



## Presbyterian 'Connection'

December 2011 Volume 18 Issue 12

*From the Pen of Reverend Terry*

As I prepare to lead the Advent study, "Repentance, Faith, Holiness and Love" I've really been thinking about – well – preparation. Every year the Advent readings focus on the waiting and preparing needed for the arrival of the Messiah. They begin in the Old Testament with words of longing from the prophets, especially from Isaiah. There are passages about the covenants, the promises that God has made with Abraham, David, Jacob on behalf of the Hebrew people and all creation.

Then while all the world is singing Christmas Carols and drinking egg nog, John the Baptist shows up. What is his message, "Peace on earth, good will to men?" Oh no, nothing so socially acceptable and welcome comes from John. He strides into the room screaming, "Repent, prepare ye the way of the Lord."

Repent, turn around, change courses, danger ahead – that is his message. If you keep on doing what you're doing you won't be ready when the Messiah comes. We know he's not talking about getting the gifts wrapped and the cards sent.

I do think he's talking about cleaning house. Not our physical house, but our spiritual house. In the hymn, "Joy to the World" we sing "let every heart prepare him room". How might we make room in our hearts for Christ?

This prayer from Dag Hammarskjold is good place to begin preparing our hearts this Advent season.

*Great and good God, give us pure hearts that we may see you,  
Humble hearts that we may hear you,  
Hearts of love that we may serve you,  
Reverent hearts that we may worship you,  
Here and in the world out there through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*

May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all,

*Terry*

# SUNDAYS IN DECEMBER



**December 4, 2011**

2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Advent

Ruth 2

*Blessing of the Food Pantry*

**Communion**

**"Peace"**



**December 11, 2011**

3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Advent

Ruth 3

*Faith Pot Luck*

*Installation Ordination Service*

**"Joy"**



**December 18, 2011**

4<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Advent

Ruth 4:1-17

*Christmas Joy Offering*

*Minute for Mission*

**Christmas Play**

**"The Baby King"**



**December 24, 2011**

**6:00 p.m. Christmas Eve  
Candlelight and Communion**

Luke 2:1-20

**"Rejoice"**



**December 25, 2011**

**Christmas Day**

Isaiah 52:7-10, Psalm 98,  
Hebrews 1:1-12; John 1:1-14

**"What Child is This?"**

# Thankful

*Thank you for your thoughts, prayers and kindness during this difficult time.*

*From the Family of Donald Bryant*

*Thank you for the lovely salad luncheon. It was delicious!*

*Mary Lou Bryant*

Dear Family and Friends,

Today we received the best news two parents could ever hear, KALEB IS CANCER FREE. we only have to do check up's once a month for infection meds and ANC count, and every three months CT, Bone and MRI test.

We are still in a little shock and trying to recover from this past year, so give us time.

As a special treat to Kaleb for all he has endured this past 11 months, we are taking him to Disneyland and Lego Land over Thanks Giving Vacation, it's a secret and we are so excited to go celebrate with him, he deserves to have fun like a 7.5 year old boy should and live life to it's fullest. to Disneyland.

Our deepest appreciation for all the love, support and prayers we have received this past year, we could of not made it without all of you, but of course the one and all mighty God that we serve and has taken care of us, but mostly Kaleb and protected him this past year.

God Bless,  
Kaleb, Kevin and Trish

Flippin Middle School would like to once again express our sincere appreciation to you for providing us with a Walmart Gift Card to purchase shoes for our students. The \$200 gift from your church along with the matched \$200 from Walmart will enable us to provide several individual students with much needed shoes.

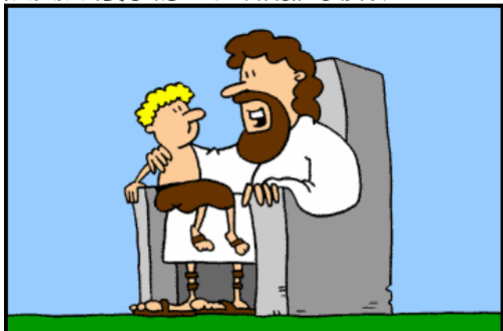
Our school district is indeed fortunate to have a community which supports our students and their education.

