



Spring 2018

## Saying Good-bye

Our church family was saddened to hear Brother Robert Harris give his resignation at the end of January. Robert, Sherri, Sophie, and Sydney have been a much-loved part of our church family since November 2004, and it is hard to imagine life at Victory without them! Brother Robert's last Sunday at



Gift box for Bro. Robert

Victory was February 25, and in true Baptist fashion, we celebrated his time here with a potluck after the service. Many people came to celebrate with us and wish the Harris family their best, and we were happy to see people we haven't seen in a while! After his final sermon here, Brother Robert's final words encouraged us, reminded us who we are—we are in Christ!—and thanked us for his time here.

Victory was blessed to have Brother Harris as pastor. We know God will continue to bless him and his family, wherever and in whatever God has planned for them!



Bro. Robert & Sis. Sherri



Sophie & Sydney

## Victory in Search

As we said good-bye to Brother Harris, we were preparing to look for our next pastor. We know God has someone planned for us, and we need to be patient while we search. The church voted to elect a Pastoral Search Committee consisting of seven church members, to task them with electing a chairperson and secretary, and to develop guidelines for the process of selecting a pastor. The church elected seven worthy members to serve on our Pastoral Search Committee, they elected a chairperson and secretary, they presented to the church a plan to conduct the search, and the church approved the plan with a small change. The Committee has received several names to consider and has begun the process of selecting a pastor.

Committee members are: Allen Thomas, Chairman; David Penn, Secretary; Bob Hanks; Chris Davis; Joshua Thomas; Nathan Harper; and Josh Clinton. Please continue to pray for the Pastoral Search Committee and our church, for unity and wisdom, as we search for our new pastor!

# Children's Ministry

**LEARNING:** Prayer is a vital part of our daily faith. It's how we humble ourselves and communicate with God! But it can be intimidating for a child. They have common fears—"I don't know what to say!" "When and where do I do it?" "Is God really listening?" God has called all his children to be prayer warriors (or "Prayer Ninjas" as Brother Josh puts it), no matter how small! After all, the "P" in POGO stands for "Prayerful hearts!" So Brother Josh set out to address their fears. During our Sunday morning kids worship service they have undergone a series titled "Teach Us to Pray!" Each week they dissected a passage of Lord's Prayer and **learned** that there isn't a magical formula to prayer—all they need is a humble heart that is open to communicating with their Heavenly Father! They **learned** that prayer isn't some stiff ritual you say before meals, it's talking to God! Giving Him glory and trusting Him with our needs! At the end of each service, the kids had an opportunity to pray with our adult leaders. Any child too shy to pray out loud instead got to write letters to God, and finally they all joined together to pray for their church. Some powerful moments were had, for children and leaders alike, and it will now be a facet of our POGO service!



Abram and Jonah



Easter Egg Hunt

**LOVING:** At Victory we **love** kids and all things kid-related! One of our ministries, the CALL Mall, meets a desperate need in our home state and community—helping foster parents and their children. It's a labor of **love** for the small team of men and women who volunteer to help this important ministry and need all the help they can get. The kids of Victory rallied together, doing extra chores and saving every penny, and together they raised just shy of \$100 to bless the CALL Mall in any way it needs.

**LIVING:** To a child, spring usually means one thing—EGGS! Over 2,000 eggs to be precise! That's how many were spread across our church grounds during our Easter Egg Hunt, and they all but vanished within 10 minutes of Brother Josh letting the kids loose! Prizes were given away, photos



were taken, and much sugar was consumed—but we are so thankful to have a group of children who realize the point of Easter isn't some bunny, but a risen savior! No matter what life throws our way, we can walk in Victory! He is risen! JESUS IS ALIVE! And He wants a relationship with your children!



Abram's baptism



## Children's, continued



Jon and big sis, Steffany

Two of our boys, Abram McGinty and Jon Starks, have accepted this in their hearts and minds. Abram accepted Jesus as his savior and was baptized in water, and a few weeks later Jon prayed to accept Jesus' salvation! It's such an exciting time to be a part of Victory, and we would love for you to be a part of it. If you have any questions regarding our ministry, feel free to go to [victory1st.com](http://victory1st.com) and contact Brother Josh. Or you can find us on Facebook with the "Victory Kids!" page. Summer is just around the corner, and there are a ton of exciting things coming up—VBS, Kidz Kamp at Bogg Springs, and so many more surprises! God bless, and stay tuned!



For our teens, the mid-week service on Wednesday night is a welcome break from what often seems like a very *loooooong* week of school. They start the evening in the lunchroom where a hot dinner has been prepared for them by some of the wonderful members here at Victory who love to love on our kids. They enjoy the meal with friends and get a chance to catch up with each other. After dinner, they go upstairs for worship and class. The teen band leads their worship in song, and then they have a Bible study. This Wednesday night service format has been popular with the teens for several years. They look forward to this time with each other and growing closer to our Lord.



