

**NEWS & NOTES--January 4, 2009**

**HOSPITAL/SICK:** **Brenda Lane**, sister-in-law of the **Lanes**, (colon cancer scheduled for 1/14).

**PRAYER LIST:** **Xander Bratten, Nelma Kent, Jewel Watkins, Kale Joplin, Bill Cullen, Glenda Lane, Doug Puckett, Earl Baker, Maxine Rose, Juanita Baugh, Eva Cullen, Earl Whittingham, Jerry Houston, Aunean Etter.**

**RESPONSES:** **Tom Looper** was baptized into Christ on Christmas Eve, **Sherry Kimberling** asked for prayers for forgiveness and restoration last Sunday.

**PEW-PACKERS STARTS TONIGHT--6:00** in our auditorium. This will be a first-Sunday night event every month.

**WED. (1/7):** **Bill Keith**, speaker, Meal: BBQ

**MARK CALENDARS:**

Wed., Jan. 7--Directory picture make-up day (3:00-10:00pm)

Sat., Jan. 10--Elders and Deacons retreat

Tues., Jan. 13--Nursing Home Birthday Party  
February 7--Breakfast for Elders, Deacons and wives at 9:00 in the Fellowship Hall.

**PANTRY ITEM:** Shampoo

**THANK YOU NOTE:** Thank you for your thoughtfulness. Your prayers, food, flowers, and many acts of kindness during the loss of my mother are greatly appreciated. Your love and support mean a lot to us.  
**-Ken and Phyllis Jones**

**DONATION:** A donation to the Playground Fund in the amount of \$50 was made by the Sunday Morning Preschool Class. Great work, kids!

**TAXES:** If you need a contribution letter for your 2008 taxes, please leave your name and the amount on Hope's desk.

**Bibles Donated**



By **Cameron & Agnes Mayberry**

One in memory of  
**JOE BALES & HOMER POWERS**

One each in honor of each of the following  
Wednesday night Ladie's Bible Class teachers:  
**JACKIE SAUSER SELMA TATE  
JEWEL WATKINS**

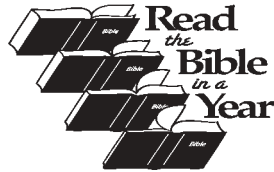
One in honor of **DONALD JONES**,  
Sunday morning Bible Class teacher

One in honor of  
**ALL BONO BIBLE CLASS TEACHERS**



Dishes from recent events  
are in the Fellowship Hall.  
Please pick them up today.

January 1 through  
June 30 readings  
are available on  
the tables in the  
foyer



Next Saturday at  
**Crowley's Ridge Youth  
Camp, 11:00am**

**RECORD / Week of 12/28/08**

|                    |        |
|--------------------|--------|
| AM Class -----     | 148    |
| AM Worship -----   | 287    |
| PM Worship -----   | 114    |
| Wed. Class -----   | 99     |
| Contribution ----- | \$6242 |

**THINKING ABOUT ATTENDANCE**

Dr. Joy Trauth, an instructor in Biological Sciences Department at ASU, wrote a two-part guest editorial that appeared in this past Saturday's and Sunday's *Jonesboro Suns*. Her title is "Why Students Fail College Classes." I refer here only to Saturday's offering.

To summarize, she began with a total of 309 students in August. Sixty (60) dropped over the course of the semester—the average number of absences for those sixty was 9 for a course that met three times a week for 15 weeks. So those students had missed, on average, one-fifth of the class sessions. Of the remaining 249 students who did not drop, 12.4% received A's, 20.5% received B's, 24.9% received C's, 22.5% received D's, and 19.8% received F's. Of noteworthy significance is that of the A's and B's, the average number of absences was 2.4 and 14 had perfect attendance. The D's and F's averaged 8.3 absences and only four of them had no absences.

Actually, Dr. Trauth demonstrated great grace inasmuch as ASU's handbook states that in a 3-day-per-week class, any student may be assigned an F when absences exceed six.

But here's my point. Preachers are expected to be cheerleaders for church members regarding attendance. Granted, churches have no explicit "attendance policy" and give no letter grades for attendance or performance. However, I believe the principle of success based in large part on attendance Dr. Trauth shows in the university environment also holds up in the spiritual environment of the church. Those who attend the most seem miraculously to have the most successful ventures with their faith. Besides that, there is the advantage to them of being fully integrated into the fellowship and ministry of the church. And, no surprise here, those who are spotty and sporadic, who demonstrate less than a wholehearted approach to attendance and participation, are the ones whose faith most often can't take the strains that life puts on all of us. There are exceptions; there are 100% church attenders present for the wrong reasons who don't grow much because they are committed to something besides Jesus and there are infrequent attenders whose infrequency is because of their work or

illnesses—that I believe God judges and deals with a different way since He knows those hearts long for Him.

I sadly watched aging saints in Piggott grow infirm and agonize over no longer being able to attend the activities and assemblies of the church. They'd all shake their heads and tell me to be sure to tell those who were healthy and strong enough to be there, but weren't, what a treasure from heaven they willingly missed.

**LAST CHANCE**



**BONO  
Photo  
Directory**

For those unable to get directory photos made in December, our make up date is *this* Wednesday, January 7th from 3:00-10:00pm. A sign-up sheet is in the foyer. Questions? Contact Hope or Richard.

