

THE CHAMPIONS SPIRIT

'Tis the Season of Giving!

Jesus' words that it is more blessed to give than to receive are visually echoed ... in the eyes of the small child who is giving her first handmade present to her mom.

It's here again! Hard to believe that it's already been a whole year, but it has – and it's here again –the season of giving. The season of giving should be a time of real excitement, not only for those who receive the gifts but even more for those who give them. Jesus' words that it is more blessed to give than to receive are visually echoed not only as parents see their children excitedly unwrapping their present, but—and perhaps even more--in the eyes of the small child who is giving her first handmade present to her mom. Truly it is more blessed to give than to receive!

It is in this season of giving that the elders have asked us, as Christians, to reflect on the gifts that we plan to give to our Lord and His great cause in the coming new year. Now I hope and pray that, as I change the subject from the gifts of Christmas to our gifts to the Lord each Sunday, our mood doesn't change. It shouldn't, you know.

Paul tells us through the Corinthian letter that the Lord loves a cheerful giver (2 Cor. 9:7). Just as surely as the enjoyment of giving to our loved ones during the season is based on love, so is giving to the Lord. Just as God so loved and gave (John 3:16), so should we.

Another year is upon us! It can be one of the greatest years in the history of Champions! As we prayerfully consider the information and challenges shared with us by the elders in the letter that we received either by mail or available in the foyer, let us rejoice in our opportunities to share *In the Season of Giving!*

—Larry Keele

IN THIS ISSUE

<i>'Tis the Season of Giving!</i>	1
<i>Family Matters</i>	1
<i>Reed All about It</i>	2
<i>John's Jogs</i>	2
<i>Family News & Notes</i>	3
<i>Calendar of Events</i>	3
<i>Prayers & Notes</i>	4

Family Matters

Visitors, we are so thankful that you have come our way today. We pray that our time together today will bring glory and honor to God and help us walk ever closer to Him.

As Alan Reed announced, this will be his last full week of work before beginning a 6-month Sabbatical. Over the last 3 years, Alan has served Champions well. His willing spirit and servant's attitude will be missed. May God's blessings be upon him and Lisa during this time. Thanks to all responsible for

making the Progressive Dinner a success! Whether coordinating, hosting, or helping setup/takedown the room, your work is appreciated.

Please note, on Sunday, December 25, we will have morning services as regularly scheduled. However, there will be no evening service. Family devotionals are encouraged for that evening.

In regard to the calendar, keep in mind that on the last two Wednesday nights of the year, Dec. 21 and 28, we will have

congregational devotionals—no classes.

Save August 5-6, 2017 on your calendar for the celebration of the opening of our main building as well as the 75th anniversary of Champions.

PARTING THOUGHT:
*Think all you speak...
don't speak all you think!*

HAVE A BLESSED WEEK!

Larry

Reed All About It:

Have you heard about online churches? I am not talking about having a web page or streaming worship services. I am talking about a church where the members do not physically come to a building for worship or fellowship. All church activities are delivered and managed via the internet. My first reaction to this concept was negative. I have lived a life of actually attending worship in person; it is hard for me to imagine another approach. After thinking about this concept for a while I softened my stance enough to at least begin researching the concept.

The online church I discovered delivered sermons and Bible classes via the internet. They also provided tools to help the member with things like communion and personal Bible study. They have a list of resources for financial aid, counseling and service opportunities. As you might expect, there was a way to easily make donations to the church. There was visible leadership and a statement of beliefs. They also had a few physical locations around the country. I am not sure what to make of this information.

After my research, I still have some fundamental issues with the idea of an online church. That being said, I think there are some interesting elements of this concept that should be explored. An online church

stretches the boundary of the concept of community. The internet reaches almost the entire planet. This means the “community” is virtually everyone on the earth. This is a tectonic shift in the idea of the community church. It doesn’t feel very good to a long-time church member like me, but the concept does have the potential to reach the entire world. Our primary objective is to spread the gospel, so shouldn’t we choose the most efficient means possible? There are some positive elements to reaching so many people with the gospel. A key question is, can we really develop community with an online church? How important is community and fellowship to our church?

