

NEW MENTOR TRAINING There will be two training events for men interested in becoming mentors at First Presbyterian Church of Chattanooga; one in the **morning** on **Saturday, November 12th**, from 8 AM to ~1 PM and one in the **evening** on **Tuesday, November 29th**, from 6:30 to ~9:30 PM. Please invite or encourage any godly men that you know to attend one of these events. Contact Alan Bonderud (cell# 423 903-3700) for further details. Remember, we still have almost ninety (90) men at Walker State Prison (WSP) that are awaiting a mentor.

FAITH & CHARACTER-BASED PROGRAM – FIVE YEAR ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

Walker Faith & Character-Based (F&CB) Program will celebrate its **Five-Year Anniversary** on **Friday, Nov. 18th**, **from 9:00 to 11:30 AM**. Program will include:

- Reflections by Staff Members
- History of Faith & Character in Georgia
- Reflections by two Program Participants
- Music

All mentors and their wives* are invited. To attend you **must register before Sunday, Nov. 13th**, by adding your name(s) to the Sign-Up Sheet on our website OR contacting Doug Craven at cellphone# (423) 902-2004.

* *Wives must have an approved GCIC on file that is less than 12 months old*



FELLOWSHIP BREAKFAST...End of Year! Our last fellowship breakfast of 2016 is set for **Saturday, November 19th, 8 AM** at Wally's Restaurant in East Ridge (6521 Ringgold Road, Chattanooga, TN). This facility is located at exit 1B off I-75 North once you cross the GA/TN state line, convenient for our Georgia mentors. You'll enjoy a buffet style breakfast (self-pay). Please join us to have some good fellowship, a great meal, and hear what God has accomplished in this ministry during the past year. We will also collect money (\$) for the WSP Indigent Christmas bags effort (see below). Remember...wives and interested visitors are always welcome!

HOLIDAY EXTRAVAGANZA FUNDRAISER A "Dessert Theatre" fundraiser is being organized to raise funds for the Walker F&CB program Arts and Crafts' Department. This event at the prison is set for **Friday, Dec. 16th**, from 6:30 to 8:30 PM with a minimum donation of \$10 per attendee. Those attending will be treated to an evening of desserts (cakes, pies, cookies, ice cream, coffee with an array of flavored creamers, and soda – *see note below*). The Walker F&CB Program Concert Choir will perform a "Holiday Concert" for the participants with a "sing-a-long" at the end. Additionally, there will be various Arts and Crafts items (clocks, paintings, etc.) given away as door prizes.

All mentors and their wives* may attend. To register you must contact Doug Craven by e-mail, text, or phone (423 902-2004) and provide the needed donation. **Registration & money must be submitted by **Wednesday, Nov. 30th**.**

* *Wives must have an approved GCIC on file that is less than 12 months old*

NOTE: *Since this is a "fund raising" event the prison is hoping that the all aspects of this event will be donated. Please consider if you would be willing to bake and/or donate any of the following – cakes, pies, sodas, coffee, multi-flavored creamers, sugar, artificial sweetener, bottled water, ice cream, ice cream toppers (sprinkles, syrup, etc.) cake servers, ice cream scoopers, paper products (plates, bowls, cups, glasses, napkins), and plastic ware (spoons, forks). More information to follow.*

Link to our website - <https://wspmentoringministryevents.shutterfly.com/>



INDIGENT CHRISTMAS BAGS – Please help us provide a **special Christmas** for those who can expect little or nothing this holiday season. Our goal, similar to last year, is to give Christmas bags to the ~125 indigent inmates at WSP who have no money coming in nor family members who send them money. See the list below for the planned content of each bag.

We are requesting only monetary donations because we want to provide the men with identical bags, therefore it will be more economic to buy these items in bulk than for each donor to get them. Our ministry consists of men from 47 different churches, so we would encourage mentors to discuss this need with their individual churches to see if their church might be willing to make a donation. Checks can be written to First Presbyterian Church of Chattanooga with the comment “*for Prison Mentoring Ministry Christmas Bags*” on the memo line. We will accept donations at our upcoming "Fellowship Breakfast" on Saturday, Nov. 19th, OR you may give them to your group leader or Doug Craven. **Tom Hays**, a Tuesday mentor, will serve as the coordinator to obtain these materials, but he will need assistance. IF you can help Tom in this effort, please contact him at phone# (423) 645-3244.

