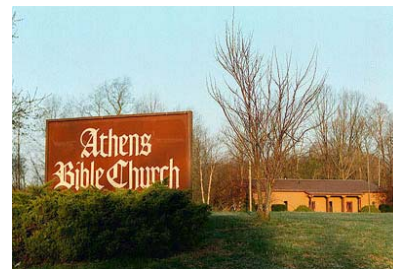


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Athens Bible Church

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Volume 2, Issue 12

Upcoming Events

- Dec. 4: Building Committee Meeting.
- Dec. 11: All Church Lunch Prayer Meeting.
- Dec. 12: Heritage Commons Christmas Party.
- Dec. 25: Christmas Service



Christmas Service

Our annual Christmas service will be held at the church on Sunday December 25th at 10:30 am. Please plan to join our church family to celebrate the birth of Jesus.

Heritage Commons Christmas Party

Pastor's senior citizens Bible study group, will be the center for a Christmas party, Dec. 12, from 6:30-7:30pm. We'll sing carols and serve cookies and drinks. Pastor Hixson will present a Christmas message. A small gift is being prepared for each of the twelve who attend. Small Christmas cookies are needed to fill the mugs and be a part of the tray for serving. If you can, please bring cookie donations to Linda, Sunday, Dec. 11th. Let Linda or Pastor know if you plan to join us and need directions.

Christmas Gift Baskets for the Needy

The Ladies Fellowship will again be creating Christmas gift baskets for our elderly shut-ins. The baskets will be created and distributed the week of December 12th. The ladies will purchase fruit, but in order to complete the baskets, there is a need for baked goods such as cookies, muffins, quick breads, etc. All items received will be divided among the total number of baskets. Those interested in contributing or participating in the distribution should contact Linda Hixson. Thanks to the Ladies Fellowship for their commitment and for doing such wonderful work in the Athens community!

Book Store Gifts

There are Major Bible Themes, Case for Christ and JESUS DVD's ready for gift giving. See Dave if you have gift buying needs.

Nursery Ministry

The infant nursery is staffed for small children 0- 18 mos. The toddler room is ready for children up to 3 years (during the worship services).

Missions Updates

- The Brunk family will be in our area in December. Pastor Mike will be leading the Christmas service on the 25th at 10:30. Note - There will be no Sunday School service that morning or Sunday evening service.
- The Harbaugh family is planning to arrive in the states in February 2006.
- The Tim Goossen family is planning a Christmas program on Dec. 18 with 50+ planning to attend. The weekly services are averaging 50.
- The GMSA home office roof materials have arrived but the repair work hasn't begun.

Prayer & Thanks

- Prayer for the GMSA staff as they plan the roofing project.
- Prayer for wisdom for the Building Committee.
- Prayer for those in spiritual, financial, physical, and/or emotional need during the Christmas Season.
- Prayer for safe travel for the Brunks' and Harbaughs'.
- Thanks to all the ministry helpers this past year. Your efforts do not go unnoticed or unappreciated.

Cleaning Schedule

Cleaning schedules for the new year are now available. Those interested in serving the church as part of a cleaning team are encouraged to pick up a schedule on the book table in the church lobby.

Church Services:

Sunday School: For all ages. Steve Benson will teach in Hebrews.	9:15 am
Children's Classes: Mrs. Mary Manning-ages 7-12. Mrs. Linda Hixson-ages 2-6.	9:15 am
Teen & College Sunday School: Studying Fritz Ridenour's <i>So What's the Difference</i> with Pastor Hixson.	9:15 am
Worship Service: Pastor Hixson will teach individual messages until the beginning of the next series.	10:30 am
Evening Service: Pastor Hixson will continue teach in Romans 9-11, "God's Sovereignty and Election."	7:00 pm
Wednesday Prayer Meeting:	6:15 pm
Wednesday Bible Study: Pastor Hixson will begin a new series on "Heaven, Our Future Home." Esther and Andrew Brunk will lead the Youth Bible Study.	7:30 pm

Church Ministry Schedule

Newsletter December 2005

<u>Greeters:</u> Dec. 4: Jennice Family Dec. 11: Edwards Family Dec. 18: Davis Family Dec. 25: Brunk Family or Coffman Family	<u>Scripture Readers:</u> Dec. 4: Jim-am, John-pm Dec. 11: Steve-am, John-pm Dec. 18: Jim-am, John-pm Dec. 25: Steve or Andrew-am, John-pm	<u>Infant Nursery:</u> Dec. 4: Chia Ching Dec. 11: Linda Dec. 18: Ramona Dec. 25: TBA	<u>Toddler Nursery:</u> Dec. 4: Rachael Dec. 11: TBA Dec. 18: TBA Dec. 25: TBA
<u>Ushering/Offering:</u> Dec. 4: Alan, Jim E. Dec. 11: Hiley, Chubb Dec. 18: Bob J., Dave Dec. 25: Andrew, TBA	<u>Communion:</u> 2nd Sunday: Mike F. & Steve B. 4th Sunday: John		



Athens Bible Church Community Ministries

<u>Home Bible Studies:</u>	Mondays: Heritage Commons, Athens-Taught by Pastor Hixson (6:30 pm). Tuesdays: Manning Home, Marietta-Taught by Gary Manning (7:30 pm). Tuesdays: Blankenship Home, The Plains-Taught by Dave Dupler (7:00 pm). Thursdays: Swaim Home, The Plains-Taught by John Swaim (6:30 pm).
<u>Student Groups:</u>	Mondays: Ohio University Bible Fellowship, Baker Center 334-Taught by Pastor Hixson (8:00 pm). Tuesdays: Stocker Center, OU Campus-Taught by Josh Thomas (5:30 pm). Fridays: Chinese Bible Study, Gordy Hall, OU Campus-Taught by Pastor Hixson and Others (7:30 pm).
<u>Nursing Homes:</u>	Mondays: Hickory Creek, The Plains-Taught by Pastor Hixson (3:30 pm). Fridays: Hickory Creek, The Plains-Taught by Pastor Hixson (3:30 pm).

Thoughts from the November 24th Thanksgiving Message by Pastor Bill Hixson

There are memorable, striking and unusual thanksgivings in the Bible. For example, 1 Thessalonians 5:18 commands us to "give thanks in everything." In addition:

1. In Matthew 11:25, the Lord thanks God for failure, disappointment and rejection.
2. The 24 Elders in Revelation 11:17, 18 give thanks for God's judgments.
3. Daniel (6:10) prays and thanks God for his situation when his enemies outmaneuvered him.
4. While Jonah was deep in the fish's belly, he gave thanks before his deliverance was complete (Jonah 2:9).
5. Psalm 69 records giving thanks to God when suffering rejection for the glory of God (see verses 4, 7, 26, 30).
6. Paul, on his way to Rome as a prisoner, being two weeks without food and necessities, gave thanks (Acts 27:35).
7. The Lord gave thanks for insufficient supplies in John 6:11, yet knowing what He would do with them.

Our pilgrim fathers were thankful to Christ or they never would have suffered rejection for Him in their own land. They were thankful that first harvest after half of them died the previous winter. As difficult as things were, God was using them very greatly, and working for them providentially. Few people in history have accomplished what they did by God's grace.