With Sincere Thanks,  
Kelvin Hudson, Principal  
Flippin Middle School

**\*\* News!** Pam Stauffer has been hired to fill the role of child advocate at Serenity House. Stauffer has a master's degree in special education and brings 17 yr's of experience teaching & working with families & children. Her goal as child advocate is to meet the mental & physical needs of every child who comes into the shelter by providing them with a safe place to play, discuss their concerns & supply them with a dedicated support system of service providers.

Tiff & Clint Myers are doing very well as per a letter received this month.

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Thanks to Christopher Huffman 12-24-1998  
HOW ABOUT IF INSTEAD OF GIVING YOU  
EVERYTHING THAT YOU THINK YOU WANT FOR  
CHRISTMAS I GIVE YOU WHAT YOU NEED?



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!

## Baked Potato Roundup

Our “Baked Potato Bash” was held on Saturday, October, 22nd, from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. It was clockwork perfect from our first meeting September 6th at 10 o'clock to the finalized meeting on October 10th.

Friday morning was a busy one for all volunteers. Some were decorating the hall, others were washing, greasing, wrapping 224 plus, huge potatoes. Our toppings were cut, wrapped & refrigerated, ready for Saturday afternoon, all by 11:30 a.m.

Saturday afternoon at 1:30 p.m., all arrived back in the kitchen for our last minute preparation. Baked Potatoes had arrived, ready to go. Thank you to all ladies who volunteered to take potatoes home to bake.

Our cake table was beautifully decorated. There were so many varieties it was hard to choose. Our drink table with lemonade, ice tea, water, were all ready for our guest. Hot coffee was brewing (thanks to our men volunteers), and smelling so good.

We were all ready to welcome our first guest to enjoy a huge potato and trimmings, complete with desert & drink.

What a wonderful day we had, to be able to fellowship with our community, as good time, laughter, and a full tummy was had by all. We had 23 volunteers. A big thanks to Norm Hockley, our top ticket seller.

Thanks to all and to all our men & women!

Chair - Jini Sass



# Membership

Please join us in welcoming new members: Frieda and Richard (Rich) Danderson, Sue Babulski, and Mary Lou Bryant.

In other membership news, we recently received a letter from First Presbyterian Church of Yellville for a letter of transfer for Jean Hoefer. Session approved the request at the Session meeting on October 18, 2011. May God bless them and their new church home. We will miss them.

## Want to Become a Member?

If you'd like to become a member of Bull Shoals Presbyterian Church, contact Terry Hart or one of the elders on session, (the council elected to lead the church). Any of us will be glad to meet with you at your convenience.

As a member of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), we recognize all baptisms with water in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. This applies to baptisms by other Presbyterian congregations and by other Christian churches. We welcome everyone who trusts in God's grace in Jesus Christ and desires to become a part of the fellowship and ministry of his church. There are two ways to become an active church member, by;

1. Public profession of faith, made after meeting with the session. The purpose of the meeting is to hear your profession of faith, to explain what it means to be a member, and to answer any questions you might have. If you have not previously been baptized, then we'll make arrangements for your baptism at this time.
2. Transfer of letter, also known as 'certificate of transfer'. If you are a member of another Christian church, then the session will request a certificate of transfer from your current church.

As the commercial says, membership has its privileges. **Active members are allowed to vote in congregational meetings and may be elected to serve as an elder or deacon.**

There are two categories of membership. Baptized members and affiliate members may participate in the life of the church in every way as an active member **except** for voting at congregational meetings and becoming an elder or deacon.

A baptized member is someone who has been baptized, in this congregation or elsewhere, and has been enrolled as a baptized member, but has not made a profession of faith in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior. An example of a baptized member would be someone who was baptized as an infant but who has not been through confirmation class. An affiliate member is a member of another church who wants to have a formal relationship with our congregation.