Wednesday night meal

One of the events the teens attend each year is AYC (Arkansas Youth Conference). This youth conference is held at the Statehouse Convention Center in Little Rock, and its goal is to direct our kids to Jesus Christ and a life committed to Him. This year, Jason and Tara Burke planned a fun weekend for the teens. They met at the church for pizza on Friday evening before heading to Little Rock for the first session. On Friday night, Brother Jason and the young men stayed at the church, and the young ladies stayed at the Burke's house with Sister Tara. They began Saturday morning with breakfast at the church, then headed back to Little Rock for the final session. The theme this year was God's Good Gospel. As usual, the worship band and speakers at AYC brought a message that pointed the listeners to God, who He is and what He's done for us, and how we should respond. And one of our group *did* respond by turning to the Lord for eternal salvation!! It was a great ending to a great weekend!



AYC





# Easter

We had another wonderful Easter at Victory—no fooling! Easter fell on April Fool's Day this year, but that did not stop us from planning events to celebrate the day our Lord and Savior rose from the grave! The sanctuary was filled with church members, family, and guests. We were pleased to welcome Brother Jim Smith as our guest speaker. Many people remember Brother Smith as the principal and sixth grade teacher at Victory Baptist School. The Lord's Supper was observed at the end of our worship service—what a fitting day to hold the memorial ordinance of what our Lord and Savior did for us! Many were watching the weather to see if the Easter Egg Hunt would need to be cancelled, but the rain held off and the egg hunt proceeded as planned after the service! After the service and egg hunt, some people left to continue their Easter celebration with their families, and some stayed to enjoy



Ready.....Set.....Go!!

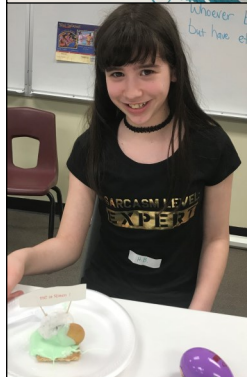
the potluck here at church. As usual, WINGS did a great job setting up and coordinating the meal. It was a wonderful day remembering what our Lord and Savior did for us!



Searching for eggs



## Edible Easter Crafts



On Wednesday nights, the kids in kindergarten through sixth grade often make a craft that illustrates a Bible theme or story. At Easter, they made an edible craft that pictured the empty tomb that was found three days after Jesus was buried. Yum!

## New Member!

Abram McGinty was baptized in February! (See more of his story in "Children's Ministry" on page 3 of the Newsletter.)

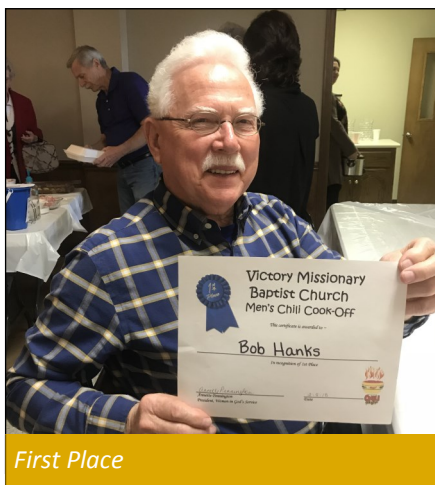




## WINGS: Women IN God's Service

Greetings from WINGS! Our Annual Chili Cook-Off in February was another great success thanks to all who participated. The judges had about 20 crock pots of chili to taste! Our 2018 winners were: 1<sup>st</sup> Place, Bob Hanks; 2<sup>nd</sup> Place was a tie between Allen Thomas and Steve George; 3<sup>rd</sup> Place was claimed by 2017 1<sup>st</sup> Place winner, Bro. Robert Harris. Thanks to our generous church family, \$600.00 was raised for our foyer items!

We are so fortunate to have such an active group of ladies in WINGS. If you are not presently involved with us, please consider this your personal invitation to join us. We have a lot of good things in store and we would love for you to be a part of them....all ladies are welcome, no age limit! We meet the second Sunday of each month at 6:00 pm in Room 105.



First Place



Second Place tie



Third Place

## CALL Mall: Children of Arkansas Loved for a Lifetime

The CALL Mall has once again changed from fall/winter to spring/summer clothing. It feels like we just changed seasons! Thanks to all who helped with that. The Mall continues to receive donations from both the church and our community. It's wonderful that more people are thinking of, praying for, and helping the foster children and families of Arkansas!

The pictures below show a small tour of what the CALL Mall looks like when parents come in to get things they need. Thank you Victory Baptist Church for all of your love and support!!!





