



Presbyterian 'Connection'

January 2012 Volume 20 Issue 1

From the Pen of Reverend Terry

Happy New Year,

If you're reading this, then the world didn't end on December 20. Proving once again that not the Mayans or the interpreter's of their calendar or anyone else knows when the world is to end. Jesus says, *"But about that day and hour no one knows, neither the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father."* Matthew 24:36 Let's face it, if even Jesus doesn't know then how can Christians believe that anyone else does.

In fact, Jesus tells the disciples that *"false messiahs and false prophets will appear and produce great signs and omens, to lead astray, if possible even the elect. Take, note, I have told you beforehand. So, if they say to you, 'Look! He is in the wilderness,' do not go out. If they say, 'Look! He is in the inner rooms,' do not believe it."* Matthew 24:24-26 When ever we hear someone preaching that the end is near, we have but to recall these verses and take comfort.

We don't have to worry. If we're alive when Jesus comes, then we'll know. There is no way anyone will miss Him. For He says in the same passage, *"For as the lightning comes from the east and flashes as far as the west, so will be the coming of the Son of Man...Then the sign of the Son of Man will appear in heaven, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see 'the Son of man coming on the clouds of heaven' with power and great glory."*

Matthew 24:27, 30

My point in all this is that we don't need to worry or even wonder if the end is near. All of the time and energy spent on figuring out "when" is wasted time. Instead let's spend our time and energy on living faithful lives.

From the Ten Commandments to the writings of the Apostle Paul, there are many passages in scripture about how to live faithful lives. The prophet Micah sums it up in one verse. *"What does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God."* In Matthew we read these words from Jesus, *"You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind...You shall love your neighbor as yourself."* Matthew 22:37-39

There is another side to living a faithful life. It is to have faith in Christ believing with every fiber of our being that He can be trusted. Paul says it this way, *"For God has destined us not for wrath but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, who died for us, so that **whether we are awake or asleep we may live with him.**"* 1Thessalonians 5:9-10

May God bless us all with the courage and wisdom and grace to live faithfully in the year to come.

Many blessings,
Pastor Terry



To the Bull Shoals Presbyterian Church:

We want to tell you that George is doing great and we have been given the O.K. to go to Arizona for the winter. We really appreciate all your prayers and cards. What a wonderful group.

- George and Margie Blackwell

From; Bull Shoals Food Pantry

By - Presbyterian Women of Bull Shoals

Thank you for your very generous gift of \$400.00 to the Bull Shoals Food Pantry for Christmas Baskets! What a blessing your gift is, and much needed as we already have more than 220 families who have registered for Christmas Baskets.

What a special difference you are making in the lives of those we serve. They may never be able thank you personally, but we want you to know they appreciate what is being done for them and we accept their thanks for what you have done.

God Bless!

- Irene Bere, Secretary

Dear Presbyterian Women,

Many thanks, grace and peace to you all. We are so blessed to have such community support to help our students in need of lunch money. Times are hard and parents are struggling to make ends meet. We appreciate your generous gift.

Respectfully,

- Coyla Hudson

Flippin School District

To our Deacons, *from Jane Anderson, Amy Johnson's mother...*

Jane was so surprised and delighted when James delivered her this mounded tray of Christmas goodies! She sure felt loved and remembered! Thank you all for your thoughtfulness and caring.

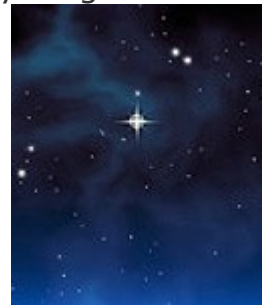
- Jane Anderson and Amy Johnson

Shame on You

Submitted by Faye Brackett

The worst way to feel good about yourself is to tear down someone else. To the extent we feel bad about ourselves, we put down someone else - often for no good reason at all. Chaos ensues in our relationships as a result - all because someone is not feeling good about themselves in the first place. And, the best way to bring someone down is to use shame. Shame is a nasty tool; its aim is to destroy hope and security in another person. Shame is used to rope the other person into your own misery. Shame is not funny; it hurts deeply. Lots of people in this world have spent a lifetime recovering from the effects of shame.

