

PUBLISHED MONTHLY BY:  
**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF FLINT**  
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COMMUNITY MINISTRY: LISA HORNE

## SERVE MISSION

### Christmas is for Children

By Andy Armstrong

We are entering the season of Advent with all that it means to us as Christians. We are also preparing for Christmas. I unabashedly love Christmas. It is a child's time of year, whether it be the Christ child, children at our Neighborhood Christmas Dinner, or children on Christmas morning. For me, Christmas is about children. After all, Jesus tells us that the Kingdom of Heaven is about being like and welcoming children. Matthew 18:3-5

I typically don't open emails that are forwarded to me but with Christmas coming, when I received one about children's letters to God I wanted to read it. I loved it. Here are a few of the letters. I didn't change any of the grammatical or spelling errors. They are part of the charm.

*Dear God,  
 If you watch in Church on Sunday I will show you my new shoes.*

*Dear God,  
 I bet it is very hard for you to love everybody in the whole world There are only 4 people in our family and I can never do it.*

*Dear God,  
 Instead of Letting people die and haveing to Make new ones Why don't you just keep the ones you got now?*

*Dear God,  
 In bible times did they really talk that fancy?*

*Dear God,  
 We read Thos. Edison made light. But in Sun. School They said you did it. So I bet he stoled your idea.*

*Dear God,  
 I think about you sometimes even when I'm not praying.*

Also, within each of us there is a child. As adults, we have built layers over that inner-child, many of them scars from life's hurts. If Christmas is about children then, so is life and the Kingdom of Heaven. When we nurture children, we also nurture the child in each of us. There is healing power in that.

Have a blessed Christmas,

The Staff and Volunteers at the Gerholz Center

# The Messenger

December 2008 Volume 60, Number 12



## Advent & Christmas Calendar

November 30	1 <sup>st</sup> Sunday of Advent 9:30am Worship	Hope
December 3	Advent Communion Service 6:15pm Worship	Living by Hope
December 6	Women's Christmas Luncheon 11:00am	Christmas Around the World
December 7	2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent 9:30 am Worship	Good News for Bad Times
December 10	Advent Communion Service 6:15pm Worship	Living in Peace
December 14	3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent 9:30am Worship Chicken Dinner 11:30am-2:30pm	Joyful Preparation in Difficult Circumstances
December 14	Feast of Carols 4:00pm	Christmas Concert
December 16	Neighborhood Christmas Dinner 4:00pm to 7:00pm	
December 17	Advent Communion Service 6:15pm Worship	Living with Joy
December 21	4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent 9:30am Worship	God Surprises Us
December 24	Christmas Eve Services 5:00, 7:30, & 10:00pm	Lessons and Carols Communion

*Engaged by Christ's love to invite, worship, nurture, and serve.*

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### POINTS OF INTEREST

Worship: Sundays, 9:30am

Website: [www.fpcf.org](http://www.fpcf.org)

### Church Office Closed

The church office will be closed on **Thursday, December 25** and **Friday, December 26** for Christmas and on **Thursday, January 1st** and **Friday, January 2nd** for New Year's. Have a happy and safe holiday.

### Order Your Poinsettias

The Christmas Poinsettias enhance the beauty of the Sanctuary during the Advent and Christmas season. We invite you to contribute to this beauty by memorializing or honoring a friend or family member with a poinsettia gift. Stop by the Welcome Desk to order your poinsettia. After decorating the church, the poinsettias are taken to shut-ins by the Deacons to spread the joy of our Christmas Eve service with those who could not attend.

For information on giving a Musical gift, please see page 3.

Postmaster: Send Address Change to:  
 First Presbyterian Church of Flint  
 746 S. Saginaw St.  
 Flint, MI 48502

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## Church Register

## Deaths

Renie Francke of Flint (wife of Chet Francke) deceased on August 27, 2008.  
 Mary Gross of Lake Leelanau, MI (mother of Nancy Plummer) deceased on November 9, 2008.  
 Sylvia Fraser of Flint (mother of Colleene Daly) deceased on November 17, 2008.  
 Richard Jenkins of Flint (father of Linda Gibbs) deceased on November 22, 2008.

