

### Shepherds:

Brian Anderson.....601 606 4478  
 Charles Johnson.....601 297 2617  
 Don Rake.....601 297 6958  
 Ken Upchurch.....601 545 9203

### Deacons:

Chip Hill.....601 270 1519  
 Bible Correspondence, Jail Ministry

Richard Jones.....601 543 3150  
 Advertising, Directory, Focus Groups,  
 Greeting, Involvement, Visitation

Robby Moorer.....601 577 2115  
 Bus, Fellowship, Nursery, Property,  
 Youth

Jessie Pope.....601 297 1889  
 Disaster Relief, Benevolence,  
 Seniors, Widows

### Ministers:

Mike Benson.....812 430 7363  
 mbensonkw@bellsouth.net

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 sethka63@hotmail.com

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Dixie Richey.....601 297 3105  
 dixierichey@bellsouth.net

Breanne Sullivan.....601 517 6545  
 bsullivan79@bellsouth.net

Mary Kay Stickroth.....601 466 3112  
 mkstickroth@bellsouth.net

### Evangelism:

Tanzania 2000  
 House to House/Heart to Heart  
 Russian Bible Donation  
 Bible Correspondence Courses  
 Jail Ministry  
 Television Ad  
 Annual Youth Campaign  
 Home Bible Studies

### Benevolence:

N. Ala. Christian Children's Home  
 Disaster Relief  
 Romanian Eye Glasses Donation  
 Food Pantry

### Edification:

Bible Classes for all ages  
 Shepherd's class  
 W.IN.G.S. Ladies' Ministry  
 Youth Group for K-12<sup>th</sup> grade  
 Vacation Bible School  
 Focus Groups  
 USM Christian Student Center  
 Godz Girlz  
 Monthly Men's Breakfast  
 KneEmail  
 5th Sunday Night Singing  
 Gulf Coast Bible Camp

September 6, 2009

*"If a man has a soul, and he has, and if that soul can be won or lost for eternity, and it can, then the most important thing in the world is to bring a man to Jesus Christ."*



Kensington Woods

# FAMILY TREE

KENSINGTON WOODS CHURCH OF CHRIST, (601) 264-2945

## FIDELITY

with Mike Benson

**Under the weather**—Well, this was unexpected. Not that I ever expect to get sick, but I certainly never anticipated getting mono...again. The last time I contracted this I was 22-years-old. Fortunately I've had family and KW friends who've

kept asking me, "Mike, are you doing what the doctor ordered...?" so there's not been much of a chance to overextend myself. Ha! I've laid in bed more in the past week than I have in a year—or so it seems! The rest has been nice, but I'm ready (at least *mentally*) to return to work. Hopefully, I can be on my feet and back to my old self before too long. (Doctor said to "take it easy"—her words—for 4 to 6 weeks). What exactly does "take it easy" mean...? :o) Does that mean slow down? Move slower than usual? Go to bed earlier at night? Take a longer lunch break? What? Thanks to everyone who has sent prayers, cards, food, and well-wishes my way. Keep praying for Katie too, please. This malady has hit her harder than it's hit me.

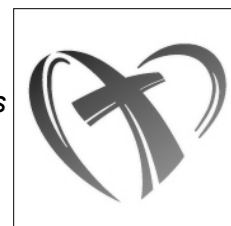
**Teaching**—Mark your calendar for Saturday, October 3. That's when Tom Tignor (from 21st Century Christian) will be with us again to present his teaching training material.

**Meeting**—Mark your calendar for October 4-7. That's just a month away! David Looney will be with us for our Fall Gospel Meeting. I know many of you love and appreciate David and his family. They certainly had a big, very positive impact on the KW church family. Be thinking about folks you want to invite for the meeting. Be praying for them and their souls.

**Pantry**—Moms and Dads, could you give some non-perishable food stuffs to your kids to bring to the building Sunday? Benevolence calls continually draw on the resources of our church pantry. Some days we can have three or four families requesting our assistance. By sending food, you'll not only touch lives you've never met, but you'll influence and teach your children important truths about giving, generosity, and stewardship. Can you help?

**Class**—Our new Fall quarter started this week. I'm looking forward to teaching the Wednesday night auditorium class on the subject of prayer. This promises to be a very rich and rewarding study. Bring your Bible, paper and pen and come ready to delve into the Word!

*"God loves you and I love you and that's the way it's gonna be!" —m*



# God Makes Me Laugh

By Mike Benson

I like reading this biblical account (Genesis 17-21). A broad smile moves across my face every time my eyes meet the words of this inspired text... Abraham and Sarah were "expecting" their first child. Nothing special about that; millions of couples have anticipated the same blessing. However, the circumstances surrounding this particular birth were "unique": 1) God had actually been talking about it for some twenty-five years (Genesis 12:4), and 2) Abraham was one hundred years old (Genesis 17:17; 21:5), while Sarah was ninety (Genesis 18:11-12) when the birth occurred. She had "passed the age of childbearing" [lit., the manner of woman had ceased to be with her].