Fellowship is very important. While we can have some level of fellowship in an online relationship, the concept can leave us wanting. I have used electronic communication for over 25 years. While the method has evolved, the abstraction of not being physically present is still there.

There are times when we need to be with other people. We need to experience the comfort received from human interaction and physical touch. This is especially true when dealing with a difficult life changing situation. Quite simply, people need people. Emotions can’t be effectively communicated via

an electronic message. Emoticons can help, but in many ways, they are deceiving.

While there are plenty of benefits to electronic communication such as speed and reach, as human beings we must be together on occasion. This is part of the reason we are commanded to come together and worship on the first day of the week. Our primary objective of coming together is to worship God. God knowingly enables us to receive the gift of fellowship as part of the worship experience.

My current conclusion on the idea of an online church is there are many things to learn about how these churches use modern technology to try and spread the gospel. I believe there is something missing from a purely online church. That missing element is a rich and meaningful fellowship with other believers.

Christians need fellowship with other believers. We need to support others and at times be supported. The world can be a cruel and harsh place, and it is helpful to have the support of others as we make our way through life.

Blessings, Alan

John’s Jogs: John’s Last Three Months (continued)

On most days, during the late afternoon or early evening, all six doctors would gather around one of those portable computers. The cardiologist would come visit me and check my vitals. This went on for about a week. Then I start hearing the rumor that the day is getting close. A couple more trips to the Cat Scan or MRI. Then, the surgery day arrived. The nurses prepped me with the IV secure well in my left hand. And away we go to the surgery room. I have a good prayer all the way there. I’m pretty relaxed until they start talking to me trying to relax me, introductions etc. Then the IV comes out of the left hand. That upsets them and I attempt to tell them half my right hand is a scar and I don’t like an IV in my right hand, but they put it in there anyway. Now we are all three upset going into them drilling three holes in my head. Not a good feeling.

Well I come through the surgery fine and go back to my room to find another cadre of visitors waiting to see me with three holes in my

head and Kathy waiting to see if they found a brain. I started feeling some pain in the head and neck. Started taking some physical exercise, and I began to see how weak I really was. Laying in bed had drained every ounce of strength out of me, and I had to slowly regain some of it back in order to leave the hospital. I kind of made fun of the simple physical therapy administered. At least you could get out of bed and move around a little, and you could start thinking about going home. As a whole I felt I had been treated well, and most of the people did have the patient’s welfare in mind. However, there came a day in which they moved me to a room in waiting where I stayed until they could make the arrangements to move me to rehab.

Well that room was just large enough to put the bed in and allow the

care giver to just walk around it. The night nurse was an old India Indian, who had never smiled or laughed in his life. I credit him for one thing: he made me really want to get out of that hospital and go home. Spread through the day and night there were a couple female nurses that helped make my stay in that room tolerable. Finally late one evening a couple of strange people appeared in my room a young (20s) male and female and my spirit rose when she said, “I’m your driver” and we were on our way to Willow brook across the street from my apartment for re-Hab. Remember the old saying. “Be careful what you wish for!” We arrived before midnight and it rained all the way. John Qualls

THE CHAMPIONS SPIRIT

EVENTS AND NEWS

Friday Morning Fellowship (FMF)

All Ages Invited!

December 16th at 9:00 a.m.

Family Center

Champions will have a Friday Morning Fellowship on December 16th at 9:00 a.m. in the Family Center. There will be coffee and snacks with a short lesson and an opportunity for fellowship. Everyone is invited (all ages) to attend, and please take the opportunity to bring friends, neighbors and anyone that would enjoy a time of Bible study and fellowship. Don Sammons will lead the FMF.

Church Calendar

December

15: Men's Night Out—Cancelled

16: Friday Morning Fellowship

18: Alan Reed begins 6 month Sabbatical

January

11: LBC Resumes

22: Missions Meeting

Youth Calendar

December

11: LTC Bible Bowl & Quiz @ 6:00 p.m.

17&18: Holiday Bag Distribution

Sunday Morning Bible Hour

Ages 2 to Kindergarten

Parents and children are dismissed to check in following the Lord's Supper.