## Gifts

To the Memorial Fund in memory of **Marilyn Truran** by Elizabeth Rossell; in memory of **Ruth Elder** and **Eileen Evans** by John and Dorothy Stout; in memory of **Renie Francke** by John and Dorothy Stout and Jim and Barbara Bird.

To the Music Fund in memory of **Renie Francke** by Ann Trovillion-Timm and Larry Timm.

To the Gerholz Christian Counseling Ministry Fund in memory of **Andy Avant** by Kathleen Robinson.

To the Children's Music Enrichment Fund in memory of **Renie Francke** by Charles and Kaye Hollitt.

To the Congregational Care Fund in memory of **Laura Schautz** (mother-in-law of Frankie Bonner) by Don and Dee Lada.

To the Stopples-Muyskens Christian Education Fund in memory of **Renie Francke** by Jim and Margaret Bruce.

To the Bishop Class Stained Glass Window Fund in memory of **Mary Gross** by the Bishop Class.

## Thank You

I wish to thank all those who acknowledged the passing of my beloved mother-in-law, Laura Bonner Schautz, on October 24, 2008. As I may have shared, Laura was a mother to me in every sense of word, and it was a privilege to be at her side when she needed me. You may have prayed, sent a card, shared your condolences in person, or made a gift in her name and I want you all to know that everything you did was just what we needed. As for me, I am humbled by your compassion, generosity and love. May the Lord, our God bless you and yours with everything you need this Christmas season.

*Frankie*

## December Calendar of Events

## WORSHIP SERVICES &amp; SUNDAY EDUCATION CLASSES

Adult Church School, Sundays, 11:00am  
 Children's and Youth Education, Sundays, 10:45am  
 Christmas Eve Worship, Wednesday, December 24, 5:00pm, 7:30pm, & 10:00pm, Sanctuary  
 Advent Communion Service, Wednesdays, 6:15pm, Chapel  
 New Year's Eve Worship, Wednesday, December 31, 6:30pm, Chapel  
 Sunday Family Worship, Sundays, 9:30am, Sanctuary  
 Radio Broadcast, Sundays, 9:30am, WSNL 600am

## BIBLE STUDY/ENRICHMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Men's Bible Study, Saturdays, 8:00am, Rm 129  
 Women's Bible Study, Wednesdays, 10:30am, Rm 129  
 Women's Bible Study, Thursdays, 9:15am, Rm 211  
 Women's Bible Study, Thursdays, 9:45am, Rm 207

## EVENTS/ACTIVITIES

Chicken Dinner, Sunday, December 14, 11:30am, Offsite  
 Christmas Club Pipe, Saturday, December 13, 7:00pm, Pipe  
 Christmas Tea for Shut-ins, Thursday, December 11, 2:00pm  
 Feast of Carols, Sunday, December 14, 4:00pm, Sanctuary  
 Neighborhood Christmas Dinner, Tuesday, December 16, 4:00pm, PH  
 Salem Housing, Saturday, December 13, 8:30am, Offsite  
 Women's Christmas Luncheon, Saturday, December 6, 11:00am, MP and Narthex