# Facilities

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

1. Thanks for your help on the raking and leaf pick up. There is a continuous need for policing the grounds, so if you find yourself with a pretty afternoon and a little time, come on out and pick up sticks, rake up and bag a pile of leaves, or just enjoy the grounds.
2. June Owen and the rest of the sprucer-uppers are working on a plan for prettifying the grounds. Check with her to see where you can help.
3. STILL LOOKING FOR HOMES FOR THESE TWO DESKS: We still have an approximately 7' x 7' L-shaped desk and an approximately 6' long standard desk that we are trying to sell. They are in the barn. I can show you pics or show it to you in person, just get with me.
4. STILL HAVE MULCH IF YOU NEED IT. We still have a large pile of mulch. Look out around the large sign at the main entrance. I have put some of it in that bed. This will show you what we have. Take all you need!
5. Thanks to Meredith McGinty for heading up the placement of the pavers for our new fire pit! She and some of the other volunteers on our clean-up day got the stones in place and we're off to a great start! Now we just need somebody to step up and finish this project. There will be opportunities to have gatherings around the fire pit, so plan on utilizing this area for your class, Small Group, etc.



6. The Mow Team is firing up and getting the mowing season off to a big start. We need a few more on the team. If you would consider being added, please let me know. As the warm weather comes on, if you see a member of the team working on the grounds, give them a honk and a wave...or better yet, bring them a slushy from Sonic!

As we are in this period of transition, we need for many to step up even more than before. We have a great group at Victory, but there are so few who are taking on so much. We need more involvement from our church family. Please consider helping where you can.



# CARE: Caring Actions; Real Experiences

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. to members, visitors and others, as well as helping members with minor home needs (examples—fix a meal; change a light bulb; weed a flowerbed). CARE Teams meet from 6:30 pm—7:30 pm; the Coolest CARE Team meets the first Tuesday night and the Most Awesome CARE Team meets the third Tuesday of the month. Both teams have a lot of fun and sweet fellowship as they meet to provide a special service. Select one Tuesday a month and choose the activity you want to do. Join a team and be a CARE warrior! You will be blessed while blessing others! If you are not able to participate, please pray for us that we do what is best for Victory and the Lord.

## 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 of each month at 8 am at Cracker Barrel in North Little Rock. On the fourth Tuesday, join us for potluck lunch and devotional 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 and fellowship for you!

## Upcoming Events and Dates

April 20	Men's Breakfast; CALL Mall	June 10	WINGS
April 21	CALL Mall	June 12	JOY Breakfast
April 24	JOY Potluck	June 13	Team Meeting; No kids activities
April 27	CALL Mall	June 15	Men's Breakfast; CALL Mall
April 29	Dessert Auction	June 16	CALL Mall
May 1	Coolest CARE Team	June 17	Father's Day
May 4	Men's Breakfast; CALL Mall	June 18-22	Vacation Bible School
May 5	CALL Mall	June 19	Most Awesome CARE Team
May 6	Senior Sunday; Small Groups	June 22	CALL Mall; Bug Out Party
May 8	JOY Breakfast	June 26	JOY Potluck
May 11	CALL Mall	June 29	Men's Breakfast; CALL Mall
May 13	Mother's Day	July 1	Small Groups
May 15	Most Awesome CARE Team	July 4	Independence Day
May 16	Team Meeting	July 5	CALL Mall
May 18	Men's Breakfast; CALL Mall	July 7	CALL Mall
May 19	CALL Mall	July 8	WINGS
May 20	Small Groups	July 10	JOY Breakfast
May 22	JOY Potluck	July 11	Team Meeting
May 25	CALL Mall	July 13	Men's Breakfast; CALL Mall
May 28	Memorial Day	July 15	Small Groups
June 1	Men's Breakfast; CALL Mall	July 16-20	National Camp, Bogg Springs
June 2	CALL Mall	July 17	Most Awesome CARE Team
June 3	Small Groups	July 20	CALL Mall
June 5	Coolest CARE Team	July 21	CALL Mall
June 6	No kids activities	July 24	JOY Potluck
June 8	CALL Mall	July 27	Men's Breakfast; CALL Mall
		July 29-Au.1	Kidz Kamp; Bogg Springs

## 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.

## Work Days

Our church family is so good to respond to a call for help! And that's exactly what happened in March. Michael Driggers, our Facilities Coordinator, sent out a plea for help in getting the grounds prepared for the Easter Egg Hunt and all the visitors we expected on Easter Sunday. Several people responded, and within a few short hours, an impromptu Work Day was planned for the next day, a Saturday! Several people showed up to rake leaves and pine needles, pick up sticks, and progress was even made on the fire pit! (See more in "Facilities" page 6.) The job wasn't finished when quitting time rolled around, and some came back the following Saturday to continue working. Because of their hard work and the Mow Team's efforts, the church yard was in good shape for our Easter festivities!