## CHURCH USHERS AND GREETERS

### Greeters

December 4 - Irene Bere & Fred Taylor  
 December 11 - Irene Bere & Norm Hockley  
 December 18 - Faye Brackett & Betty Aaron  
 December 24 - Pam & Ken Hobart  
 December 25 - Bob & Arabella Richardson



USHERS & GREETERS

### Ushers

December 4 - Betty Craig & Dick Sass  
 December 11 - Mary Ann & Paul Smith  
 December 18 - Frieda & Rich Danderson  
 December 24 - Communion at Alter  
 December 25 - Betty Aaron & Mary Lou Bryant

## PRAYER LIST FOR CONGREGATIONS, PRESBYTERY OF AR.-2011

December 4 - Laotian Ministry, Fort Smith  
 December 11 - Memorial Church, Atkins  
 December 18 - Kirk of the Hills, Fairfield Bay  
 December 25 - First Clarksville



First, Stuttgart  
 First Walnut, Ridge  
 One-O-One Church, Gamaliel  
 Park Hill, North Little Rock

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

## BIRTHDAYS

### December

December 4 - Tiffani Colmenero  
 December 5 - Betty Hobbs  
 December 6 - Shirley Lowe  
 December 11 - Jewel Riley  
 December 15 - Susan Nixon



### January

January 2 - Dot Pitts  
 January 2 - Sandra Dockham  
 January 8 - Frank Docauer  
 January 9 - Mary Kerr  
 January 12 - Samantha Colmenero  
 January 19 - Bob Hobbs  
 January 26 - Eric Meyers  
 January 29 - Bill Jeffrey

## ANNIVERSARIES

December 30 - Bob & Gloria Wiles



January 6 - James & Terry Hart  
 January 28 - Ray & Pat Erlewine





## LIBRARY LINES FOR DECEMBER 2011

The Christmas books, videos and music cassettes are now displayed on the book cart in the children's library. The children's Christmas books and videos are displayed on the top shelf of the bookcase in the children's library. Please take some time to enjoy these joyful and inspiring Christmas books. The following is a list of three Christmas books you might enjoy:

THE GLORY OF CHRISTMAS is a book of inspirational writings from Charles Swindoll, Max Lucado, and Charles Colson,

A COVINGTON CHRISTMAS by Joan Medlicott:

"The new pastor in Covington discovers that the pastor from forty years ago was never ordained, and was therefore not qualified to marry anyone! With five long-standing marriages thrown into crisis, it's decided that the couples absolutely must remarry on Christmas Eve." and;

HOMESPUN CHRISTMAS is a book of four novellas: "For the good citizens of Hope, Washington, the future appears hopeless--until a small boy's crazy idea for a *Homespun Christmas* begins to turn things around."

Enjoy the Christmas books and videos.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all.



Faye Brackett, Librarian



## From Presbyterian Women (PW)

All women of the church - members and friends - are automatically members of PW and are cordially invited to our last meeting of the year on Mon., Dec., 5th at 11:30 a.m (breakfast or lunch) at the Village Wheel. Ada Jeffrey will be offering the Devotions. We will decide to which missions to allocate profits from the Oct. Baked Potato Bash. Our thanks and appreciation to Jini Sass for her dedicated and strong leadership of our wonderful, successful Bash fundraiser. Her "wrap-up" article appears in this issue. Hostesses Vicky Bair and Irene Bere have planned a Christmas game to enjoy. We continue to collect non-perishable items for the local food pantry at our monthly meetings. PLEASE SIGN THE RESERVATION SHEET POSTED IN THE CHURCH OFFICE ON OR BEFORE SUN., DEC. 4TH.

At the Nov. 6th meeting 2012 officers were elected. Congratulations, best wishes and our thanks to Moderator Ada Jeffrey, Vice Moderator Pam Hobart, Secretary Amy Johnson and Treasurer Mary Kerr! We look forward to what plans and surprises they and the Lord have in store for us!