Jesus' earthly father, Joseph, for instance, felt shame when his wife-to-be, Mary, was pregnant. He felt even more shame when there was no more room in the inn for Mary to give birth to their child. On that starry night, everything was wrong in a societal sense; yet, everything was right with God. That is the most important part of the Christmas story. Jesus came to earth to rid the world of shame and all its awful consequences. He confronted it wherever he traveled, taught and lived. And, the final showdown with shame took place at the cross. On that lonely hill outside Jerusalem, the powers of the world were convinced it had put Jesus to shame - forcing him to die a horrendous, criminal's death for all people to see. But, from God's perspective, the exact opposite was happening. The crucifixion of his son, Jesus, brought with it the most potent antidote to shame the world has ever known - the grace of God.



Grace enters our lives whenever we are ready to offer our self to God - with our insecurities, guilt, sin, shame and all. The moment we stop running from our own personal pain, ready to present our not-so-pretty and sometimes awful selves to God, grace comes flooding into our lives, and makes all things new. We feel less tempted to shame others and no longer allow others to shame us. When God forgives us, we become equipped and ready to forgive others. Anyone looking to rid themselves from shame should look no further than the grace of God - in Jesus Christ, his one and only son.

From:

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Con't....

Con't. from previous pg.

As many of you know, I am spending an increasing amount of time helping local churches develop special, bridge-building, and redemptive relationships with neighboring mosques in the United States. These relationships have borne much fruit for the kingdom of God. For instance, late this summer, a man became so enraged at a local mosque in Morton Grove, Ill., that he finally approached it with a rifle in his hand and began shooting at the Muslims entering for Friday prayers. The man felt that the mosque was shaming and polluting his neighborhood. Fortunately, none of the bullets hit anyone but instead ricocheted off the entrance door. People from Winnetka Presbyterian Church, with whom they have been building a special relationship for the last year, rushed to the defense and aid of these new Muslim friends, offering words of comfort and peace; thus modeling the life of Jesus, caring for the most vulnerable and forgotten in their midst.

A week later, another man in Racine, Wis., 40 minutes from my house, took his own rifle and began shooting at members of a Sikh community in his neighborhood as people were entering for prayers. This time, four people were tragically killed. The shooter reportedly was angry that so many mosques and Hindu temples were being built in his area. During the same month on the other side of the globe, two masked Taliban men stormed onto a school bus in Pakistan and shot a 14-year-old girl in the head who had recently spoken about her desire to be educated and attend school, contrary to the teachings of the Taliban's interpretation of the Quran. Miraculously, the girl is still living, recovering from the gunshot wound to her head. These masked men hunted down this young girl because they felt she had brought shame to her Muslim family and community.



Grace is the opposite of shame. Shame is designed to destroy life and hope. All of us need to watch our words carefully. When we shame another person, we are destroying a part of their soul - even when we say to the other person, "just kidding." Grace, on the other hand, gives life to the other person. When someone makes a mistake, grace insists that we do not jump on them, making their pain worse through shaming comments such as, "I told you so." People of grace help others learn from their mistakes, not drown from condemnation. As Jesus said, "God sent his son into the world not to judge the world, but to save the world through him." (John 3:17) The name Jesus in the original Aramaic means, "God saves." God came to earth not to condemn people, but to rescue them from their mistakes and sin. And, so should we.

Followers of Jesus are called to break the cycles of sin and shame in their own lives, families, neighborhoods and world. Next time you are tempted to use shame, or hear someone else begin to use it, name it for what it is and don't allow it to continue. If shame is not confronted, it can easily become toxic and destroy otherwise precious relationships and families. It can even crescendo into violence and death. It is a subtle, yet deadly tool of the devil.

Praise be to God who has come to earth to break the chains of death and sin. And as the angels said at the birth of Jesus, "Glory to God in highest heaven, and peace on earth to those with whom God is pleased." (Luke 2:14).

Merry Christmas, grace and peace to you, from the McNerney family!

Rev. Dan McNerney, Associate Director, Presbyterian Frontier Fellowship



THANK YOU!

The family of Erna Vondra wants to thank her church family for all their love and continued prayers during her battle with her broken hip and cancer. It was of much comfort to her to know that she was loved so much.



Deacons for the Class of 2015

James Hart
Pam Hobart

Elders for the Class of 2015

Ken Hobart
Steve Broskovak



Be sure to drop in for coffee, maybe a Danish
or cookies and wonderful fellowship on
Thursday mornings at 10:00 a.m.
in Memorial Hall!

