

SHARE THE WARMTH COAT DRIVE



We will be collecting like-new or new coats, scarves, gloves, hats and white socks (new only) **next Sunday, January 12th**. We will need help on January 12th at the church sorting items and also we will need help on January 18th downtown with distribution. Please see Adam Ghafourian or Dana Chacon in the courtyard today to sign up to help! Thank You!

Events and Activities:

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| January 5 | <i>Congregational Fast Starts</i> |
| January 11 | <i>8-9:30 AM Father's Prayer Time</i> |
| January 12 | <i>Share the Warmth Coat Drive</i> |
| January 17 | <i>7-8:30 PM Mother's Prayer Night</i> |
| January 24 | <i>Congregational Prayer Night</i> |
| January 25 | <i>Break the Fast</i> |

Athens Church of Christ

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A Note from Cambodia:

Dear Church,
Can you believe 2013 is in the rear view mirror? Crazy, but I am so looking forward to what God has waiting for us in 2014.

My family, along with two of the hospital's social workers, delivered food to one of the HIV communities on the 25th. It was the most memorable Christmas I've ever had! Your hearts & generous donations played a major role in the experience! See the pictures below.

Thank you for the way you are sharing your life & Jesus' love with others!
Matthew 25: "For I was hungry and you gave me food. I was thirsty and you gave me a drink. I was lonely and you made me welcome. I was naked and you clothed me. I was ill and you came and looked after me. I was in prison and you came to see me there."

With MUCH love & plenty of laughter for the New Year!

Lisa Goodwin



PRAYER REQUESTS:

Betty Bloom's sister, Diana Sanford's cancer has spread to her bones. She has started more aggressive Chemo but needs our prayers. Cards of encouragement would be great. Diana Sanford, PO Box 65, Barker, NY 14012.

Andy Van Bueren has been diagnosed with pancreatic cancer. Please pray for his healing and recovery. Address: 1039 Pinfeather Court, Lawrenceville, GA 30043.

Wade William's uncle, Bob Wade Sr., has been in the hospital for weeks with what they call Very Severe Aplastic Anemia. He also has a troubling fungal infection with a depleted immune system to fight it.

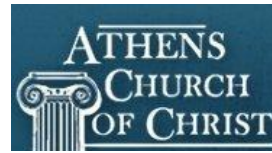
Four Brothers: Please pray that a great adoptive resource can be found for four brothers, ages 1, 3, 5 and 8, so that they can all stay together, or two resources that are able to keep the boys in close relationship with each other. They have had two adoptive resources fall through, not because of these boys, but because of the circumstances of the potential adoptive parents. If you know anyone who would be interested in considering adoption for these local boys, please contact Rachele Gibson and she could get you in touch with the DFCS case manager.

Betty Jo Wallace's husband, Mark Wallace, is recovering from a major stroke and is now at home. Pray for a continuing successful rehabilitation and recovery. Address: 1641 Flat Rock Road, Watkinsville, GA 30677.

Pat Snow's stepfather, Gene Pruitt, is battling lung cancer. Pray also for **Pat's mom, Mary Pruitt,** who is 80, to have the strength to take care of him.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

SUPER BOWL PARTY: Want to see the BIG game on a BIG SCREEN. Join Athens Church of Christ for our Annual Super Bowl Party. Contact Frederick Arrington at 707-247-2612 for more information.



Sunday Bulletin

January 5, 2014

www.athenscoc.com

Congregational Fast Begins Today

Happy New Year Church! 2014 has arrived with all of its possibilities, challenges, unknowns, and chances to be great for God.

For the last five years we have started the year out with a congregational fast. For me, it is one of the best things we have going for us as a fellowship of believers. Here is a working definition of a fast: "A **highly focused period of time when we examine ourselves and seek to align ourselves with the ways of God. We do this by separating ourselves from our typical patterns and routines and entering a spiritual experience for a given time.**" It is NOT a really great way to get rid of our extra holiday pounds, and it is NOT a Christian diet. It is NOT something we need to dread or feel pressure to do. We need to decide on our own what we will fast from and enter into the fast of our own free will.

Following are some things you might want to study out over the next week as we begin this time of fasting together.

II Samuel 12 is the story of David fasting for his dying son. Read the entire chapter for context in **verses 18-23**. David makes it clear that he was praying for a specific answer to a specific request. Perhaps in your life right now you are looking for a specific answer. Pray and fast and see if God gives you an answer. Remember here that after David was told no by God he went to the temple and worshipped God.

Do you have a **BIG DECISION** to make right now? **Acts 13:1-3** tells the story of the Church in Antioch needing to make some big decisions about sending missionaries and they were praying and fasting. God chose Barnabas and Saul (Paul) and the rest is history. Take some time and give yourself to prayer and fasting and ask God for clarity.

We have an amazing opportunity to draw closer to God and one another as we enter this time of prayer and fasting together.

May God bless us all,

Sonny