

# What's Happening At Wilkinson County Correctional Facility



Richard Pickett

## • Pickett Named Employee of the Month •

WCCF recognized Officer Richard Pickett as Employee of the Month for January. Human Resource Manager Kelly Pomeroy thanked him for his "dedication and a job well done." Pickett has been employed at the facility since October 2015.

## • Alcohol & Drug Classes Graduate •

Ten students in the Short Term Alcohol & Drug program graduated on December 10, 2019. They were followed by 18 students in the Long Term A&D program who graduated on January 15. In addition to Certificates of Completion, all of the students received incentive care bags, according to Substance Abuse Counselors Angela Coleman. "Three of the students had already made parole and would be released pending the completion of the class," she said. "Those students were extremely excited and look forward to returning home."

## • Staff Becomes Certified Firearm Instructors •

Several WCCF staff members, including one from Marshall County Correctional Facility (MCCF), are now certified firearm instructors. They are, from left: Captain Micheal Anderson, Lieutenant Kirsten McCloud (MCCF), Lieutenant Harry Dawson, Training Lieutenant LaTonya Malone, CERT Sergeant Charles Pointe, and Instructor Dwayne Anthony. All of them attended the Total Control Training Institute in Yazoo, where they completed 40 hours of training in the Firearm Instructor Survival Training Course and the Shotgun Instructor Survival Training Course.



Firearm Instructors

## • Christmas Care Packages Distributed •

WCCF staff handed out care packages to 900 men for the Christmas holiday season. The packages contained hygiene items, candy and literature.



Deacon Hill and Choir

## • Christmas Concert Held By Sanctuary Choir •

The Sanctuary Choir of Pilgrim Missionary Baptist Church in Natchez, held a Christmas Concert at the facility in December 2019. The annual event was coordinated by Deacon Frank Hill Jr. and Alvin Shelby, minister of music. The Rev. Wilsonni Johnson served as guest speaker. WCCF staff and offenders attended the event.

## • New Arts & Crafts Program Launched •

Recreational Specialist Emily Guth said that she and the men housed at WCCF are excited about a new hobby craft program. "It's in the beginning stages," said Guth, who serves as director of the program. "We want to get men from each zone into the classroom where they can learn to draw and paint."

## • New Program: 'Thinking for a Change' •

WCCF is introducing a new integrated cognitive behavior change program called "Thinking for a Change." The program is being facilitated by Warehouse Supervisor Ruby Dixon, Zone Sergeant Tiffany Ware, Substance Abuse Counselor Angela Coleman, and Re-entry Coordinator Keyla Williams.

## • Reentry Program Receives Visit by WIN Job Center Specialist •

On Thursday, Jan. 23, 2020, the offenders met with an Employment Specialist from WIN Job Center. The WIN Job Center has important resources that provide job placement assistance, job and skill training, career counseling and referral to many other valuable services.



Christopher Myers

## • WCCF Forming Prison Bands •

Executive Administrative Assistant Michelle Higginbotham is leading a new program that will feature bands formed by the men incarcerated at the facility. WCCF has purchased instruments. Higginbotham is auditioning singers and musicians. She hopes to have at least one band organized and performing by March. "This is an excellent program," Higginbotham said. "The men will be able to write music, script lyrics and express themselves through all genres of music."

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**ROSCOE BARNES III, Ph.D.**, is a writer, chaplain, historian, and former newspaper reporter. He is the author of more than a dozen books and Gospel tracts. For more information about his work and history, see his **Personal Profile** [here](#) or visit his website: <http://www.roscoebarnes.net>. Connect with him on Twitter (@roscoebarnes3) or by email: [roscoebarnes3@yahoo.com](mailto:roscoebarnes3@yahoo.com).