Connection Online

If you would like to read the "Connection" newsletter online,
go to our website;

<http://www.presbyterianchurchofbullshoals>

Click on the 'Info Center' tab at the top, then on the drop-
down menu, click on "Presbyterian Connection", then
choose the month of the newsletter you would like to read.
The most recent newsletter will be at the top.

Our church email address

presch@suddenlinkmail.com

WORSHIP IN JANUARY

January 6

Epiphany of the Lord

Isaiah 60:1-6; Psalm 72:1-14
Ephesians 3: 1-12; Matthew 2:1-12

Communion

“Arise”



POT LUCK



January 13

Baptism of the Lord

Isaiah 43:1-7; Psalm 29
Acts 8:14-17; Luke 3: 15-22

Potluck

“Washed”

January 20

2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

Isaiah 62:1-5; Psalm 36:5-10
1 Corinthians 12:1-11; John 2: 1-11

Blessing of the Food Pantry

“Gifts”



January 27

3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

Nehemiah 8:1-10; Psalm 19
1 Corinthians 12: 12-31a; Luke 4: 14-21

“The Word”



CHURCH USHERS AND GREETERS

Greeters

January 6 - Ed & Peni Lloyd
January 13 - Irene Bere & Amy Johnson
January 20 - Ken Hobart & Doc Simons
January 27 - Bob & Gloria Wiles



Ushers

Esther Roberts & Sandy Erickson
Betty Craig & Sandy Erickson
Betty Aaron & Irene Bere
Bill & Mary Kerr

PRAYER LIST FOR CONGREGATIONS, PRESBYTERY OF AR.-2012

January 6 - First, Clarksville
January 13 - Mt. Vernon, Pea Ridge
January 20 - First, Benton
January 27 - Active Deacons



Park Hill, North Little Rock
First, Huntsville
Active Ruling Elders
Faith, Horseshoe Bend

PLEASE NOTIFY PAT ERLEWINE IF YOU KNOW OF ANYONE WHO SHOULD BE ON OUR PRAYER LIST.

BIRTHDAYS

January

January 2 - Dot Pitts
January 9 - Mary Kerr
January 19 - Bob Hobbs
January 19 - Rich Danderson



February

February 21 - Bonnie Monroe
February 27 - Bob Richardson

ANNIVERSARIES

January 7 - James & Terry Hart
January 10 - Frieda & Rich Danderson
January 28 - Ray & Pat Erlewine



February 29 - Pat & Paul Graham

ERNA VONDRA

IN REMEMBRANCE

Erna Vondra was born in Marienhohe, Germany on June 22, 1922. She was one of 10 children. She had 4 brothers and 5 sisters all who died in their teens and early 20's, except for 2 brothers in Germany, who passed away a few years ago. She lost her 1st husband during the war and remarried in 1955. Her 2nd husband, Laddie Vondra wanted to come to "The Land of opportunity". Erna's family finally left Germany and came to America in 1957 with her husband, her mother of 70 years and her 3 children, Eric, the oldest, her daughters Sigrid (deceased Feb. 3, 2010) and Frieda, the youngest. It was hard for Erna to come to a strange country, not knowing the language, leaving her brothers and friends behind, but that is what her husband wanted, a better life for the family. Erna never expected much out of life, only simple things and a clean and comfortable home for her family. She did not like to travel, but enjoyed returning to Germany every once in a while to visit her 2 brothers. She enjoyed staying at home. She loved to cook, sew, crochet and knit for her family. She worked hard when they arrived in America by cleaning factory offices and private homes. It was a way to earn money to help support the family. Erna became a US Citizen on November 12, 1964 and finally felt like she belonged to the United States, her new home, although she never forgot her German heritage. Erna and her family lived in Berwyn, IL for many years. Erna and her husband were very involved in BACA, a Czech music organization made up of mostly men who loved to entertain by playing their favorite instruments, in which her husband played the drums and sang. She loved listening to Czech music and socializing with her friends of that organization. Erna became a widow again on June 7, 1988. Later in life, Erna spoke of Germany and all the hardships she endured during the war, having to flee from the Russians, getting separated from her mother and finding her mother again after many months of fleeing with a toddler in tow. Erna traveled back to Germany several times to visit her brothers and missed them every time her visit ended. Erna moved to Bull Shoals, AR from Brookfield, IL in 2004. Erna never quite got used to the quiet lifestyle in Bull Shoals, AR compared to her city life in the suburb of Chicago. She did learn to love the country music of the Ozarks and enjoyed listening to the music at the Senior Center in Flippin and also at the theater in Bull Shoals. Erna loved her pin and scarf collection which grew with every birthday, Mother's Day and Christmas. Erna was a loving, kind and caring woman who taught her children to be kind, honest and respectful to everyone.

