




# JANUARY 2012 CALENDAR

Elders for the month of November are Lanny Knight and Lee Webb

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>1</b> 8:45 Worship (Communion) 9:50 Church School 11:00 Worship (Communion)	<b>2</b> - Office Closed	<b>3</b> 1:00 Assistance	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b> 4:15 Cumberland Ringers 5:30 Weight Watchers	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b> 9:00 Weight Watchers
<b>8</b> 8:45 Worship 9:50 Church School 11:00 Worship 5:30 Sanctuary Choir 6:00 Evening Worship	<b>9</b> 10:00 Staff Meeting 10:00 Love-Joy Circle 1:00 Sinnergize 6:30 Soul Sisters	<b>10</b> 1:00 Assistance 5:30 CPNS Board Meeting 6:00 Sonshine Circle at O'Charley's	<b>11</b> 10:30 Sinnergize	<b>12</b> 4:15 Cumberland Ringers 5:30 Hallelujah Handbells 5:30 Weight Watchers	<b>Convocation</b> in Gatlinburg through Sunday (Youth)	
<b>15</b> 8:45 Worship 9:50 Church School 11:00 Worship 5:30 Sanctuary Choir 6:00 Evening Worship	<b>16</b> 10:00 Staff Meeting 1:00 Sinnergize	<b>17</b> 1:00 Assistance	<b>18</b> 10:30 Sinnergize 5:00 Dinner 5:50 Children & Youth Classes 6:00 Adult Classes 6:45 Dunamis	<b>19</b> 4:15 Cumberland Ringers 5:30 Hallelujah Handbells 5:30 Weight Watchers	<b>20</b> 5:30 CPNS Staff Mtg.	<b>21</b> 9:00 Weight Watchers
<b>Convocation</b> in Gatlinburg through Sunday (Youth)		<b>- Church Session Retreat -</b> Friday - 6:30 - Galeys Saturday - 8:30 - Upper Commons				
<b>22</b> 8:45 Worship 9:50 Church School 11:00 Worship 5:00 The Point 5:30 Sanctuary Choir 6:00 Evening Worship	<b>23</b> 10:00 Staff Meeting 1:00 Sinnergize	<b>24</b> 1:00 Assistance	<b>25</b> 10:30 Sinnergize 5:00 Dinner 5:50 Children & Youth Classes 6:00 Adult Classes 6:45 Dunamis	<b>26</b> 4:15 Cumberland Ringers 5:30 Hallelujah Handbells 5:30 Weight Watchers	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b> 9:00 Weight Watchers
<b>29</b> 8:45 Worship 9:50 Church School 11:00 Worship 5:00 The Point 5:30 Sanctuary Choir 6:00 Evening Worship	<b>30</b> 10:00 Staff Meeting 1:00 Sinnergize	<b>31</b> 1:00 Assistance				

# Volunteer of the Month - January 2012 - Diana Wood



Webster defines the word volunteer as a person who voluntarily undertakes a service or duty. We have honored a number of people who fit that description, but perhaps none who more fully personifies the word “volunteer” than does our January honoree, Diana Wood. Diana’s first response when told she had been selected as our Volunteer of the Month was, “You’re kidding! There are so many others who do so much more than I do”. I’m not so sure about that. See what you think!

Diana is a native of Los Angeles, California, but she grew up in McMinnville, Tennessee, where her family moved when she was just two years old. After receiving a Bachelor’s degree in Elementary Education from TTU, Diana married Ken and moved to Memphis, where Ken attended medical school. Their next home was in Nashville, while Ken did his residency at Baptist Hospital. During these years, Diana began her career as an elementary school teacher. Interestingly, her teaching positions in both Memphis and Nashville were in Catholic Schools – quite an eye opener for someone with a Baptist upbringing!

When Ken joined a medical practice in Cookeville, Diana became a stay at home mom for a while, as she cared for their first daughter Isabella. During the next few years, they welcomed two more children to their family, Annie and Sam. When Isabella’s 2<sup>nd</sup> grade teacher was tragically killed in an auto accident, Diana, who had been a parent volunteer for that class, was called upon to finish out the year as their teacher. Realizing how

much she missed teaching, Diana soon returned to the classroom, and eventually earned a Master’s degree in Instructional Leadership from TTU. She now teaches 4<sup>th</sup> grade at Capshaw Elementary School.

The Wood family attended several different churches in Cookeville before joining our church. Diana says that they came here to visit because they knew some of our members. They found this to be such a warm, welcoming church that they decided to stay! Diana wasted no time finding ways to volunteer her time and talents. She has served on the Fellowship/Outreach and Music/Worship committees, and just completed a three year term on the Church Session. She has taught Sunday School classes for youth and children, and continues to serve as a substitute when needed. She is an active member of the Soul Sisters Circle and the Good News Sunday School class. She is a member on the Board of Directors for the Cumberland Presbyterian Nursery School, a group which she has chaired for the past three years. Diana has also taught several women’s Bible studies during recent years, and has been a regular teacher for our Connection classes since that program got underway last January. Keep in mind that all of this is **in addition to** her duties as a wife, mother, and public school teacher!

One might think that someone already involved in so many things would be the last person to volunteer for anything else. I can tell you from personal experience that this is not true of Diana Wood. When nine of our young people went to junior camp a couple of summers ago, Diana volunteered to accompany them to Crystal Springs as a camp counselor. When we needed someone to play the piano for younger children’s choir rehearsals a few years ago, it was Diana who stepped up and helped out. Likewise, she responded to an appeal for more singers for the Sanctuary Choir by joining the choir and singing with us for over a year. When our children’s choirs have extra rehearsals for special programs, I often ask parents to bring snacks for the kids. Diana is always one of the first people to volunteer. Basically, she is there to help out **whenever** and **wherever** she can be of service.

When I asked her how and why she does it all, she simply said that is it her way of giving back in response to the way in which God has worked in her life. She declared that, thanks to her spiritual gifts, she is capable of doing a lot of things, but feels that she does not excel in any one thing. However, she added, if God calls you to a task, he equips you for it! She says that she often steps outside her comfort zone, but is always blessed by those opportunities.

After reading this article, you must agree with me that Diana Wood is an exceptional volunteer! Can you imagine the amazing witness our church would be in this community if all of us were willing to put our faith into action as we see Diana and our other Volunteers of the Month doing?

**What is God calling you to do?** God bless you, Diana!