PROPOSED CONTENT OF EACH CHRISTMAS BAG

- 1 Shampoo
- 2 bars of bath soap
- 1 large tube of tooth paste
- 1 tooth brush
- 1 deodorant
- 1 mouth wash with no alcohol
- 1 tube of skin cream or body lotion
- 2 or three soup packages
- 2 or 3 cracker packs with cheese, peanut butter, etc.
- at least one candy bar

We would like to have all the material purchased for these bags before December so don't delay.

WANTED - Used Christmas tree ornaments (or new) - **PLASTIC ONLY**. These ornaments are for the men of WSP to decorate trees in the seven dorms and the common area. **NO LIGHTS** needed, as they have plenty from past years. Call **Rich Denking** (phone# 423 605-9676) to make arrangements for pickup. Thanks so much for your help.



LESSONS LEARNED:

- **GDC Volunteer Photo ID Badges Expiration Dates** – Presently the prison is mailing your new badges with extended expiration dates to the home address that they have on record. Since this mailing is **not** allowed to be forwarded, it will not arrive at your home if you have moved since initial involvement in this ministry. Please keep your group leader and the administrator informed of any changes to your home address.
- **Use of Personal Home Addresses** – Remember that during your initial training you were instructed to **not** use your home address when corresponding with your mentoring partner. We suggested that you utilize your church address or a PO box/business address. Although you may trust your mentoring partner, there is no privacy in the prison and your home address may become available to others who might use it in undesired ways. This also applies to friends or family who might also wish to correspond with your mentoring partner, especially during this upcoming Christmas season. Please encourage them to **not** use their personal home address as the return address on their correspondence.
- **Retractable Pens into the Prison** – Some discussion has arisen concerning metal or plastic, retractable or non-retractable pens and whether we can take them into the prison. Although plastic non-retractable pens are the standard at other correctional facilities and recommended, we have been authorized to take metal or plastic retractable pens in Walker SP. However, **you cannot give such a pen to an offender**. If you take it in...always bring it back out!
- **Fifth Weekday Mentoring Sessions** – As stated in your initial training, we will **not** have mentoring sessions on the 5th weekday (Monday, Tuesday, or Thursday) of a month. The prison has been notified of this schedule and occasionally schedules other events on these evenings. Please mark your calendar accordingly and/or check with your group leader or our website calendar when in doubt. You may be denied access should you arrive on an evening when no mentoring session is scheduled.
- **In Essentials, Unity; Non-Essentials, Liberty; All Things, Love** – Please remember the first point of our **Mentor/Mentee Accountability Agreement** that we all have signed and promised to follow:

“I understand that as a mentor/mentee I join a team that seeks to emphasize common areas of the Christian faith pertaining to salvation and spiritual growth rather than issues that may cause division and confusion. The mentoring ministry at Walker State Prison (WSP) is inter-denominational. We are Christians first and will: in essentials pursue unity, in the non-essentials seek liberty, and in all things, practice love.”

Our ministry currently consists of forty-seven different churches from various denominations, but we together represent the one true Church...the body of believers in Christ. Please seek to keep denominational differences from becoming the focus of your discussion with your mentoring partner. We are there to proclaim Christ, and Him crucified, and that should be our focus. We have received some concerns expressed by mentees about the strong emphasis by their mentor on particular denomination's beliefs. Make the Main Thing the Main Thing!

UPCOMING EVENTS:

- **New Mentor Training** – Saturday **morning**, Nov. 12th, at First Presbyterian Church of Chattanooga
- **Deadline for Registration** to Attend Five Year Anniversary Celebration (11/18/16) – Monday, Nov. 14th
- Walker Faith & Character-Based Program **Five Year Anniversary Celebration** – Friday, Nov. 18th
- **Fellowship Breakfast** – Saturday, Nov. 19th, at the Wally's Restaurant in East Ridge
- **New Mentor Training** – Tuesday **evening**, Nov. 29th, at First Presbyterian Church of Chattanooga
- Walker Faith & Character-Based Program **Holiday Extravaganza Fundraiser** – Friday, Dec. 16th
- **No Mentoring Sessions** – Thursday, Nov. 3rd (prep. For Veterans Day Celebration), Thursday, Nov. 24th (Thanksgiving Day), Tuesday, Nov. 29th & Thursday, Dec. 29th (5th weekday in month)

Oh, magnify the Lord with me, and let us exalt His name together. (Psalm 34:3)

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