

## WHY CHANGE IN 2012 IS POSSIBLE

I want to think with you for a few moments on the idea of "**Why Change is Possible**." I want to think about the new beginnings and fresh commitments that Jesus makes possible. Because of Jesus' resurrection we live each day with tremendous power for new life, new growth, and dynamic changes.

Each new day can and should be a time when we grow as disciples of Christ. This growth occurs when we allow the resurrection power of God to be fully operative in our lives. This resurrection power enables us to work and witness with great impact for the kingdom of God.

That brings up a significant question, perhaps one that I hear as a preacher more than any other.

- Can things really be changed?
- Can people be changed?

Can human nature really be transformed and made new?

So often I hear someone say, "He/she is just made that way. They are not going to change, so why should I waste my time and energy on a hopeless situation?"

I am very doubtful of people who echo the words that change is not possible by saying, "After all, a leopard can't change his spots!" Well, a leopard may not be able to change his/her spots, but there is a BIG DIFFERENCE between a leopard and a human created in God's image!

When people tell me that human nature cannot be changed, I am moved to reply that in light of my experience, human nature may well be the only thing that CAN BE CHANGED!" We cannot change the course of the Moon or the Sun. We cannot change the laws of the physical world. We cannot change the movement and flow of the ocean. We cannot change the stars in the skies and the course they move in. However, the Bible pulsates with pages of testimonies of the lives, purposes, events, and habits which have been changed and can be changed.

Most of the time the element needed most to change is to simply admit you need to change and ask directions of the ONE who has the power to change you.

*Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God --what is good and acceptable and perfect.*

**Romans 12:2**

**In Jesus, Derek**

## Family News & Notes

- **Connor Mobley** will have a MRI at St. Jude Tuesday, Jan. 3rd.
- **Bernice Warren** has been moved to the Golden Living Center on Dorchester, room 16B.
- **Donyell Buckingham** is confined at home.
- **Marie Pettit** has gone home.
- **Barbara Thompson** is scheduled for cancer surgery on Jan. 9th.
- **Florence Dixon** is still suffering with her crohns disease.
- **David Chadwick's** mom, Lottie Chadwick, has gone home.
- **Betty Shackelford's** daughter, Risa Parker, received good test results that showed her pacemaker is still working well.
- **Jane Stewart's** cousin, Pat Simpson, is in St. Francis ICU.
- Fred Whitlock has been moved to St. Peter's at 125 N. McLean Blvd. Memphis, for rehab.

## REMEMBER IN PRAYER

Mabel Anderson, June Brents, Robert & Nora Coleman, Ruby Davis, Tim Davis, Florence Dixon, Melba Easterwood, Rose Ferrante, Janet Garrett, Irmagene Hall, Jo-Ann Heard, Elizabeth Jessiman, Jesse Jones, Elbert Key, Virginia LaCaze, Donie Lane, Scott Marino, Connor Mobley, Bentley Moore, Rick Murphy, Catherine Parker, Gene & Georgia Shocklee, James Smith, Iris Stewart, Lula Thomas, Frances Weathers, Garnett West, Fred Whitlock, Ann Woodson

## SYMPATHY

Our sympathy is extended to **Ron Massey** and family in the passing of his dad, Bennie Massey. Mr. Massey's funeral was yesterday.

**Ron & Tricia** have moved: 2051 Redwood Road, Southaven, 38672.

## CONGRATULATIONS

**Travis, Sarah** and **Lexi Ashmore** have a new baby girl, Carly Renae, born Monday, December 26. She weighed 8lbs 1oz and 19 3/4 inches long. **Wayne & Margret Ashmore** are the grandparents. **Roy & Marie Pettit** are the great grandparents.

## BRIDAL SHOWER

A bridal shower for **Elizabeth Williams** has been scheduled for Sunday, January 8th at 3:30 in the lobby. They are registered at Target.

## BAPTISM

We want to welcome our new sister in Christ, **Lauren Brady**. Lauren was baptized last Sunday at our morning service. Please take the time to get to know and encourage her and her family.

## THANK YOU

We would like to show our appreciation to **Rob Denton** who has put a lot of time and effort on our new website. We will be updating and expanding the site over the next year. [www.goodmanoaks.com](http://www.goodmanoaks.com)  
A BIG thank you also goes to **Mike Allgeier** for the many hours he has spent at the building improving our sound system. He has plans for more updates and repairs in the next couple of months.

## ENCOURAGEMENT CLASS

Our Tuesday class will resume on Jan. 3rd at 10am.

## TLC

- Tuesday, January 3rd, lunch at Ponders at 11:30am
- Friday, January 6th, Brownbag Fellowship at 6:00pm
- Tuesday, January 17th breakfast at Hazel's at 8:30am

## LADIES TRIP

On Thursday, January 5th, we will be going to Charlene's Cottage in Halls, TN. The van leaves at 9am. Please sign up in the lobby today.

## LADIES EXERCISE

Yoga is Monday and Thursday this week at 8:30am.  
Zumba will resume Tuesday, January 3rd at 6:30pm.

## YOUTH NEWS

Starting Sunday Jan. 8th, **Michael Davis** will be teaching the ministry and miracles of Christ. **David Butler** will continue teaching James on Wednesday evenings.

We need help with our next two activities for the Youth Group:

**January 15<sup>th</sup>** is the Area Wide Devotional. We will be serving spaghetti, bread, salad and deserts. There is a sign-up sheet on the information desk in the lobby.

### January 28th (Saturday)

Girl's Conference at Sycamore View Area Wide 9:30am to 6:30pm. Cost is \$15.

### February 16th-19th (Thursday thru Sunday)

Winterfest at Gatlinburg, TN

## NURSERY WORKERS

### TODAY

**10:00** - Nancy Cole, Peggy Crouch,  
Catherine Davis, Jennifer Davis  
**5:00** - No Service

### NEXT WEEK

**10:00** - Debbie Dean, Rebecca Dean,  
Daphne Eddlemon, Lisa Eddlemon  
**5:00** - Dana Cashion