Beyond the obvious miraculous intervention, one of the things that affects me about this story is all of the laughter. When God broke the "good news" to Abraham (Genesis 17:16), Scripture says that the patriarch "fell on his face and laughed" (Genesis 17:17). When Sarah heard the news, she laughed too (Genesis 18:11). Interestingly, when their son was finally born, Sarah was laughing again (Genesis 21:6) and the infant was named "Isaac" (Genesis 17:19), which meant, of course, laughter. My intent is not to be irreverent, but I can't help but notice that when God was talking, people were laughing. Perhaps Abraham and Sarah found it hard to take the Almighty seriously when he had made such an "outrageous" promise.

But as I consider the "humor" of the promise and birth of Isaac, I don't want to miss the application of this narrative to my life today. Observe:

**God's TIME.** God actually started talking with Abraham about his "seed" two and a half decades (that's a long time to wait for a baby!) before Isaac's birth. As promised, the son was born "at the SET TIME" (Genesis 21:2; 17:21) of which God had spoken.

Is it just me, or do you tend to grow impatient with the Almighty too? I want him to work now -- on my schedule, at my time. "Give me a microwave answer, Father!" I want to go through the "drive-through" and get my blessing. I want high-speed Internet access to the promises of heaven. Yet, the story of the promise of Isaac reminds me that deity moves at a different pace than I do. I'm on CST (Central Standard Time); God is on EST (Eternal Sovereign Time). I think in terms of seconds and minutes; he thinks in terms of years and decades. I need to learn to let God work things out on his timetable. I need more patience (James 1:4). Sound familiar?

**God's WORD.** God blessed Abraham and Sarah with a son despite their advanced age -- just as he had said he would. Note: "For Sarah conceived and bore Abraham a son in his old age, at the set time of which GOD HAD SPOKEN to him" (Genesis 21:2). God said it and it happened. But do you remember what Sarah did when she first heard the promise? That's right, she laughed (Genesis 18:12). Moments later, when God asked her why she laughed, she denied doing so (18:15a). My guess is that laughter was Sarah's way of expressing doubt. Folks well into their retirement years don't start having children.

Are you ever tempted, like Sarah, to doubt God's Word and his promises? "With all of my past sins, will he really save me?" "When/as I sin, will he really forgive me?" Be assured, dear reader, that he will (Psalm 89:34-35; 2 Timothy 2:13; Hebrews 10:23; 2 Timothy 1:12; 2 Peter 3:9). God will do exactly as he has promised (Acts 2:38; 1 John 1:9; cf. Hebrews 6:18). Do you need to increase your faith (Hebrews 11:11)? Read, study and then trust God's Word (Romans 10:17; Proverbs 3:5-6).

**God's POWER.** The bodies of Abraham and Sarah were miraculously rejuvenated (Genesis 18:10; 17:16). Abraham was "young enough" not only to father Isaac, but also six other sons by his second wife Keturah, after Sarah passed away (Genesis 25:2). Sarah was "young enough" again, not only to bear Isaac, but also to nurse him (Genesis 21:7).

Now consider, if God could take a 100-year-old man and his 90-year-old wife and produce a son, then imagine what he'll do with our mortal bodies at the resurrection (1 Corinthians 15:35ff; 1 John 3:2; John 11:25)! This Old Testament story reminds me of God's awesome power (Genesis 18:14; cf. Romans 15:4; Psalm 68:35)!

Every time Abraham and Sarah spoke their son's name, they would remember how they had laughed (in surprise and doubt) at God's promise. Every time I read about Isaac, it prompts a joyous smile and a little laugh too for God's masterful control and manipulation of time and events, for his trustworthiness and for his incredible might.

# News & Notes



## Remember in Prayer:

~ Janell Holmes had surgery Wednesday to fuse some vertebrae in her neck. She will be home for 6 weeks to recuperate.

~ Phyllis Chapin is home now and receiving physical therapy and home health care for her leg pain.

~ Mike Benson and his daughter Katie, both have mono. Mike's condition is improving, but Katie's is worsening.

~ Betty Louish, Janell Holmes mother, is at Janell's house recuperating from her broken bones.

~ Pete McCleod is doing better and is back in the nursing home now.

~ Mr. Landefair, whose wife is an acquaintance of Lou Brown's, had 2 heart procedures this week.

~ Myra Martin, David Looney's aunt, had a heart attack and will be going through some more tests.

## Also Remember:

Pete and Ina Mae McLeod, Dorothy and Earl Bolinger, Ken and Ginger Renfroe, Ruth Counts, Jonell Rake, Hannah Duke, Mary Kay Stickroth, Sylvia Madden, Louise Jenkins, Hazel Lewis, Nova Wheeler, Zach Little, Rachel Barczewski, Jamie Dial, Zelma Dial, Charlie Ainsworth, Bernice Westbrook, Bobby Lammers, Scott Howell, Luce Family, Granado Family, Summer's Family.



