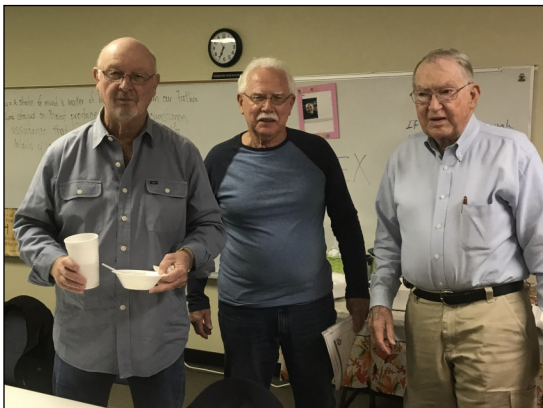
JOY meets for breakfast at Cracker Barrel in North Little Rock on the second Tuesday of each month at 8 am, and they meet for a potluck lunch at the church on the fourth Tuesday at noon.



*JOY Breakfast at Cracker Barrel*

## CARE: Caring Actions, Real Experiences

In November, the Coolest Team and the Awesome Team met on the same night to combine efforts for the month. We had a great turnout!





# CALL Mall: Children of Arkansas Loved for a Lifetime

Wow, it's 2018! 2017 was a busy year for the CALL Mall! There were many donations of clothing, toys and money made to the Mall! There was a donation of money given to us back in the summer by Mattress Firm that was used to buy new toys for the foster parents to supplement gifts for the foster children, especially if they received a child just before Christmas. In the fall, Becky Ferris made beautiful dish cloths, and for a donation of \$5 to the Mall, you received a dish cloth. The Mall received \$670 from her hard work! Thank you, Becky, for doing this kind deed! So far \$100 of that was used to buy the new toys.

During the Thanksgiving season, a team called Girls on the Run from LISA Academy did a community impact project. This year they decided to help foster families in our community. They had a clothing drive specifically collecting new socks, underwear, diapers and baby wipes. It was a very generous gift to our CALL Mall! Thank you so much for your generosity! The children of the Oasis Church also donated many new toys they collected for foster children. The CALL Mall also received a \$200 donation from an anonymous member of Victory's church family. These



*Donations from Girls on the Run at LISA Academy*



donations will be used to buy diapers, wipes and any other needs to help the foster families.

We have so many volunteers work the Mall that we are able to be open every Friday and the first and third Saturday of each month. However, we have room for anyone else who wants to get involved in volunteering in the CALL Mall! The love and care the volunteers give is so greatly appreciated by the foster families. They are constantly letting us know! One blessing in working in the Mall is to get to hold the babies while the foster moms shop. They are so precious!!!

2018 has started out with more donations because more people have heard of the CALL and the Malls that are connected with it and care about foster children! Thank you Victory for all of your support and love for the foster children!!





# WINGS: Women IN God's Service

As usual, our WINGS group has been busy!

Our Pumpkin Decorating Contest and Potluck last October was a success again this year! We had many entries in both the Adult and Youth categories, and after much deliberating, our judge announced the winners. In the Youth category, the winners were: 1<sup>st</sup> place, Hannah Burke; 2<sup>nd</sup> place, Jonathan and Taylor Ladd; 3<sup>rd</sup> place, Mason Wyatt; People's Choice Winner, Aurelia Taller. In the Adult category, the winners were: 1<sup>st</sup> place Julie Harper; 2<sup>nd</sup> place, Annette Pennington; 3<sup>rd</sup> place, Joanna Bearden; People's Choice Winner, Cynthia Phillips and Debbie Pennington. In the picture to the right is Susan Ladd showing off Jonathan and Taylor's (her grandchildren) winning entry. Our church family came out to support the efforts with their generous donations to vote for the People's Choice winners and over \$600 was raised! WINGS will use this money to help in different areas/projects at the church. Everyone who stayed for the potluck not only enjoyed a delicious homemade meal, but also the beautiful table decorations—the decorated pumpkins!



We had been excitedly awaiting for several months to hear the guest speaker at our Christmas Party, Comfort Lambert! Comfort told heartwarming stories (how her parents met), stories of love (she had not seen her family in over four years since she traveled to America!), and stories of concern (unsanitary conditions at the market and having malaria). Comfort brightened our night with her smile. She just completed her degree in Business Management at Harding University in Searcy, Arkansas, on a scholarship from friends at Lakeside MBC. Comfort is the daughter of Livingstone and Angellah Lambert, missionaries in Tanzania. She also has a sister, Miracle.



*Comfort Lambert*



*Many ladies attended our Christmas Party*

After speaking at the WINGS Christmas party on December 4, Comfort returned home to Tanzania. Members of Victory had given their donations all summer to be able to present Comfort with a love offering of \$3,300.00 for medical supplies for the people of Tanzania. Medicine they need is usually available there, but people often don't have the money to buy it. Thank you for your help in providing this offering! We wish Comfort the best at home. WINGS continues to send a love offering to her mother on a monthly basis.

WINGS meets on the second Sunday of each month at 6:00 pm. All ladies are invited to join us!



# Facilities

Does it honor God? Is it making the best use of the Lord's money? Does it further the Kingdom of Christ?