## MEETINGS

Administration Team, Monday, December 15, 5:00pm, MP  
 Benevolence, Thursday, December 18, 5:00pm, OCR  
 Budget Team, Tuesday, December 2, 5:00pm, RM 029  
 Children's Ministry, Thursday, December 11, 6:00pm, RR  
 Choir Officers, Tuesday, December 2, 5:30pm, OCR  
 Christmas Dinner Team, Monday, December 8, 11:00am, OCR  
 Communication Task Force, Mondays, 4:00pm, OCR  
 Computer Tech Team, Monday, December 8, 5:00pm, Rm 129  
 Congregational Care, Tuesday, December 9, 4:00pm, OCR  
 Deacon's Team, Tuesday, December 9, 6:30pm, Rm 129  
 Grief Recovery, Tuesday, December 23, 1:30pm, MP  
 Grief Support, Tuesday, December 9, 1:30pm, MP  
 MFA Team, Tuesday, December 9, 4:30pm, MP  
 Presbytery, Tuesday, December 2, 9:30am, Midland  
 School of Choirs, Tuesday, December 16, 7:00pm, MP  
 Trustee Board, Tuesday, December 16, 5:00pm, RM 129  
 Trustee B & G, Tuesday, December 16, 5:30pm, RM 129  
 Trustee Finance, Tuesday, December 16, 5:30pm, RM 129  
 Women's Ministry, Tuesday, December 2, 6:30pm, RM 129

## Nurture Mission

## XYZ

## Day Trip to Detroit Institute of Arts

Monday, March 16<sup>th</sup>

See special exhibit:  
 American Chronicles: The Art of Norman Rockwell from 10:00am -12:30pm; lunch at the Institute Café and then on to Pewabic Pottery Store.  
 Cost is \$62.00 per person which includes motor coach transportation, admission to DIA & Norman Rockwell Exhibit, \$10.00 lunch voucher and stop at Pewabic Pottery Store. Your payment is your reservation, payment due no later than Feb. 16, 2009. Limit 30 seats.

## Spring Trip to Azalea Festival in Norfolk, Virginia

April 29- May 4, 2009

Enjoy the fabulous pageantry of Norfolk's Azalea Festival parade from your reserved seat. Cost is \$694.00 per person and includes:

- Spirit of Norfolk Dinner Cruise with entertainment
- Reserved seats for Azalea Festival Grand Parade
- Norfolk Naval Base Tour
- Norfolk Botanical Gardens Tram Tour
- Hampton Roads Naval Museum
- USS Wisconsin Battleship
- NATOfest Activities
- Virginia International Tattoo Show
- Visit to Waterside Complex
- Tour of Colonial Williamsburg
- Evening Entertainment

To make your reservation, make a deposit of \$100.00 payable to First Presbyterian Church and mail to Lee Doll.

## The Creation Museum in Cincinnati, Ohio

June 10-11, 2009

The Creation Museum is a the state-of-the-art, 70,000 square foot museum that brings the pages of the Bible to life, casting its characters and animals in dynamic form and placing them in familiar settings. Adam and Eve live in the Garden of Eden. Children play and dinosaurs roam near Eden's Rivers. The serpent coils cunningly in the Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil. Majestic murals, great masterpieces brimming with pulsating colors and details, provide a backdrop for many of the settings. Cost is \$219.00 per person and includes transportation, overnight lodging at Holiday Inn, Admission to Creation Museum & Planetarium, 5 course family style Italian dinner at Buca di Beppo and an explore and shop at Cabella's on our way home. To make your reservation you need a deposit of \$75.00, check made payable to First Presbyterian Church and mail to Lee Doll. Limit of 30 seats.

## "Pay it Forward" All Year Long

By Frankie Bonner, RN

"Pay It Forward" is a concept portrayed in the novel of the same name, by author Catherine Ryan Hyde. Her book tells the story of 12 year old Trevor McKinney who takes the extra credit assignment given to him by his teacher and changes the lives of others for the better. His teacher asks the class to come up with an idea of their own that could change the world. Trevor's idea is simple: Do a favor for someone that they can't do by themselves, without the expectation of being paid back. Then ask the recipient to pay it forward by doing favors for three other people.

The novel was released in 1999 and the story was so compelling that Warner Bros. released a movie in October of 2000. Even recently, the impact of "Trevor's" idea to change the world is still expanding exponentially across the globe. The author has created a "Pay It Forward" foundation to promote the concept in schools and around the world. A man named Anthony DeGiulio, while watching a "60 Minutes" TV program, decided to start a "pay it forward" live kidney donor program. The result? To date, 8 people have received kidneys that they may otherwise never have been donated.

