



Ashton Chapel Newsletter

*The Little Country Church
God is Blessing in a Big Way!*

Sunday, December 2, 2001

www.ashtonchapel.com

Ashton Chapel:

A Community of "Do-ers"

Now that December is here, it seems everyone is busy with holiday preparations. In our homes, schools, towns and here at Ashton, we're all rolling up our sleeves and setting about the work of celebrating Christmas.

Christmas certainly is a lot of work! But then, isn't there always something going on here at Ashton that has individuals and teams of people working to make Ashton Chapel a very special place, a very special experience? It seems that each week rolls into the next bringing with it the next Sunday School lesson, the next special event and need for volunteers, not to mention continual maintenance and care of the church itself. When we stop and think about how everything gets done, it's quite an amazing accomplishment.

Why does it all get done? I think it is because there are so many "Do-ers" here. Perhaps it is because we're blessed to have hard working people in our congregation. Perhaps it is because individuals realize that their contribution is important and generously give their time to make things happen. No matter how large or small the task, someone gets it done.

So let's make sure that we appreciate, not just the efforts of those who participate and work hard on the Christmas activities, but for all the hard work Ashton folks do all year long. Let's all say a special prayer of praise and thanks to the Lord for bringing together all these wonderful people right here at Ashton Chapel to work together for His Glory.

Ashton Events Calendar

Practices for Christmas Program

Saturday, December 8 – 2:00 to 3:00 p.m.

Saturday, December 15 – time to be announced
at Ashton Chapel for Kids in Kindergarten – Teens

Choir Practices

Wednesday, December 5 & 12, 6:30 p.m.

at Ashton Chapel – Special Christmas music for Program

Christmas Program & Candlelight Service

Sunday, December 16, 7:00 p.m.

followed by Cookies and Coffee for all in the basement

Today at Ashton

- ***Birthday Sunday in Sunday School***
- ***New Quarterlies in Sunday School***
- ***First Sunday of Advent***
- ***Bonnie Ellis presentation***

Plan on making Popcorn Balls

We need your help in supplying the Popcorn Balls for all the treat bags to be given away after the December 16 Christmas Program. It would be appreciated if you would put the popcorn balls in individual plastic bags to make it easier to assemble the individual treat bags. Bring your Popcorn Balls to Church with you on the morning of December 16 and they'll be ready for treat bag assembly before the Program.

Guest speakers for December

Ross Anderson will be speaking next Sunday, December 9th.

Mike Nodlin will present the message on December 16th.

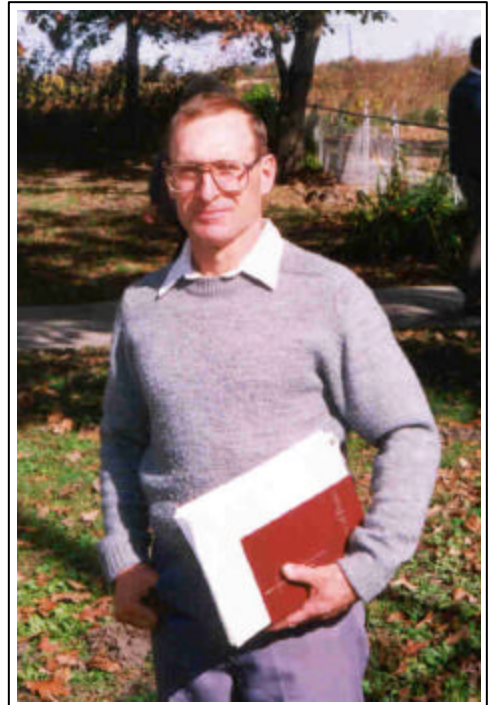
Tim Kimberley, who will be home from Dallas Theological Seminary on Christmas break, will speak on December 23rd.

Paul and Chelli Sudbrock, our missionaries to Germany, will be the guests on Sunday, December 30th and present the message. Attendees will have desserts and coffee following the service.

All About Advent

Advent marks the start of the Christmas season. It begins on the Sunday nearest November 30, the feast day of St. Andrew the Apostle, and covers four Sundays. Because the day it begins changes from year to year, so does the length of each Advent season. The first Sunday may be as early as 27 November, and then Advent has twenty-eight days, or as late as 3 December, giving the season only twenty-one days. In the year 2001, Advent begins on December 2 and lasts 23 days.

The word "advent," from Latin, means "the coming." For centuries, Advent has been a time of spiritual reflection as well as cheer and anticipation. Even as the Christmas season has become more secular—with advertisers urging holiday gift-givers to buy and buy some more—Advent still brings joy and the observance of ancient customs. Christian families find quiet moments lighting candles in the Advent wreath, and children use Advent calendars to count the days until Christmas.



The mild November weather allowed everyone to linger and talk following Worship Service each Sunday. In photo at left, Mel Pierce and John Linton inspected the concrete work on the church steps. Craig Stratton, right, enjoyed the warm sunshine and discussed the Sunday School lesson and other topics.

Read the newsletter online and in color at AshtonChapel.com
Send articles, news items, photos or comments to:
newsletter@ashtonchapel.com

Oak leaves seem irresistible to the children following Worship Service.