Date	Teacher
December 11	Justin & Julia Sammons
December 18	Wes & Christy Smith
December 25	No Bible Hour
January 1	No Bible Hour
January 8	Brent & Lisa Killough
January 15	Reid & Natalie Stafford
January 22	Justin & Julia Sammons
January 29	Tiffany Thomas
February 5	Brent & Lisa Killough
February 12	Reid & Natalie Stafford
February 19	Justin & Julia Sammons
February 26	Wes & Christy Smith



Congratulations

Garland and Janis Bluhm are proud to announce the birth of a granddaughter, *Halle Kate Spivey*, who was born on December 5, 2016.

Halle weighed 7 lbs. 3 oz. and was 19 inches long. Proud parents are *Britt and Autumn Spivey*.

Please continue to keep Baby Halle and her family in prayer as she is recovering from extensive heart surgery last Thursday to correct a congenital heart defect.



We extend our love and sympathy to *Dan Cobb, Al Allee and Mary Breithaupt and their families* in the loss of their loved one, *Erin Walton* who died last Tuesday. She was Dan's grandmother, Al's aunt and Mary's mother. Her services will be Monday, December 12 at 2:00 p.m. at Woodlawn Funeral Home Chapel 1101 Antoine Dr.,



**Happy 50th
Wedding Anniversary Today!
Alfred and Rosie Martinez**

**YOUNG AT HEART
CHRISTMAS LUNCH
THURSDAY, DECEMBER
15TH**

@ 1:00 P.M.

DUTCH TREAT!

All Young at Heart are invited to Fratellini Ristorante Restaurant 8905 Louetta Rd., Spring, TX 77379

Please sign the list in the back of the FC

Contact: John Dickenson

**Ladies Bible Class
will resume on
January 11, 2017**

If you want to walk on water you have to get out of the boat."

Books are available in the FC Building or see Cindy Asher

Mark Your Calendar

Missions Committee Meeting
Sunday, January 22, 2017
at 4:30 P.M.

**Champions 75th
Homecoming!
August 5 & 6, 2017**



"A Place to Belong."

13902 Cutten Road,
Houston, Texas 77069
281-440-9898

www.championschurch.org

Elders:

- David Arnold
- Glenn Asher
- Jim Chitwood
- Bill Johnson
- Britt Jones
- Danny Mize
- Don Sammons
- Marvin Trice

Deacons:

- Phelan (Al) Allee
- Chris Ball
- Kevin Barnett
- Bill Bonham
- Eltonio (Tony) Brown
- Darrell Fariss
- Jay Fraley
- Tommy Hill
- Joe Jackson
- Charles Joachim
- Brent Killough
- Blake Phillips
- Kent Phillips
- Bryan Runions
- Justin Sammons
- Hank Sheppard
- Joel Smith
- Wes Smith
- Paul Tews
- Troy Thompson
- Billy Tippit
- James Wyatt

Ministers:

- Larry Keele (Pulpit)
- Alan Reed (Associate)
- John Qualls (Associate)
- Reid Stafford (Youth)

PRAYERS & NOTES

Prayer Requests:

The Cobb, Allee and Breithaupt families in the loss of their loved one *Erin Walton*. **Sharon DeCarlo** is in ICU at Houston Northwest Hospital in very serious condition with pneumonia.

Don Freeman is home under hospice care. Please pray for all their family.

James Birdow is in ICU at St. Luke's Hospital Vintage recovering from multiple surgeries.

Dave McConathy has been diagnosed with a virus. Please pray for his healing and comfort.

Faye Stephens is recovering at the home of her daughter, from a blood clot. Calls are welcome! Her #832-863-8663.

Dennis Crosby is home recovering from shoulder surgery. Please pray for his quick recovery.

Lois Boyd is in Villa Toscana. She is scheduled for surgery on December 14 at St Luke's Hospital in The Woodlands.

Hank Sheppard's doctor did not recommend heart valve surgery at this time!

Willia Osby is home recovering from a fractured hip.