During this Advent and Christmas Season, if the Lord has blessed you with sufficient food, shelter, clothing, health care and income; know that it isn't possible to pay it back. Instead consider paying it forward. There are numerous ways to do that right here in Genesee County from our own neighborhood meals to Crossover Ministry and beyond. If you want to increase your "payment" on a global scale, take a look at the World Vision, Heifer International, and Samaritan's Purse gift catalogs. You can pay it forward with everything from clean water wells, to flocks of chickens; from health care to housing. The scriptures and our Christian faith tradition give us many examples of paying it forward. Now is the time to put the concept into practice.



*"Every Good and Perfect Gift is From Above, Coming Down From the Father..."*  
 James 1:17

## Chicken Dinner

Enjoy fellowship with fellow church members while having a famous Battiste Chicken Dinner at the Masonic Temple on **Sunday, December 14th from 11:30am-2:30pm**. Invite your friends! All profits go to support the Deacons Outreach Ministry. Tickets are available at the Welcome Desk, at the church office, or from a Deacon.

## Youth Ministry

**Sundays at the Pipe:****Neighborhood Breakfast at 8:00am**

Looking for a great opportunity to serve others? Join us for the neighborhood breakfast each Sunday morning in the Parish Hall.

**Corporate Worship at 9:30am**

This is a great opportunity to worship God in an authentic setting. Join us for great music, teaching and community worship.

**Good Morning Pipers at 10:45am in the Pipe**

This is a time for fellowship with others in the Pipe. We will have donuts, music, videos and games.

**Educational Hour at 11:00am-12:00pm**

Senior High students will meet in the Green room of the Pipe. Junior High students will meet in the Pipe class room.

**Chapel Choir at 5:45 – 6:45pm**

We meet every Sunday in the choir room on the second floor.

**Pipe at 7:00 – 8:30pm**

Join us each week for a time of food, fellowship, music, videos and relevant teaching. Our theme for the year is “What does it mean to be a follower of Christ?”

**Wednesdays at the Pipe**

Pipe Praise Band Practice is in the Pipe

Junior High, 5:30 – 7:00pm

Senior High, 7:00 – 9:00pm

Advent Communion Service in the Chapel at 6:15pm.

Junior High Ladies Small Group, 6:15 – 7:30pm in the Pipe Green Room with Janeen Reigle.

**Sr. High Ladies Small Group** meets on Saturdays at 1:00pm at Borders with Kim Skaff.

**Youth Team Meeting** meets on December 6th from 10:30am – 12:30pm in the Pipe.

If anyone has a pool table they would like to give to the Youth Ministry, please contact Jim Pope or the church office.

**Salem Housing**

We meet on the second Saturday of each month from 8:30am-12:30pm. This month, we meet on **December 13th**.

**Christmas Club Pipe**

Join us for a great dinner, the annual Pipe awards, and great music and dance on **December 13th**. Cost is \$10.00 and it is semi-formal attire. It all begins at 7:00pm.

**Neighborhood Christmas Dinner & gift giveaway**

Work with our neighborhood friends. We will be serving a Christmas dinner and allowing the families to shop. We will be taking pictures, working with the children in making crafts. We will also be handing out mittens.

**New Year's Eve Party**

Join us as we bring in the New Year together. We will be having a progressive New Year's Eve party. Join us for food, games and a lot of surprises.

**Passing the Peace**

By Frankie Bonner, RN

*“The Peace” – A time to exchange with one another, by words and gesture, a sign of peace and reconciliation. “The Greeting” – The peace of Christ be with you. “The Response” – And also with you.*

In worship today, it is customary for us to exchange a sign of peace by shaking hands with all those around us, and by the above noted verbal exchange. Passing the peace is directly taken from the Book of Order with the intent of acknowledging God's concern for the events in our daily lives, and giving members of the community in worship an appropriate way to express concern for one another and for their ministry in the world.