We have had a wonderful response to the annual Flippin Headstart Christmas Project - We were given 20 needy children's names and all the names have been taken! Thank you! Thank you! We've been in this heartwarming project for about 30 years. The last few years it's been difficult finding the t-shirts, underwear, socks and a Christmas book at our stores. We are grateful to Vicky Bair, Chairperson, and Mary Kerr who volunteered to research stores for items and prices and offered to purchase all the items for us. The cost per child: \$25.00. Watch for the date in early December when we will be wrapping gifts at church. Vicky will be delivering the wrapped gifts to the school shortly thereafter.

PW Bible Study, "Confessing the Beatitudes", was completed on Nov. 17th and drew many women weekly. Thanks, Rev. Terry, for leading this Study! The next PW Study will be announced shortly.

Best Choice Code Bars Fundraiser-Please continue to collect them and deposit in the appropriate folder in the church office. About 200 more are needed and we will have another 1,000 to send to Best Choice. We received \$60.00 earlier this year for Code Bars sent to the company. Esther Roberts has expressed her thanks for the ongoing church-wide participation in this project.

On Sat., Dec., 17th some of our women will be joining Betty Aaron, Mission Chairperson, in the Methodist Church Fellowship Hall to give out the 269 neck scarves we made during the year and the 100 pairs of children and adult gloves donated by Esther Roberts for Food Pantry clients as they pick up their Christmas baskets. What a blessing it has been in the past to witness the joy and appreciation of these folks as they received knit caps we had made.

Ladies we invite you to join us for fellowship and fun at our Dec. 5th meeting. Please sign up!

On behalf of PW, the Coordinating Team thanks our very special church family for the exceptional, loving support received throughout the year, and wishes for each of you the hope, joy and peace of Christmas this season and always,

*Irene Bere*  
Moderator

*Pam Hobart*  
Vice Moderator

*Jean Lyon*  
Secretary

*Mary Kerr*  
Treasurer

*Betty Aaron*  
Missions

*Dot Pitts*  
Publicity



## Holidays 2011 -- Gifts That Help the Local Economy

**This year, give the gift of genuine concern for your community. Everyone -- yes EVERYONE gets their hair cut. How about gift certificates from your local hair salon or barber?**

**Gym membership? It's appropriate for all ages who are thinking about some health improvement.**

**Who wouldn't appreciate getting their car detailed? Small, owned detail shops and car washes would love to sell you a gift certificate or a book of gift certificates. Perhaps the grateful gift receiver would like his driveway sealed, or lawn mowed for the summer, or driveway plowed all winter, or games at the local golf course. There are a several owner-run restaurants -- all offering gift certificates. And, if your intended isn't the fancy eatery sort, what about a half dozen breakfasts at the local breakfast joint.**

**How many people couldn't use an oil change for their car, truck or motorcycle, done at a shop run by the local working guy?**

**Thinking about a heartfelt gift for mom? Mom would LOVE the services of a local cleaning lady for a day.**

**My computer could use a tune-up, and I KNOW I can find some young guy who is struggling to get his repair business up and running.**

**OK, you were looking for something more personal. Local crafts people spin their own wool and knit them into scarves. They make jewelry, and pottery and beautiful wooden boxes.**

**Plan your holiday outings at local, owner operated restaurants and leave your server a nice tip. And, how about going out to see a play or ballet at your hometown theatre.**

**Musicians need love too, so find a venue showcasing local bands.**

**This holiday show you care about your community.**



# MISSION MINUTE

DECEMBER-2011

*Submitted by Faye Brackett*



## WHAT IS THE CHRISTMAS JOY OFFERING?

A cherished Presbyterian tradition since the 1930's, the Christmas Joy Offering is one of the four special offerings designated by the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). Because Advent and Christmas shine a light not only on our world's greatest hope but also on our world's greatest need, the PC (USA) provides this timely opportunity for congregations to support causes specifically designed to bring *Good News of Great Joy* to the poor in circumstance or spirit. Alongside the message of promise and fulfillment in Luke's gospel, we also hear the clear call to God's people to respond in faith as Christ calls us:

"From everyone to whom much has been given, much will be required; and from the one to whom much has been entrusted, even more will be demanded". (*Luke 12:48*)

Undesignated gifts to the Christmas Joy Offering will be distributed equally to the Assistance Program of the Board of Pensions and to support student scholarships at Presbyterian-related racial ethnic schools and colleges.

