

# The Alpha Bit

## Volume 28 Issue 14

Newsletter Date  
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### CHRISTMAS MEMORIES

My Grandmother was an uneducated woman, and yet she would take a card with the picture of Jesus holding a baby lamb and tell us grandchildren a story.

SHEEP, there is so much in scripture about sheep and yet our culture knows so little about their habits, not to mention their weak defense.

Think about the songs we sing, Silent Night, O little Town of Bethlehem, Away in a manger, The first Noel, Hark the Herald Angels sing, songs that create a mental picture of a pastoral scene where a Shepherd is standing watch against robbers and or wild beast who would attack and destroy many of the flock.

As I put pen to paper this morning, I am mindful of the fact of our Pastor's doing just that, standing watch over the flock God has placed them over, He is the Shepherd and the pastor is the under shepherd,

The shepherd feeling his flock is secure lies down for the night only to hear something is disturbing the flock, quickly he gets up and rushes to the defense of his sheep. How many times does this picture play out in the pastor's life, The phone rings, there has been an auto accident, off he rushes to the hospital to give comfort to the family. This scenario plays out too many times, not just an auto accident; there are many other dangers that concern the shepherd. Remember the story told in scripture about the lost sheep in Luke.15

It reads the shepherd having 100 sheep becomes aware that one is missing, making the 99 safe and secure he rushes off to search for that one missing sheep. I'm sure this passage is teaching us about the love and concern Jesus has for each of us, but it also reflects on what we find our pastor's doing in the call of the ministry where God has placed them.

Again, the pastor is there at the bedside of a loved one, He offers comfort at the funeral of a family member; He is there when the enemy strikes a teenage daughter or son to give council, to help lead them back from the error of their way. The list could go on but let us not forget happier times. That precious soul he has prayed for and witnessed to takes the leap of faith to trust Jesus as Savior, the joy of seeing them follow in believer's baptism and then grow in their faith.

These are but a few of the reflections of the life of the under shepherd. As I write this hopeful that it will come to be that our pastors will get the opportunity to read it and know, we at the Alpha office are mindful of your ministry and are praying for you. If we can be of any help, please let us know.

With this may I wish you and yours, the warmest Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Blessings, Pastor James

[Bro James will be traveling to Israel and will be out of the office January 19-27. Please be in prayer for his safe journey.](#)



## Hickman County

Community Living Nativity will be held at Fairfield Baptist Church Centerville, TN December 16th from 5-6:30 pm in the Sanctuary and the Fellowship Hall

## Lewis County

Highland Baptist Church preformed their Christmas program on the 1st and 2nd of December and I have to say that I thoroughly enjoyed it. "Where's The Line For Jesus" was refreshing new material and at the same time a nostalgic experience reminiscent of the Christmas programs we remember from our youth. The whole church seemed to have a part and yet the church pews were full Thank you!

## Perry County



2018 is coming to a close. Wow, it seemed to just fly by.

As one of the final Alpha Activities, we hosted the Annual Executive Board Christmas Banquet.

We had a great time out at First Baptist Church in Linden, TN this past Monday.

Bro. Keith Fulton cooked up a storm and we enjoyed some good down home cooked Gumbo.

Now I am no expert coming from the northern hemisphere, but it was shared with me that this Gumbo rivaled all but "Granny Brewer's" in taste and quantity!

As you can see we were also joined and regaled by Hickman Counties' very own cousin (or a very close facsimile) Minnie Pearl

The food was good, the entertainment was entertaining and the cookies were tasty!

Special thanks to Ann English for facilitating the Christmas painting activity and baking the only other delicious healthy cookie.

Mine were a disaster!

### Winners of the cookie contest were:

1st place:

Ken Phillips = Cranberry Christmas Cookie

Tied for Second were:

Terry Laws = Sugar Cookie

Matt Brewer = M&M Cookie (a little bird told me his daughter actually made them)

First Place in the healthy category

Tammy Stone = Ginger snaps

Merry Christmas to all.