*(continued from front page)*

**BIG-WOW** congratulations to **Mollie Arnold** for her outstanding volleyball year and the honors that keep coming in recognition of her rare talent—last week she was named as the *Jonesboro Sun's Best Under the Sun* "Volleyball Player of the Year."

There's someone somewhere close to you who Jesus came for and died for. He'd like very much for you to help Him "catch" them. Will you first pray for them every day, maybe several times a day, and then "throw a line" in their direction, "baited" with a righteous Christian example and your testimony to them of what Jesus came to do and what He's done for you? Let's do a lot of "fishin'" this year!

**Morning Services, January 4, 2009**

Opening Prayer: Brad Martin  
Reading: Darrell Parks (Rom. 8:31-39)  
Table-East  
Donnie Brooks  
Len Sharp  
Lester Wilson  
Michael Owens

Closing Prayer: Lanny Shirley  
Communion Prayer: Donald Jones  
Table-West  
Robin Castleberry  
Bill Inboden  
Ronnie Norman  
Rick Thomas

**Evening Services**

Opening Prayer: Bill Keith  
Foyer and Halls: Gynn Arnold

Closing Prayer: Kenny James

**Morning Services, January 11, 2009**

Opening Prayer: Perry Jones  
Reading: Alan Keith (Rom. 6:1-11)  
Table-East  
Bill Swindle  
Jimmy Felkins  
Ken Jones  
Floyd Howard

Closing Prayer: Gynn Arnold  
Communion Prayer: Carroll Thetford  
Table-West  
Dale Moody  
Don Coggin  
Kevin James  
Josh Cureton

**Evening Services**

Opening Prayer: Arvis Shirley  
Foyer and Halls: Rick Griffin

Closing Prayer: Lanny Shirley

**ELDERS:** Danny Blalock (935-7693), Donald Jones (932-7654), Arvis Shirley (935-7574), Carroll Thetford (935-3629)  
**DEACONS:** Gynn Arnold (972-0305), Rick Griffin (932-2724), Kenny James (932-5975), Alan Keith (932-5075), Wilson Lane (935-7649), Tommy McElrath (935-9707), John Owens (935-5857), Darrell Parks (935-4664), Gaylon Tate (972-1252)  
**MINISTER:** Richard Akins (919-8925), e-mail: richakins@yahoo.com  
**MISSIONS:** CCCM-ASU, Children's Homes, Crowley's Ridge College, Families First, Africa, Truth for Today.  
**SERVICES SCHEDULE:** SUNDAY: Classes, 9:00am, Worship, 9:50am and 5:30pm, WEDNESDAY: Classes, 7:00pm  
**CONTACT INFORMATION:** CHURCH OFFICE: 870-932-9019,  
WEBPAGE: www.bonochurchofchrist.com,  
E-MAIL: bono@ritternet.com

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# PRO BONO

*Bono Church of Christ Newsletter*

January 4, 2009 (01/09)

What wonderful family news we can share regarding **Tom Looper's** baptism on Christmas Eve. **Tom** was baptized by his brother in front of most of his close family who were at the Bono building for a Christmas get-together. **Tom** apologized to me Sunday for not asking me to baptize him... I'll imitate the great apostle Paul on that one—it doesn't matter whether I ever baptize anyone as long as people are being baptized!

Equally thrilling was the coming of **Sherry Kimberling** to be restored to an active faith. Though she wrote that she had "drifted away" and she hadn't "been attending as she should," it's the great news of God's grace the He forgives and restores and gives the opportunity to start again.

I want to thank the people who come to the front in support of those who respond. Responding isn't an easy thing. I've seen people on front pews of churches on Sunday mornings who appear as lonely as anyone could be on earth. Thank you for not letting that be true here at Bono. We can't all come down—the front area of our building wouldn't hold us and besides, I know we're not all cut out that way. But I am appreciative of those who are.

While I'm appreciating... let me throw a bit more around.

Our Sunday night kid's class and their adult support group delivered about 15 sacks containing "full family Thanksgiving dinners" to area families.

Then, besides that, a group of ladies—who have apparently done it for a while—put together and delivered a well-supplied fruit basket (28 in all) to all of our shut-ins and a few others.

Bono is an amazingly generous church! You have proved it well (and again and again) since I have been here. But it's not a character area where anyone (or a church) can "rest on laurels"—God will keep calling us to give by putting needs before us and reminding us that all we have is His anyway, stuff and money) He's simply entrusted to us for a while.

I made a note after the Bono Christmas parade to say a word about **Aaron** and **Andrea Tate's** Bono CoC Christmas float. **Andrea** designed it for a work-trailer **Aaron** uses in his work. Then **Aaron** spent numerous hours during parade week working on it to get it just right—I understand he was even up a couple of nights working on it until midnight. **Knute** thought his daddy was away on a trip and **Andrea** had to take him to the shop one night to prove Dad was there working. Besides the labor, **Aaron** coaxed (in a friendly way) lumber and plywood donations from some businesses to build it. Anyway, the float was attractive enough to have won a medal plus it was very solid and safe for our little ones to ride (the only problem with it was they didn't heat it for a very cold, windy night). About twenty-five of us rode it for the parade circuit. And we type loudly, "Thanks, **Aaron** and **Andrea!**"

*(continued on p. 3)*

Next Week:  
"Baptism: God's Requirement or Man's Ritual?"

**"Come, follow me... I will make you fishers of men..." [Matthew 9:19]**