Handshaking is not always a comfortable exchange for those whose immunity is weakened by illness or medication, those who may not want to expose others to an illness, or those whose arthritis may make a handshake painful. When you find this is the case, choose an alternative greeting. One we can suggest is crossing your arms on your chest and verbally passing the peace greeting on. However you choose to pass the peace, remember this is why God the Father sent his Son into the world, to reconcile us to Him and to one another and to give us the peace that only He can give which is too magnificent for words.

**Women's Chorus****January 15 and 18**

Women of the church (6<sup>th</sup> grade – adult) are invited to join the women of the Chancel Choir for a special anthem on Sunday, January 18<sup>th</sup>. Rehearsal will be held on Thursday the 15<sup>th</sup>. A soup and salad dinner will be served beginning at 6:00 followed by rehearsal in the Choir room 7:00 – 9:00. Cost for dinner is \$7.50 p/p All women are invited! Participate in this special opportunity!

## Music Ministry Meeting

The Music and Fine Arts Ministry is seeking input and feedback from parents. We encourage all parents of children K-6 to attend a parent's meeting **Sunday, January 4<sup>th</sup> at 12:45pm**. This meeting will be part of our “inside picnic”. Staff will give a brief summary of the program and then ask parents to respond with observations, concerns and suggestions.

First Presbyterian Church is blessed with an outstanding children's music program. Our staff of Dee Galbreath, Kaye Hollitt and Lisa Koegel are unsurpassed in their ability and dedication to children's church music. We believe that every child has some capacity to be enriched and nurtured in the Christian faith through music.

**Choir School Sundae**

On **January 4<sup>th</sup>** the Choir School will have an ‘inside picnic’ for the families of all K-6<sup>th</sup> graders. Following Sunday School families will go to the Sanctuary for a special 15 minute demonstration of the organ. Brenda Portman will present the engaging program “Rex – the King of Instruments” by Daniel Burton. Lunch will be provided at 12:15pm in the Parish Hall. At 12:45pm the children will go with the choir school teachers for singing and special activities. The parents will meet for 35 minutes. We will all then reconvene in the Parish Hall for an Ice Cream Sundae Buffet! A donation of \$4 per person with a \$15 family maximum is requested.

## Neighborhood Christmas Dinner

The Neighborhood Christmas Dinner is on **Tuesday, December 16!** We welcome you to consider how you might take part in this blessed celebration of God's love. You may assist with dinner by joining a set-up team, server line, or clean-up/reset crew. We begin at **3:00pm** and serve from **4:00-6:00pm**. We anticipate clean-up completion by **7:00pm**. You may also assist with gift wrapping and children's crafts.

A crib is available in the Narthex to collect toys (\$15-30 for a child age 0-15) and the Mitten Tree will be there for all mittens, scarves, and hats! At the Dinner, the parent of each child present selects and wraps up one gift for their child. Questions? Contact Paul at 234-8673 Ext. 222. Please watch on November 30 and December 14 for collection envelopes in the order of worship to help offset the cost of the holiday dinners.



Christmas 2007

## Nurture Mission

## Gift of Music

**Memorial and Honorific Gifts to the Music of Christmas**

Christmas music calls to mind God's amazing love for us and the love we have for family and friends. Each year our Music and Fine Arts department presents very special music during the *Feast of Carols* and *Christmas Eve* including guest instrumentalists.

You may make a memorial or honorific gift to help offset the expense of these special musical celebrations. A donation of \$30 is requested but a gift in any amount will be gratefully accepted. Your memorial or honorific designation will be listed in a Christmas bulletin. Please see the Welcome Desk. Checks should be made payable to First Presbyterian Church with Christmas Music written on the Memo line.

## End of Year Gifts

Christmas and the end of the year are traditional times of giving. Every organization is asking you to contribute to good causes this time of year. First Presbyterian Church of Flint has need of your special gifts this year. For years we have been waiting to be fully staffed. We now have a complete and excellent staff. The church is celebrating our good fortune. However, it also means that this year we will not be financially in the black by being short staffed. We need your help to move confidently into the future.