Donna Nance will meet with the liver transplant team for tests and interviews on December 12th.

Stephanie O'Brien continues to suffer with vertigo.

Mil Biron is recovering from a heart attack.

Caella Chappell is taking treatments for breast cancer. To help with meals, please check church email.

Halle Kate Spivey, The Bluhm's newborn grand-daughter, is recovering from heart surgery. Please pray for her well-being and for her parents, Autumn and Britt Spivey.

Jesse Fry, Kylie Dodd's grandfather, is critically ill. Please remember their family at this difficult time.

Bob Hurtt and his family, a close friend of Keith Bickham's, and has been battling brain cancer and is now home under hospice care.

Donald Lightfoot, Dixie McConathy's brother, was moved to a rehab center to continue treatment for a serious infection and other complications.

Joyce Kidwell-Stearsman's surgery has been delayed as her husband, *Jackie Stearsman*, is under hospice care.

Recovering from surgery: Paul Tews, John Dickenson, Hank Sheppard, Mary Armstrong, Leslie Bills, Susan Ellis, Glenn Dixon, Victor Slovacek

Champions Members Ongoing Concerns: Mil Biron, Glenn Dixon, Stephanie O'Brien, John Hixon, Jan Kelly, Keith and Linda Underwood, B.B. & Dorothy Snell, Crosby, White, Miracle families

Cancer Concerns:

Pap Papillon, Don Freeman, Caella Chappell, Wayne Hemingway, Jackie Stearsman, Colter Taylor, Bea Augustin, Rocky Harrell, Lawrence Smith, Sandra Underwood, Gary Brown, Pat Morrison, Ted Poe, Toby Higginbotham, Debi Byers

Missionaries:

Dale DuVerney, Peter Chin, Eddie Cloer, Roman Halamiccek, Eric Tan, Roland Moshen, Workers at Biblical Institute of Central America, Eastern European Mission, Jordan Arnold, Will Hanstein, Mario Saldana and Aaron Solis

Assisted Living/Rehab/ Nursing Homes:

John Qualls, Terri Bennett, Margurite Pennington, Juanita Cox, Julia Garcia, Nell McDonald, Gladys McHenry, Marie McCall, Jean Simpson, Doris Kiser, James Birdow, Charles Bowers, Victor Slovacek

Prayers for Military:

Traveon Gaines, Landon White, William E. Taylor IV, George Marcus Jones, Melanie Adams, Travis Long, Aaron Jean, James Chin, Casey Bolin, Charles DuVerney, Ryan Bonham, Phillip Cuccerre, Jr., Eric McCall, Darion DuVerney, Meghan Gillispie

Families Who Have Lost Loved

Ones: McCall

Employment Concerns: Bill Hicks, Rudy Morris

Family and Friends of Champions:

Dee Crosby, David Jenkins, Hunter Anderson, Laurie Spears, Otha Farmer, John Michael Cerva

Nursery Attendants

December 11: Karen Casey & Rosie Martinez

December 18: Holly Freeland & Rhonda Bonwell

If you cannot serve, please find a replacement by checking names posted on the wall outside the nursery classroom. Contact: Karen Casey

**FOR THE RECORD
12/4/2016**

Sunday Combined Services 381
 Sunday Bible Class.....221
 Sunday Night140
 Wednesday Night.....177
 Contribution..... 23,133.18
 Weekly Budget20,047.88
 YTD Contributions 966,127.92
 YTD Budget 982,352.00
Over/(Under)..... (16,224.08)

Service Times:

SUNDAY:
 8:15 a.m. First Worship Service
 9:30 a.m. Bible Class
 10:30 a.m. Second Worship Service

SUNDAY NIGHT:
 6:00 p.m.

Wednesday:
 LBC 9:45 a.m.
 Bible Classes 7:00 p.m.

Elder of the Month

December

Don Sammons
 January—Danny Mize
 February—Britt Jones

Food Coordinator

Check with your Family Circle Leaders

Little Champs:

Mothers Day Out

Contact: Lisa Killough
 littlechamps@att.net
281-893-2062
 Lisa Killough—Director