

# PAYNESVILLE CHRISTIAN CHURCH EPISTLE

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## JOE'S JOURNAL

Louise Tarkington expresses this in a poem:  
"I wish that there were some wonderful place  
Called the Land of Beginning Again,  
Where all our mistakes and all our heartaches  
And all of our poor selfish grief  
Could be dropped like a shabby old coat at the door  
And never put on again....."

The beginning of a new year gives us an opportunity to look back and look ahead. We long for a new start, a chance to do better. But this doesn't come through our will alone. It has to come from a higher source. Only in Christ can we have "Newness of life." Only He can restore the image of God in us. The Bible says, "Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone; the new has come!"

Many good "new" things are happening in the life of the congregation here at Paynesville. The new direction for involvement expressed through the response for the "Opportunities of Service" was tremendous. God can use a people who "have mind to work". New Baptisms-Savannah Kay Stultz, twin sister Shelby Lynn Shultz, and Zachary Shultz were baptized into Christ on Christmas Eve Sunday. They are the grandchildren of Doug and Sharon Huckleberry, New Baptism Robes- are being made by Sharon Huckleberry. New Movie Nights- for the youth-Thanks, Loren and Debbie Bair. New Pew Cushions- for auditorium seating are being planned. New Choir-Judy Wheeler will be leading in preparing for a church choir. New Opportunities to Invite- folks to the special Gospel Concert with the **Sonshiners**, who will be with us on Sunday evening **March 4. Meal at 5 pm and Concert at 6 pm.**

I believe there is a new spirit in the life of the congregation here and I believe that God will bless us in the days ahead. To God be the glory! Joe

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### IN MEMORIAM

It is with deep sorrow that our oldest member, Gwen Bowman, passed away on Tuesday, January 9, 2007. Gwen was 90 years old having been born on April 8, 1916. He was a life long mechanic and liked sporty cars. He had been a life long member of the congregation and served as a Deacon. Bro John Penn performed the ordination services for the deaconship on November 10, 1985. Gwen attended services regularly and continued an active life, even mowing his own yard with a push mower. He is survived by his children: Judy Boley, Nancy Bowman-Denton, Jeffrey Bowman, Bruce Bowman, Lynn Bowman, four grandsons, three granddaughters, and three great grandchildren. Also, his brother Verlin lives in Salem and sister, Ruth lives in Mills, Wyoming. The funeral services were held at the church on Saturday, January 13, 2007 with burial in Mt Zion Cemetery. Bro Joe McKay conducted the services. His parents were Amos and Stella Maddex Bowman. His mother became a member of the church by baptism in 1927 and his father was a deacon. Gwen's maternal grandfather, John Maddex, was an elder and a founding disciple.

### TRIBUTES

#### Gwen Bowman, A Faithful Servant

On Tuesday, January 9, the Lord called Gwen Bowman home. He was 90 years of age (oldest active member of the congregation), and lived in the community all his life. He accepted Christ and became a member of Paynesville Christian Church early in life, and served many years as a deacon. We miss seeing him in his usual seat at worship, and will miss his public prayers. He was a faithful servant. The Bible says, "Be faithful, even to the point of death, and I will give you the crown of life." By Joe, minister

This January the congregation and community mourn the passing of PCC deacon, Gwen Bowman. A long time member of Paynesville Christian Church, Gwen was ordained a deacon in 1985. We remember Gwen as a humble and quiet man who served the Lord without a lot of fanfare. His servant's heart and faithfulness will be missed, but we are confident of the joy that he has found with the Lord. The family has asked that donations in memory of Gwen be made to the Paynesville Christian Church. By Loren Bair, Elder

"Surely goodness and mercy will follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever." Psalm 23:6

All the Saints Say, "Amen"