The church needs everyone to step forward by giving a special gift to the ongoing ministry of the church. Yes, these are difficult financial times. The uncertainty has caused the church to be behind financially while we have more commitments. However, God is in charge. The future is God's and, therefore, it will be filled with blessings. Let us not be afraid. Let us continue to support God's ministry at First Presbyterian Church. Consider giving a special end of the year gift to the church.

## Sunday Morning Worship

December 7, 2008  
2nd Sunday of Advent  
Isaiah 40:1-11; 2 Peter 3:8-15a; Mark 1:1-8  
"Good News for Bad Times"  
John L. Musgrave

December 21, 2008  
4th Sunday of Advent  
2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16; Romans 16:25-27; Luke 1:26-38  
"God Surprises Us"  
John L. Musgrave

December 14, 2008  
3rd Sunday of Advent  
Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11; 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24; John 1:6-8, 19-28  
"Joyful Preparation in Difficult Circumstances"  
John L. Musgrave

December 28, 2008  
1st Sunday of Christmas  
Isaiah 61:10-62:3; Galatians 4:4-7; Luke 2:22-40  
"It's a Family Thing"  
Steve Baillie

## Christmas Eve Services

Monday, December 24

5:00pm, 7:30pm, & 10:00pm

Join family and friends celebrating the incarnation of Christ into the world with the Sanctuary filled with glowing candles and all singing Silent Night. The services will include lessons and carols, the sharing of communion, and the passing of the light to all. Our choirs and the First Presbyterian Brass will lead us in each service. Fill your Christmas with meaning by bringing family and friends to these beautiful services.

Our Christmas Eve services will also be preceded by extended prelude music. Our 5:00pm service prelude will feature many of our choir school students playing instruments they study in school. The prelude will begin about 20 minutes prior to worship. Our 7:30pm and 10:00pm service preludes will feature our organist, Chancel and Chapel choirs and First Brass and Percussion Ensemble. Preludes will begin approximately 30 minutes prior to the services in order to accommodate those who arrive early.

## The King of Instruments

Have you ever wondered how a pipe organ works? On January 4<sup>th</sup>, following Sunday School, you will have an opportunity to learn a little bit more about why the organ is called the "King of Instruments." You are all invited to come back to the Sanctuary after your class and hear a delightful and humorous musical work called "Rex: The King of Instruments" by Daniel Burton, narrated by Mark Riddles and played by Brenda Portman. You will hear about all the bells and whistles that make up our pipe organ. Also, you will hear a special performance by 7<sup>th</sup> grade organ student Christopher Newman. Please come and enjoy!

## Advent Communion Services

Wednesdays 6:15pm

December 3, 10, & 17

"Prepare ye the way of the Lord!" It is the beginning of Advent. Prepare for the coming of Christ into your heart with prayerful contemplative worship on Wednesday evenings in Advent. These services are filled with music, prayers, scripture, and silence as we listen for the word of God to speak to us. The themes will follow hope, peace, and joy that will lead us on the way to Christ's birth into our lives. The sacrament of Holy Communion will help us center in on Christ's presence in our lives. Preparing for Christmas can be filled with stress and confusion. Worship each Wednesday and in the quietness be restored to wholeness.

## Feast of Carols

December 14<sup>th</sup> at 4:00pm

The Sanctuary will resound with a musical feast of your favorite Christmas hymns and on December 14<sup>th</sup> at 4:00pm, our Chancel, Chapel, Cantus, Carol, and Cherub Choirs, Organ, and FPCF Festival Orchestra and congregation will sing the beloved songs of this most holy season. Although our choirs will be featured in some aspects of the program, the emphasis will be on community singing. Of the twenty-two carols and anthems presented, ten will include the congregation in singing with full orchestral accompaniment! *Joy to the World, God Rest You Merry Gentlemen, Away in a Manger, Hark! The Herald Angels Sing, It Came Upon the Midnight Clear, the First Nowell, O Little Town of Bethlehem* and many, many more carols will be sung. This is the perfect opportunity for you and your family to sing the wonderful carols of Christmas together in church, on a festive occasion. It is also a great event in which to invite your friends, neighbors, and co-workers. Child care for toddlers and infants will be provided. Children of kindergarten age and older will want to be a part of the singing. The event is free. You are encouraged to bring a contribution to our "Mitten Tree" or a toy for distribution at our Christmas Dinner to help support families in need.



