



Branson Christian Church
(Disciples of Christ)
213 S. Commercial St.
Branson, MO 65616
Office: 417-334-3453

THE SPIRIT

Monthly Newsletter of Branson Christian Church
(Disciples of Christ)

January 2025

Epiphany



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Our Worship Service can be viewed on Facebook at
www.facebook.com/bransonchristianchurch
or on our website at www.bransonchristianchurch.com



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2025 Functional Committee Chairs

- Building & Ground - Jim Stinger & Jamie Haage**
- Christian Ed - Rebecka Gillen**
- Church Growth & Membership - Bobbie Wydeen**
- Finance - Tanya Armstrong**
- Outreach - Jolene Herington**
- Thrift Store - Kathy & Roger Kauffman**
- Worship - Cindy Baldwin**

A special thank you to all for the Staff Love Offering at Christmas time.

It is much appreciated by each staff member and we are truly blessed by your love and generosity!

~BCC Staff~

Branson Christian Church Staff & Board

STAFF

Rev. Dr. Don Tharp - Pastor
 Samantha West - Office Admin
 Rod Phillips - Music Director
 Annette Sain - Custodial Services

Office Hours: Mon. through Thurs.
 9:00am. -2:00pm.

BOARD OFFICERS 2025

Jean Mueller - Board Chair
 John Lea -Vice Chair
 Johnie Groves - Treasurer
 Pat Campbell- Secretary
 Tanya Armstrong- Financial Secretary

BY THE WAY THRIFT SHOP

We enjoyed our Christmas party on December 7th with 30 volunteers attending at Golden Corral. It is the only time all year we can be together to thank our volunteers for their hard work and dedication to the thrift store ministry.

November was our best month ever, taking in many beautiful donations and over \$8,200.00!

We now can take furniture as our flea market donor is willing to pick it up for us and pay us more than we could get at our store!

We welcomed our newest volunteer, Bill Burnett. We welcomed back Rebecka Gillen who will pick up Thursday mornings. We still have an opening for Monday mornings.

Our needs this month are men's large and XL shirts, winter coats, mittens, gloves, and scrubbies.

Our best-selling items are scrubbies. If you crochet and want to help, see Cindy Baldwin for the pattern. We always sell out of those.

Once again, thank you for all the support you give to keep our thrift store ministry going.

Kathy & Roger Kauffman
 Thrift Shop co-chairs



-SERVING THIS MONTH-

~JANUARY~

Jody Nelson
 Chris Hedenberg
 Alex Segura
 Roger Kauffman
 Gretchen Schultz



~JANUARY~

Easton R.
 Jude F.
 James G.



~JANUARY~

Johnie Groves
 Julie Groves



~Library News~

Some may wonder where our library books come from. The answer: our members, new and used bookstores, and online orders from Christianbook.com. But no matter how I get a book, I must depend on the online books' synopsis or flip through a book that I have in hand. So, it's great when someone gives me a review of a book they've read. John Gillen recently reviewed "Choose Greatness: 11 Wise Decisions That Brave Young Men Make," by Gary Chapman and Clarence Shuler. John was very thorough in his review, but for the sake of space in the newsletter, here are highlights from his review regarding each chapter in the book, in John's words:

- *one of the most important books a young man can read in his journey early on.
- *target group is young teens, 12 to 13 years.
- *stay in school and enjoy what you are studying.
- *IAD (Internet Attention Disorder). Why young teens spend so much time on technology and the issues that come from that.
- *special studying techniques and defines what a good job is.
- *relationships, peer pressure and decision making; our past reflects our future, and you need to know yourself before you help others.
- *sexual responsibilities and how we are designed in God's image.
- *drugs and alcohol use.
- *how and why to build diverse friendships.
- *finding the truth about God, finding what you believe as an individual, not just what your parents believed.
- *the conclusion has the reader evaluate everything they learned and asks a ton of questions (which John really enjoyed).

John also found a noteworthy quote: "Return good for evil and change the world." Thank you, John, for such a thorough review! The book is back on the shelf to inspire another young man in his walk-through life. Check it out!

*Blessings,
Cindy Tharp*

From the Pastor's Desk

As we close of our Church's Centennial year, questions keep coming up, "What are we to do next?" How are we to approach the future and seek to follow God's will? I know these are good questions for all of us to reflect on.

At last month's board meeting these questions came up and after consulting with our Board Chair, I have followed up with some calls to our Regional staff. Rev. Ron Rutledge, our Regional Minister had several responses with names for us to contact to move forward in discerning God's will for our future. Here are some of the questions people have asked:

What programs should be added? How can we approach growing into the future? What building changes or improvements are needed? What can we do to attract new members? How can we better serve our community?

Rev. Rutledge has suggested 2 time-tested and proven effective options for us to consider. I have shared this information with the Board, so we can seek to decide on our next steps. Pray with me that God will lead us in the way that will best fit our congregation.

*Sincerely,
Pastor Don*



Board Report

~From the Board~

Welcome to 2025 and all the opportunities we have to look forward to!

The December board meeting business included:

- Approval of the 2025 committee appointments
- Review and approval of the revision to the Finance Policy and Procedure
- Update from the security team
- Waived action to have an external audit until further information is presented

You will find the list of 2025 Standing Committee Chairs that were approved on page 2. Please take time to pray about where your gifts and talents fit into one of the committees and consider participating. If you have any questions about the committee functions, contact the chair, Pastor Don or myself.

Functional Committee appointments were also approved. These committees have specified terms per our Constitution.