### Presbyterian Church (USA)

We will start the Joy Offering collections on Nov. 27 through Dec. 18<sup>th</sup>. The offering envelopes will be found in the pews. Please take time to read the Bulletin Board where there will be more information.

We will also have the Christmas Card Tree again this year with the money you would have spent on cards to be donated to the Food Pantry. Be sure and mark your donations to "The Christmas Card Tree" which will be located in the Narthex.

Have a very blessed Christmas and New Year,

From the Mission Committee.

**We Wish You All a Very Blessed Christmas!**



## **MEET OUR NEW MEMBERS**

### **Rich and Frieda Danderson**

**Rich was born in Gary, IN. He is one of four children. His father worked for the railroad which had the family moving from IN to many places on the West Coast. Rich loved traveling and learning about and seeing many places along the way. He missed not being able to stay in one home for any length of time and also having to leave friends he had met. Rich served his country 4-1/2 years in the Air Force as a jet engine mechanic and was stationed in Japan for 1-1/2 years and in Korea for 6 months. After the service he worked in the vending industry for 25 years and then retired in 2002.**

**Frieda was born in Germany and was 10 years old when her family came to America. She is one of three children. Frieda became a U.S. citizen on Feb. 21, 1967. Chicago, IL., was her home for most of her life until coming to AR. in 2002 when Rich retired. She worked as an Executive Administrative Asst., to the President of an advertising specialty company for 15 years and also for the Vice President of Sales, Agency Development & Marketing of a major cross-country moving company.**

**Rich & Frieda have been married for 42 years this January 2012. They have 2 sons and 2 granddaughters. They especially miss the grandchildren, who live in IL., but try to visit as often as possible. Rich and Frieda enjoy swimming in the summer, walking and were avid bike riders in IL; not here...too many hills! They enjoy gardening, playing board games and just keeping busy with projects around the house.**

## Bible Puzzle for December



### Christmas Decorations Word Search

Can you find all the Christmas words hidden in the puzzle?

B	E	T	S	C	D	D	W	N	E	M	W	O	N	S	P	Q
T	B	M	X	Q	A	T	S	A	P	J	B	O	W	S	B	Y
S	T	Y	R	M	W	N	N	T	F	G	T	K	M	K	W	S
T	T	T	V	L	J	G	D	D	N	L	Z	X	C	N	I	R
A	J	I	M	Q	E	O	B	Y	R	E	I	N	V	E	F	N
R	N	V	S	L	R	E	S	T	C	E	M	G	G	F	Y	J
S	E	I	S	F	C	S	E	I	I	A	E	A	H	Z	A	Y
D	E	T	R	T	H	A	L	N	D	I	N	D	N	T	T	Z
F	R	A	G	T	M	L	B	S	J	S	M	E	N	R	S	Z
V	T	N	A	C	J	X	U	E	Y	C	R	Y	S	I	O	C
I	K	E	R	T	M	Y	A	L	L	R	L	L	L	D	E	J
N	R	J	L	Z	M	F	B	W	L	E	I	P	E	L	I	R
W	P	I	A	R	E	K	C	A	R	C	T	U	N	S	O	O
F	X	H	N	Y	U	G	P	O	Q	H	S	A	N	T	A	H
Q	U	M	D	P	T	R	E	G	N	E	C	T	N	H	D	T
S	T	O	C	K	I	N	G	S	S	L	L	E	B	I	Q	S
H	O	R	E	G	N	S	S	L	E	I	G	H	U	Z	O	I