May angels walk with her today and always.





LIBRARY LINES FOR JANUARY 2013

The book of the month is **ENCOUNTERS WITH THE LIVING GOD** by Robert Martin Walker.

"What would it be like to hear Adam and Eve talking about their disobedience in the garden of Eden? If we could hear from Cain, how would he justify the murder of his brother, Abel? How would Moses describe an encounter with God on the verge of entering the Promised Land? This book offers insights into questions such as these.

As we hear the Old Testament characters tell their own deeply human stories of love and hatred, victory and defeat, disobedience and faithfulness, despair and joy, we begin to see them as the real persons they were--and how much like them we are ourselves.

Each character portrayal begins with a Scripture reference and is followed by a brief prayer and questions for reflection and discussion. Character portrayals include Adam and Eve, Noah, Abraham, Sarah, Moses, Naomi and Ruth, David, Bathsheba, Solomon, Jezebel, Esther, Job, Elijah, Daniel, and others."

Enjoy this book and the many others in the library this New Year and a

Happy, Health and Blessed New Year to all!

Faye Brackett, Librarian



MISSION MINUTE

JANUARY-2013



In the wee hours of Thanksgiving morning 2007, while most of us were sleeping, Mariano Lucas hung from the ceiling inside the cargo hold of a box truck in Immokalee, Florida, punching his way through the ventilation hatch. Mariano and a dozen other workers had been held for more than two years against their will, forced to work and deprived wages for harvesting tomatoes. As U.S. Chief Assistant Attorney and Presbyterian Doug Malloy says, "It's slavery, plain and simple."

Right here in the United States, Mariano Lucas and other workers were chained, beaten, and locked in trucks at night in order to deliver cheap produce, not simply to grocery stores and restaurants--but to you and me.

The International Labor Organization estimates that 12.3 million men, women, and children are trafficked worldwide for forced labor. Boys labor in Cote d'Ivoire's cocoa fields. Men slave on fishing trawlers in the seas of Southeast Asia. Women cleaning homes of diplomats are beaten and tortured. Girls are prostituted on the streets of Atlanta. The psalmist cries, "God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble!" These words are both a hope and a prod. Here are a few ways we, God's "hands and feet in our world," are present with and a help to trafficked persons: (1) congregations are participating in the Campaign for Fair Food, initiated by mission partners the Coalition of Immokalee Workers to address modern slavery and exploitive practices in the agricultural industry; (2) presbyteries are working with the Presbyterian Mission Agency Human Trafficking Roundtable to host free one day human trafficking awareness trainings to educate clergy, members of law enforcement, attorneys, and social service professionals; (3) congregations are working with local government and qualified social service agencies to provide housing and support to trafficked persons."

Rev. Noelle Damico, associate for Fair Food, Presbyterian Hunger Program, and member of the General Assembly Human Trafficking Roundtable.

Please visit www.pcusa.org/humantrafficking to learn more about the church's work against human trafficking.

Mission Committee



PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

“O, Come All Ye Faithful. . .”, the Benediction led by our guest, Bette Gebhart of Illinois, was joyfully sung by the 13 faithful ladies who attended our Christmas meeting (the last meeting until March, 2013). (Bette is the sister of Acting Moderator). What a delightful time of warm Christian fellowship, fun and good food. Rev. Terry Hart conducted a lovely Installation Service for the 2013 officers. Congratulations Mary Kerr, Moderator and Treasurer, and Amy Johnson, Vice Moderator and Secretary.

Thanks to Amy for a beautiful devotion and to Vicky Bair and Mary Kerr, hostesses, for the lovely Christmas decorations, the gifts and for a fun Christmas Bingo game . . .and, also, to Mary for her annual eggnog treat—delicious!

Mission Chairperson, Betty Aaron’s annual report will appear in the church’s Annual Report in early 2013. We praise the Lord for what our congregation, along with the support of the community, has done to help others.