## Children's Ministry

Sunday Morning Schedule:

10:45am, K- 6<sup>th</sup> grade meet in Room 312 for 15 minutes of fellowship with friends.

11:00am, children are dismissed to classrooms for our PowerXpress rotational education.

Noon, Pick your child up from room 312

Nursery

9:15-12:00pm, infant-2 years of age in room 205.

9:15-11:00am, 2-4 1/2 years of age in room 214.

Preschool Education

11:00am-12:00pm, ages 2-4 1/2 in room 211.

Wednesday Evening Schedule

6:15-7:30pm, "Bee" Helpful Service Squad for children in grades K-6; meet in room 312.

The Mission: To serve others is to serve Christ.

December PowerXpress Unit  
Kindergarten - 6<sup>th</sup> grade

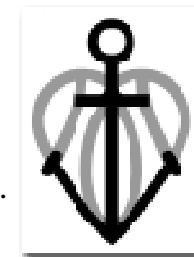
"The Gift of Jesus"

Christmas is really about God's great gift to us in Jesus. We will learn to share this wonderful story with others in our words and actions. We will use Luke 2:1-20. Luke's Gospel tells the Christmas story through the historical event of a census that links Joseph's lineage to King David. The message of this wonderful birth was given to the lowly shepherds in the fields and, through them, to the world!

"I am Hopeful"

As we head into this busy season of presents, trees, parties, shopping, cooking and planning, let us remember the true meaning of this celebration: the birth of our Savior. As we begin to plan out our days and fill our calendars until they will hold nothing else, I remain hopeful. I am hopeful that we will not overlook the needs of those who find this season difficult. I am hopeful that we will remember those who have no one to spend the holidays with and we will invite them to our homes. I am hopeful that we will cloth those who are cold and feed those who are hungry, just as Christ has fed us. I am hopeful that

we will share our love to those that feel no love and comfort those who so desperately need to be comforted. I am hopeful that we will provide a gift for a little child that has no chance of receiving one. I am hopeful that we will smile at those who have forgotten how. I am hopeful that we will hug those that need it the most. But most of all, I am hopeful that we will all remember why we are here and that nothing is greater than the gift given to every single one of us...salvation and life everlasting, through our Savior Jesus Christ.



Please consider donating a toy to our neighborhood Christmas dinner program held for our local friends in need. Dinner and toy distribution will be on December 16<sup>th</sup>, 2008. Cribs are located in the Narthex for your unwrapped Christmas toy donation. Thank you for supporting our community of friends.

## Memory Tree Ornaments

Star ornaments are available for purchase for the 2008 Advent and Christmas Memory Tree. Ornaments are \$15 and can be personalized with a name and date for a loved one; or to commemorate a special event. They may be displayed on the Memory Tree beginning with the first week of Advent and/or purchased as gifts. Please see the Welcome Desk or contact Frankie Bonner or Lee Doll (810-234-8673).



## Men's Bible Study Classes

Have you ever wondered what God's Will is for your life? Have you ever needed to make a decision and wondered what God would have you do? If so, you may want to come to the Men's Ministry Saturday morning bible study where we are going through the study *Discovering God's Will* by Andy Stanley. We've only taken a couple of steps into this so there is so much more. Here is what Andy says about this study. "God has a wonderful and fulfilling plan for your life. Yet determining God's Will can be a difficult process, especially when you need to make a decision quickly! *Discovering God's Will* takes you through the important steps of decision making as you begin to discover the personal vision God has for you." Coffee Fellowship is from 8:00 to 8:30am, Bible Study is from 8:30-9:30am. Come and join us.