



Newsletter

July
2024

August Birthdays

Cindy Benfer	08/01
Terry Boaz	08/01
Vivian Yarbrough	08/06
Terry Lynne Carlson	08/07
Sondra Crabtree	08/08
Larry Doyle	08/08
Dale Hon	08/08
Sarah Swearingen	08/08
Scott Carter	08/09
Mike Duncan	08/10
Sandy Wood	08/11
Presley Cheek	08/14
Lequitta Sims	08/14
Kenneth George	08/15
Justin Sheets	08/15
Susan Stevens	08/15
Brenda Woody	08/15
Tanya Lundberg	08/16
Todd Middleton	08/18
Ethan Middleton	08/21
Sunny Bean	08/22
Bonnie McCurdy	08/22
Peggy Sheets	08/22
Peggy Griffin	08/23
Bob Perryman	08/23
Jennifer Edwards	08/25
Stephen Keeton	08/26
Derrel Barnett	08/30
Janis Birkhead	08/30



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A word from Kent:

A lot has transpired here at the church since the last newsletter was sent out. Brother Jim and Cindy have move to their new retirement city of Springdale.

The SPRC has asked me to fill the role of interim pastor. VBS has been organized and will be starting on Thursday, August 2nd and run through Saturday, August 4th. More information will be shared at this coming week's service. But the BIGGEST news of all is we have a new pastor coming along with his family. There is an introductory letter elsewhere in this newsletter.

Our pastor's name is Kevin Trantham, Beth, his wife, their daughter Anna Catherine, and her son Paxton Beck. Kevin and Beth's son, Jon Tatum will be continuing his college education in Mississippi. Their move in day is August 26-28 and his first Sunday in our pulpit will be September 1st. We look forward to them joining.

On September 8th we will have a pot luck dinner following the morning service and as part of the pot luck dinner we will have an "old fashioned pounding" for the Trantham's. So not only bring a covered dish to the pot luck, but groceries items for our new pastor and his family.

In preparation of the Trantham's coming, I will be starting a series of messages this Sunday entitled "Getting Ready for our Journey".

I am going to list the messages for each Sunday and I ask that you read the related Scriptures for each message before coming to church and to pray for each message and that God will speak to our hearts as individuals and as a church family.

July 28 "Strength for the Journey"
 II Thessalonians 2:13-17

August 4 "Encouraging People to Take the Next Step" Mark 10:17-22

August 11 "How to Overcome Obstacles"
 Joshua 6

August 18 "Moving Forward in Faith"
 Joshua 10:6-12

August 25 "Strength for Service"
 Joshua 24

May God be with you all as we labor for Him here at the Dardanelle, Liberty Hall, and Chickalah Methodist churches.

Kent

Hello Chikalah, Liberty Hall, and Dardanelle Methodist Churches!

First and foremost I want to express my joy and excitement for the opportunity to join you as your pastor. I put this bluntly: I'm pumped! Since my initial interview via Zoom and my visit there a few days later, I have been both impressed and joyously overwhelmed by the generosity and hospitality of those I have had the opportunity to meet both in person and through social media and texts. As I look to begin ministering with you, I'm extremely encouraged by the love I see taking place inside and outside the church by those who attend and serve. I look forward to getting to know you!

While I look forward to meeting you all, I'd like to share with you a little about me. Born and raised in Brookhaven, Mississippi, with a portion of my childhood spent in Pineville, Louisiana, I grew up with my mom Sue, my dad Cecil, and my younger brother Tatum. I love sports, especially college football (Hail State!), and haven't completely given up on the idea that I may someday be a professional football player for the New Orleans Saints (*...with God all things are possible!*) I love music, which has been an important part of my life. I'm always excited to have the opportunity to play guitar (often badly!), and look forward to participating in the music ministry at all three churches. One of my favorite things to do is preach/teach, but not for too long! I enjoy working with people of all ages, and while some say I am "getting old," I will never lose my passion for working with children and youth. I enjoy nature, and believe there is no place we can see God more than in His creation. It will be a great blessing to be living in the Dardanelle area! What a beautiful place! There is no doubt that the beauty there will be a constant reminder of God's majestic presence, His beauty, and His great power that brings about such wonderful peace.

After graduating from Brookhaven High School in Brookhaven Mississippi, I went to Southeastern Louisiana University in Hammond, and earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in History. I then went on to Memphis Theological Seminary where I earned a Masters of Divinity degree. I first realized God's call to full time ministry when I was working as a lifeguard for five summers at Camp Wesley Pines, a United Methodist Camp in Gallman Mississippi. I saw the difference a week could make in kids' lives and realized the difference every day in that wonderful place made in mine. God profoundly worked in my life while at Wesley Pines, where my experiences played a vital role in my life. My time there was definitely a "watershed moment" in my life.

Not only did I receive my call to ministry at Wesley Pines, but I also met the wonderful young lady, Beth, who would become my wife, and the mother of our children, Anna Catherine (26), and Jon Tatum (19). Beth is a beautiful, extremely talented lady, as well as an incredible wife and mom. Anna Catherine is a vivacious and vibrant young lady, and just as beautiful and talented as her mother. Jon Tatum is the playful, funloving, happy jokester of our family, and, while I often say in jest, "That boy is just like his mother," everyone else says he's a lot more like me. Last March, our family welcomed the best grandson in the entire world, Paxton Beck. We are so blessed! I look forward to all of you getting to meet and know Beth and the kids. I love my family and am truly blessed to have them in my life! I think you're going to love them, too.

As I have begun to prepare for the opportunity to serve at Chikalah, Liberty Hall, and Dardanelle Methodist Churches, I have nothing but excitement for what the future holds. I'm excited to have the opportunity to work with you and enter into ministry with you. But, please know this: I do not see my upcoming time with you as my "job." My appointment to there is my God given CALLING. I will not be ministering TO you. I will be in ministry WITH you. We will work TOGETHER to tell the story of Jesus. We will work together to proclaim and demonstrate the love, grace, hope, and mercy of God the Father to all, as the Holy Spirit empowers and directs us. We will work together to serve and love others as Christ served and loved us. We will work together to invite people of all ages, places, and stages in life to experience true life in Christ. TOGETHER...this is so exciting!

Again, I look forward to meeting all of you. I look forward to being your pastor. As I close, I have a request: PLEASE PRAY. Please pray for Beth, Anna Catherine, Jon Tatum, Paxton, and me, as we pray for you. Please pray for Chikalah, Liberty Hall, and Dardanelle Methodist Churches as Jesus knocks on the door and invites us into a promising new phase of ministry. Please pray that all of us will have the courage to open the door to see what Jesus will invite us to do together, and what he will do in our midst!

Folks, this is "gonna be great!" I'll see you soon, and as I always say:

Let's GO!

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Kevin M. Tarrant". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.