By the time you receive this issue of the “Connection” we will have distributed 120 crocheted scarves made by Betty Aaron and Jewel Riley, 120 adult and children’s gloves and 130 knit caps donated by Esther Roberts and Sue Babulski, along with other miscellaneous items, to families being served by the Bull Shoals Food Pantry. Also, 20 Flippin School Headstart children will have received their Christmas presents from our church. Members (men and women) of the church individually “adopted” a child and contributed \$25.00 for the purchase of clothing and a sweet “treat” for each child. Vicky Bair, who has chaired this mission project for several years, and Mary Kerr did ALL the shopping. What a blessing this was! Thank you, Vicky and Mary. Some of the ladies wrapped the gifts, and Vicky delivered them to the school.

We will not be meeting again until March, however, the Co-ordinating Team will be meeting to discuss plans to present to the membership in March.

Special thanks to the 2012 officers and chairpersons: Mary Kerr, Treasurer; Amy Johnson, Secretary; Irene Bere, Acting Moderator; Chairpersons Dot Pitts, Publicity and Betty Aaron, Missions. We are grateful to Rev. Terry for leading our Bible Study classes and for serving as Adviser to the Coordinating Team; to our church family and to the community for their strong support, and to Christi, our church secretary who has graciously helped us in many, many ways month after month.

Ladies, let us pledge our support to the 2013 officers and to PW as we serve our Lord in Bull Shoals and beyond, giving him the glory for whatever we accomplish.

God bless!

Irene Bere, Acting Moderator

Happy New Year!