Pastoral Relations Committee:

- 1 - year term (2025) John Lea, Roger Kauffman
- 2 - year term (2026) Sandy Poos, Johnie Groves
- 3 - year term (2027) Susie Knapik, Mark Schultz

Personnel Committee:

- 2025 – John Lea (previously approved)
- 2026 – Sandy Poos (previously approved)
- 2027 - Janet Minor (approved 12/2024)

Thanks to each of you who served the past year, are continuing to serve and are joining in the leadership of BCC. Appreciate each of you for making Branson Christian Church a beacon of light in our community and around the world.

With blessings and gratitude,

Jean Mueller, Board Chair

~Outreach & Missions~

The Thanksgiving Special Offering totaled \$655.00 and Christmas Special Offering totaled \$562.00.

Eighty handmade Christmas Cards were delivered to The Shepherd of The Hills Nursing Home last month.

The Outreach Committee is sponsoring the Annual Soup-r-Bowl Food Drive for CAM culminating on Super Bowl Sunday, February 9th. We encourage everyone to contribute by donating food items (not just soup) and help us reach our goal of 225 food items for the new 2025 year.



We have also received several thank you letters from extra end of the year bonuses we gave to our monthly supports and missionaries. They wanted us all to know how much they truly appreciate Branson Christian Church!

Jolene Herington, Chair

~Christian Ed~

2024 has been a great year for Christian Ed. The Wednesday Bible study and the adult Sunday school class are booming each week.

We've started up a youth Sunday school that has had very good attendance and youth seem to really enjoy the topics and discussions so far. They have been asking some very in-depth questions for discussion.

We had a very fun end of year Christmas party for the youth and were surprised with a guest visitor, the big guy himself Santa Claus stopped by to bring presents to everyone in attendance.

We can never say thank you enough to Cindy Tharp for the revitalization of the Church library. We wish for it to continue to grow and fill everyone's needs both educationally and spiritually with appropriate readings for all ages.

While a few things for 2025 have been discussed nothing major has been planned at this time.

Lastly, I want to thank everyone for the opportunity to serve as Christian Ed chair the last 4 years. It was a blessing, and I will greatly miss it. I have the best wishes for the new chairperson and committee and look forward to seeing our church, youth and community continue to grow and thrive. Let's continue to make memories for the next 100 years at Branson Christian Church.

*Signing off,
Your faithful servant; Stacy Eastridge*

Committee Reports

FINANCE REPORT

Finance Report through NOV. 2024

Operating income Nov.	\$20,282.45
Operating expense Nov.	\$20,629.70
Year to date income	\$214,516.95
Year to date expense	\$142,344.34

Online giving is available for your convenience at the church website and Facebook page.

SAFE ~ SECURE ~ SIMPLE

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

~Membership	Jan. 2	5:30pm.
~Outreach	Jan. 13	10:00am.
~Worship	Jan. 14	10:30am.
~Finance	Jan. 14	2:00pm.
~Board	Jan. 16	5:30pm.
~PPC	Jan. 18	9:00am.



~Membership News~

The Adoration Parade Open House was a hit! The Hot Cocoa Crew made somewhere between 13 and 14 gallons of cocoa. Thanks to all for donating cookies!

Inclement weather time is fast approaching. The Membership Committee will communicate in several ways to get the word out if the Sunday Church Service will be cancelled. Notices will be posted on KRZK Radio 106.3, the Church Website/Facebook and all social media, Text Messages, possible email chain, and phone calls. Please contact Bobbie Wydeen if you would like to receive a text message at 417-699-4728 or bobster218@aol.com

Bobbie Wydeen, Chair

JANUARY

ALL SUNDAYS
 9:30am - Sunday School
 10:15am - Fellowship Time
 10:45am - Worship Service

~January Birthdays~

Jan. 3 Jim Rice
 Jan. 3 Kathleen Lenore
 Jan. 13 Richard Stucki
 Jan. 13 Lacy Hartig
 Jan. 15 Shan Carrasco
 Jan. 15 Elle Pribble
 Jan. 17 Mary Ann Geer
 Jan. 18 Kylie Scott
 Jan. 21 Clint Cross
 Jan. 21 Rex Wood
 Jan. 23 Anita Brown
 Jan. 23 Jackie Brown
 Jan. 25 Kirk Groves
 Jan. 28 Judy Adams
 Jan. 28 Mark Lindner



~Anniversaries~

Jan. 12 Jim & Sandy Rice
 Jan. 22 Robert & Cindy Baldwin

Happy Anniversary

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 Office Closed 	2 Membership Mtg. 5:30pm.	3	4
5	6 Epiphany	7 Worship Mtg. 2:00pm.	8 10:30am. – 12:00pm. Bible Study Choir 6:00pm. Handbells 7:00pm.	9	10	11 Thrift Shop Mtg. 3:30pm. Elder Mtg. 9:30am.
12 Installation Service No W&W!	13 Outreach Mtg. 10:00am.	14 Worship Mtg. 10:30am. Finance Mtg. 2:00pm.	15 10:30am. – 12:00pm. Bible Study Choir 6:00pm. Handbells 7:00pm.	16 Board Mtg. 5:30pm.	17	18 PPC Mtg. 9:00am.
19 Fellowship Dinner No W&W!	20 CAM Soup Collection begins	21	22 10:30am. – 12:00pm. Bible Study Choir 6:00pm. Handbells 7:00pm.	23	24	25
26	27	28	29 10:30am. – 12:00pm. Bible Study Choir 6:00pm. Handbells 7:00pm.	30	31	

Serving in January

Worship Leaders

5th ~ John Gillen
 12th ~ Janet Minor
 19th ~ Annette Sain
 26th ~ Trevor Sain