I watched portions of the ceremony for George Bush this morning and a couple of things struck me as I viewed from afar. There was no rancor, or fuss of politics. The family was sincerely appreciative of the gracious use of Air Force One to transport, for the last time, President Bush 41 back to the Capitol.

But what most stood out in my mind and for quite a few folks was the moment Bob Dole approached the casket. It brought tears to my eyes. Sen Dole so resembles my father in his last year and having lost Dad recently the likeness was remarkable and a bit jarring.

I watched as he struggled and only with the help of an aide stood for a brief moment, long enough to raise his one good arm in a salute to an old soldier, a fellow comrade in arms.

They shared the stories of war. Both battled in WWII, Dole on the ground with the 10th Mountain Division and Bush in the air as a Navel Bomber Pilot.

They shared the battle in Washington, the war of politics.

But the bond that propelled Bob Dole to attempt the impossible, for you see, he cannot stand.. .

was the great respect he held for George Walker Bush, the 41st President of the United States.

Both are members of what we refer to as the greatest generation. We are losing these precious folks and soon they will be no more.

Examples of sacrifice and valor, giving of yourself to the full measure. Attributes that are imperative if we hope to continue the legacy that built not only this great country but the very fabric of our faith because, as you must already know these are the biblical attributes of a great Christian warrior as well.

Ephesians 6:13,14 came to mind;

“Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness;“

As we watch the fading of the old guard, the greatest generation we look upon the new with trepidation and reservations.

Can we live up to the mandate to stand up to whatever the evil days throw at us? Can we gird our loins and stand for truth?

If we have the same breath of God, Holy Spirit residing in us then YES he is not limited!

**STAND**

Ruth Rodenberg





## CALENDAR OF EVENTS



## DECEMBER 2018

21 First Day of Winter

24-2 Alpha Office closed



## JANUARY 2019 CALL TO PRAYER MONTH

- 1 New Years Day Office close
- 7 Pastor's at the Alpha Office Witness to Jehovah's Witness special speaker Jamie Furr  
6:30 pm
- 20 Sanctity of Life Sunday
- 24 Bi-Vocational Ministers and Wives Retreat
- 19-27 Bro James in Israel

	November	General Fund	Livengood
<b>Bread of Life</b>			
<b>Calvary Bible</b>			
<b>Centerville, 1st</b>		\$139.49	\$400.00
<b>Cross Roads</b>		\$300.00	
<b>East Hickman</b>		\$141.76	
<b>Edgewood</b>			
<b>Fairfield</b>		\$638.60	
<b>Faith</b>		\$93.18	
<b>Flatwoods</b>		\$84.00	
<b>Garrett</b>			
<b>Highland</b>		\$504.00	
<b>Hohenwald, 1st</b>		\$577.00	
<b>Lick Creek</b>		\$297.28	
<b>Linden, 1st</b>		\$328.20	\$109.40
<b>Lobelville, 1st</b>		\$107.17	
<b>Maple Valley</b>		\$135.00	
<b>New Beginnings</b>			
<b>New Hope</b>		\$400.00	
<b>New Life</b>		\$30.00	
<b>Pine Grove</b>		\$150.62	
<b>Pinewood, 1st</b>		\$156.87	
<b>Piney</b>			
<b>Swan Creek</b>		\$280.00	
<b>Tom's Creek</b>		\$398.31	\$50.00
<b>Wrigley</b>			
<b>Total Church Giving</b>		<b>\$4,761.48</b>	<b>\$559.40</b>

## December

- 3 Kenny Stone, Calvary Bible
- 15 **Hal Falls, Missionary**
- 20 Dr. Jim Chatham, FBC Centerville
- 20 Avery Jones, Edgewood
- 23 Rev. and Mrs. Jamie English, Flatwoods
- 24

My apologies to the Springers and Milams, I inadvertently published the December dates in the November issue.

Happy belated anniversary and birthday!!!

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