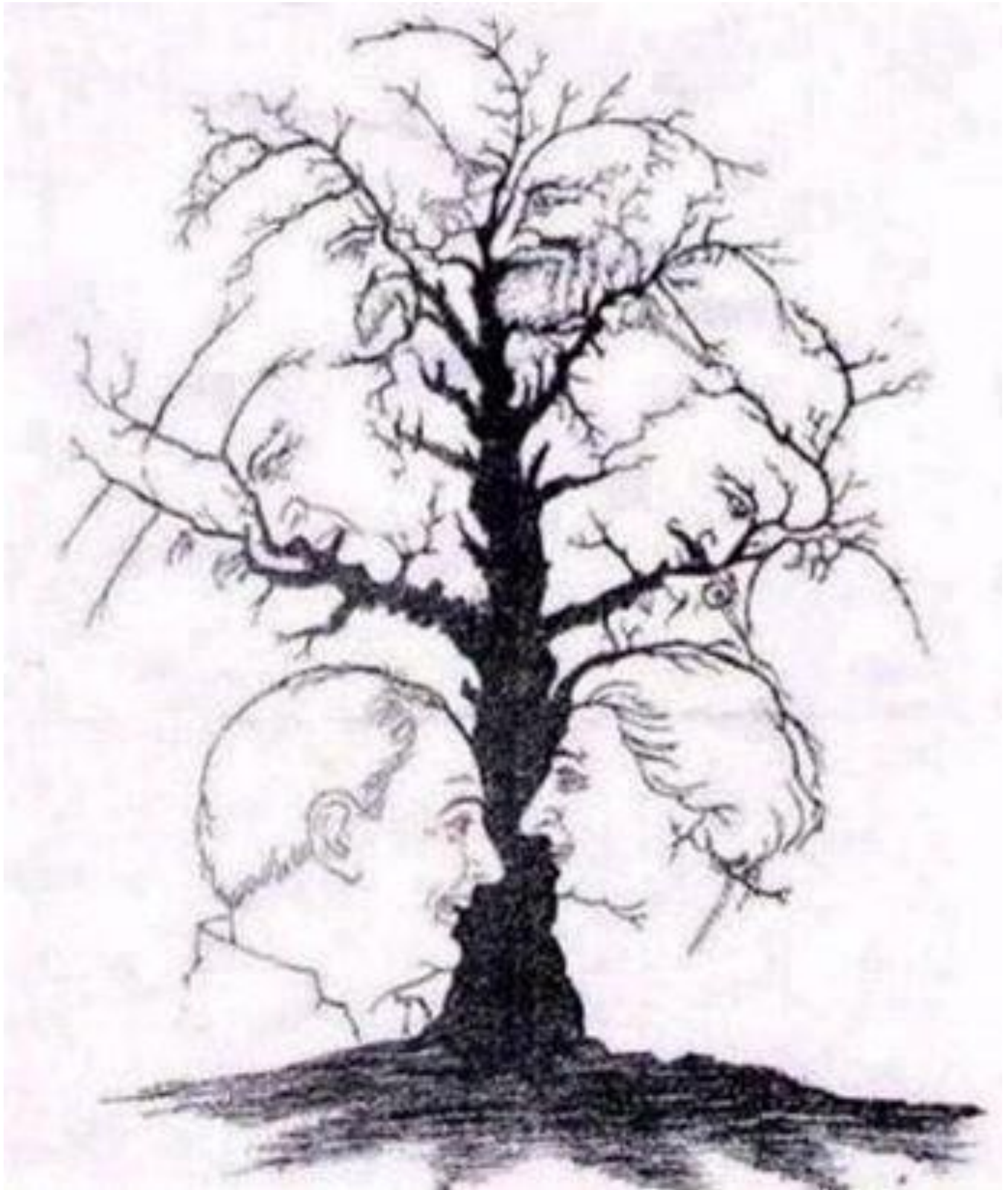


Who You Gonna Call? A Partial List of Who Does What

- Vicky Baer - Clerk of Session & Membership
- Faye Brackett - Missions
- Ken Hobart & Elaine Miller - Treasurer, Personnel & Finance Committees
- Norm Hockley - Evangelism Committee & Thursday Morning Coffee
- Ken Hobart - Church Financial Plan & Investments
- Meg Simon - Worship & Music
- Steve Broskovak - Property (Building and Grounds)
- Terry Hart - Christian Education & Moderator of Session
- Gloria Wiles - Deacon Moderator
- Pat Erlewine - Prayer Chain
- Irene Bere - Acting PW Moderator (temporary)
- Pam Hobart - Memorial Hall

January Puzzle

How Many Faces Can You Find?

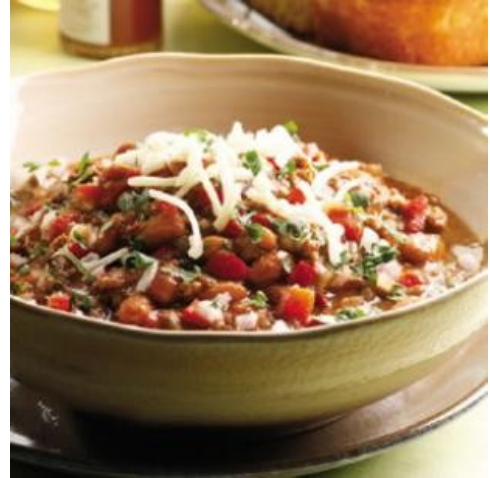


RECIPES

Beef & Bean Chile Verde

Ingredients

- 1 pound 93%-lean ground beef
- 1 large red bell pepper, chopped
- 1 large onion, chopped
- 6 cloves garlic, chopped
- 1 tablespoon chili powder
- 2 teaspoons ground cumin
- 1/4 teaspoon cayenne pepper, or to taste
- 1 16-ounce jar green salsa, green enchilada sauce or taco sauce
- 1/4 cup water
- 1 15-ounce can pinto or kidney beans, rinsed



Directions

Cook beef, bell pepper and onion in a large saucepan over medium heat, crumbling the meat with a wooden spoon, until the meat is browned, 8 to 10 minutes. Add garlic, chili powder, cumin and cayenne; cook until fragrant, about 15 seconds. Stir in salsa (or sauce) and water; bring to a simmer. Reduce heat to medium-low, cover and cook, stirring occasionally, until the vegetables are tender, 10 to 15 minutes. Stir in beans and cook until heated through, about 1 minute.

Makes 4 servings, about 1 1/2 cups each

THIS WE BELIEVE for JANUARY

"...because I know whom I have believed, and am convinced that he is able to guard what I have entrusted to him for that day."
2 Timothy 1:12

~MISSION STATEMENT~

"We will be scripture-based to spread the Gospel of Jesus Christ
and spiritually led to guide all people to be active doers of the Word"

Approved by Session on November 16, 2007

CHURCH STAFF

Interim Pastor: Rev. Terry Hart

Clerk of Session: Vicky Bair, Church Treasurer: Ken Hobart, Secretary: Christi Partee

Financial Secretary: Dick Sass, Asst. Financial Secretary: Elaine Miller

DEACONS

Class of 2013

Ed Lloyd
Gloria Wiles
Pat Erlewine

Class of 2014

Dot Pitts
Sandy Erickson

Class of 2015

James Hart
Pam Hobart

ELDERS

Class of 2013

Vicky Bair
Jini Sass

Class of 2014

Meg Simons
Vacant

Class of 2015

Ken Hobart
Steve Broskovak

Presbyterian Church of Bull Shoals
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