## Birthdays

Rob Banks– September 4

Anita Hatten– September 5

Ron Varner– September 5

Jennifer Pierce– September 5

Susan Bedwell– September 8

Kennith Edgar– September 8

Jonathan Williams– September 8

Ed Wright– September 9



## Anniversaries

No anniversaries this week.

## Deepest Sympathy

We express our condolences to Emma Pope, whose sister-in-law Earline Calendar passed away. The funeral will be Sept. 5 in Jackson. Please keep this family in your prayers during this difficult time.

**College Corner:** The student supper and devotional will not be held on Monday because of the Labor Day holiday.

**There will be a "Let Freedom Ring" event** at the community center in Wiggins on September 11 and 12. This is an event filled with different activities for the family. If you would like more information, please see Shirley Carter.

**"Welcome Back" College Students Reception:** Focus Group 2 (Pope / Reynolds) will coordinate a reception for the college students after evening services on Sunday, September 13 in the fellowship hall. The congregation is invited to meet and fellowship with them. Please bring a covered dish.

**Bridal Shower:** The ladies of KW are invited to a bridal shower for Kelly Hill on Sunday, September 20, at the home of Mandy Burleson (6 Woodside Dr., Hattiesburg 39402). Feel free to come and go as you please between 2 and 4 p.m. Registries are available at Target, Dillard's, and Bed, Bath, and Beyond.

**Attention Ladies:** The 2009 - 2010 Secret Sister / Prayer Partner planning is underway, with our kickoff night set for Friday, September 25<sup>th</sup>. Not interested in Secret Sisters? Perhaps you'd be interested in teaming up with a Prayer Partner. Any lady of the church (13 yrs. old and up) interested in participating, please take one of the sheets on a back table in the auditorium. Questions? See Jacquie Archer or Jenny Pierce. More details later!

**Teacher Training Workshop...** Oct. 3 with Bro. Tom Tignor of 21st Century Christian. Breakfast will be at 8:30 a.m. and there is no cost. All teachers are asked to attend, and members are encouraged to attend if you desire to improve your study skills. If you have any questions, see Seth.

**Fellowship Luncheon** on October 4 to coincide with the Gospel Meeting. Zone 2 is in charge of decorating.

**Attention Everyone:** Those who are last to leave the building, please make sure the lights are turned off, and all the doors are locked!

**Your Help Is Needed:** To my fellow Church Family: Your help is needed in keeping our auditorium and kitchen / fellowship hall clean. Please be mindful that we have volunteers that work very hard to keep the building clean. We are having an issue with trash and food being left on the pews and the floor after services in the auditorium. Please be mindful of this. If you use the kitchen / fellowship hall, be aware of the rules listed to the left of the refrigerator on the cabinet door. Everyone should leave the kitchen / fellowship hall ready to use for the next group. Sincerely, Robby Moorer

## **PRIVILEGED TO SERVE**

Week Beginning, September 6, 2009

**Coordinator: Chip Hill (601-270-1519)**

Please call coordinator if you are unable to serve.

**Announcements: Ken Upchurch**

### **SUNDAY MORNING**

**Song Leader:** Mark Burleson

**Opening Prayer:** Rick Bedwell

**Lord's Supper: (Presiding)** Justin Stoll

- |                    |                     |
|--------------------|---------------------|
| 1. Colby Heathcock | 5. Bradley Anderson |
| 2. Clint Whitley   | 6. Tyler Anderson   |
| 3. Chris Newell    | 7. Robert Berch     |
| 4. Tyler Berch     | 8. Josh Naylor      |

**Closing Prayer:** Colby Heathcock

**Attendance Cards:** Reggie Neel

**Communion (September):** Ken Upchurch

**Nursery:** 9/6: Cecile Dunn & Kathy Montgomery

9/13: Beth Ford & Lori Ford

**Building Cleaning:** 9/7: Bob Moorler

9/14: Chip Hill

### **SUNDAY EVENING**

**Song Leader:** Mark Burleson

**Opening Prayer:** Jim Dickson

**Lord's Supper:**

1. Colby Heathcock
2. Clint Whitley

**Closing Prayer:** Clint Whitley

**Count Contribution:** Hill/Moorer

### **WEDNESDAY EVENING**

**Song Leader:** Tyler Anderson

**Prayer:** Ken Brown

### **ATTENDANCE & CONTRIBUTION**

**August 30, 2009**

	<b>Goal</b>	<b>Actual</b>	<b>Avg.</b>
<b>Bible Study</b>	200	163	141
<b>Morning Worship</b>	275	250	218
<b>Evening Worship</b>	200	145	138
<b>Wednesday (8/19)</b>	200	168	152
<b>Contribution</b>	\$8,000	\$7,297	\$8,193

The Bulletin is published weekly by the

**KENSINGTON WOODS CHURCH of CHRIST**

415 S. 40th Ave.

Hattiesburg, MS 39402

601.264.2945

### **SERVICE TIMES**

**Sunday:** Prayer 8:30 a.m. • Bible Class 9 a.m. • Worship 10 a.m. & 5 p.m. • **Wednesday:** Bible class 7 p.m. • Ladies Bible Class: 7 p.m.