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. Still looking for leaf rakers...small playground, large playground, and the upper and lower grove areas.
3. Bro. Clint continues to improve The Barn. Get with him if you can help.
4. We still have mulch in abundance out by The Barn. If you have a need, help yourself.
5. The Firepit area is still looking for A Group to take ownership.
6. I am thankful to report that the Coach has a new home. The Marion School District has purchased the bus, and its usefulness will now help the school district transport kids/adults and boosters to various sporting events. Thank you to all who helped me keep the word out there.
7. We have finalized the purchase of the new van! Looking forward to its use as a ministry tool in the various areas.



*Our new 15-passenger van!*



*Inside the van*

8. Thanks to the WINGS group of ladies for their continued help in keeping the kitchen area organized. The new refrigerator is in place, a new outlet added for its use. Thanks to Bro. Terry Waldrop for his continued help in the electrical needs of our church.

As always, thank you for this opportunity you have given me. I pray each of you has a Happy New Year and that 2018 will be the year that we fully commit to the Cause of Christ and reaching a lost and dying world through our efforts at Victory Baptist Church. I love you all. –Michael Driggers



*The new refrigerator*



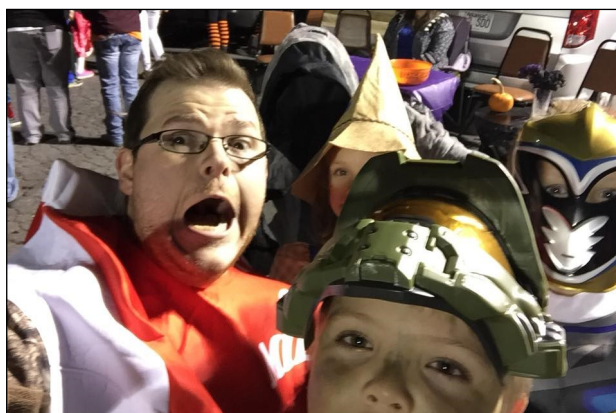
# Trunk or Treat

Our annual Trunk or Treat was another success! Despite the cold and drizzling rain, guests came out in droves for free food, treats, games, and hay rides. To give you an inkling of just how many people showed up, over 500 hot dogs and thousands upon thousands of pieces of candy were handed out! At several points, traffic was backed up all the way past the parking lot and going into Brockington Road! Four brave young men took turns in the freezing Dunk Tank, turning it into a test of strength. The Victory Teens gave a special treat—during the hayride they performed their rendition of “God is Bigger Than the Boogieman.”

Everyone involved did such a wonderful job of coming together and loving our community!



*Finding treasure at the Bradley's trunk*



*There were frights to be found everywhere!*



*One of our guests enjoying the fun*



*Michael Driggers, our hayride chauffer*



*Chris & Patty Davis, aka Mary Poppins and Bert*



*Annette and Carole giving out buckets of candy*



# Retro Christmas

Every family, no matter where they are from or how they are composed, shares two things in common when it comes to Christmas—traditions and the memories those traditions carry. This Christmas, Victory Baptist celebrated the holiday memories of yesteryear with “Retro Christmas.” It all started with a simple problem—the staff couldn’t decide which Christmas classic to watch together as a church family. Some wanted the old classics. Others wanted something newer from the 80’s or 90’s. Finally it was asked, “Why not ALL OF THEM?” Throughout the night, clips from some of the greatest (and most infamous) Christmas movies, TV specials, and commercials were shown, going from the 50’s to the 90’s.



*Getting ready for the show to start!*



*Sharing memories . . .*



Between each segment, staff members told stories of their favorite holiday memories and gave away a wide variety of retro gifts—including an Atari! So much fun was had that it was decided to make Retro Christmas its own Victory tradition. We can’t wait until next year!

## Christmas Eve Services

In 2017, Christmas Eve happened on a Sunday, and the church was blessed to have two wonderful services to celebrate the holiday...in one day! On Sunday morning, John Hanks directed the choir in an arranged presentation titled “Say ‘Yes’ to Christmas.” The songs were full of beauty and truth about the coming of our Lord Jesus on Christmas Day to bring our salvation. Great feedback was offered to the pastor and his staff regarding the excellent work of the choir from those who attended.

A good turnout of our regular Sunday congregation assembled on this morning. A few visitors were among them to round out the attendance. Each one seemed to be blessed by the holiday spirit of unity and fellowship as they sensed the childlike wonder in the air. The Kingdom of Heaven is of those who are like children in spirit, so on such a morning as this, there is a kinship among God’s people that is a special one.

For the 5:00 Christmas Eve Candlelight service there was a full house! Members brought their entire families with them, and it was nearly a capacity crowd. We ran out of candles and handouts, but this did not deter the special spirit in the service. Around the room there was the visible fruit of many hours of work to invite and promote the event. Carols were sung and Scripture was read as the people paid proper homage to their King who came in a lowly manger to begin His life-long mission to save their souls. Many compliments were paid to the staff following the service, and one soul even sought out private counsel from the Pastor. Praise God! People call Christmas services the Super Bowl of Christianity. Why shouldn’t every week be like this?



## 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.

## Lovin' From the Oven

On Saturday, December 23, at 10 am, The Niche Sunday School Class (college age) met at the church to make homemade cookies & treats for the fine people of The Senior Residences of Sherwood. After baking, they sacked up the treats, chocolate, and candy canes for each apartment. Included on the package was an invitation to the Candlelight Service on the following night. The students had a great time putting them together and delivering the gifts in the cold. Thank you cards were mailed from the residents, and some attended the service on Christmas Eve. It is always enjoyable to bless others in the name of Christ!