ANGELS  
BAUBLES  
BELLS  
BOWS  
CANDYCANES  
CRECHE  
GARLAND  
HOLLY  
LIGHTS  
NATIVITY  
NUTCRACKER  
ORNAMENTS  
REINDEER  
TREE  
SANTA  
SLEIGH  
SNOWMEN  
STARS  
STOCKINGS  
TINSEL  
WREATHS







# Recipe

Submitted by Amy Johnson

Apple Pudding (Cake)

8x8 dish

9 servings

(double for 9x13)

3/4 cup white flour

1/4 cup whole wheat flour (or 1 c. all white flour)

1 cup gran. Sugar

1 tsp. Cinnamon

1/8 tsp. Salt

1 tsp. Baking SODA

1 cup chopped pecans or walnuts

#####

1/2 cup melted butter (or 1/4 cup butter + 1/4 cup applesauce)

2 beaten eggs

2 1/2 cups chopped apples – jonathan or golden delicious are good

1 tsp. pure vanilla extract

#####

1/2 pint heavy whipping cream (8oz)

2 T. gran. Sugar

In mixing bowl, mix all dry ingredients. In another, mix the wet ingredients then combine, using spatula to stir. Pour into a greased 8 x 8 baking dish. Bake at 350 for 35-45 minutes, testing for doneness in center. Don't overbake. In meantime, using cold beaters and a small bowl, beat cream with 2 T sugar till stiff peaks form. Serve pudding warm with a big dollop of whipped cream.

Old family recipe; can sub chopped dates for apples. Amy Johnson

# RECIPES

## **Apple and Pear Crisp**

Submitted by Pam Hobart

*Great for Diabetics!*

### **Ingredients**

- 1/2 cup all purpose flour
- 2 tablespoons dark brown sugar
- 1/4 teaspoon ground cinnamon
- 1 pinch ground nutmeg
- 4 tablespoons cold, unsalted butter, cut into pieces



### **Filling**

- 4 large Macintosh or other tart apples
- 3 ripe Bartlett or Anjou Pears
- 2 tablespoons SPLENDA - Granular
- 3 tablespoons Apple Juice Concentrate

### **Directions:**

- Preheat the oven to 400 degrees. Lightly butter a deep 2 to 2 1/2 quart baking dish. Set aside.
- Prepare Topping: Pour flour, brown sugar, Splenda - Granular, cinnamon & nutmeg into a medium mixing bowl. Stir well. Add butter and mix with an electric mixer, using the paddle attachment, until the topping is crumbly or sandy in texture. Set aside.
- Prepare Filling: Peel, core and thickly slice the apples and pears. Place them in the buttered baking dish. The fruit should be at least 2 & 1/2 inches deep in the pan. Add more fruit, if necessary. Add SPLENDA - Granular and apple juice concentrate. Toss until coated. Cover with the topping.
- Bake in the preheated oven 40 to 50 minutes or until fruit is tender and the topping has browned.
- Serve warm with low fat vanilla frozen yogurt.

*If you have a recipe that you have tried before and believe others might enjoy it , please drop it off at the office to be included in the next month's newsletter.*



THIS WE BELIEVE for DECEMBER

"For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor,  
Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace"  
Isaiah 9:6

**~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: Peni Lloyd  
Financial Secretary: Dick Sass, Asst. Financial Secretary: Elaine Miller

**DEACONS**

**Class of 2011**

Betty Aaron  
Sandy Erickson  
Bill Kerr

**Class of 2012**

James Hart  
Pam Hobart

**Class of 2013**

Ed Lloyd  
Gloria Wiles  
Pat Erlewine

**ELDERS**

**Class of 2011**

Peni Lloyd  
Mary Kerr

**Class of 2012**

Norm Hockley  
Ken Hobart

**Class of 2013**

Vicky Bair  
Jini Sass

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